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### 4.7 BLM Land Designations, Classifications, Allocations, and Wilderness Inventory

The analysis in this section addresses potential impacts to BLM-administered lands with special designations, classifications, and allocations (special designations) from implementing the DRECP alternatives. For this programmatic-level analysis, existing conditions for BLM-administered land special designations are described in Chapter 3, Section 3.7 BLM Land Designations, Classifications, and Allocations. The extent to which these BLM-administered land special designations intersect with the proposed DFAs under each alternative are the primary considerations in quantifying impacts.

National Landscape Conservation System lands are also identified by BLM as National Conservation Lands. Existing National Conservation Lands are evaluated and new areas are considered under the DRECP Plan. The plan also provides an opportunity to identify which areas will be identified and managed as components of the National Conservation Lands. Alternatives described in Appendix D1 include a range of possible approaches to meet the requirements of Public Law 111-11 within the context of BLM management authority, responsibility to protect resources, and balancing conservation with renewable energy and other public land multiple uses.

Existing ACECs are also evaluated and new ACECs or modifications ACECs are analyzed. Alternatives described in Appendix D2 provide details related to proposed modifications and proposed new ACECs under the DRECP Plan.

#### 4.7.1 Typical Impacts from Renewable Energy Development

This section is intended to describe the potential impacts to existing and planned BLM-administered lands with special designations, allocations, and classifications as they relate to the various renewable energy technologies that would be permitted under the DRECP for solar, wind, and geothermal energy systems and the supporting facilities necessary to transmit energy by these technologies. Of the proposed renewable energy technologies that could be built within the proposed DFAs, co-location of these BLM-administered existing or planned special designations may likely be incompatible.

Renewable energy projects and associated transmission and infrastructure could result in the following impacts:

- Degradation and/or destruction could result from the alteration of topography, alteration of hydrologic patterns, removal of soils, erosion of soils, and runoff into and sedimentation of adjacent areas if special designations are located near a proposed project;

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- Conflict with management goals and objectives set forth by the BLM in order to categorize, protect, and manage special designation areas;
- Conflict with conservation goals for the area; or
- Result in proposed land uses that are incompatible with existing or adjacent special designation areas.

### 4.7.2 Methodology and Assumptions for Analysis

Analysis of impacts to BLM-administered land special designations for each alternative is based on the description of Covered Activities on BLM-administered lands and the overall conservation strategy within the Plan Area. Covered Activities are those actions associated with renewable energy development that would be permitted within DFAs. Transmission development may also occur outside the DFAs, but would be subject to permitting and management conditions set by the Plan. Development and operation would be permitted under the DRECP.

Under the BLM LUPA component of each alternative, the BLM would designate ACECs or NLCS lands to address the special management needs for natural and cultural resources. Under the LUPA, ACECs, NLCS designations, and Wildlife Designations would be designated as Desert Conservation Lands (DCL). In addition to DCL designations, the BLM has identified Land Allocation and Management Decisions for BLM-administered lands in the DRECP boundaries. These decisions and management actions common to the entire Plan Area for lands with wilderness characteristics, National Conservation Lands, and ACECs include the following:

- For management common to the entire Plan Area: Any proposal in areas that do not have an updated wilderness characteristics inventory would require completion of an inventory. Avoidance or mitigation measures would be employed as described below for each type of allocation.
- For management of DFAs: Development would be allowed in areas inventoried and identified as lands with wilderness characteristics (LWCs). Development in any LWCs would require a 1:1 mitigation. This would be accomplished through acquisition of Wilderness inholdings, wilderness edge-holdings that have inventoried LWC, or other areas within the planning area that are managed to protect LWCs.
- All lands with identified LWCs would be managed to protect those LWCs. Allocations would include:

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- Allow mineral leasing only with no surface occupancy, with no exceptions, waivers, or modifications.
- Designate as right-of-way exclusion areas.
- Close to construction of new roads.
- Designate as closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Exclude or restrict with conditions for certain commercial uses or other activities (e.g., commercial or personal-use wood-cutting permits).
- Designate as Visual Resource Management Class I.
- Restrict construction of new structures and facilities unrelated to the preservation or enhancement of wilderness characteristics or necessary for the management of uses allowed under the land use plan.
- Retain public lands in Federal ownership.
- For management of National Conservation lands:
- For management of wildlife allocations: Same as non-designated lands
- For management of SRMAs: Same as non-designated lands
- For management of non-designated lands: If development is proposed, a LWC inventory would be required. Development in any LWCs would require a 1:1 mitigation. This would be accomplished through acquisition of Wilderness inholdings, wilderness edge-holdings that have inventoried LWC, or other areas within the planning area that are managed to protect LWCs.

