

## Description and Comparative Evaluation of Draft DRECP Alternatives

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### 4.2 Outdoor Recreation

#### 4.2.1 Typical Impacts from Renewable Energy Development—Common to all Alternatives

The following discussion provides a general description of typical impacts to outdoor recreation that could result from renewable energy development in the Plan Area. Impacts to outdoor recreation would likely be similar for solar, wind, and geothermal energy development.

Renewable energy development would convert undeveloped land to a developed industrial site and would be incompatible with recreational uses. The development of renewable energy facilities would result in the exclusion of recreational use from those areas and diminishment of recreational opportunities. Recreational use would be wholly excluded from areas developed for solar and geothermal facilities because of their concentrated on-the-ground footprint. In addition, solar power tower, dish engine, and PV technologies require approximately 80% more land area than parabolic trough technologies, resulting in larger areas being excluded from recreation use. Although wind energy development can require large tracts of land, its on-the-ground footprint is not as large as with solar and geothermal because of the spacing needed between the turbines. Renewable energy development could also affect recreational use on public, state, and private lands adjacent to the facilities. Recreational users displaced by renewable energy development would likely seek recreational opportunities elsewhere.

The development of access and service roads for renewable energy facilities and transmission lines could have a beneficial impact on access to recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, or OHV riding. The development of these roads, however, could lead to degradation of adjacent recreation areas.

Recreationists engaged in activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, birding, and OHV riding would be affected by the noise, dust, and traffic typically associated with the construction of renewable energy facilities and associated transmission lines, substations, or gen-tie lines. Construction activities would also impact the visual experience of recreationists.

Transmission rights-of-way and development would result in a lesser degree of impact to recreation than with renewable energy facility development. The overall recreational experience, however, may be impacted by the development of transmission lines, including the visual disturbance and noise impacts associated with overhead transmission lines.

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### 4.2.2 Methodology for Analysis

The programmatic-level preliminary analysis in this section addresses potential impacts to outdoor recreation from implementing the DRECP alternatives. Existing conditions for outdoor recreation are described in Chapter 3.2. The extent to which recreation areas intersect with the proposed DFAs and conservation lands under each alternative is the primary consideration in quantifying impacts. The impact analysis is based on calculations of required impacts to achieve the proposed total MWs for each technology. Because it is impossible to predict exactly where renewable energy development projects may occur within the DFAs, it is feasible that recreation areas could be avoided altogether. This programmatic preliminary analysis does not evaluate site-specific impacts associated with particular projects. Project-specific impacts would be assessed during the permitting process and in future separate NEPA/CEQA documents.

### 4.2.3 Impacts by Alternative

#### 4.2.3.1 *Alternative 1 – Disturbed Lands/Low Resource Conflict Alternative*

##### 4.2.3.1.1 Interagency Action

###### *Development Focus Areas*

The typical impacts to outdoor recreation that could occur as a result of renewable energy development in DFAs have been discussed above in Section 4.2.1, Typical Impacts from Renewable Energy Development—Common to All Alternatives. Impacts within the ecoregions are shown in Table 4.2-1a and are discussed below.

As shown in Table 4.2-1a, there are approximately 83,314 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFAs under Alternative 1. There are approximately 11,767 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFA development footprints (including solar, wind, geothermal, and ROWs). The greatest level of impact to lands available for recreation would be within the Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion, at 6,684 acres within the DFA development footprint. There are no DFAs in three ecoregions: Kingston and Funeral Mountains, Panamint Death Valley, and Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains. Within the DFAs and DFA footprints, BLM ERMA (53,841 and 7,136 acres respectively) would comprise the majority of lands that could be impacted by renewable energy development. Congressionally designated wilderness is excluded from renewable energy development.

As discussed above in Section 4.2.1, renewable energy development would convert undeveloped land to a developed industrial site and would be incompatible with recreational uses. The development of renewable energy facilities would result in the exclusion of recreational use from those areas and diminishment of recreational

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opportunities. Recreationists engaged in activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, birding, and OHV riding would be affected by the noise, dust, and traffic typically associated with the construction of renewable energy facilities and associated transmission lines, substations, or gen-tie lines. Construction activities would also impact the visual experience of recreationists.

### ***Conservation Lands***

As shown in Table 4.2-1a below, conservation lands under Alternative 1 could impact lands available for outdoor recreation.

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Table 4.2-1a

**Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 1**

Ecoregion / Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
<i>Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	2,150,536	11,792	2,264	780,921	853,433	305,281	90.2
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	41,590	0	0	41,566	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	6,373	0	0	4,947	335	1,816	100+
CDFG	489	0	0	489	0	0	100.0
<i>Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	813,843	32,411	4,570	53,091	286,988	75,815	51.1
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	294,128	15,208	2,114	263,296	7,084	2,671	92.8
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,137,585	0	0	625,668	364,031	155,544	96.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,133,272	0	0	1,133,272	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion</i>							

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Table 4.2-1a

Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 1

Ecoregion / Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	988,981	669	91	406,954	439,698	56,412	91.3
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	241,597	0	0	241,544	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Owens River Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	186,438	12,059	929	12,825	38,664	95,171	78.7
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	777	0	0	771	0	0	99.1
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	448,755	0	0	56,894	170,440	164,752	87.4
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,186,317	0	0	1,186,317	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	7,385	0	0	4,241	3,144	0	100.0
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	873,490	6,637	1,195	169,149	343,916	64,977	66.2

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Table 4.2-1a

Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 1

Ecoregion / Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	539,419	0	0	539,405	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	904,934	0	0	401,599	378,810	110,015	98.4
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	13,847	0	0	13,847	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,401,499	962	143	613,584	415,093	267,063	92.5
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	668,752	0	0	668,718	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	853,333	3,576	461	84,418	615,454	65,092	89.6
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Table 4.2-1a

Acreage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 1

Ecoregion / Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	24,353	0	0	19,503	6,291	89	100+
CDFG	912	0	0	787	125	0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,918,605</b>	<b>83,314</b>	<b>11,767</b>	<b>7,323,806</b>	<b>3,923,506</b>	<b>1,364,698</b>	<b>90.6</b>

NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.

<sup>3</sup> Includes NPS-managed wilderness, parks, and preserves

<sup>4</sup> Includes State Parks-managed parks, recreation areas, and SVRAs

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 9 miles would be in DFAs and 2 miles would be in DFA footprints. The greatest number of miles in DFAs would be in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion, at 8 miles. Both the Mojave and Silurian Valley and the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregions would have 1 mile of National Trail within a DFA footprint under Alternative 1.

Approximately 100 percent of National Trail in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes, the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains, and the Providence and Bullion Mountains ecoregions would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area. Approximately 98.8 percent of National Trail in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion, 94.7 percent in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, 77.1 percent in the Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion, and 70.7 percent in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area.

None of the 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DFAs or in DFA footprints. The full extent of the Wild and Scenic-designated Amargosa River within the DRECP Plan area would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area under Alternative 1.

Under Alternative 1, approximately 90.6% of lands available for recreation would occur within the Conservation Planning Area and would not be subject to renewable energy development.

### **4.2.3.1.2 BLM LUPA Elements**

In general, the BLM LUPA under Alternative 1 could have some level of impact on lands available for outdoor recreation. Table 4.2-1b shows the lands available for recreation by ecoregion located in DCLs and non-DCLs. Under Alternative 1, approximately 5,557,675 acres of lands available for recreation would fall under the DCL designation. Approximately 4,246,812 acres of lands available for recreation would not fall under the DCL designation and would be considered non-DCLs. Because this is a programmatic document, impacts would be determined on a project-specific basis.



