



3

Alternatives

Blue oak woodland with shooting stars in bloom. Photo by Gavin Emmons © 2011.

Chapter 3: Alternatives

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations that implement NEPA require the development of alternatives in a draft general management plan to fully explore a range of ideas, methods, and concepts for managing a national park unit. It must be feasible to implement the alternatives considered. In addition, other regulations require that the draft general management plan identify a “preferred alternative” before the draft plan and environmental assessment is released for public review. The preferred alternative is the alternative that the National Park Service believes would best accomplish its goals, based on the analyses conducted.

This *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* presents four alternatives for future management of Pinnacles National Monument. Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, presents a continuation of current management direction and is required under NEPA. Alternative A is included as a baseline for comparing the consequences of implementing the action alternatives. The action alternatives are Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience, Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences, and Alternative D: Link People and Resources (the preferred alternative).

These four alternatives represent the range of ideas the public and NPS staff have identified regarding natural resource conditions, cultural resource conditions, visitor use and experience conditions, and management at Pinnacles National Monument.

Formulation of the Alternatives

The planning team, comprised of staff from the monument and the NPS Pacific West Region, developed four preliminary management alternatives during winter 2007 and spring 2008. The planning team considered information about resources and visitor use, and ideas and concerns expressed by NPS staff, visitors, and stakeholders during the scoping process. The preliminary alternatives included the required “no action” (Continue Current Management) alternative and three action alternatives: Research and Learning, Backcountry Experience, and Expanded Visitor Experience. Each of these alternatives was evaluated to ensure consistency with the monument’s purpose and significance, desired future conditions, and current laws, regulations, and policies.

The preliminary alternatives were presented for public review in summer 2008. The planning team analyzed public and stakeholder comments the following winter. Overall, actions that the public was most supportive of included preserving the monument’s character and resources, enhancing educational opportunities and interpretive programs, and providing additional visitor use opportunities, including access to newly added lands and improved facilities on the west side. Many of the public comments received on the preliminary alternatives indicated a preference for an alternative or a mix of actions from particular alternatives with elements of increased preservation, education, and interpretation; opportunities for diverse user groups; and moderately-sized facilities. The preferred alternative was developed to include a blend of the strengths and advantages of elements from the preliminary alternatives.

The alternatives would balance resource protection with new visitor use opportunities and are viable. Each alternative has a different concept, which is described based on different management zones and how these are applied geographically. Each alternative also varies in the management prescriptions, or actions, for various resource topics that the monument would initiate in order to achieve the desired conditions (see *Alternative Components*, next page). The four alternatives are:

Alternative A, No Action, (Continue Current Management) would continue existing management, programming, facilities, staffing, and funding at current levels.

Alternative B, Emphasize Backcountry Experience, would offer high quality backcountry experiences, including solitude, natural quiet, and views of natural settings. Resources and opportunities would be managed in an integrated fashion for protection, restoration, and maintenance of natural and cultural resources and backcountry experiences.

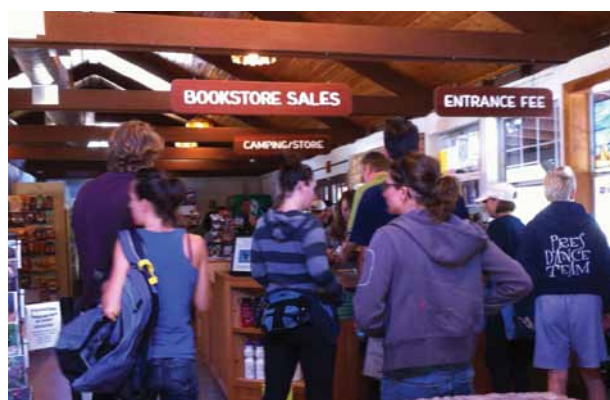
Alternative C, Expand Visitor Experiences, would provide an expanded array of visitor use opportunities, including recreation, interpretation, and education. Opportunities would be provided on the new lands and other areas that receive lower visitor use.

Alternative D, Link People and Resources (the preferred alternative), would engage a broad range of visitors in the enjoyment, understanding, and stewardship of natural and cultural resources and values of the Gabilan Mountains ecoregion by focusing on ways to connect diverse audiences and resources, to acknowledge the interrelationship between natural and cultural resources, and to protect, preserve, and restore ecological communities and processes.

The Research and Learning preliminary alternative was subsequently dropped from the range of alternatives being considered (see *Actions/Alternatives Considered but Dismissed From Detailed Consideration*).

The alternatives focus on which resource conditions and what visitor uses and experiences should exist within the monument rather than on the details of how these conditions and experiences should be achieved. As a result, the alternatives do not include day-to-day or operational information about resource or visitor use management. For many actions, more detailed plans or studies would be required before most conditions proposed in the alternatives are achieved. The implementation of any alternative also depends on future funding and the need for additional

A typical high season scene in the East Pinnacles Visitor Center and Camp Store. NPS photo.



ALTERNATIVE COMPONENTS

The alternatives include the following components:

Management concept. This statement generally describes the guiding philosophy or overall direction for each alternative. The concept highlights the alternative's overall character by emphasizing different resource conditions and associated visitor experiences.

Management of specific areas. Area specific desired conditions are described for various locations throughout the monument, including the desired resource conditions, associated visitor experience opportunities, and the appropriate kinds and levels of management, development, and access. This plan describes area specific desired conditions for the Bottomlands; East Side Campground Developed Area; West Side; Bear Gulch, Condor Gulch, and Chalone areas; High Peaks; McCabe Canyon; and Bear Valley School.

Management zoning is the method used by the NPS to identify and describe the appropriate variety of resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved and maintained in the different areas of a park. The zoning process includes: (1) identifying a set of management zones and defining what activities or conditions are appropriate for each zone, and (2) allocating those zones to the monument areas on maps. The alternative zoning maps therefore show where recommended management actions are appropriate. For example, zones identify what areas of the monument would be appropriate for new visitor facilities such as a picnic area. (See *Management Zones* and alternatives zoning maps later in this chapter).

User capacity defines the types and levels of visitor and other public use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource conditions, social conditions and visitor experiences that complement the purposes of the monument. The premise behind user capacity management is that with any use on public lands comes some level of impact that must be accepted; therefore it is the responsibility of the public land management agency to decide what level of impact is acceptable and what actions are needed to keep impacts within these agency-defined acceptable limits.

Potential boundary adjustments. GMPs are required to take a comprehensive look at concerns about adjacent land uses, implications for management of lands within the authorized boundary, and the potential for boundary adjustments.

Management actions describe the changes in management direction or strategies that the monument would consider to achieve the vision described in the alternative concept. Because some management actions would be implemented regardless of alternative, those management actions are "common to all alternatives."

Projected implementation costs. NPS policies require general management plans to include estimates of annual recurring costs ("annual operating costs") and of one-time capital costs for facility rehabilitation, new construction, or management projects. Alternative costs may vary substantially in recurring needs such as staffing, operations, and maintenance, as well as in those costs associated with one-time projects such as facility construction, transportation projects, research, and resource restoration or rehabilitation.

environmental analysis. This plan does not guarantee that funding will be forthcoming. The plan establishes a vision of the future that would guide management of the monument, however full implementation could take many years.

Identification of the Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative is the alternative the National Park Service believes would best fulfill its mission and responsibilities. The planning team used an objective analysis process called “choosing by advantages” to identify and compare the relative advantages of each alternative according to a set of factors or management goals. The factors were selected based on issues and goals identified for the GMP and on public comments. The alternatives were evaluated based on the degree to which each would accomplish the following factors:

1. Enhances Protection of Natural Resources
2. Enhances Protection of Cultural Resources
3. Provides Quality Experiences for a Diversity of Visitors
4. Promotes Operational Efficiency and Park Sustainability
5. Expands Community Outreach and Partnership Opportunities

The planning team evaluated the relationships between the advantages and costs of each alternative according to the factors listed above. Both the preliminary alternatives and a hybrid alternative (later titled “Link People and Resources”) were evaluated. The hybrid alternative was developed after both park staff and

the public expressed preferences for elements that were included in different alternatives. The hybrid alternative was selected as the preferred alternative. Several elements were pulled from the Research and Learning preliminary alternative. The analysis from the “choosing by advantages” process was used to further refine the preferred alternative. Based on preliminary analysis, this alternative gives the National Park Service the greatest overall benefits for each factor listed above for the most reasonable cost.

Potential for Boundary Adjustments

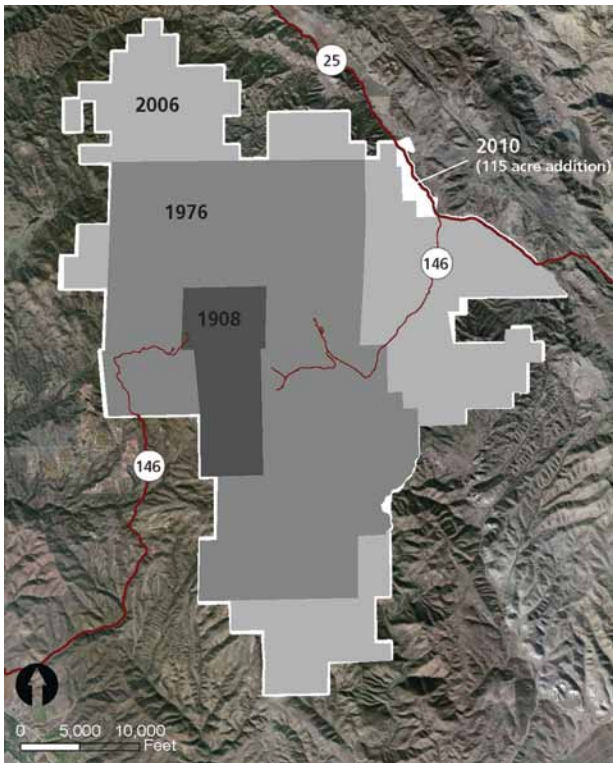
The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 requires general management plans to address whether boundary modifications should be made to park units. The NPS has evaluated different options for expanding the Pinnacles National Monument boundary for resource preservation and visitor use. The boundary has been expanded many times since establishment of the monument.