### **4.7.3 Impacts by Alternative**

#### **4.7.3.1 *Alternative 1***

##### **4.7.3.1.1 National Landscape Conservation System**

###### ***Wilderness***

Under Alternative 1, no designated Wilderness would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All designated Wilderness areas are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

###### ***National Monuments and National Conservation Areas***

Within the Plan Area there are no National Monuments or National Conservation Areas.

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### ***Wild and Scenic Rivers***

The Amargosa River is the only wild and scenic river within the DRECP Plan Area. Under Alternative 1, no segments of the Amargosa River would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All segments of the Amargosa River are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

### ***National Historic and Scenic Trails***

These trails are described in more detail In Section 3.4, Visual Resources. National Historic and Scenic Trails within BLM-administered lands are shown in Figure 3.7-4.

### ***Wilderness Study Areas***

Within the Plan Area, there are six Wilderness Study Areas encompassing 371,278 acres. Under Alternative 1, the majority (99.9%) of WSAs occur within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas (Table 4.7-1). The less than 1% (32 acres) of WSA acres that occur within BLM Solar Variance lands and DFAs may be due to GIS data discrepancies. .

**Table 4.7-1  
Wilderness Study Areas in DFAs, Solar Variance Lands and Conservation Planning Areas by Ecoregion – Alternative 1**

Ecoregion	WSA (acres)	WSA in DFAs (acres)	Solar Variance Lands (acres)	WSA in Conservation Planning Areas (acres)
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	0	0	0	0
Imperial Borrego Valley	15	0	0	15
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	11,693	0	0	11,693
Mojave and Silurian Valley	260,225	0	5	260,220
Owens River Valley	19,312	4	19	19,289
Panamint Death Valley	22,580	0	0	22,580
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	57,453	0	4	57,449
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>371,278</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>371,246</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change

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### 4.7.3.1.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

There are 3,929,663 ACEC acres within the Plan Area. Under Alternative 1, no ACECs would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All ACECs are part of the existing conservation or proposed Conservation Planning Areas. Under this alternative, new and existing/modified ACECs would total 2,859,691 acres.

### 4.7.3.1.3 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The BLM completed a wilderness characteristics inventory for those lands that could potentially be impacted within DFAs proposed under the DRECP Plan. Based on this inventory, under Alternative 1, approximately 1,384 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints (Table 4.7-2). There would be 365,027 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics within existing and proposed Conservation Planning Areas (Table 4.7-2).

**Table 4.7-2  
Estimated Number of Acres of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in DFAs and DCLs by Ecoregion – Alternative 1**

Ecoregion	LWC Acres	LWC in DFAs (acres)	LWC in DCLs and Non-DCLs	
			DCL	Non-DCL
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	120,284	0	109,925	10,095
Imperial Borrego Valley	42,176	0	0	42,083
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	42,684	0	32,330	10,303
Mojave and Silurian Valley	62,623	0	34,352	28,220
Owens River Valley	7,465	1,384	162	7,303
Panamint Death Valley	79,551	0	66,389	13,145
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	1,920	0	1,920	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	127,466	0	101,145	26,321
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	18,807	0	18,804	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>503,127</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>365,027</b>	<b>137,473</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change

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### **4.7.3.2      *Alternative 2***

#### **4.7.3.2.1      National Landscape Conservation System**

##### ***Wilderness***

Under Alternative 2, no designated Wilderness would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All designated Wilderness areas are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

##### ***National Monuments and National Conservation Areas***

Within the Plan Area there are no National Monuments or National Conservation Areas.

##### ***Wild and Scenic Rivers***

The Amargosa River is the only wild and scenic river within the DRECP Plan Area. Under Alternative 2, no segments of the Amargosa River would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All segments of the Amargosa River are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

##### ***National Historic and Scenic Trails***

These trails are described in more detail In Section 3.4, Visual Resources. National Historic and Scenic Trails within BLM-administered lands are shown in Figure 3.7-4.