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**Table 4.2-1b**

**Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 1**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1,2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Solar PEIS Variance</b>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion	2,150,536	1,197,708	274,433	1,472,141	663,357	15,038	678,395	24,619
Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion	813,843	235,434	201,831	437,265	134,066	242,511	376,577	60,769
Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion	1,137,585	473,234	74,387	547,621	603,960	31,107	635,068	9,636
Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion	988,981	284,335	179,163	463,498	382,941	142,541	525,483	16,276
Owens River Valley Ecoregion	186,438	33,060	9,221	42,281	91,902	52,256	144,157	4,955
Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion	448,755	15,636	139,725	155,361	66,100	227,294	293,394	0
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	873,490	307,317	163,952	471,269	141,437	260,775	402,212	14,867

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**Table 4.2-1b**

**Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 1**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1,2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Solar PEIS Variance</b>
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion	904,934	335,918	237,978	573,895	261,227	69,812	331,039	900
Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion	1,401,499	507,172	270,966	778,138	569,089	54,272	623,361	18,139
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	853,333	236,135	380,071	616,206	59,877	177,250	237,126	8,605
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,759,394</b>	<b>3,625,949</b>	<b>1,931,727</b>	<b>5,557,675</b>	<b>2,973,956</b>	<b>1,272,856</b>	<b>4,246,812</b>	<b>158,767</b>

NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMA, and OHV Areas.

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 133 miles would be in DCLs and 93 miles would be in non-DCLs. The greatest number of miles in DCLs would be in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, at 45 miles. Neither the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion nor the Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion would have any miles of National Trails in DCLs. The greatest number of miles in non-DCLs would be in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, at 39 miles. The fewest number of miles would be in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion, at zero miles.

All 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DCLs under Alternative 1.

### **4.2.3.2 Alternative 2 – Geographically Balanced/Transmission Aligned Alternative B**

#### **4.2.3.2.1 Interagency Action**

##### ***Development Focus Areas***

The typical impacts to outdoor recreation that could occur as a result of renewable energy development in DFAs have been discussed above in Section 4.2.1, Typical Impacts from Renewable Energy Development—Common to All Alternatives. Impacts within the ecoregions are shown in Table 4.2-2a and are discussed below.

As shown in Table 4.2-2a, there are approximately 362,877 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFAs under Alternative 2. There are approximately 52,733 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFA development footprints (including solar, wind, geothermal, and ROWs). The greatest level of impact to lands available for recreation would be within the Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion, at 37,370 acres within the DFA development footprint. There are no DFAs in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion. Within the DFAs and DFA footprints, BLM ERMAs (318,758 and 22,779 acres respectively) would comprise the majority of lands that could be impacted by renewable energy development. Congressionally designated wilderness is excluded from renewable energy development.

As discussed above in Section 4.2-1, renewable energy development would convert undeveloped land to a developed industrial site and would be incompatible with recreational uses. The development of renewable energy facilities would result in the exclusion of recreational use from those areas and diminishment of recreational opportunities. Recreationists engaged in activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, birding, and OHV riding would be affected by the noise, dust, and traffic typically associated with the construction of renewable energy facilities and associated transmission lines,

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substations, or gen-tie lines. Construction activities would also impact the visual experience of recreationists.

### ***Conservation Lands***

In general, conservation lands under Alternative 2 could impact lands available for outdoor recreation within the DRECP Plan Area, as shown in Table 4.2-2a below.

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**Table 4.2-2a**

**Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 2**

<b>Ecoregion/Land Management Agency</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in DFAs</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS</b>	<b>% in Conservation Planning Area</b>
<i>Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	2,150,536	170,639	37,370	780,959	917,311	267,556	91.4
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	41,590	0	0	41,566	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	6,373	0	0	4,947	335	2,086	100+
CDFG	489	0	0	489	0	0	100.0
<i>Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	813,843	61,661	5,611	53,285	335,830	123,602	63.0
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	294,128	15,291	1,361	263,357	7,084	2,641	92.8
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,137,585	23,639	0	625,678	364,222	165,231	97.7
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,133,272	0	0	1,133,272	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	988,981	28,426	1,791	407,268	465,269	56,557	93.9

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Table 4.2-2a

Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 2

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	241,597	0	0	241,544	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Owens River Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	186,438	12,068	543	12,837	42,569	104,560	95.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	777	0	0	771	0	0	99.1
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	448,755	4,265	0	56,894	169,324	161,604	96.4
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,186,317	0	0	1,186,317	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	7,385	0	0	4,241	3,144	0	100.0
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	873,490	12,841	2,453	169,183	366,668	80,086	70.5
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	539,419	0	0	539,405	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Table 4.2-2a

Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 2

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	904,934	0	0	401,601	379,141	120,674	99.6
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	13,847	0	0	13,847	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,401,499	4,992	379	613,596	429,129	312,828	96.7
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	668,752	0	0	668,718	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	853,333	29,055	3,225	84,401	626,756	66,130	91.1
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	24,353	0	0	19,505	6,292	89	100+
CDFG	912	0	0	787	125	0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,918,605</b>	<b>362,877</b>	<b>52,733</b>	<b>7,324,468</b>	<b>4,113,199</b>	<b>1,463,644</b>	<b>92.6</b>

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NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.

<sup>3</sup> Includes NPS-managed wilderness, parks, and preserves

<sup>4</sup> Includes State Parks-managed parks, recreation areas, and SVRAs



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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 13 miles would be in DFAs and 11 miles would be in DFA footprints under Alternative 2. The greatest number of miles in DFAs and DFA footprints would be in the West Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, with both at 11 miles.

Approximately 100 percent of National Trail in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes, the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains, and the Providence and Bullion Mountains ecoregions would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area. Approximately 98.8 percent of National Trail in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion, 94.7 percent in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, 77.1 percent in the Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion, and 70.7 percent in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area.

None of the 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DFAs or in DFA footprints. The full extent of the Wild and Scenic-designated Amargosa River within the DRECP Plan area would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area under Alternative 2.

Under Alternative 2, approximately 92.6% of lands available for recreation would occur within the conservation Conservation Planning Area and would not be subject to renewable energy development.

### **4.2.3.2.2 BLM LUPA Elements**

Table 4.2-2b shows the lands available for recreation by ecoregion located in DCLs and non-DCLs. Under Alternative 2, approximately 5,379,358 acres of lands available for recreation would fall under the DCL designation. Approximately 4,425,128 acres of lands available for recreation would not fall under the DCL designation and would be considered non-DCLs. Because this is a programmatic document, impacts would be determined on a project-specific basis.

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**Table 4.2-2b**

**Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 2**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1, 2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion	2,150,536	1,104,365	272,131	1,376,495	764,934	9,107	774,041
Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion	813,843	213,290	192,365	405,655	160,460	247,727	408,187
Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion	1,137,585	463,630	74,384	538,014	613,564	31,110	644,674
Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion	988,981	259,468	179,139	438,607	408,020	142,353	550,373
Owens River Valley Ecoregion	186,438	33,060	9,235	42,295	94,520	49,623	144,143
Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion	448,755	14,446	137,347	151,794	69,773	227,188	296,961
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	873,490	306,661	153,736	460,397	142,479	270,605	413,084
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion	904,934	335,837	238,058	573,895	261,046	69,993	331,039
Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion	1,401,499	507,172	270,966	778,138	569,090	54,272	623,361

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**Table 4.2-2b**

**Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 2**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1, 2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	853,333	235,981	378,087	614,068	71,688	167,576	239,265
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,759,394</b>	<b>3,473,910</b>	<b>1,905,448</b>	<b>5,379,358</b>	<b>3,155,574</b>	<b>1,269,554</b>	<b>4,425,128</b>

NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 122 miles would be in DCLs and 104 miles would be in non-DCLs. The greatest number of miles in DCLs would be in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, at 37 miles. Neither the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion nor the Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion would have any miles of National Trails in DCLs. The greatest number of miles in non-DCLs would be in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains and Mojave and Silurian Valley ecoregion, each at 39 miles. The fewest number of miles would be in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion, at zero miles.