The Proclamation of July 18, 1906 established Pinnacles Forest Reserve, comprising 14,080 acres. This reserve was managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Proclamation No. 796, January 16, 1908 (35 Stat. 2177) established Pinnacles National Monument, comprising approximately 2,080 acres within the existing Pinnacles Forest Reserve. The monument was supposed to contain all of the most interesting geologic and scenic features of the original reserve—the caves and spires of the Pinnacles themselves. The boundary map prepared in Washington, however, excluded significant portions of these features.

Gabilan Slender Salamander, endemic to Pinnacles and surrounding areas. Photo by Paul G. Johnson.



Pinnacles National Monument boundary adjustments over time.



In 1923, Proclamation No. 1660 (43 Stat. 1911) added approximately 562 acres, to include the upper half of Bear Gulch with the Bear Gulch Caves. In 1924, Proclamation No. 1704 (43 Stat. 1961) added adjoining lands totaling 326 acres. In 1931, Proclamation No. 1948 (47 Stat. 2451) added 1,926 acres including lower Bear Gulch and the lands below it along Chalone Creek, where the monument would later establish administrative facilities and a campground. In 1933, Proclamation No. 2050 (48 Stat. 1701) added 5,322 acres. In 1941, Proclamation No. 2528 (55 Stat. 1709) added 4,300 acres, including the water source at Marcott Spring (later renamed Willow Spring). In 1976, Public Law 94-567 (90 Stat. 2692) added 1,717.9 acres. In addition, 12,952 acres of land within the monument were designated as wilderness and 990 acres as potential wilderness. The legislation also stated that the total area within the monument may not exceed 16,500 acres. In 1980, Public Law 96-344 (94 Stat. 1134) authorized a minor boundary change along the southeast edge of the monument to adjust a fence line on Chalone Creek. Approximately 3.35 acres were removed from the monument, while approximately 44.02 acres were added. The monument's acreage totaled approximately 16,275 acres.

In 2000, Proclamation No. 7266 (65 F.R. 2831-32) authorized expansion of monument to include approximately 10,939 additional acres (thereby rendering moot the acreage limitation established by P.L. 94-567 in 1976). Of these additional lands approximately 8,008 acres were federal lands transferred from the Bureau of Land Management, while the remaining 2,931 acres were privately owned (including the former Pinnacles Ranch land). By 2006, approximately 2,251 additional acres had been purchased under the authority of this proclamation. After acquisition of the former Pinnacles Ranch land, the monument staff did not identify other major boundary modifications for the long-term, but did acknowledge minor boundary adjustments could be made. In 2010, additional lands northeast of the monument, totaling 114.79 acres, including the Bear Valley School property, were added to the monument as an administrative boundary adjustment. All land-owners were willing sellers. As of 2011, Pinnacles National Monument contains approximately 26,648.79 acres with legislative boundaries comprising a total area of approximately 27,328.79 acres.

In June 2010, Congressman Sam Farr requested that the National Park Service consider the 18,000-acre Rock Springs Ranch property for addition to Pinnacles National Monument from a willing seller. The National Park Service agreed to evaluate Rock Springs Ranch as part of the ongoing general management plan and to provide the Congressman with a brief report in advance of the draft GMP. Although Rock Springs Ranch appears to include nationally significant resources, the report determined that the addition to Pinnacles does not appear to be feasible based on high costs for land acquisition, resource protection, and staffing and visitor services for this large property that is geographically separated from Pinnacles National Monument. Therefore, this area has not been included as a boundary expansion recommendation in this draft general management plan. (See *Actions/Alternatives Considered but Dismissed From Detailed Consideration* for more information.)

Although the action alternatives in this GMP do not propose any boundary adjustments, the monument would continue to focus on collaborating with partners in the management of significant resources that are associated with but not within the monument. This GMP also recommends preparation of a comprehensive boundary study to identify park needs, inventory significant resources, and to determine minor boundary adjustment priorities.

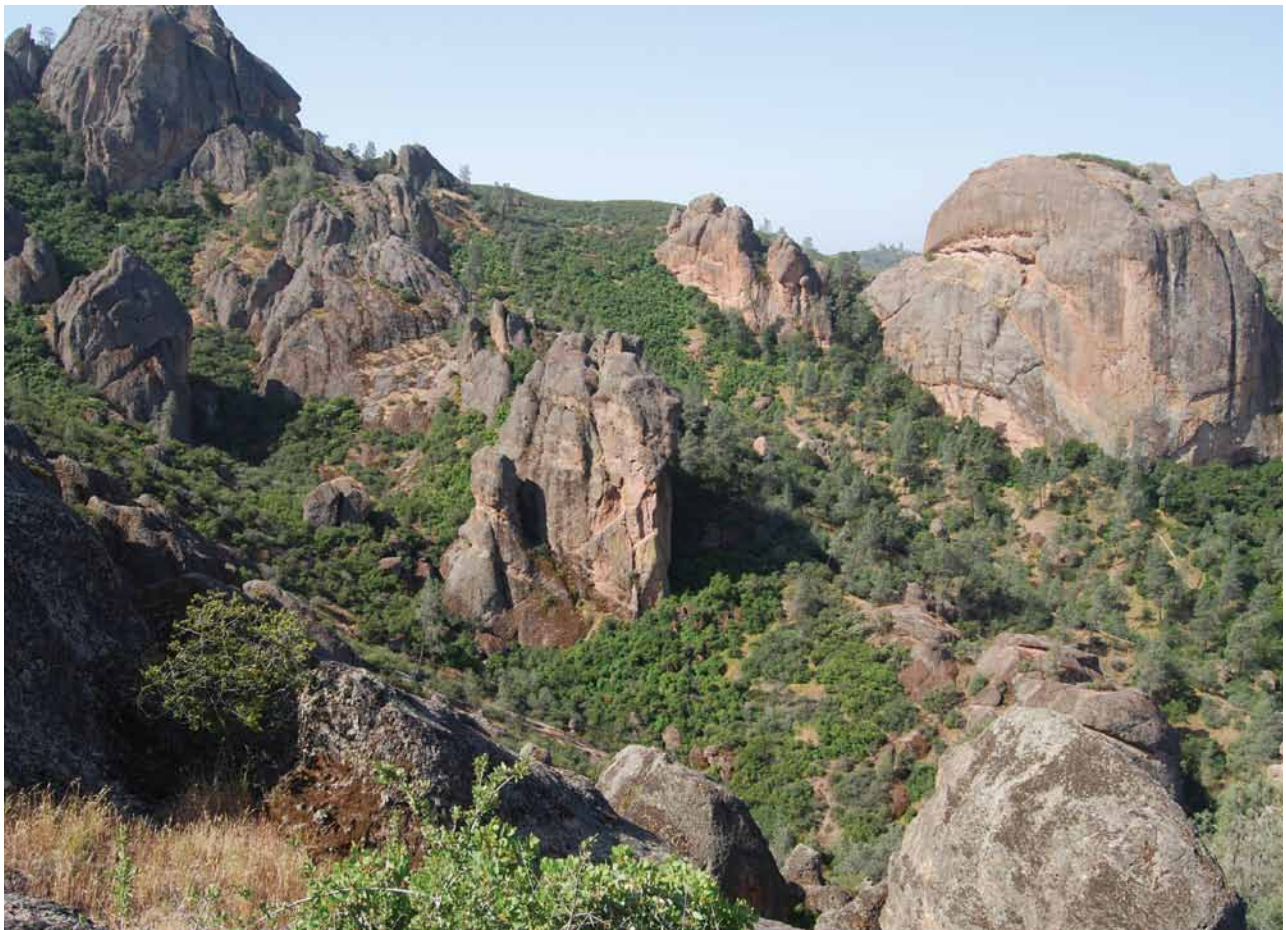
Management Zones

Management zones describe a range of desired conditions for resources and visitor experiences and/or management approaches to be achieved and maintained in particular areas of Pinnacles National Monument. Each zone includes the desired conditions for resources and the types of activities and facilities that are appropriate in that management zone. The management zones are consistent with the monument's purpose, significance, and special mandates. Five management zones have been identified for Pinnacles National Monument: primitive, semi-primitive, frontcountry, cultural interpretation, and special research. Each zone description includes a zone concept, desired natural and cultural resource conditions, visitor experience, facilities, access and transportation. The management zones and prescriptions for Pinnacles National Monument are presented in Table 2 (*next several pages*).