##### ***Wilderness Study Areas***

Within the Plan Area, there are six Wilderness Study Areas encompassing 371,278 acres. Under Alternative 2, the majority (99.9%) of WSAs occur within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas (Table 4.7-3). The less than 1% (13 acres) of WSA acres that occur within DFAs may be due to GIS data discrepancies.

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**Table 4.7-3  
Wilderness Study Areas in DFAs, Solar Variance Lands and Conservation Planning Areas by Ecoregion – Alternative 2**

Ecoregion	WSA (acres)	WSA in DFAs (acres)	Solar Variance Lands (acres)	WSA in Conservation Planning Areas (acres)
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	0	0	0	0
Imperial Borrego Valley	15	0	0	15
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	11,693	0	0	11,693
Mojave and Silurian Valley	260,225	9	0	260,216
Owens River Valley	19,312	4	0	19,308
Panamint Death Valley	22,580	0	0	22,580
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	57,453	0	0	57,453
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>371,278</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>371,265</b>

**Note:** Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

### 4.7.3.2.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Under Alternative 2, no ACECs would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All ACECs are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas. Under this alternative, new and existing/modified ACECs would total 1,518,207 acres.

### 4.7.3.1.3 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The BLM completed a wilderness characteristics inventory for those lands that could potentially be impacted within DFAs proposed under the DRECP Plan. Based on this inventory, under Alternative 2, approximately 44,506 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints (Table 4.7-4). There would be 329,198 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas (Table 4.7-4).

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**Table 4.7-4  
Estimated Number of Acres of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in DFAs and DCLs by Ecoregion – Alternative 2**

Ecoregion	LWC Acres	LWC in DFAs (acres)	LWC in DCLs and Non-DCLs	
			DCL	Non-DCL
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	120,284	25,122	90,442	29,842
Imperial Borrego Valley	42,176	0	0	42,083
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	42,684	6,359	27,416	15,269
Mojave and Silurian Valley	62,623	11,603	22,830	39,793
Owens River Valley	7,465	1,384	162	6,301
Panamint Death Valley	79,551	37	66,366	13,184
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	1,920	0	1,920	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	127,466	0	101,266	26,360
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	18,807	0	18,795	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>503,127</b>	<b>44,506</b>	<b>329,198</b>	<b>173,929</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

### **4.7.3.3 Alternative 3**

#### **4.7.3.3.1 National Landscape Conservation System**

##### ***Wilderness***

Under Alternative 3, no designated Wilderness would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All designated Wilderness areas are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

##### ***National Monuments and National Conservation Areas***

Within the Plan Area there are no National Monuments or National Conservation Areas.

##### ***Wild and Scenic Rivers***

The Amargosa River is the only wild and scenic river within the DRECP Plan Area. Under Alternative 3, no segments of the Amargosa River would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All segments of the Amargosa River are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

##### ***National Historic and Scenic Trails***

These trails are described in more detail in Section 3.4, Visual Resources. National Historic and Scenic Trails within BLM-administered lands are shown in Figure 3.7-4.



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### **Wilderness Study Areas**

Within the Plan Area, there are six Wilderness Study Areas encompassing 371,278 acres. Under Alternative 3, all WSAs occur within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas (Table 4.7-5).

**Table 4.7-5  
Wilderness Study Areas in DFAs, Solar Variance Lands and Conservation Planning Areas by Ecoregion – Alternative 3**

Ecoregion	WSA (acres)	WSA in DFAs (acres)	Solar Variance Lands (acres)	WSA in Conservation Planning Area (acres)
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	0	0	0	0
Imperial Borrego Valley	15	0	0	15
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	11,693	0	0	11,693
Mojave and Silurian Valley	260,225	0	0	260,225
Owens River Valley	19,312	0	0	19,312
Panamint Death Valley	22,580	0	0	22,580
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	57,453	0	0	57,453
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>371,278</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>371,278</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

#### **4.7.3.3.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

Under Alternative 3, no ACECs would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All ACECs are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas. Under this alternative, new and existing/modified ACECs would total 2,163,528 acres.