All 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DCLs under Alternative 1.

### **4.2.3.3 Alternative 3 – West Mojave Emphasis Alternative**

#### **4.2.3.3.1 Interagency Action**

##### ***Development Focus Areas***

The typical impacts to outdoor recreation that could occur as a result of renewable energy development in DFAs have been discussed above in Section 4.2.1, Typical Impacts from Renewable Energy Development—Common to All Alternatives. Impacts within the ecoregions are shown in Table 4.2-3a and are discussed below.

As shown in Table 4.2-3a, there are approximately 317,145 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFAs under Alternative 3. There are approximately 34,695 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFA development footprints (including solar, wind, geothermal, and ROWs). The greatest level of impact to lands available for recreation would be within the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, at 18,488 acres within the DFA development footprint. There are no DFAs in three ecoregions: Kingston and Funeral Mountains, Panamint Death Valley, and Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains. Within the DFAs and DFA footprints, BLM ERMA (166,253 and 10,512 acres respectively) would comprise the majority of lands that could be impacted by renewable energy development. Congressionally designated wilderness is excluded from renewable energy development.

As discussed above in Section 4.2.1, renewable energy development would convert undeveloped land to a developed industrial site and would be incompatible with recreational uses. The development of renewable energy facilities would result in the exclusion of recreational use from those areas and diminishment of recreational opportunities. Recreationists engaged in activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, birding, and OHV riding would be affected by the noise, dust, and traffic typically associated with the construction of renewable energy facilities and associated transmission lines,

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substations, or gen-tie lines. Construction activities would also impact the visual experience of recreationists.

### ***Conservation Lands***

As shown in table 4.2-3a below, conservation lands under Alternative 3 could impact lands available for outdoor recreation.

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Table 4.2-3a

Acreege of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 3

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
<i>Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	2,150,536	37,462	4,196	780,959	966,801	340,239	97.1
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	41,590	0	0	41,566	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	6,373	0	0	4,947	335	2,086	100+
CDFG	489	0	0	489	0	0	100.0
<i>Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	813,843	58,568	3,104	53,159	335,829	123,613	63.0
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	294,128	15,279	810	210,209	7,084	2,641	74.7
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,137,585	0	0	625,678	366,097	186,995	99.7
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,133,272	0	0	1,133,272	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	988,981	3,167	399	407,268	466,119	80,965	96.5

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Table 4.2-3a

Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 3

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	241,597	0	0	241,544	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Owens River Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	186,438	12,053	313	12,837	42,569	104,560	85.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	777	0	0	771	0	0	99.1
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	448,755	1	0	56,894	170,440	164,753	87.4
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,186,317	0	0	1,186,317	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	7,385	0	0	4,241	3,143	0	100.0
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	873,490	36,157	7,014	169,183	389,451	32,900	67.7
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	539,419	0	0	539,405	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Table 4.2-3a

Acreege of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 3

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	904,934	0	0	401,601	379,141	120,674	99.6
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	13,847	0	0	13,847	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,401,499	2,918	371	613,596	439,724	302,989	96.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	668,752	0	0	668,718	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	853,333	151,540	18,488	84,401	535,556	36,839	77.0
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	24,353	0	0	19,502	6,291	89	100+
CDFG	912	0	0	787	125	0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,918,605</b>	<b>317,145</b>	<b>34,695</b>	<b>7,271,191</b>	<b>4,108,705</b>	<b>1,499,343</b>	<b>92.5</b>



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NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.

<sup>3</sup> Includes NPS-managed wilderness, parks, and preserves

<sup>4</sup> Includes State Parks-managed parks, recreation areas, and SVRAs

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 33 miles would be in DFAs and 4 miles would be in DFA footprints. The greatest number of miles in DFAs would be in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion, at 32 miles. The West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregions would have 4 miles of National Trail within a DFA footprint under Alternative 3.

Approximately 100 percent of National Trail in the Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area. Approximately 98.8 percent of National Trail in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion, 92.8 percent in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion, 92.3 percent in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion, 74.2 percent in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, 72.2 percent in the Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion, and 57.8 percent in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area.

None of the 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DFAs or in DFA footprints. The full extent of the Wild and Scenic-designated Amargosa River within the DRECP Plan area would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area under Alternative 3.

Under Alternative 3, approximately 92.5% of lands available for recreation would occur within the conservation Conservation Planning Area and would not be subject to renewable energy development.

### **4.2.3.3.2 BLM LUPA Elements**

In general, the BLM LUPA under Alternative 3 could have some level of impact on lands available for outdoor recreation. Table 4.2-3b shows the lands available for recreation by ecoregion located in DCLs and non-DCLs. Under Alternative 3, approximately 5,349,152 acres of lands available for recreation would fall under the DCL designation. Approximately 4,455,335 acres of lands available for recreation would not fall under the DCL designation and would be considered non-DCLs. Because this is a programmatic document, impacts would be determined on a project-specific basis.

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**Table 4.2-3b**

**Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 3**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1, 2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion	2,150,536	1,190,041	272,131	1,462,172	678,640	9,724	688,364
Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion	813,843	206,243	198,336	404,579	167,499	241,764	409,263
Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion	1,137,585	473,233	74,387	547,620	603,961	31,107	635,069
Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion	988,981	284,335	179,163	463,498	383,154	142,329	525,483
Owens River Valley Ecoregion	186,438	33,060	9,235	42,295	94,520	49,623	144,143
Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion	448,755	15,636	139,701	155,336	66,101	227,317	293,418
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	873,490	236,866	147,190	384,056	232,557	256,868	489,426
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion	904,934	335,837	238,058	573,895	261,046	69,993	331,039
Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion	1,401,499	510,241	270,966	781,207	566,021	54,272	620,292

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Table 4.2-3b

### Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 3

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1, 2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non- SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	853,333	228,202	306,292	534,494	182,585	136,254	318,838
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,759,394</b>	<b>3,513,694</b>	<b>1,835,459</b>	<b>5,349,152</b>	<b>3,236,084</b>	<b>1,219,251</b>	<b>4,455,335</b>

NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 133 miles would be in DCLs and 93 miles would be in non-DCLs. The greatest number of miles in DCLs would be in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, at 45 miles. Neither the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion nor the Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion would have any miles of National Trails in DCLs. The greatest number of miles in non-DCLs would be in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion, at 39 miles. The fewest number of miles would be in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion, at zero miles.

All 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DCLs under Alternative 3.

### **4.2.3.4 Alternative 4 – Geographically Balanced/Transmission Aligned Alternative A**

#### **4.2.3.4.1 Interagency Action**

##### ***Development Focus Areas***

The typical impacts to outdoor recreation that could occur as a result of renewable energy development in DFAs have been discussed above in Section 4.2.1, Typical Impacts from Renewable Energy Development—Common to All Alternatives. Impacts within the ecoregions are shown in Table 4.2-4a and are discussed below.

As shown in Table 4.2-4a, there are approximately 219,544 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFAs under Alternative 4. There are approximately 25,591 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFA development footprints (including solar, wind, geothermal, and ROWs). The greatest level of impact to lands available for recreation would be within the Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion, at 10,392 acres within the DFA development footprint. There are no DFAs in two ecoregions: Kingston and Funeral Mountains, and Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains. Within the DFAs and DFA footprints, BLM ERMA (128,697 and 12,673 acres respectively) would comprise the majority of lands that could be impacted by renewable energy development. Congressionally designated wilderness is excluded from renewable energy development.