These zones form the basis for the alternatives and depending on the action alternative are applied to different geographic areas of Pinnacles National

Monument. Alternative A, No Action, is not described using management zones because these have not previously been identified in the monument. The action alternatives (B, C, and D) apply the management zones in different ways based on the overall concept for each alternative. The special research zone includes the area managed for condor research and other areas landlocked by this area. This area, also known as Grassy Canyon, provides an ideal area for undisturbed research for condor recovery. This zone is applied to the same area under each of the action alternatives. The zoning schemes for each action alternative are shown on the alternatives zoning maps.

In addition to the management zones, park managers would continue to use the *Superintendent's Compendium* to effect limitations or closures as necessary to protect resources and wilderness values. The *Superintendent's Compendium* is a list of designations, closures, requirements, and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the superintendent as provided by Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.



View from the High Peaks Trail. NPS Photo.

TABLE 2: MANAGEMENT ZONES

ZONES	PRIMITIVE	SEMI-PRIMITIVE
Zone Concept Summary	<p><i>This zone is managed primarily to preserve the four qualities of wilderness character; untrammeled, naturalness, undeveloped, and solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation.</i></p> <p>Natural resources are in as pristine a condition as possible, and are minimally modified only for wilderness visitor use and resource protection.</p> <p>Significant cultural resources are protected and managed according to NPS policy consistent with wilderness values.</p> <p>Visitors are immersed in a primitive (undeveloped) and wild environment and experience solitude, natural sounds, a sense of remoteness, self-reliance and discovery.</p> <p>Development is very minimal in this zone and only allowed in support of wilderness values such as resource protection. Visitors access this zone on primitive natural surface trails.</p>	<p><i>This zone represents a transition between the frontcountry and primitive areas. In designated wilderness, this zone is managed, like the Primitive Zone, to preserve the four qualities of wilderness character, but can accommodate periodic high visitor use with limited improvements for essential visitor services and park operation needs.</i></p> <p>Natural resources retain their integrity and wild character, but may be minimally modified for visitor use and resource protection to protect naturalness.</p> <p>Significant cultural resources are protected and managed according to NPS policy.</p> <p>Interpretive services and recreational access are important functions of this zone. Visitors also have opportunities to experience solitude, natural sounds, a sense of remoteness, self-reliance and discovery.</p> <p>Development is minimal in this zone. Visitors access this zone on natural surface trails.</p>
Natural Resources		
Overall Condition	<p>Natural resources are in as pristine a condition as possible, and are minimally modified only for wilderness visitor use and resource protection.</p>	<p>Natural resources retain their integrity and wild characteristics, but may be minimally modified for visitor use and resource protection compatible with the natural environment.</p>
Vegetation and Wildlife	<p>Native vegetation communities and wildlife habitat are intact.</p> <p>Nonnative invasive species are managed with emphasis on species that have the most severe adverse impacts on native communities.</p> <p>Sensitive, threatened and endangered species and associated habitats may be actively managed to perpetuate these species. (Common to all - CTA)</p>	<p>Native vegetation communities and wildlife habitat are mostly intact but may be minimally modified.</p> <p>Nonnative invasive species are managed with emphasis on species that have the most severe adverse impacts on native communities.</p> <p>Sensitive, threatened and endangered species and associated habitats may be actively managed to perpetuate these species. (CTA)</p>

FRONTCOUNTRY	CULTURAL INTERPRETATION	SPECIAL RESEARCH
<p><i>This zone is managed for visitor access, education, recreation, and orientation as well as park operations.</i></p> <p>Natural resources are protected, but may be modified in less sensitive locations for visitor use, park operations or administrative use.</p> <p>Significant cultural resources are protected and managed according to NPS policy. Modifications of other cultural resources for visitor use, administrative purposes, safety, and resource protection may occur where compatible with the historic character.</p> <p>This zone provides capacity for a large number of visitors and serves as an access point for park experiences.</p> <p>Visitors are provided with opportunities for orientation, education, interpretation, and a wide range of visitor activities.</p> <p>Development includes a diversity of facilities to support park operations and visitor use, mixed with open space and natural settings.</p> <p>Visitors access this zone on paved and unpaved roads, and on natural surface and paved trails designed for universal access where possible</p>	<p><i>This zone is focused on the preservation, protection, and interpretation of historically significant cultural resources.</i></p> <p>Visitors are provided opportunities to learn about and experience these cultural resources.</p> <p>Natural resources are protected, but may be modified in appropriate locations to support important cultural resources and their interpretation.</p> <p>Significant cultural resources are protected and managed according to NPS policy. Cultural sites, structures, and landscapes are managed to reflect and interpret their period of significance.</p> <p>Cultural preservation and interpretation of human time periods and cultural themes are the primary focus of this zone. Visitors experience sights, sounds, and activities that are evocative of the site's period(s) of significance.</p> <p>Development in this zone consists primarily of historic structures and additional facilities necessary for adaptive reuse or public enjoyment.</p> <p>Visitors access this zone on natural surface and paved trails.</p>	<p><i>This zone is managed to protect and promote research that improves the survival of the federally endangered California condor, and to provide areas for undisturbed research.</i></p> <p>Protection of this special resource takes precedence over visitor accommodations and access is highly controlled.</p> <p>Natural resources are protected, but may be modified in less sensitive locations to support condor research and protection activities.</p> <p>Significant cultural resources, if present in this zone, are protected and managed according to NPS policy. Modifications of cultural resources for research and resource protection may occur.</p> <p>Visitor use and access are highly controlled. Access is allowed at management discretion, if not disruptive to research or protection activities.</p> <p>Development levels are fairly minimal and consist primarily of facilities that support research and resource protection activities.</p> <p>Roads and trails in this zone are maintained to support resource protection and research activities.</p>
<p>Natural resources are protected, but may be modified in less sensitive locations for visitor use, park operations or administrative use.</p>	<p>Natural resources are protected, but may be modified in appropriate locations to support important cultural resources and their interpretation.</p>	<p>Natural resources are protected, but may be modified in less sensitive locations to support condor research and protection activities.</p>
<p>Native vegetation communities and wildlife habitat are mostly intact, but may be modified by development and high visitor use in suitable areas.</p> <p>In developed settings, native vegetation will be used for landscaping. Invasive nonnative species will not be used.</p> <p>Sensitive, threatened and endangered species and associated habitats may be actively managed to perpetuate these species. (CTA)</p>	<p>Native vegetation communities and wildlife habitat may be modified to support important cultural landscape features. Noninvasive nonnative species may be maintained if determined to be a contributing resource to the cultural landscape. Native alternatives will first be examined.</p> <p>Nonnative invasive species are managed with emphasis on species that have the most severe adverse impacts on native communities.</p> <p>Sensitive, threatened and endangered species and associated habitats may be actively managed to perpetuate these species. (CTA)</p>	<p>The primary purpose of this zone is to support California condor recovery.</p> <p>Native vegetation communities and wildlife habitat may be manipulated for research and protection purposes, but are otherwise intact.</p> <p>Nonnative invasive species are managed with emphasis on species that have the most severe adverse impacts on native communities.</p> <p>Sensitive, threatened and endangered species and associated habitats may be actively managed to perpetuate these species. (CTA)</p>

ZONES	PRIMITIVE	SEMI-PRIMITIVE
Geologic Resources	<p>Geologic features are protected and geologic processes continue.</p> <p>Impacted areas are restored to the greatest extent possible.</p>	<p>Geologic features are protected and geologic processes continue. Geologic features may be minimally modified to provide for a safe visitor experience.</p> <p>Impacted areas are restored to the greatest extent possible.</p>
Hydrologic Systems	<p>Natural hydrologic systems and processes are primarily left unimpeded.</p> <p>Impacted areas are restored to the greatest extent possible.</p>	<p>Natural hydrologic systems and processes are primarily left unimpeded. Hydrologic systems may be minimally modified to allow for visitor use.</p> <p>Impacted areas are restored to the greatest extent possible.</p>
Soundscape, Viewshed, and Night Sky	<p>The natural soundscape, night sky and viewsheds are intact and enhance the visitor experience.</p> <p>Natural sounds dominate, however distant artificial sounds may intrude at times. Habitats for noise-sensitive wildlife are free or nearly free of intrusive noise.</p> <p>No artificial outdoor lighting is present, although distant lighting may be visible from certain locations.</p> <p>Viewsheds are protected to a high degree. Uninterrupted views of natural and scenic resources are an integral part of the visitor experience.</p>	<p>The natural soundscape, night sky and viewsheds are largely intact and enhance the visitor experience.</p> <p>Natural sounds dominate. Sounds from park visitors and operations may occasionally be present. Habitats for noise-sensitive wildlife are free or nearly free of intrusive noise.</p> <p>No artificial lighting is present, although lighting from developed areas may be visible from certain locations.</p> <p>Viewsheds are protected to a high degree.</p>