#### **4.7.3.3.3 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

The BLM completed a wilderness characteristics inventory for those lands that could potentially be impacted within DFAs proposed under the DRECP Plan. Based on this inventory, under Alternative 3, approximately 2,276 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints (Table 4.7-6). There would be 364,709 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

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**Table 4.7-6  
Estimated Number of Acres of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in DFAs and DCLs by Ecoregion – Alternative 3**

Ecoregion	LWC Acres	LWC in DFAs (acres)	LWC in DCLs and Non-DCLs	
			DCL	Non-DCL
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	120,284	892	110,145	10,139
Imperial Borrego Valley	42,176	0	0	42,083
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	42,684	0	32,369	10,315
Mojave and Silurian Valley	62,623	0	34,376	28,247
Owens River Valley	7,465	1,384	162	7,301
Panamint Death Valley	79,551	0	66,403	13,148
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	1,920	0	1,193	729
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	127,466	0	101,266	26,260
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	18,807	0	18,795	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>503,127</b>	<b>2,276</b>	<b>364,709</b>	<b>138,418</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

### 4.7.3.4 **Alternative 4**

#### 4.7.3.4.1 **National Landscape Conservation System**

##### **Wilderness**

Under Alternative 4, no designated Wilderness would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All designated Wilderness areas are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

##### **National Monuments and National Conservation Areas**

Within the Plan Area there are no National Monuments or National Conservation Areas.

##### **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

The Amargosa River is the only wild and scenic river within the DRECP Plan Area. Under Alternative 4, no segments of the Amargosa River would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All segments of the Amargosa River are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

##### **National Historic and Scenic Trails**

These trails are described in more detail In Section 3.4, Visual Resources. National Historic and Scenic Trails within BLM-administered lands are shown in Figure 3.7-4.

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### **Wilderness Study Areas**

Within the Plan Area, there are six Wilderness Study Areas encompassing 371,278 acres. Under Alternative 4, all WSAs occur within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas (Table 4.7-7).

**Table 4.7-7  
Wilderness Study Areas in DFAs, Solar Variance Lands and Conservation Planning Areas by Ecoregion – Alternative 4**

Ecoregion	WSA (acres)	WSA in DFAs (acres)	Solar Variance Lands (acres)	WSA in Conservation Planning Areas (acres)
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	0	0	0	0
Imperial Borrego Valley	15	0	0	15
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	11,693	0	0	11,693
Mojave and Silurian Valley	260,225	0	0	260,225
Owens River Valley	19,312	0	0	19,312
Panamint Death Valley	22,580	0	0	22,580
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	57,453	0	0	57,453
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>371,278</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>371,278</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

#### **4.7.3.4.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

Under Alternative 4, no ACECs would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All ACECs are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas. Under this alternative, new and existing/modified ACECs would total 1,634,027 acres.

#### **4.7.3.4.3 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

The BLM completed a wilderness characteristics inventory for those lands that could potentially be impacted within DFAs proposed under the DRECP Plan. Based on this inventory, under Alternative 4, approximately 2,338 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints (Table 4.7-8). There would be 365,458 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

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**Table 4.7-8  
Estimated Number of Acres of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in DFAs and  
DCLs by Ecoregion – Alternative 4**

Ecoregion	LWC Acres	LWC in DFAs (acres)	LWC in DCLs and Non-DCLs	
			DCL	Non-DCL
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	120,284	892	110,165	10,119
Imperial Borrego Valley	42,083	0	0	42,083
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	42,633	0	32,369	10,315
Mojave and Silurian Valley	62,572	0	34,376	28,247
Owens River Valley	7,465	1,384	162	7,301
Panamint Death Valley	79,534	62	66,403	13,148
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	1,920	0	1,920	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	127,466	0	101,266	26,260
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	18,807	0	18,795	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>502,500</b>	<b>2,338</b>	<b>365,458</b>	<b>137,669</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

### 4.7.3.5 Alternative 5

#### 4.7.3.5.1 National Landscape Conservation System

##### *Wilderness*

Under Alternative 5, no designated Wilderness would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All designated Wilderness areas are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

##### *National Monuments and National Conservation Areas*

Within the Plan Area there are no National Monuments or National Conservation Areas.

##### *Wild and Scenic Rivers*

The Amargosa River is the only wild and scenic river within the DRECP Plan Area. Under Alternative 5, no segments of the Amargosa River would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All segments of the Amargosa River are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

##### *National Historic and Scenic Trails*

These trails are described in more detail in Section 3.4, Visual Resources. National Historic and Scenic Trails within BLM-administered lands are shown in Figure 3.7-4.