As discussed above in Section 4.2-1, renewable energy development would convert undeveloped land to a developed industrial site and would be incompatible with recreational uses. The development of renewable energy facilities would result in the exclusion of recreational use from those areas and diminishment of recreational opportunities. Recreationists engaged in activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, birding, and OHV riding would be affected by the noise, dust, and traffic typically associated with the construction of renewable energy facilities and associated transmission lines,

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substations, or gen-tie lines. Construction activities would also impact the visual experience of recreationists.

### ***Conservation Lands***

As shown in Table 4.2-4a below, conservation lands under Alternative 4 could impact lands available for outdoor recreation.

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**Table 4.2-4a**

**Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 4**

<b>Ecoregion/Land Management Agency</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in DFAs</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS</b>	<b>% in Conservation Planning Area</b>
<i>Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	2,150,536	40,079	7,214	780,959	966,775	340,239	97.1
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	41,590	0	0	41,566	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	6,373	0	0	4,947	335	2,086	100+
CDFG	489	0	0	489	0	0	100.0
<i>Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	813,843	79,870	8,786	53,285	335,517	115,071	61.9
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	294,128	15,291	1,606	263,357	7,084	2,641	92.8
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,137,585	0	0	625,678	366,097	186,995	99.7
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,133,272	0	0	1,133,272	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	988,981	3,167	314	407,268	465,385	81,699	96.5

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Table 4.2-4a

**Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 4**

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	241,597	0	0	241,544	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Owens River Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	186,438	12,068	664	12,837	42,569	104,560	85.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	777	0	0	771	0	0	99.1
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	448,755	24,157	0	56,894	169,324	141,713	82.0
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,186,317	0	0	1,186,317	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	7,385	0	0	4,241	3,144	0	100.0
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	873,490	19,295	3,724	169,183	364,947	75,194	69.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	539,419	0	0	539,405	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



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Table 4.2-4a

Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 4

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	904,934	0	0	401,601	379,141	120,674	99.6
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	13,847	0	0	13,847	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,401,499	4,992	499	613,596	429,129	312,828	96.7
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	668,752	0	0	668,718	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	853,333	20,625	2,784	84,401	626,725	71,897	91.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	24,353	0	0	19,506	6,291	89	100+
CDFG	912	0	0	787	125	0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,918,605</b>	<b>219,544</b>	<b>25,591</b>	<b>7,324,469</b>	<b>4,162,588</b>	<b>1,555,686</b>	<b>93.7</b>

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NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.

<sup>3</sup> Includes NPS-managed wilderness, parks, and preserves

<sup>4</sup> Includes State Parks-managed parks, recreation areas, and SVRAs

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 11 miles would be in DFAs and 1 mile would be in DFA footprints. The greatest number of miles in DFAs would be in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion, at 10 miles. The West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregions would have 1 mile of National Trail within a DFA footprint under Alternative 4.

Approximately 100 percent of National Trail in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes, the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains, and the Providence and Bullion Mountains ecoregions would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area. Approximately 98.8 percent of National Trail in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion, 74.2 percent in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, 72.2 percent in the Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion, and 71.9 percent in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area.

None of the 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DFAs or in DFA footprints. The full extent of the Wild and Scenic-designated Amargosa River within the DRECP Plan area would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area under Alternative 4.

Under Alternative 4, approximately 93.7% of lands available for recreation would occur within the Conservation Planning Area and would not be subject to renewable energy development.

### **4.2.3.4.2 BLM LUPA Elements**

In general, the BLM LUPA under Alternative 4 could have some level of impact on lands available for outdoor recreation. Table 4.2-4b shows the lands available for recreation by ecoregion located in DCLs and non-DCLs. Under Alternative 4, approximately 5,541,554 acres of lands available for recreation would fall under the DCL designation. Approximately 4,262,935 acres of lands available for recreation would not fall under the DCL designation and would be considered non-DCLs. Because this is a programmatic document, impacts would be determined on a project-specific basis.

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**Table 4.2-4b**

**Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 4**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1, 2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion	2,150,536	1,190,398	272,131	1,462,528	675,222	12,786	688,008
Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion	813,843	242,511	195,952	438,463	126,989	248,390	375,380
Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion	1,137,585	473,233	74,384	547,617	603,961	31,110	635,072
Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion	988,981	284,334	179,139	463,474	382,941	142,566	525,507
Owens River Valley Ecoregion	186,438	33,060	11,237	44,296	91,902	50,240	142,142
Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion	448,755	15,636	139,725	155,361	66,100	227,294	293,394
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	873,490	307,833	153,736	461,569	141,307	270,605	411,912
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion	904,934	335,837	238,058	573,895	261,046	69,993	331,039
Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion	1,401,499	507,172	270,966	778,138	569,089	54,272	623,361

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Table 4.2-4b

### Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 4

Ecoregion	BLM Recreation Acres <sup>1, 2</sup> in Ecoregion	Acres in DCLs: Non- SRMA	Acres in DCLs: SRMA	Acres in DCLs: Subtotal	Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA	Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA	Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	853,333	236,240	379,973	616,213	60,686	176,434	237,120
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,759,394</b>	<b>3,626,254</b>	<b>1,915,301</b>	<b>5,541,554</b>	<b>2,979,243</b>	<b>1,283,690</b>	<b>4,262,935</b>

NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 130 miles would be in DCLs and 96 miles would be in non-DCLs. The greatest number of miles in DCLs would be in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, at 45 miles. Neither the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion nor the Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion would have any miles of National Trails in DCLs. The greatest number of miles in non-DCLs would be in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion, at 39 miles. The fewest number of miles would be in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion, at zero miles.

All 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DCLs under Alternative 4.

### **4.2.3.5 Alternative 5 – Increased Geographic and Technology Flexibility Alternative**

#### **4.2.3.5.1 Interagency Action**

##### ***Development Focus Areas***

The typical impacts to outdoor recreation that could occur as a result of renewable energy development in DFAs have been discussed above in Section 4.2.1, Typical Impacts from Renewable Energy Development—Common to All Alternatives. Impacts within the ecoregions are shown in Table 4.2-5a and are discussed below.

As shown in Table 4.2-5a, there are approximately 621,739 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFAs under Alternative 5. There are approximately 93,823 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFA development footprints (including solar, wind, geothermal, and ROWs). The greatest level of impact to lands available for recreation would be within the Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion, at 35,876 acres within the DFA development footprint. There are no DFAs in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion. Within the DFAs and DFA footprints, BLM ERMA (487,482 and 21,998 acres respectively) would comprise the majority of lands that could be impacted by renewable energy development. Congressionally designated wilderness is excluded from renewable energy development.

As discussed above in Section 4.2.1, renewable energy development would convert undeveloped land to a developed industrial site and would be incompatible with recreational uses. The development of renewable energy facilities would result in the exclusion of recreational use from those areas and diminishment of recreational opportunities. Recreationists engaged in activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, birding, and OHV riding would be affected by the noise, dust, and traffic typically associated with the construction of renewable energy facilities and associated transmission lines,

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substations, or gen-tie lines. Construction activities would also impact the visual experience of recreationists.

### ***Conservation Lands***

As shown in Table 4.2-5a below, conservation lands under Alternative 5 could impact lands available for outdoor recreation.