FRONTCOUNTRY	CULTURAL INTERPRETATION	SPECIAL RESEARCH
<p>Significant geologic features and processes are protected. Other geologic features and processes may be altered to support visitor use and park operations.</p> <p>Infrastructure is designed or relocated to avoid significant geologic resources and hazards.</p>	<p>Geologic features are protected and geologic processes continue. Some alteration or intervention in geologic processes may occur to protect cultural resources and support visitor use.</p> <p>Impacted areas are restored to the greatest extent possible consistent with cultural resource protection.</p>	<p>Geologic features are protected and geologic processes continue. Some alteration or intervention in geologic processes may occur to support research and resource protection activities.</p> <p>Infrastructure is designed or relocated to avoid significant geologic resources and hazards.</p> <p>Impacted areas are restored to the greatest extent possible consistent with research and resource protection needs.</p>
<p>Natural hydrologic systems and processes are left unimpeded except where stabilization and management are needed to protect existing facilities and significant resources, and to support visitor services and park operations.</p> <p>Where possible, infrastructure is designed or relocated to minimize impacts on hydrologic systems and to restore natural functions.</p>	<p>Natural hydrologic systems and processes are left unimpeded except where stabilization and management are needed to protect cultural and other significant resources, and to support visitor services and park operations.</p> <p>Where possible, infrastructure is designed or relocated to minimize impacts on hydrologic systems and to restore natural functions.</p>	<p>Natural hydrologic systems and processes are left unimpeded except where stabilization and management are needed to protect significant resources and support park operations.</p> <p>Where possible, infrastructure is designed or relocated to minimize impacts on hydrologic systems and to restore natural functions.</p>
<p>Intact natural soundscapes, night skies and viewsheds can be experienced in certain locations and times. Facilities are sited and designed to minimize impacts on the soundscape, night sky, and viewshed.</p> <p>Natural sounds are generally audible but may be mixed with pulses of sounds from visitor and park operations activities. Habitats for noise-sensitive wildlife are nearly free of intrusive noise beyond immediate developed areas.</p> <p>Outdoor lighting is present when needed to support visitor services or park operations, but is designed to minimize light pollution.</p> <p>Views of natural and scenic resources are present at many locations.</p>	<p>The natural soundscape, night sky and viewsheds are largely intact and enhance the visitor experience. New facilities are sited and designed to minimize impacts on the soundscape, night sky, viewshed, and cultural landscape.</p> <p>Natural sounds are generally audible but may be mixed with pulses of sounds from visitor and park operations activities. Habitats for noise-sensitive wildlife are nearly free of intrusive noise beyond immediate developed areas.</p> <p>Outdoor lighting is present when needed to support visitor services or park operations, but is designed to minimize light pollution.</p> <p>Historically appropriate sounds and lighting from the period of significance may modify the otherwise intact natural soundscape and night sky.</p> <p>Views reflect historic landscapes. Night sky enhances the cultural landscape.</p>	<p>The natural soundscape, night sky and viewsheds are largely intact and benefit protection of sensitive species within this zone.</p> <p>Natural sounds dominate, however distant artificial sounds may intrude at times. Habitats for noise-sensitive wildlife would be free or nearly free of intrusive noise.</p> <p>Artificial outdoor lighting may be visible from some locations.</p> <p>Viewsheds are protected to a high degree, although minimal impacts may occur from research and protection activities.</p>

ZONES	PRIMITIVE	SEMI-PRIMITIVE
Cultural Resources		
Overall Condition	Significant cultural resources are protected and managed according to NPS policy consistent with wilderness values.	Significant cultural resources are protected and managed according to NPS policy.
Historic Structures	<p>Historically significant structures are present in this zone and are preserved and managed according to NPS policy. (CTA)</p> <p>Non-contributing historic structures may be stabilized, removed, or allowed to deteriorate naturally, consistent with wilderness values.</p>	<p>Historically significant structures are present in this zone and will be preserved and managed according to NPS policy. (CTA)</p> <p>Historically significant structures may be interpreted on-site.</p> <p>Non-contributing historic structures may be preserved, removed, or allowed to deteriorate naturally, consistent with wilderness values.</p>
Cultural Landscapes	Significant cultural landscape features are preserved and managed according to NPS policy, consistent with wilderness values.	<p>Significant cultural landscape features are preserved and managed according to NPS policy, to perpetuate historic and scenic values.</p> <p>Modifications for interpretation, safety, and resource protection may be allowed where compatible with the character defining features of the cultural landscape.</p>
Archeological Resources	Significant archeological sites and resources will be protected and managed according to NPS policy, consistent with wilderness values. Opportunities for interpretation and cooperation with traditionally associated peoples may be developed.	Significant archeological sites are protected and managed according to NPS policy. Opportunities for interpretation and cooperation with traditionally associated peoples may be developed.
Visitor Experience		
Overall Visitor Experience	Visitors are immersed in a primitive (undeveloped) and wild environment and experience solitude, natural sounds, a sense of remoteness, self-reliance and discovery.	Interpretive services and recreational access are important functions of this zone. Visitors also have opportunities to experience solitude, natural sounds, a sense of remoteness, self-reliance and discovery.

FRONTCOUNTRY	CULTURAL INTERPRETATION	SPECIAL RESEARCH
Significant cultural resources are protected and managed according to NPS policy. Modifications of other cultural resources for visitor use, administrative purposes, safety, and resource protection may occur where compatible with the historic character.	Significant cultural resources are protected and managed according to NPS policy. Cultural sites, structures, and landscapes are managed to reflect and interpret their period of significance.	Significant cultural resources, if present in this zone, are protected and managed according to NPS policy. Modifications of other cultural resources for research and resource protection may occur.
Historically significant structures are present in this zone and will be preserved and managed according to NPS policy. (CTA) Historically significant structures may be interpreted on-site. Non-contributing historic structures may be adaptively reused, stabilized, or removed, based on visitor or administrative use potential.	Historically significant structures are present in this zone and will be preserved and managed according to NPS policy. (CTA) Historic structures will be interpreted on-site. Non-contributing historic structures may be preserved or removed, based on interpretive potential. Any adaptive reuse for administrative purposes must be historically compatible.	Historically significant structures, if present in this zone, will be preserved and managed according to NPS policy. (CTA) Non-contributing historic structures, if present in this zone, may be preserved, removed, or allowed to deteriorate naturally, in support of research and resource protection activities.
Significant cultural landscape features are preserved and managed according to NPS policy, to perpetuate historic and scenic values. Modifications for visitor use, administrative purposes, safety, and resource protection may be allowed where compatible with the character defining features of the cultural landscape.	Significant cultural landscape features are preserved and managed according to NPS policy, to support interpretive values. Modifications for visitor use, administrative purposes, safety, and resource protection may be allowed where compatible with the character defining features of the cultural landscape.	Significant cultural landscape features, if present in this zone, are preserved and managed according to NPS policy, to perpetuate historic and scenic values. Modifications for research and resource protection may be allowed where compatible with the character defining features of the cultural landscape.
Significant archeological sites are protected and managed according to NPS policy. Opportunities for interpretation and cooperation with traditionally associated peoples may be developed.	Significant archeological sites are protected and managed according to NPS policy. Opportunities for interpretation and cooperation with traditionally associated peoples may be developed.	Significant archeological sites are protected and managed according to NPS policy.
This zone provides capacity for a large number of visitors and serves as an access point for park experiences. Visitors are provided with opportunities for orientation, education, interpretation, and a wide range of visitor activities.	Cultural preservation and interpretation of human time periods and cultural themes are the primary focus of this zone. Visitors experience sights, sounds, and activities that are evocative of the site's period(s) of significance.	The primary purpose of this zone is to support California condor recovery. Visitor use and access are highly controlled. Access is allowed at management discretion, if not disruptive to research or protection activities.

ZONES	PRIMITIVE	SEMI-PRIMITIVE
Interpretation and Education	Interpretation and education are focused on wilderness values and are mostly self-directed.	Interpretation and education are important functions of this zone, and are achieved through a range of methods that are complementary to the natural setting.
Types of Activities	<p>Visitor activities are primarily unstructured and self-guided. Limited, small group activities may be appropriate, if wilderness values are not degraded. Visitors have opportunities to experience solitude, open space, and primitive and unconfined recreation.</p> <p>Visitor use opportunities are subordinate to the protection of the natural setting and wilderness values, and may be restricted to protect resources or wilderness values.</p> <p>Visitor use opportunities may include hiking, climbing, and nature appreciation, so long as wilderness values are not degraded.</p> <p>A high degree of physical effort may be required to experience the wilderness and backcountry. Visitors should be prepared for challenge and use of outdoor skills.</p>	<p>Visitors have opportunities for unstructured and self-guided experiences as well as opportunities to participate in interpretive and stewardship programs and guided walks/hikes.</p> <p>Visitors generally have opportunities to experience solitude, open space, and primitive and unconfined recreation.</p> <p>Visitor use opportunities are complementary to the natural setting, and may be restricted to protect resources or wilderness values.</p> <p>Visitor use opportunities may include hiking, climbing, nature appreciation, and dispersed picnicking. Bicycling is limited to those trails and facilities, if any, designated specifically for that use.</p> <p>A moderate to high degree of physical effort may be required to experience this zone. Visitors should be prepared for challenge and use of outdoor skills.</p>
Use Levels / Density	Visitation levels are low and encounters with other visitors are infrequent. Large groups and events are not permitted.	Visitation levels are generally low to moderate, with moderate to high use levels sometimes found at entry points or points of interest. Encounters with other visitors are generally low, but may be high during times of peak use. Group sizes may be limited to protect experiential and resource protection objectives.
Wilderness	<p>This zone includes designated wilderness and other areas managed for their wilderness values.</p> <p>Resources retain their integrity and wild character, and are minimally modified only for wilderness visitor use and resource protection. There are no visible signs of human use off trails and routes.</p> <p>Visitors are immersed in a primitive and wild environment and experience solitude, natural sounds, smells, a sense of remoteness, self-reliance and discovery.</p>	<p>This zone includes designated wilderness areas that receive periodic high use.</p> <p>Within designated wilderness in this zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources retain their integrity and wild character, and are minimally modified only for wilderness visitor use and resource protection. Visitors have opportunities to experience a primitive and wild environment, solitude, natural sounds, smells, a sense of remoteness, self-reliance and discovery, although during times of peak visitation, high levels of use may occur on popular trails.