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### Wilderness Study Areas

Within the Plan Area, there are six Wilderness Study Areas encompassing 371,278 acres. Under Alternative 5, the majority (99.9%) of WSAs occur within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas (Table 4.7-9). The less than 1% (13 acres) of WSA acres that occur within DFAs may be due to GIS data discrepancies.

**Table 4.7-9  
Wilderness Study Areas in DFAs, Solar Variance Lands and Conservation Planning Areas by Ecoregion – Alternative 5**

Ecoregion	WSA (acres)	WSA in DFAs (acres)	Solar Variance Lands (acres)	WSA in Conservation Planning Areas (acres)
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	0	0	0	0
Imperial Borrego Valley	15	0	0	15
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	11,693	0	0	11,693
Mojave and Silurian Valley	260,225	9	0	260,216
Owens River Valley	19,312	4	0	19,308
Panamint Death Valley	22,580	0	0	22,580
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	57,453	0	0	57,453
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>371,278</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>371,265</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

#### 4.7.3.5.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Under Alternative 5, no ACECs would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All ACECs are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas. Under this alternative, new and existing/modified ACECs would total 55,315 acres.

#### 4.7.3.5.3 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The BLM completed a wilderness characteristics inventory for those lands that could potentially be impacted within DFAs proposed under the DRECP Plan. Based on this inventory, under Alternative 5, approximately 45,243 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints (Table 4.7-10).

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There would be 320,090 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

**Table 4.7-10  
Estimated Number of Acres of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in DFAs and DCLs by Ecoregion – Alternative 5**

Ecoregion	LWC Acres	LWC in DFAs (acres)	LWC in DCLs and Non-DCLs	
			DCL	Non-DCL
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	120,284	25,428	83,299	36,985
Imperial Borrego Valley	42,176	0	0	42,176
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	42,684	6,359	27,416	15,269
Mojave and Silurian Valley	62,623	11,603	22,786	39,837
Owens River Valley	7,465	1,384	162	7,301
Panamint Death Valley	79,551	62	66,364	13,186
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	1,920	406	3	1,919
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	127,466	0	101,266	26,360
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	18,807	0	18,795	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>503,127</b>	<b>45,243</b>	<b>320,090</b>	<b>183,037</b>

### 4.7.3.6 *Alternative 6*

#### 4.7.3.6.1 **National Landscape Conservation System**

##### ***Wilderness***

Under Alternative 6, no designated Wilderness would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All designated Wilderness areas are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

##### ***National Monuments and National Conservation Areas***

Within the Plan Area there are no National Monuments or National Conservation Areas.

##### ***Wild and Scenic Rivers***

The Amargosa River is the only wild and scenic river within the DRECP Plan Area. Under Alternative 6, no segments of the Amargosa River would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All segments of the Amargosa River are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

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### *National Historic and Scenic Trails*

These trails are described in more detail In Section 3.4, Visual Resources. National Historic and Scenic Trails within BLM-administered lands are shown in Figure 3.7-4.

### *Wilderness Study Areas*

Within the Plan Area, there are six Wilderness Study Areas encompassing 371,278 acres. Under Alternative 6, the majority (99.9%) of WSAs occur within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas (Table 4.7-11). The less than 1% (32 acres) of WSA acres that occur within BLM Solar Variance lands and DFAs may be due to GIS data discrepancies.

**Table 4.7-11  
Wilderness Study Areas in DFAs, Solar Variance Lands and Conservation Planning Areas by Ecoregion – Alternative 6**

Ecoregion	WSA (acres)	WSA in DFAs (acres)	Solar Variance Lands (acres)	WSA in Conservation Planning Areas (acres)
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	0	0	0	0
Imperial Borrego Valley	15	0	0	15
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	11,693	0	0	11,693
Mojave and Silurian Valley	260,225	0	5	260,220
Owens River Valley	19,312	4	19	19,289
Panamint Death Valley	22,580	0	0	22,580
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	57,453	0	4	57,449
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>371,278</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>371,246</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

#### **4.7.3.6.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

Under Alternative 6, no ACECs would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints. All ACECs are part of the existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas. Under this alternative, new and existing/modified ACECs would total 2,127,722 acres.

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### 4.7.3.6.3 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The BLM completed a wilderness characteristics inventory for those lands that could potentially be impacted within DFAs proposed under the DRECP Plan. Based on this inventory, under Alternative 6, approximately 26,917 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics would occur within DFAs or DFA development footprints (Table 4.7-12). There would be 334,481 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics within existing or proposed Conservation Planning Areas.