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**Table 4.2-5a**

**Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 5**

<b>Ecoregion/Land Management Agency</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in DFAs</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS</b>	<b>% in Conservation Planning Area</b>
<i>Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	2,150,536	175,004	35,876	780,959	1,158,595	21,906	91.2
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	41,590	0	0	41,566	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	6,373	0	0	4,947	335	2,086	100+
CDFG	489	0	0	489	0	0	100.0
<i>Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	813,843	190,472	16,000	53,285	336,540	21,654	50.6
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	294,128	15,291	1,606	263,357	7,084	2,641	92.8
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,137,585	23,639	0	625,678	364,222	165,231	97.7
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,133,272	0	0	1,133,272	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	988,981	28,426	7,277	407,268	466,002	55,824	93.9



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Table 4.2-5a

Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 5

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	241,597	0	0	241,544	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Owens River Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	186,438	13,304	1,570	12,837	41,929	104,560	85.5
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	777	0	0	771	0	0	99.1
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	448,755	24,157	0	56,894	169,324	141,713	82.0
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,186,317	0	0	1,186,317	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	7,385	0	0	4,241	3,144	0	100.0
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	873,490	39,270	7,697	169,183	400,823	22,131	67.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	539,419	0	0	539,405	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Table 4.2-5a

Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 5

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	904,934	0	0	401,601	407,687	92,129	99.6
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	13,847	0	0	13,847	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,401,499	27,832	7,097	613,596	426,841	292,278	95.1
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	668,752	0	0	668,718	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	853,333	84,344	16,700	84,401	602,541	36,818	84.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	24,353	0	0	19,506	6,291	89	100+
CDFG	912	0	0	787	125	0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,918,605</b>	<b>621,739</b>	<b>93,823</b>	<b>7,324,469</b>	<b>4,391,483</b>	<b>959,060</b>	<b>91.0</b>

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NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.

<sup>3</sup> Includes NPS-managed wilderness, parks, and preserves

<sup>4</sup> Includes State Parks-managed parks, recreation areas, and SVRAs

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 33 miles would be in DFAs and 1 mile would be in DFA footprints. The greatest number of miles in DFAs would be in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion, at 20 miles. The West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregions would have 1 mile of National Trail within a DFA footprint under Alternative 5.

Approximately 100 percent of National Trail in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains and the Providence and Bullion Mountains ecoregions would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area. Approximately 96.4 percent of National Trail in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion, 92.3 percent of the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion, 72.2 percent in the Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion, 68.4 percent in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, and 65.4 percent in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area.

None of the 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DFAs or in DFA footprints. The full extent of the Wild and Scenic-designated Amargosa River within the DRECP Plan area would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area under Alternative 5.

Under Alternative 5, approximately 91.0% of lands available for recreation would occur within the Conservation Planning Area and would not be subject to renewable energy development.

### **4.2.3.5.2 BLM LUPA Elements**

In general, conservation lands under Alternative 5 could have some level of impact on lands available for outdoor recreation. Table 4.2-5b shows the lands available for recreation by ecoregion located in DCLs and non-DCLs. Under Alternative 5, approximately 5,195,779 acres of lands available for recreation would fall under the DCL designation. Approximately 4,608,709 acres of lands available for recreation would not fall under the DCL designation and would be considered non-DCLs. Because this is a programmatic document, impacts would be determined on a project-specific basis.

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**Table 4.2-5b**

**Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 5**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1, 2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion	2,150,536	1,073,434	270,402	1,343,836	795,873	10,827	806,700
Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion	813,843	155,982	195,855	351,837	238,290	223,716	462,005
Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion	1,137,585	463,632	74,384	538,016	613,562	31,110	644,673
Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion	988,981	259,248	179,139	438,387	408,240	142,353	550,593
Owens River Valley Ecoregion	186,438	31,823	9,235	41,059	95,757	49,623	145,380
Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion	448,755	14,317	137,348	151,664	69,996	227,094	297,091
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	873,490	265,716	153,915	419,631	191,598	262,252	453,850
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion	904,934	335,837	238,058	573,895	261,046	69,993	331,039
Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion	1,401,499	490,427	264,956	755,383	591,844	54,272	646,116

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**Table 4.2-5b**

**Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 5**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1, 2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non- SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	853,333	237,320	344,751	582,071	127,049	144,213	271,262
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,759,394</b>	<b>3,327,736</b>	<b>1,868,043</b>	<b>5,195,779</b>	<b>3,393,255</b>	<b>1,215,453</b>	<b>4,608,709</b>

NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 125 miles would be in DCLs and 95 miles would be in non-DCLs. The greatest number of miles in DCLs would be in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, at 37 miles. Neither the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion nor the Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion would have any miles of National Trails in DCLs. The greatest number of miles in non-DCLs would be in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains and the Mojave and Silurian Valley ecoregions, each at 39 miles. The fewest number of miles would be in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes and the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains ecoregions, each at zero miles.

All 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DCLs under Alternative 5.

### **4.2.3.6 Alternative 6 – Geographically Balanced Alternative C with Variance Lands**

#### **4.2.3.6.1 Interagency Action**

##### ***Development Focus Areas***

The typical impacts to outdoor recreation that could occur as a result of renewable energy development in DFAs have been discussed above in Section 4.2.1, Typical Impacts from Renewable Energy Development—Common to All Alternatives. Impacts within the ecoregions are shown in Table 4.2-6a and are discussed below.

As shown in Table 4.2-6a, there are approximately 256,837 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFAs under Alternative 6. There are approximately 45,565 acres of lands available for recreation within the DFA development footprints (including solar, wind, geothermal, and ROWs). The greatest level of impact to lands available for recreation would be within the Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion, at 36,050 acres. There are no DFAs in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion. Within the DFAs and DFA footprints, BLM ERMA (212,855 and 18,414 acres respectively) would comprise the majority of lands that could be impacted by renewable energy development. Congressionally designated wilderness is excluded from renewable energy development.

As discussed above in Section 4.2.1, renewable energy development would convert undeveloped land to a developed industrial site and would be incompatible with recreational uses. The development of renewable energy facilities would result in the exclusion of recreational use from those areas and diminishment of recreational opportunities. Recreationists engaged in activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, birding, and OHV riding would be affected by the noise, dust, and traffic typically associated with the construction of renewable energy facilities and associated transmission lines,

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substations, or gen-tie lines. Construction activities would also impact the visual experience of recreationists.

### ***Conservation Lands***

As shown in Table 4.2-6a below, conservation lands under Alternative 6 could impact lands available for outdoor recreation.



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**Table 4.2-6a**

**Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 6**

<b>Ecoregion/Land Management Agency</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in DFAs</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS</b>	<b>% in Conservation Planning Area</b>
<i>Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	2,150,536	161,661	36,050	780,921	822,121	212,743	84.4
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	41,590	0	0	41,566	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	6,373	0	0	4,947	335	2,086	100+
CDFG	489	0	0	489	0	0	100.0
<i>Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	813,843	32,289	3,197	53,212	311,442	51,361	51.1
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	294,128	15,291	1,606	263,357	7,084	2,641	92.8
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,137,585	504	0	625,668	364,031	155,041	96.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,133,272	0	0	1,133,272	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	988,981	1,055	84	406,954	449,611	46,112	91.3

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Table 4.2-6a

**Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 6**

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	241,597	0	0	241,544	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Owens River Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	186,438	12,059	603	12,825	133,834	0	78.7
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	777	0	0	771	0	0	99.1
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	448,755	4,265	0	56,894	169,324	161,604	86.4
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,186,317	0	0	1,186,317	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	7,385	0	0	4,241	3,144	0	100.0
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	873,490	7,457	1,462	169,149	376,754	32,147	66.2
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	539,419	0	0	539,405	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Table 4.2-6a

Acreeage of Recreation Areas in DFAs and Conservation Planning Area by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 6

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in DFAs	Recreation Acres in DFA Footprint	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – HBS	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – MBS	% in Conservation Planning Area
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	904,934	0	0	401,599	378,810	110,015	98.4
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	13,847	0	0	13,847	0	0	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,401,499	962	72	613,584	459,281	222,875	92.5
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	668,752	0	0	668,718	0	0	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>							
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	853,333	21,294	2,491	84,401	614,608	58,453	88.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	24,353	0	0	19,506	6,291	89	100+
CDFG	912	0	0	787	125	0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,918,605</b>	<b>256,837</b>	<b>45,565</b>	<b>7,323,974</b>	<b>4,096,795</b>	<b>1,055,167</b>	<b>89.6</b>

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NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.