FRONTCOUNTRY	CULTURAL INTERPRETATION	SPECIAL RESEARCH
Interpretation and education are important functions of this zone, and are achieved through a range of methods, facilities and programs.	Interpretation and education are important functions of this zone, and are achieved through a range of methods, facilities and programs	This zone is generally closed to visitor use. When visitor use is allowed, appropriate interpretation and education may be determined by park management on a case-by-case basis.
<p>This zone provides a wide range of visitor use opportunities. Visitors of all physical abilities can experience this zone. Visitors have opportunities to participate in interpretive and stewardship programs and guided walks/hikes.</p> <p>Visitor use opportunities may include hiking/walking, climbing, sightseeing, appreciation of natural and cultural resources, picnicking, camping, and bicycling. Bicycling is limited to those roads, if any, designated specifically for that use.</p>	<p>Visitors have opportunities to experience cultural resources. There are opportunities for interpretation, programs, and recreation that complement the historic setting.</p> <p>Visitor use opportunities may include hiking/walking, appreciation of natural and cultural resources, picnicking, and bicycling, so long as cultural resources are not degraded. Bicycling is limited to those roads, if any, designated specifically for that use.</p>	<p>This zone is generally closed to visitor use. Park managers may allow visitor use if not disruptive to research or resource protection activities.</p> <p>Appropriate visitor use opportunities, if any, will be determined by park management on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Visitation levels are moderate to high. Visitors may encounter a moderate to high level of contact with rangers and other visitors during peak use. A wide range of group sizes may be accommodated.	Visitation levels are moderate to high. Visitors may encounter a moderate to high level of contact with rangers and other visitors during peak use. A wide range of group sizes may be accommodated.	This zone is generally closed to visitor use. Park managers have the discretion to allow visitor uses that are not disruptive to research or resource protection activities, including limited special/organized events, such as condor release events. Visitors may encounter a moderate to high level of contact with other visitors during special events.
This zone does not contain designated wilderness.	This zone does not contain designated wilderness.	This zone does not contain designated wilderness.

ZONES	PRIMITIVE	SEMI-PRIMITIVE
Facilities		
Overall Facilities	Development is very minimal in this zone and only allowed in support of wilderness values. Visitors access this zone on primitive natural surface trails.	Development is fairly minimal in this zone. Visitors access this zone on natural surface trails.
Development Levels and Facilities	<p>Development is very minimal in this zone and only allowed in support of wilderness values, such as resource protection, wilderness visitor use and visitor safety.</p> <p>Any necessary facilities are designed and sited to be unobtrusive and compatible with the wilderness setting.</p> <p>Visitor facilities could include natural surface trails, unobtrusive directional signs, and backcountry campsites.</p> <p>Facilities within designated wilderness are subject to a minimum requirement analysis.</p> <p>Telecommunications facilities and transmission lines are not allowed in this zone.</p>	<p>Development is fairly minimal in this zone and only allowed in support of resource protection, dispersed visitor use and visitor safety.</p> <p>In designated wilderness, development levels and types of facilities are the same as in the primitive zone.</p> <p>Outside of designated wilderness, visitor facilities could include natural surface trails, signs, waysides, backcountry campsites, and dispersed picnic tables and benches.</p> <p>Limited, small scale telecommunications facilities and transmission lines may be allowed outside of designated wilderness in this zone if designed and sited to minimize visual impacts.</p>
Access and Transportation	<p>New roads will not be allowed in this zone. Existing unpaved roads will be decommissioned. There are a limited number of designated natural surface trails.</p> <p>Universal access opportunities are limited in this zone.</p>	<p>There are no paved roads in this zone. Existing unpaved roads may be maintained for infrequent administrative use. There are a moderate number of natural surface trails.</p> <p>Universal access opportunities are limited in this zone.</p>

FRONTCOUNTRY	CULTURAL INTERPRETATION	SPECIAL RESEARCH
<p>Development includes a diversity of facilities to support park operations and visitor use, mixed with open space and natural settings.</p> <p>Visitors access this zone on paved and unpaved roads, and on natural surface and paved trails designed for universal access where possible.</p>	<p>Development in this zone consists primarily of historic structures and additional facilities necessary for adaptive reuse or public enjoyment.</p> <p>Visitors access this zone on natural surface and paved trails.</p>	<p>Development is fairly minimal and consists primarily of facilities that support research and resource protection activities.</p> <p>Roads and trails in this zone are maintained to support resource protection and research activities.</p>
<p>Development includes a diversity of facilities to support park operations and visitor use, mixed with open space and natural settings. Facilities include historic resources and non-historic visitor and administrative facilities that complement historic and natural landscapes.</p> <p>Visitor facilities may include natural and paved surface trails, visitor centers, developed and walk-in campgrounds, fee stations, kiosks, trailheads, picnic areas, group use areas, signs, wayside exhibits, restrooms, roads and parking areas.</p> <p>Park operations facilities may include administrative offices, maintenance shops, storage, staff housing, utilities, communications structures, and facilities to serve cultural and natural resources objectives.</p> <p>Sustainability and energy efficiency are core park values and are part of all facility management decisions.</p>	<p>Development in this zone consists primarily of historic structures and additional facilities necessary for adaptive reuse or public enjoyment. Non-historic facilities are designed and sited in ways that protect cultural landscape values.</p> <p>Development levels are minimal to moderate.</p> <p>Facilities may include natural and paved surface trails, wayside exhibits, interpretive trails, restrooms, picnic and group use areas, administrative roads, and facilities to serve cultural and natural resources objectives.</p> <p>Limited, small scale telecommunications facilities and transmission lines may be allowed if compatible with cultural landscape values and if designed and sited to minimize visual impacts.</p>	<p>Development levels are fairly minimal.</p> <p>Development in this zone consists primarily of facilities that support research and resource protection activities.</p> <p>Research facilities may include condor enclosures and support structures, administrative roads and trails.</p> <p>Limited, small scale telecommunications facilities and transmission lines may be allowed if not disruptive to research or resource protection activities and if designed and sited to minimize visual impacts.</p>
<p>Access opportunities are a primary purpose of this zone.</p> <p>There are paved and unpaved roads, parking, and shuttle stops with amenities. There are natural surface and paved trails, including some designed for universal access where possible.</p> <p>Visitors do not normally enter park operations areas except for park business purposes.</p>	<p>There are no paved roads in this zone. Existing unpaved roads may be maintained for administrative use.</p> <p>There could be a moderate number of natural surface and paved trails.</p> <p>Trails are designed for universal access when compatible with cultural and natural resource protection.</p>	<p>Access is highly controlled in this zone. Roads and trails in this zone are maintained to support resource protection and research activities.</p>

Description of the Alternatives

This section describes the range of alternatives considered in this general management plan for Pinnacles National Monument. Before the detailed description of each alternative, an overview of specific general management plan actions common to all alternatives are described. Each alternative includes a description of the overall vision followed by a description of management actions that would apply park-wide, actions for specific areas, management zoning schemes (for action alternatives), costs, and staffing.

Actions Common to All Alternatives

The following section summarizes the management guidance or actions that would apply to all the alternatives (This section is later referred to as *Actions Common to All*).

Visitor Experience

RECREATION

- Recreational opportunities would be dispersed to reduce congestion and improve the quality of the visitor experience in the core of the monument.
- Pinnacles would continue to provide or expand opportunities for existing recreational uses, such as hiking, climbing, and picnicking.
- Developed camping would continue to be provided at the east side campground.
- Climbing use would continue in congruence with raptor advisory updates and voluntary closures. The monument would continue to work in close coordination with the climbing community, including the Friends of Pinnacles – an organization focused on climbing. A Climbing Management Plan would be developed. Existing bolted routes would be allowed where critical resources are not adversely affected.
- Picnic sites would be improved, including shade structures.
- New recreational facilities may include additional trails at various locations within the monument.
- A South Wilderness trail connection would be constructed.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

- Pinnacles would continue to provide interpretive programs and media regarding monument significance.

Summary tables comparing alternatives side-by-side, costs of alternatives, and environmental impacts of alternatives can be found starting on page 111. For the full text of Environmental Consequences and Impacts, see Chapter 5.

- Education programs such as Camp Pinnacles would continue.
- The Comprehensive Interpretive Plan would be updated and would include new opportunities for education and interpretation of cultural resources.
- The monument would consider multi-use options for the Bear Gulch nature center including administrative purposes and visitor orientation.
- A virtual museum would be developed to provide public access to a portion of Pinnacles' museum collections.

Facilities

SUSTAINABILITY AND CARBON FOOTPRINT

- The monument would plan for the removal or relocation of facilities from flood prone areas that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not being used for park operations. Natural processes would be restored in these areas where feasible.
- Building footprints would be compact, using previously disturbed areas where possible and minimizing impacts on ecological components and processes.
- Pinnacles would take measures to reduce energy use (carbon emissions) through monument operations and to increase energy and fuel efficiency using sustainable facility design and other means, such as by expanding shuttle use during peak visitation periods.

EAST SIDE FACILITIES

- The east side campground would be reconfigured to protect sensitive riparian areas, to improve operations, and to improve visitor experience. An amphitheater and store would be retained in the campground.
- If Bear Gulch headquarters buildings are heavily damaged or lost (e.g. fire or flood), headquarters would be rebuilt outside of Bear Gulch in a suitable location in the frontcountry zone (for example, on the bench across the road from the Pinnacles campground).