**Table 4.7-12  
Estimated Number of Acres of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in DFAs and DCLs by Ecoregion – Alternative 6**

Ecoregion	LWC Acres	LWC in DFAs (acres)	LWC in DCLs and Non-DCLs	
			DCL	Non-DCL
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	120,284	25,122	90,308	29,975
Imperial Borrego Valley	42,176	0	0	42,176
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	42,684	374	31,517	11,167
Mojave and Silurian Valley	62,623	0	24,266	38,357
Owens River Valley	7,465	1,384	162	7,301
Panamint Death Valley	79,551	37	66,366	13,184
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	1,920	0	1,801	121
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	127,466	0	101,266	26,360
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	18,807	0	18,795	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>503,127</b>	<b>26,917</b>	<b>334,481</b>	<b>168,647</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

### 4.7.3.7 Alternative 7/No Action Alternative

#### 4.7.3.7.1 National Landscape Conservation System

##### *Wilderness*

Under Alternative 7, no designated Wilderness would occur within available development areas. All designated Wilderness areas are part of the existing conservation areas.

##### *National Monuments and National Conservation Areas*

Within the Plan Area there are no National Monuments or National Conservation Areas.



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### *Wild and Scenic Rivers*

The Amargosa River is the only wild and scenic river within the DRECP Plan Area. Under Alternative 7, no segments of the Amargosa River would occur within available development areas. All segments of the Amargosa River are part of the existing conservation areas.

### *National Historic and Scenic Trails*

These trails are described in more detail in Section 3.4, Visual Resources. National Historic and Scenic Trails within BLM-administered lands are shown in Figure 3.7-4.

### *Wilderness Study Areas*

Within the Plan Area, there are six Wilderness Study Areas encompassing 371,278 acres. Under Alternative 7, XX,XXX acres (X%) would occur within available development areas and 322,973 acres occur within existing conservation areas (Table 4.7-13). The majority of WSA acres in available development areas occur within the Mojave and Silurian Valley ecoregion (17,151 acres).

**Table 4.7-13  
Wilderness Study Areas in DFAs, Solar Variance Lands and Conservation Areas by  
Ecoregion – Alternative 7**

<b>Ecoregion</b>	<b>WSA (acres)</b>	<b>WSA in Available Development Areas (acres)</b>	<b>Solar Variance Lands (acres)</b>	<b>WSA in Existing Conservation Areas (acres)</b>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	0		0	0
Imperial Borrego Valley	15		0	0
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	11,693		0	11,640
Mojave and Silurian Valley	260,225		0	218,516
Owens River Valley	19,312		0	19,312
Panamint Death Valley	22,580		0	21,267
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	0		0	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0		0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	57,453		0	52,238
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	0		0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>371,278</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>322,973</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

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### 4.7.3.7.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

There are 3,929,663 ACEC acres within the Plan Area. All ACECs are part of the existing conservation areas. Under this alternative, existing ACECs would not be changed.

### 4.7.3.7.3 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The BLM completed a wilderness characteristics inventory for those lands that could potentially be impacted within available development areas proposed under the DRECP Plan. Based on this inventory, under Alternative 7, approximately XXX,XXX acres of lands with wilderness characteristics would occur within available development areas (Table 4.7-14). There would be 1,806 acres within existing conservation areas and 20,697 acres within BLM Solar Variance lands.

**Table 4.7-14  
Estimated Number of Acres of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in Available Development Areas and Existing Conservation Areas by Ecoregion – Alternative 7**

Ecoregion	LWC Acres	LWC in Available Development Areas (acres)	LWC in Solar PEIS Variance Lands	LWC in Existing Conservation Lands
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	120,284		1,157	99
Imperial Borrego Valley	42,176		0	0
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	42,684		1,111	65
Mojave and Silurian Valley	62,623		18,306	1,166
Owens River Valley	7,465		1	0
Panamint Death Valley	79,551		0	9
Pinto Lucern Valley and Eastern Slopes	1,920		121	0
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	0		0	0
Providence and Bullion Mountains	127,466		0	467
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	18,807		0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>503,127</b>		<b>20,697</b>	<b>1,806</b>

Note: Acreages are estimates and subject to change.

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

Refer to Appendix E for specific guidance.

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