<sup>3</sup> Includes NPS-managed wilderness, parks, and preserves

<sup>4</sup> Includes State Parks-managed parks, recreation areas, and SVRAs

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 32 miles would be in DFAs and 2 miles would be in DFA footprints, all of which would be in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion.

Approximately 100 percent of National Trail in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes, the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains, and the Providence and Bullion Mountains ecoregions would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area. Approximately 98.8 percent of National Trail in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion, 74.2 percent in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, 72.2 percent in the Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion, and 57.9 percent in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area under Alternative 6.

None of the 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DFAs or in DFA footprints. The full extent of the Wild and Scenic-designated Amargosa River within the DRECP Plan area would be encompassed within the Conservation Planning Area.

Under Alternative 6, approximately 89.6% of lands available for recreation would occur within the Conservation Planning Area and would not be subject to renewable energy development.

### **4.2.3.6.2 BLM LUPA Elements**

In general, conservation lands under Alternative 6 could have some level of impact on lands available for outdoor recreation. Table 4.2-6b lists acreage of lands available for recreation by ecoregion located in DCLs and non-DCLs. Under Alternative 6, approximately 5,139,180 acres of lands available for recreation would fall under the DCL designation. Approximately 4,665,306 acres of lands available for recreation would not fall under the DCL designation and would be considered non-DCLs. Because this is a programmatic document, impacts to lands available for recreation would be determined on a project-specific basis.

Under Alternative 6, renewable energy development in the variance lands identified in the Final Solar PEIS would be permitted under the conditions indicated in Section 2.2.2.3 of the PEIS. Table 4.2-6b shows approximately 573,342 acres of lands available for recreation occur within the variance lands. The BLM would consider ROW applications for utility-scale solar energy development in variance areas on a case-by-case basis based on environmental considerations; coordination with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and tribes; and public outreach. The responsibility for demonstrating to the BLM and other coordinating parties that a proposal in a variance area would avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate would rest with the applicant. Applicants are expected to demonstrate that

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any proposed projects would be compatible with state and local plans and that they would be capable of acquiring all required permits and authorities to implement the project.

The variance areas and associated variance process would only apply to utility-scale solar development capable of generating 20 MW or greater of electricity. All non-utility-scale solar energy projects, including distributed generation, would follow existing management prescriptions in BLM land use plans and be subject to individual site-specific NEPA analyses.

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Table 4.2-6b

### Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 6

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1,2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non- SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Solar PEIS Variance</b>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion	2,150,536	996,714	262,436	1,259,150	889,874	1,513	891,386	163,123
Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion	813,843	144,640	191,982	336,622	229,539	247,681	477,220	143,076
Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion	1,137,585	470,151	73,540	543,691	608,052	30,946	638,997	33,669
Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion	988,981	254,896	179,139	434,035	412,593	142,353	554,945	55,982
Owens River Valley Ecoregion	186,438	23,917	9,235	33,152	103,663	49,623	153,286	18,066
Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion	448,755	14,446	137,347	151,794	69,773	227,188	296,961	0

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**Description and Comparative Evaluation of Draft DRECP Alternatives**

**Table 4.2-6b**

**Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 6**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1,2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-DCLs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Solar PEIS Variance</b>
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	873,490	284,347	153,662	438,008	164,868	270,605	435,473	49,579
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion	904,934	335,506	237,986	573,492	270,293	61,150	331,442	11,279
Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion	1,401,499	487,570	268,519	756,089	600,001	45,408	645,410	68,739
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	853,333	235,072	378,075	613,147	75,762	164,424	240,186	29,829
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,759,394</b>	<b>3,247,259</b>	<b>1,891,921</b>	<b>5,139,180</b>	<b>3,424,418</b>	<b>1,240,891</b>	<b>4,665,306</b>	<b>573,342</b>

NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMA, and OHV Areas.



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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 133 miles would be in DCLs and 93 miles would be in non-DCLs. The greatest number of miles in DCLs would be in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, at 45 miles. Neither the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion nor the Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion would have any miles of National Trails in DCLs. The greatest number of miles in non-DCLs would be in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion, at 39 miles. The fewest number of miles would be in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion, at zero miles.

All 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in DCLs under Alternative 6.

### **4.2.3.7 Alternative 7 – No Action Alternative**

This section analyzes impacts resulting from expected renewable energy development under the current regulatory conditions and affected environment as described in Chapter 3.2.

Under Alternative 7, analysis of impacts to lands available for recreation is based on expected renewable energy development under the current regulatory condition, including conservation actions and management regimes. Such development would continue to be authorized on a project-by-project basis. Additional conservation may occur under individual projects as requirements for mitigation on a project-by-project basis.

Table 4.2-7a demonstrates that there are approximately 5,736,007 acres of lands available for recreation within the available development areas (including solar, wind, geothermal, and ROWs). The greatest level of impact to lands available for recreation would be within the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion, at 45,912 acres. Within the available development areas, BLM SRMAs (1,585,649 acres) and ERMAs (4,134,934 acres) would comprise the majority of lands that could be impacted by renewable energy development. Under Alternative 7, approximately 52.6% of lands available for recreation would be within existing conservation and would not be subject to renewable energy development.

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**Table 4.2-7a**

**Acreeage of Recreation Areas in Available Development Areas and Existing Conservation Lands by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 7**

<b>Ecoregion/Land Management Agency</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Available Development Area</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands (LLPs and MMELs)</b>	<b>% in Conservation Planning Area</b>
<i>Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion</i>				
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	2,150,536	1,327,805	780,959	36.3
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	41,590	0	41,566	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	6,373	0	4,947	77.6
CDFG	489	0	489	100.0
<i>Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion</i>				
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	813,843	532,791	53,478	6.6
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	294,128	15,291	263,357	89.5
CDFG	-	-	-	-
<i>Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion</i>				
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,137,585	406,811	625,678	52.9
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,133,272	0	1,133,272	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-
<i>Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion</i>				
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	988,981	491,491	407,268	41.2
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	241,597	0	241,544	99.9

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**Table 4.2-7a**

**Acreege of Recreation Areas in Available Development Areas and Existing Conservation Lands by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 7**

<b>Ecoregion/Land Management Agency</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Available Development Area</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands (LLPs and MMELs)</b>	<b>% in Conservation Planning Area</b>
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-
<i>Owens River Valley Ecoregion</i>				
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	186,438	135,103	12,837	6.9
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	777	0	771	99.1
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-
<i>Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion</i>				
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	448,755	298,278	56,894	12.7
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	1,186,317	0	1,186,317	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	7,385	0	4,241	57.4
CDFG	-	-	-	-
<i>Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>				
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	873,490	697,521	169,191	19.4
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	539,419	0	539,405	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-

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Table 4.2-7a

Acreeage of Recreation Areas in Available Development Areas and Existing Conservation Lands by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 7

Ecoregion/Land Management Agency	Recreation Acres in Ecoregion	Recreation Acres in Available Development Area	Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands (LLPs and MMELs)	% in Conservation Planning Area
<i>Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion</i>				
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	904,934	434,693	401,601	44.4
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	13,847	0	13,847	100.0
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-
<i>Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion</i>				
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	1,401,499	700,593	613,596	43.8
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	668,752	0	668,718	99.9
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-
CDFG	-	-	-	-
<i>West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion</i>				
BLM <sup>1,2</sup>	853,333	695,630	84,418	9.9
NPS <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-	-
State Parks <sup>4</sup>	24,353	0	19,506	80.0
CDFG	912	0	787	86.2

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Table 4.2-7a

**Acres of Recreation Areas in Available Development Areas and Existing Conservation Lands by Land Management Agency and Ecoregion—Alternative 7**

<b>Ecoregion/Land Management Agency</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Available Development Area</b>	<b>Recreation Acres in Existing and Planned Conservation Planning Area – Existing Conservation Lands (LLPs and MMELs)</b>	<b>% in Conservation Planning Area</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,918,605</b>	<b>5,736,007</b>	<b>7,324,687</b>	<b>52.6</b>

NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMA, and OHV Areas.