- Existing utilities would be replaced as needed, including the Bear Gulch sewer system.
- Most housing would continue to be located at the Chalone area (with limited housing at the west side administrative area). If expanded programs and mission changes occur, the monument may need to complete an updated Housing Needs Assessment to further evaluate the housing needs for the monument.
- Maintenance facilities would remain at Chalone.
- Existing roads would be maintained, except as noted in some alternatives (see alternatives maps). If administrative roads are no longer needed, they could be removed, re-contoured, or used as trails. McCabe Road would be used by administrative vehicles only. A public trail and administrative road would provide access to the bottomlands.
- A shuttle service with stops at the visitor center, Bear Gulch, campground, and other major sites would continue to be used to reduce congestion and carbon emissions from visitor vehicles. The monument would continue to pursue environmentally friendly shuttle vehicles and operations.

WEST SIDE FACILITIES

- Restoration efforts started during construction of replacement West Side facilities (visitor contact station, entrance station, maintenance facility, and housing) would continue, including removing decommissioned facilities from flood-prone areas, as well as recontouring and revegetating former building footprints and other disturbed areas.
- Visitor facilities such as parking, picnicking, a comfort station, and trail access would continue to be provided. Shuttle service could be provided.

Wilderness

- Pinnacles Wilderness was designated in 1976, but the monument has not prepared a wilderness stewardship plan. Development of a wilderness stewardship plan would be scheduled after the completion of the GMP and would provide guidance for wilderness stewardship activities such as cultural and natural resource protection, day use activities, climbing, commercial services (if any), infrastructure management, and back-country camping (if any). This plan will follow the guidance recently developed and articulated in the NPS *Wilderness Stewardship Planning Handbook* and Director's Order 41.



Photos (top to bottom): 1. West side development, 1966. 2. Previous ranger station on the west side. 3. New west side visitor contact station. NPS photos.

- Pinnacles would continue to follow national wilderness requirements and policies (e.g. management interventions considered only when necessary to manage the site as wilderness, avoid or minimize use of aircraft or motorized equipment, Leave No Trace® education and interpretation, etc).
- Protection or restoration of resource values within designated wilderness could continue to include stewardship activities as are required for maintaining or recovering wilderness, including management of historic properties, infrastructure management including fencing out and control of nonnative species.
- Visitor use opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation would be provided in wilderness.

Natural and Cultural Resources

COMBINED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Pinnacles would continue to follow existing laws, policies, guidelines, and approved monument plans in coordinating and balancing the management of natural and cultural resources. Relative significance or sensitivity of resources would be weighed and their management balanced accordingly.
- Pinnacles would continue to implement and expand long-term monitoring programs, baseline studies, inventories, and research.
- Pinnacles would increase the involvement of traditionally associated peoples in research and protection of resources with traditional cultural meaning and value. Pinnacles would document and interpret the influences of traditionally associated peoples on the landscape.
- Museum collections would be managed according to the current Museum Management Plan.
- Pinnacles would work cooperatively with surrounding neighbors, communities, local agencies, associated tribes, and organizations to protect the rural character and benefits of open working landscapes.
- Visitor access in certain areas would continue to be managed, based on long term monitoring, to protect sensitive resources.
- The monument would prepare a resource stewardship strategy (underway 2012).

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Pinnacles would continue existing natural resource management activities, including bat and raptor monitoring, re-establishment of the California condor, and removal of nonnative invasive species.
- Visitor access in certain areas would continue to be managed, based on long-term monitoring, to protect sensitive resources.
 - Seasonal closures would continue at the talus caves and in raptor nesting areas to protect threatened and sensitive species.
- Visitor facilities, including trails, at the bottomlands would be developed only after park managers have determined that there would be little or no risk of spread of nonnative invasives from the bottomlands into uninfested areas of the monument from visitor activity. Consequently, partial opening or seasonal visitor use may be employed if selected areas of the bottomlands have been determined to have high priority invasive species under control or during times when priority invasive plant seeds or other plant propagules are less likely to be dispersed.
- Extirpated native species, such as Foothill yellow-legged frogs, could be re-established at Pinnacles.
- Pinnacles would continue to control nonnative species, including feral pigs and highly invasive plants.
- Pinnacles would continue current efforts to protect and restore riparian areas, while considering other resources and monument needs.
- Geologic resources and processes would continue to be highlighted and protected.
- Pinnacles would continue to implement its current Fire Management Plan. Fires would be managed to protect structures, lives, property, and to achieve desired resource conditions; adaptive management would be used.
- Fire management activities would continue to be coordinated with cultural resource identification and protection.
- Pinnacles would continue particulate, ozone, and visibility monitoring at the east entrance. Placement of additional air quality monitoring equipment could occur based on NPS Air Quality Division recommendations.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Pinnacles would continue to support, encourage, and conduct scientific research related to understanding the effects of climate change

on monument resources and/or the broader region, including coordinating efforts with other agencies.

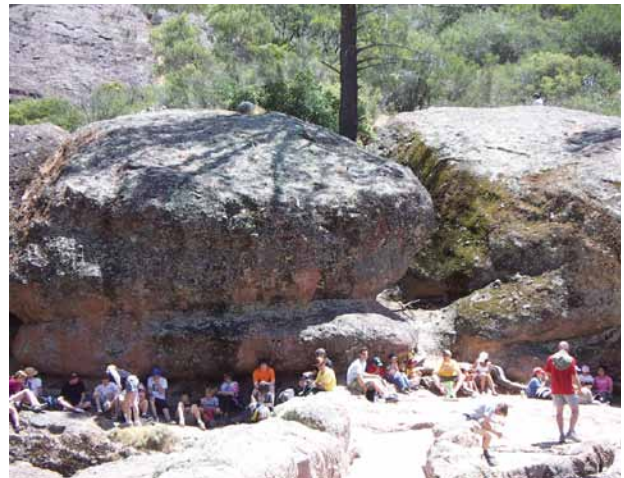
- The monument would strive to accomplish goals of the Climate Friendly Action Plan.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Cultural resources would be documented and assessed for significance in accordance with existing policy. Features / landscapes eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places would be nominated.
- Pinnacles would develop long-term treatment strategies for significant cultural resources (archeological sites, historic buildings, structures and landscapes). Appropriate treatments for cultural resources, including adaptive reuse of historic structures, would be applied. For example, a Historic Structure Report for the Ben Bacon House would be prepared to document the physical history of the building and determine appropriate preservation treatments.
- Policy-required baseline studies, such as historic structures reports and a historic resource study would be completed. Identification studies, site condition assessments, and long term preservation strategies would be planned and completed. One or more traditional association (ethnographic) studies would be completed.
- Pinnacles would conduct regular monitoring of significant cultural resources (e.g. archeological sites, historic structures, and cultural landscapes) for protection and preservation. This would include providing staff and volunteers with guidelines (e.g. monitoring form) and training (knowledge of resources).
- Historic structures could be adaptively reused; the nature of the use may vary.
- Management of cultural landscapes would be balanced with natural resource objectives, monument operations needs, and visitor use.
- The Bear Valley School property was recently included within Pinnacles National Monument. The NPS would prepare a determination of eligibility for listing the school building on the National Register of Historic Places. The NPS would also complete a Historic Structure Report to document the physical history of the building and determine appropriate preservation treatments. The Bear Valley School building would be rehabilitated and interpretation about its significance would be provided.

Commercial Services

- The monument would continue to work with a cooperating association to run the bookstore sales in the East Pinnacles Visitor Center and West Pinnacles visitor contact station.
- If commercial services in support of visitor experiences in wilderness are considered in the future, the determination of extent necessary would be addressed in the wilderness stewardship plan as noted above.



Photos (top to bottom): 1. Memorial Day 2006. 2. West side public meeting. NPS photos.

Boundary Adjustments

- The monument would prepare a comprehensive boundary study to identify park needs, inventory significant resources, and to determine minor boundary adjustment priorities.
- The monument would consider administrative boundary changes to acquire lands from willing sellers adjacent to the boundary consistent with NPS *Management Policies* criteria.
- The monument would seek to acquire inholdings within the boundary if/when they become available from willing sellers.

Partnerships, Regional Cooperation, and Outreach

- Monument staff would continue to participate in community outreach activities including attending local meetings and special events.
- The monument would engage communities, universities, Native American groups, Pinnacles Partnership friends group, and other organizations in resource protection, education, research, and interpretation.
- Community use opportunities of Bear Valley School could be available.
- Pinnacles would work cooperatively with surrounding neighbors, communities, local agencies, associated tribes, and organizations to protect regional resources (See also Combined Natural and Cultural Resource Management section).
- Pinnacles National Monument and Parque Nacional Quebrada del Condorito in Argentina would continue a sister park relationship to exchange information and resources regarding common themes at both parks. The primary theme for this agreement is the conservation of the California condor and the Andean condor. Other benefits from this collaboration include weed management, species reintroduction, trail and infrastructure development, work with indigenous peoples, visitor use management, and habitat improvement and neighboring landowner cooperative programs.

Park Operations

- The monument would consider shared or leased office space outside the monument for administrative purposes.



Photos (top to bottom): 1. Groundbreaking ceremony for new Bear Gulch entrance road, October 20, 1932. 2. Pinnacles National Monument Centennial Celebration. 3. Sister Park Managers in Argentina. NPS Photos.

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)

Concept

The “no action” alternative provides a baseline for evaluating changes and impacts in other alternatives. Under this alternative, the National Park Service would continue to manage Pinnacles as it is currently managed, following existing management policies and programs. There would be no major change in the management of the monument.

The key components of alternative A are:

- Existing facilities and trails would be maintained.
- Current recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, picnicking, rock climbing, and viewing scenery would be provided. Current interpretive services would be provided. Limited education programs would continue as funding allows.
- Existing natural resource management activities would continue, including the raptor monitoring program, and re-establishment of the California condor.
- Cultural resources would be documented as needed; however, Pinnacles would continue to lack in-park cultural resource expertise, resulting in continued dependence on regional staff to assist the monument in maintaining a minimum level of cultural resource management and compliance.
- Projects currently programmed for funding would occur
- Boundary adjustments and wilderness - see *Common to All*.

Management Actions For Alternative A:

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Recreation

Under this alternative, existing visitor service levels would continue. A diversity of uses, including hiking, climbing, viewing scenery, developed camping, and picnicking would be provided consistent with administrative policies and resource protection.

The current trail system would be maintained plus a South Wilderness trail connection would be constructed. Current trailheads would be retained.

Climbing use would continue to be managed through the Climber Access Plan and Raptor Monitoring Protocol until a Climbing Management Plan is completed.

Bicycling opportunities at the campground and on paved roads would continue.

Backcountry camping would continue to be prohibited. All trails would continue to be closed to stock use except for administrative use.

The Pinnacles Campground and current picnic and group facilities would remain. Minor improvements (such as adding shade structures) could be made.

Interpretation and Education

The monument would continue to provide interpretive services that meet the needs of differing types of visitor interests and ages.

Limited education programs would continue as funding allows. Pinnacles is currently unable to fill all requests for education outreach programs due to limited staff and this situation would likely continue.

Current interpretation facilities would remain. Visitor information would continue to be provided at the east side entrance station (on weekends), Bear Gulch Nature Center, East Pinnacles Visitor Center, and the West Pinnacles Visitor Contact Station.

Non-personal interpretive information, including waysides, internet web sites, trailhead and facility bulletin boards would continue to be provided.

Education programs would continue as funding allows.

FACILITIES

Under the no-action alternative, most facilities and trails would remain and continue to be maintained, including minor improvements over time.

East Side Facilities

The existing visitor center would continue to be located in the same room and building as the campground store. The building would continue to be used for interpretation, visitor information, fee collection, book sales, campground registration, and concession sales. The NPS and cooperating association space allocated is 430 sf. The monument would continue to repair and maintain the building dependent on available funding. The current day use/picnic area(s) would remain. The entrance station would remain in its current location and would continue to be used on busy weekends only. The campground area

would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources. Reconfiguration could include removal of campsites from sensitive areas and adding new campsites in more suitable areas while maintaining a scale similar to that currently available. Existing amenities, such as the campground store and swimming pool, would be retained. The amphitheater would remain in its current location, but improvements would be made to make it more accessible.

The monument's headquarters would remain in Bear Gulch. Parking capacity in Bear Gulch would remain unchanged. Condor Gulch would continue to be used for storage. Visitor facilities at Moses Spring would be retained.

At the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, the Bacon House would be stabilized and used for storage. Other historic structures (such as the barn, etc.) could also be adaptively reused. The Butterfield Homestead area would continue to be protected and historic structures would be stabilized and/or rehabilitated.

The existing parking capacity would be retained. The shuttle service and current stops at trailhead areas and Peaks View would continue.

West Side Facilities

The west side would be managed to retain a natural and quiet character, while providing for increased visitor services and safety.

Improved picnic sites would include shade structures.

At Chaparral, the parking lot, picnic area, comfort station, and road, which currently are located in flood-prone areas, would remain.

Potential shuttle service (such as for special events and on busy weekends) would be accommodated at the west side facilities.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The natural resource management program would continue. (See *Common to All* for more details on raptor monitoring, re-establishment of the California condor, removal of nonnative invasive species, vegetation, fire, wilderness, wildlife, air quality management, and hydrological and geological resources).

Existing restoration efforts would also continue, including enhancement of habitat areas in the bottomlands, McCabe Canyon, and in former facility locations at Chaparral.

Current natural resources research and education efforts and partnerships would continue. The

monument would provide facilities, such as Cabin 10 in Bear Gulch or staff office space as available, for researchers.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Pinnacles would continue to lack in-park cultural resource expertise, resulting in continued dependence on NPS regional and other park cultural resource and museum staff to assist in a minimum level of cultural resource management and compliance.

Cultural resource management actions, including completion of baseline inventories and studies, would continue (see *Common to All*).

Actions associated with historic structures on the east side would be the same as noted under *East Side Facilities*. Historic mining resources would be protected in the west side. The North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout would be stabilized.

The current level of cultural resources education, interpretation, and research would continue. Interpretation of cultural resources would likely remain limited because cultural resources staff would not be available to support the programming.

COMMERCIAL SERVICES

The monument has an existing concession contract for camping, limited convenience and grocery items that expires in April 2018. The monument would continue to authorize a concessioner to provide additional services in the monument consisting of the sale of firewood, rental of bicycles, sale of climbing gear, and wireless internet services. Other recreational concession activities may also be authorized with the approval by the Superintendent. The concessioner would not offer for sale items that are sold by the Western National Park Association with the exception of water containers. The concessioner and a cooperating association would continue to operate the East Pinnacles Visitor Center and Campground General Store.

PARTNERSHIPS, REGIONAL COOPERATION, AND OUTREACH

See *Common to All*.



Photos (left to right): Tribal work day - looking at soaproot. NPS photo. A hiker views the Balconies Cliffs from the High Peaks Trail. Photo by Paul G. Johnson.

Management of Specific Areas

BOTTOMLANDS

Current management of the bottomlands would continue. The natural ecosystem, including native plant communities such as oak savanna, would predominate, while also taking cultural landscape values into consideration. The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District would be managed for cultural landscape values to reflect the historic homesteading period. As noted above, historic structures could be adaptively reused. The bottomlands would offer limited visitor use opportunities and facilities, such as hiking on existing ranch roads only after park managers have determined that there would be little or no risk of spread of nonnative invasives from the bottomlands into uninfested areas of the monument from visitor activity (See *Common to All* for further guidance). Interpretive programs would be offered as staffing allows.

EAST SIDE CAMPGROUND DEVELOPED AREA

This area would continue to include the visitor center, day use/picnic area, parking, amphitheater and campground-related structures. The entrance station would continue to be located just beyond the campground. The campground area would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources. Environmental education programs such as Camp Pinnacles could be provided at the campground. See *Facilities* for further description of campground reconfiguration and existing visitor facilities.

WEST SIDE

Construction of replacement west side facilities, including a visitor contact station, entrance station, maintenance facility, and housing would allow

formerly disturbed areas to be restored. The existing picnic area, comfort station, and trailhead parking would be retained at Chaparral. Trail access would continue to be provided. Interpretive opportunities would be provided at the visitor contact station.

BEAR GULCH, CONDOR GULCH, AND CHALONE

Headquarters would remain in Bear Gulch. Visitor information would be provided at the Bear Gulch Nature Center when possible. Condor Gulch would continue to be used for storage. Visitor facilities at Moses Spring would be retained. The Chalone area would continue to be used for maintenance, resource management, emergency operations, and staff housing.

HIGH PEAKS

Current visitor activities, including hiking and climbing, would continue to be allowed in the High Peaks/ Pinnacles Rocks area with voluntary temporary closures of areas for protection of sensitive resources, including raptors. Current use levels would continue.

MCCABE CANYON

Current management of the McCabe Canyon Watershed as a relatively undisturbed area would continue. Broad guidance for managing this area would continue to be absent. Visitor access to McCabe Canyon would be allowed; however, there would be no designated trails/facilities for visitors. Current research efforts would continue. Park staff could continue to work with traditionally associated people in incorporating traditional ecological knowledge in habitat restoration as well as educational opportunities for public and tribal benefit.

BEAR VALLEY SCHOOL

The Bear Valley School building would be rehabilitated and interpretation about its significance would be provided. Community use opportunities could be available. See *Common to All* for further guidance.

Management Zoning

Land that was part of the monument in 1975 would continue to be classified according to the 1975 Master Plan. The land use concepts, described by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, include Class II - General Outdoor Recreation, Class III - Natural Environment Area, Class IV - Outstanding Natural Area, and Class V - Primitive Area. There would continue to be no management zones under alternative A.

User Capacity

The National Park Service would continue to manage visitation based on approved plans. Monument staff would continue to respond to user capacity issues on

a case-by-case basis, with facility capacity (including parking) largely setting the monument's user capacity. The monument would continue to conduct occasional user capacity studies to better manage visitors.

Estimated Costs

Cost estimates for alternative A are identified on the next pages in Tables 3 and 4. The costs shown here are not for budgeting purposes; rather they are only intended to show a relative comparison of costs among the alternatives.

Implementation of the approved plan will depend on future funding. The approval of this plan does not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement the plan would be forthcoming. Full implementation of the actions in the approved general management plan would likely take many years.