<sup>3</sup> Includes NPS-managed wilderness, parks, and preserves

<sup>4</sup> Includes State Parks-managed parks, recreation areas, and SVRAs

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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 276 miles would be in available development areas under Alternative 7. The greatest number of miles in available development areas would be in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion, at 135 miles.

Approximately 79.7 percent of National Trail in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion, 67.8 percent in the Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion, 46.1 percent of the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion, 30.9 percent in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, 20.4 percent in the Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion, 14.2 percent in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains, and 2.3 percent in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion would be encompassed within existing conservation (LLPs and MMELs).

None of the 23 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in available development areas. Approximately 93.3 percent of the Wild and Scenic-designated Amargosa River within the DRECP Plan area would be encompassed within existing conservation under Alternative 7.

### **4.2.3.7.1 BLM Land Use Plans**

Under Alternative 7, BLM-administered management and guidelines for recreation would continue as currently outlined in BLM land use plans. Individual projects may result in site-specific land use plan amendments. Renewable energy applications and ROW lease applications would continue to be processed by the BLM on a case-by-case basis. Areas currently excluded from renewable energy development by statute, regulation, or orders would remain excluded, and administratively excluded areas would be assessed based on management in the relevant land use plan. Impacts to lands available for recreation and mitigation measures would continue to be assessed on a case-by-case project-specific level.

Table 4.2-7b lists the lands available for recreation in ACEC and non-ACEC lands by ecoregion. Under Alternative 7, approximately 3,170,823 acres of lands available for recreation would continue to be designated as ACECs and would be managed under current BLM plans. Approximately 6,633,674 acres of lands available for recreation would continue to be considered non-ACECs.

Additionally, Table 4.2-7b shows approximately 573,342 acres of lands available for recreation would fall under variance lands identified in the Final Solar PEIS. Renewable energy development on variance lands would be permitted under the conditions indicated in Section 2.2.2.3 of the PEIS.

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**Table 4.2-7b**

**Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 7**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1, 2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in ACECs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in ACECs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in ACECs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-ACECs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-ACECs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-ACECs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Solar PEIS Variance</b>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion	2,150,536	617,659	0	617,659	1,532,878	0	1,532,878	163,123
Imperial and Borrego Valley Ecoregion	813,843	41,321	118,204	159,525	332,164	322,154	654,318	143,076
Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion	1,137,585	163,898	20,767	184,665	951,900	46,123	998,023	33,669
Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion	988,981	236,070	166,899	402,969	431,341	154,670	586,011	55,982
Owens River Valley Ecoregion	186,438	3	848	851	86,356	99,231	185,587	18,066
Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion	448,755	0	11,086	11,086	20,736	416,932	437,669	0

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**Table 4.2-7b  
Estimated Acreage of Recreation Areas in BLM Proposed Conservation by Ecoregion—Alternative 7**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>BLM Recreation Acres<sup>1, 2</sup> in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Acres in ACECs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in ACECs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in ACECs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Non-ACECs: Non-SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-ACECs: SRMA</b>	<b>Acres in Non-ACECs: Subtotal</b>	<b>Acres in Solar PEIS Variance</b>
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	873,490	190,316	128,306	318,623	261,199	293,669	554,867	49,579
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion	904,934	554,411	14	554,425	326,507	24,002	350,509	11,279
Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion	1,401,499	368,609	632	369,241	1,031,670	588	1,032,258	68,739
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion	853,333	228,570	323,209	551,779	93,578	207,975	301,554	29,829
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,759,394</b>	<b>2,400,857</b>	<b>769,965</b>	<b>3,170,823</b>	<b>5,068,329</b>	<b>1,565,344</b>	<b>6,633,674</b>	<b>573,342</b>

NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change. All acreages derived from best available data.

<sup>1</sup> Congressionally designated wilderness in the DRECP Plan Area (5,856,498 acres) is excluded from the development of permanent structures (including renewable energy facilities) and roads.

<sup>2</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV Areas.



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Of the 564 miles of National Trail in the Plan Area, 107 miles would be in ACECs and 130 miles would be in non-ACECs. The greatest number of miles in ACECs would be in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, at 30 miles. The Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion would not have any miles of National Trails in ACECs. The greatest number of miles in non-ACECs would be in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion, at 47 miles. The fewest number of miles would be in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion, at zero miles.

Approximately 15 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Plan Area would be in ACECs and 6 miles would be in non-ACECs under Alternative 7.

Under the No Action Alternative, 51 solar energy projects would likely be developed, with impacts likely to occur primarily in the following ecoregions: Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains, Imperial Borrego Valley, Kingston and Funeral Mountains, Mojave and Silurian Valley, Owens River Valley, Providence and Bullion Mountains, and West Mojave and Eastern Slopes. None of the 51 solar energy projects would be likely to occur in the Panamint Death Valley, Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes, or Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains ecoregions. Within the Owens River Valley Ecoregion, 2 projects would likely be developed.

Under the No Action Alternative, 30 wind energy projects would likely be developed. All of these projects would likely be developed in either the Imperial Borrego Valley (6 projects) or West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregions (24 projects). No wind energy projects are anticipated for the following ecoregions: Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains, Kingston and Funeral Mountains, Mojave and Silurian Valley, Owens River Valley, Panamint Death Valley, Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes, Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains, and Providence and Bullion Mountains.

Twelve geothermal energy development projects are anticipated under the No Action Alternatives. All of these projects would likely be developed in the Imperial Borrego Valley Ecoregion. No wind energy projects are anticipated for the following ecoregions: Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains, Kingston and Funeral Mountains, Mojave and Silurian Valley, Owens River Valley, Panamint Death Valley, Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes, Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains, Providence and Bullion Mountains, and West Mojave and Eastern Slopes.

For all of the above-mentioned renewable energy development projects, major transmission, substations, and Gen-Ties are estimated to require 12,099 acres of ROW. Over 40% of the ROW acreages are projected to occur in the Imperial Borrego Valley Ecoregion, with the remaining ROW acreages projected to occur in the following

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ecoregions: Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains, Kingston and Funeral Mountains, Mojave and Silurian Valley, Owens River Valley, Providence and Bullion Mountains, and West Mojave and Eastern Slopes. No ROWs would be required for major transmission, substations, and Gen-Ties within the Panamint Death Valley, Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes, or Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains ecoregions.

Consequently, solar energy development and ROWs required for major transmission, substations, and Gen-Ties could affect outdoor recreation for the following ecoregions:

Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains (contains 2,198,988 acres of recreation lands),

Imperial Borrego Valley (contains 1,107,971 acres of recreation lands and 7 miles of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail),

Kingston and Funeral Mountains (contains 2,270,857 acres of recreation lands and 84 miles of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail),

Mojave and Silurian Valley (contains 1,230,578 acres of recreation lands and 171 miles of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail),

Owens River Valley (contains 187,215 acres of recreation lands),

Providence and Bullion Mountains (contains 2,070,251 acres of recreation lands and 28 miles of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail), and

West Mojave and Eastern Slopes (contains 878,598 acres of recreation lands, 103 miles of the Pacific Crest National Historic Trail, and 68 miles of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail).

Wind energy development could affect outdoor recreation in the Imperial Borrego Valley and West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregions. Geothermal development could affect outdoor recreation within the Imperial Borrego Valley Ecoregion. The typical impacts to outdoor recreation that could occur in these ecoregions have been discussed above in Section 4.2.1, Typical Impacts from Renewable Energy Development—Common to All Alternatives.

Recreation lands in the Panamint Death Valley (2,947,646 acres), Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes (768,745 acres, 11 miles of the Pacific Crest National Historic Trail, and 2 miles of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail), and Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains (469,167 acres and 14 miles of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail) ecoregions would not likely be affected by renewable energy development under the No Action Alternative. In addition, Congressionally designated wilderness (5,856,498 acres) in the DRECP Plan Area is excluded from the development of renewable energy facilities and

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roads. There would likely be minimal to no impact to wilderness recreation opportunities under the No Action Alternative.

The Available Development Areas within the DRECP Plan Area total 10,309,278 acres, of which 57% is BLM land, 3% is other public land, 2% is CSLC lands, and 37% is private land (approximate). Approximately 7,563,993 acres (approximately 35% of the DRECP Plan Area) are within existing Conservation Areas, and 7,127,966 acres (approximately 94% of the conservation areas) are within legislatively and legally protected federal lands.

### **4.2.3.8 Comparison of Alternatives**

Table 4.2-8 provides a summarized comparison of the estimated acreages of lands available for recreation that are within DFAs, the Conservation Planning Area, and BLM Proposed Conservation across all alternatives.

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Table 4.2-8

**Acreege of Lands Available for Recreation within DFAs, the Conservation Planning Area, and BLM Proposed Conservation under all Alternatives**

Alternative 1 – Disturbed Lands/Low Resource Conflict Alternative	Alternative 2 – Geographically Balanced/Trans- mission Aligned Alternative B	Alternative 3 – West Mojave Emphasis Alternative	Alternative 4 – Geographically Balanced/Trans- mission Aligned Alternative A	Alternative 5 – Increased Geographic and Technology Flexibility Alternative	Alternative 6 – Geographically Balanced Alternative C with Variance Lands	Alternative 7 – No Action Alternative
Estimated acreage in DFAs: 83,314 ERMA acres: 53,841 SRMA acres: 14,266	Estimated acreage in DFAs: 362,877 ERMA acres: 318,758 SRMA acres: 28,828	Estimated acreage in DFAs: 371,145 ERMA acres: 166,253 SRMA acres: 135,614	Estimated acreage in DFAs: 219,544 ERMA acres: 128,697 SRMA acres: 75,556	Estimated acreage in DFAs: 621,739 ERMA acres: 487,482 SRMA acres: 118,965	Estimated acreage in DFAs: 256,837 ERMA acres: 212,855 SRMA acres: 28,691	Estimated acreage in available development areas: 5,736,007 ERMA acres: 4,134,934 SRMA acres: 1,585,649
Estimated acreage in DFA development footprint: 11,767 ERMA acres: 7,136 SRMA acres: 1,170	Estimated acreage in DFA footprint: 52,733 ERMA acres: 22,779 SRMA acres: 1,226	Estimated acreage in DFA footprint: 34,695 ERMA acres: 10,512 SRMA acres: 11,130	Estimated acreage in DFA footprint: 25,591 ERMA acres: 12,673 SRMA acres: 4,015	Estimated acreage in DFA footprint: 93,823 ERMA acres: 21,998 SRMA acres: 3,822	Estimated acreage in DFA footprint: 45,565 ERMA acres: 18,414 SRMA acres: 1,340	n/a

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Table 4.2-8

**Acres of Lands Available for Recreation within DFAs, the Conservation Planning Area, and BLM Proposed Conservation under all Alternatives**

Alternative 1 – Disturbed Lands/Low Resource Conflict Alternative	Alternative 2 – Geographically Balanced/Trans- mission Aligned Alternative B	Alternative 3 – West Mojave Emphasis Alternative	Alternative 4 – Geographically Balanced/Trans- mission Aligned Alternative A	Alternative 5 – Increased Geographic and Technology Flexibility Alternative	Alternative 6 – Geographically Balanced Alternative C with Variance Lands	Alternative 7 – No Action Alternative
Estimated acreage in Conservation Planning Area: <i>12,612,010</i>	Estimated acreage in Conservation Planning Area: <i>12,901,311</i>	Estimated acreage in Conservation Planning Area: <i>12,879,239</i>	Estimated acreage in Conservation Planning Area: <i>13,042,743</i>	Estimated acreage in Conservation Planning Area: <i>12,675,012</i>	Estimated acreage in Conservation Planning Area: <i>12,475,936</i>	Estimated acreage in existing conservation system (LLPs and MMELs): <i>7,324,687</i>
Estimated acreage in DCLs: <i>5,557,675</i>	Estimated acreage in DCLs: <i>5,379,358</i>	Estimated acreage in DCLs: <i>5,349,152</i>	Estimated acreage in DCLs: <i>5,541,554</i>	Estimated acreage in DCLs: <i>5,195,779</i>	Estimated acreage in DCLs: <i>5,139,180</i>	Estimated acreage in ACECs: <i>3,170,823</i>
Estimated acreage in non-DCLs: <i>4,246,812</i>	Estimated acreage in non-DCLs: <i>4,425,128</i>	Estimated acreage in non-DCLs: <i>4,455,335</i>	Estimated acreage in non-DCLs: <i>4,262,935</i>	Estimated acreage in non-DCLs: <i>4,608,709</i>	Estimated acreage in non-DCLs: <i>4,665,306</i>	Estimated acreage in non-ACECs: <i>6,633,674</i>
Estimated acreage in variance lands: <i>158,767</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Estimated acreage in variance lands: <i>573,342</i>	Estimated acreage in variance lands: <i>573,342</i>

NOTE: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

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As shown in the table above, the greatest number of acres in DFAs would be under Alternative 5, and the least number of acres in DFAs is under Alternative 1. The same would be true for acres in the DFA footprints. Both Alternatives, however, would have fewer acres in DFAs than Alternative 7 (No Action) has in available development areas.

The greatest number of acres in the Conservation Planning Area would be under Alternative 4, and the least number of acres in the Conservation Planning Area would be under Alternative 6. Both alternatives, however, would have more acres in the Conservation Planning Area than Alternative 7 has in LLPs and MMELs.

The greatest number of acres in DCLs would be under Alternative 1, and the least number of acres in DCLs would be under Alternative 5. Both alternatives, however, would have more acres in DCLs than Alternative 7 has in ACECs.

The greatest number of acres in non-DCLs would be under Alternative 6, and the least number of acres in non-DCLs would be under Alternative 1. Both alternatives, however, would have fewer acres in non-DCLs than Alternative 7 has in non-ACECs.

### **4.2.4 Summary of Conservation and Management Actions, including Allowable Uses and Use Restrictions**

Refer to Appendix E for specific guidance.

Public access through or around renewable energy facilities should be retained to permit continued use of public lands and non-BLM administered lands.

Renewable energy facilities should not be placed in areas of unique or important recreation resources.

Replacement of access lost for OHV use should be considered as part of the analysis of project-specific impacts. Any process for designating a replacement route would include the consideration of the designation criteria for routes as specified in 43 CFR 8342.1, and would be consistent with existing land use plans.

A variety of measures may be incorporated, as stipulations, into the design and development of the Plan of Development and the design of renewable energy projects to reduce potential land use impacts. These measures include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Renewable energy projects should be planned to mitigate or minimize impacts to other land uses.

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- Federal and state agencies, property owners, and other stakeholders should be contacted as early as possible in the planning process to identify potentially sensitive land uses and issues, rules that govern renewable energy development locally, and land use concepts specific to the region.
- When feasible, a renewable energy project should be sited on already altered landscapes.
- To plan for efficient land use, necessary infrastructure requirements should be consolidated whenever possible, and current transmission and market access should be evaluated.
- Restoration plans should be developed to ensure that all temporary use areas are restored.

December 17, 2012

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