ONE-TIME CAPITAL COSTS

The estimated costs for alternative A reflect the continuation of current management, including continuation



View of Pinnacles on Memorial day weekend. NPS photo.

of the current level of facilities. One-time costs for alternative A include projects that are currently approved and funded in fiscal year 2011 and other deferred maintenance and resource preservation projects that would occur under current management but are not yet funded (see table 3). The total gross cost estimates for these projects, identified as “common to all alternatives,” would total \$12,500,000. Projects that involve stabilization and rehabilitation of historic structures would also address deferred maintenance. Under this alternative, these projects include cultural resources in the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, historic Bear Valley School building, Condor Gulch historic structures, and North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout. Other facility improvements include repairing campground structures such as the East Pinnacles Visitor Center/campground store building to eliminate health and safety hazards and to address some structural deficiencies.

Projects are identified as either Priority 1 or Priority 2. Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 1 projects total \$4,880,000. More than half of this cost is replacement of the sewer system. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails. Priority 2 costs total \$8,490,000. The total estimated one-time capital cost, including common to all projects, in 2011 dollars is approximately \$13,370,000. Additional projects that have been submitted for funding through 2020 total approximately \$7,000,000 (not included in the cost estimate).

STAFFING

Alternative A assumes that current authorized staffing levels (2010) would remain, for a total of 43 base funded full time equivalent (FTE) staff. One full time equivalent (FTE) is one person working 40 hours per week for one year, or the equivalent number of hours worked by different individuals. In 2010, the monument’s base-funded staffing was 38.38 FTE, which is below the authorized level. Base-funded staff include full time, term, part-time, and seasonal staff. In addition, some staffing is not funded out of the monument’s base, including air quality monitoring, raptor monitoring, lead outreach, and some visitor use assistants (VUAs), interns, and volunteers.

Base-funded Staffing in 2010 (38.38 FTE):

- Interpretation and Education = 6.66
- Law Enforcement & Protection = 5.28
- Facilities = 12.07
- Research and Resource Management = 8.35
- Administration = 6.02

Staff positions were reduced after floods heavily damaged the previous facilities at the Chaparral area on the west side. Additional staffing needs to address the current lack of NPS presence on the west side have been identified, including interpreters, protection rangers, and part-time maintenance and administrative support (see below for additional detail). The details of these staffing needs (total of 9 FTE, \$790,000) are included in two OFS (Operations Formulation System) requests that have been Regionally prioritized. Since the 2010 staffing level of 38 FTE is below the authorized level of 43 FTE, these staffing requests would add 4 FTE to the authorized level (total of 47 FTE).

Proposed Additional Staffing for the West District:

- Research and Resource Management – none
- Interpretation and Education – 2.8 FTE: a fee collector and two seasonal interpreters)
- Facilities – .5 FTE: maintenance worker to return to pre-existing levels
- Law Enforcement and Emergency Response – 4.5 FTE: a district ranger, 2 front-line rangers, a protection ranger for Wildland Fire and SAR, and on-site backup
- Administration / Superintendent – 1.2 FTE: a park planner and increase in part-time administrative positions to full time

Total Staffing = 47 FTE, 4 FTE above the authorized staffing level of 43. Salaries and benefits are included in the annual operating costs.

ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

The monument’s annual operating budget for fiscal year 2010 (FY 2010) was \$3,600,000. Additional operations and maintenance costs related to capital investments would be \$30,000. The total annual operating cost for Alternative A including the additional 9 FTE (\$790,000) would be \$4,420,000.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF ONE-TIME COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE A: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Location	Infrastructure, Facility, and Resource Projects	Facility Rehabilitation	Historic Preservation	Natural Resource Restoration	Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	New Construction	Facility Removal	Priority
Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District	Preserve (stabilize or rehabilitate) Ben Bacon Ranch core historic structures*		\$280,000					1
	Preserve and rehabilitate Butterfield Homestead historic resources for adaptive reuse*		\$330,000					1
	Bottomlands area – manage invasive nonnative species*			\$380,000				1
Bear Gulch	Replacement of sewer system*				\$2,500,000			1
	Rehabilitate Bear Gulch Road to improve drainage*				\$3,710,000			2
	Replace telecommunications and electric lines in Bear Gulch*				\$3,070,000			2
Bear Valley	Stabilize historic school building*		\$400,000					1
	Rehabilitate historic school building for meeting space*	\$1,230,000						2
Chalone	Construct accessible Bench trail improvement*					\$250,000		2
Condor Gulch	Rehabilitate Historic Gas House Building and Horse Barn*		\$80,000					2
Pinnacles Campground	Continue to maintain and repair campground store building for use as combined visitor contact station and campground store	\$300,000						1
	Repair campground store foundation	\$150,000						1
West Side	North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout – stabilize	\$120,000						1
	North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout – hazmat clean-up of surrounding area			\$300,000				1
	Improve Chaparral picnic area*	\$120,000						1
Wilderness	Construct South Wilderness trail connection between the South Chalone Peak trail and South Wilderness trail*					\$150,000		2
	Total Priority 1 Projects:	\$690,000	\$1,010,000	\$680,000	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0	
	Total Priority 2 Projects:	\$1,230,000	\$80,000	\$0	\$6,780,000	\$400,000	\$0	
	Total Costs by Category:	\$1,920,000	\$1,090,000	\$680,000	\$9,280,000	\$400,000	\$0	
	TOTAL ONE-TIME COSTS:							

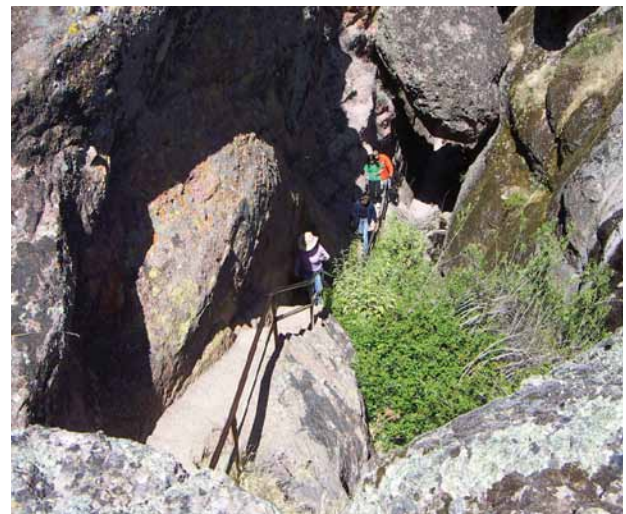
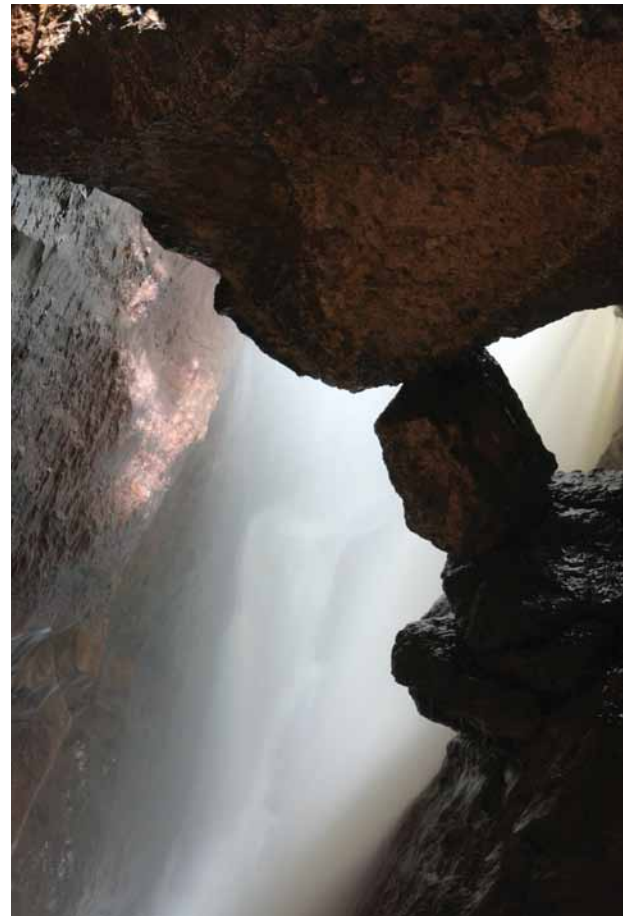
Notes:

* = Cost items that are common to all alternatives

- Projects are identified as either "Priority 1" or "Priority 2" projects. Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails.
- Costs include NPS Class C estimate mark-ups, including location factors, design contingency, construction management, and construction contingency.
- Trails have not been designed; descriptions include approximate length.

TABLE 4: ALTERNATIVE A SUMMARY OF COSTS

Annual Operational Costs	
Existing Annual Operational Costs	\$3,600,000
Additional Staffing Costs (+9 FTE)*	\$790,000
Additional Operations & Maintenance Costs Related to Capital Investments	\$30,000
Total Annual Operational Costs	\$4,420,000
One-time Capital Costs	
Facility Rehabilitation	
Priority 1 Projects**	\$690,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$1,230,000
Historic Preservation	
Priority 1 Projects	\$1,010,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$80,000
Natural Resource Restoration	
Priority 1 Projects	\$680,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$0
Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	
Priority 1 Projects	\$2,500,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$6,780,000
New Construction	
Priority 1 Projects	\$0
Priority 2 Projects	\$400,000
Facility Removal	
Priority 1 Projects	\$0
Priority 2 Projects	\$0
Total Priority 1 Projects	\$4,880,000
Total Priority 2 Projects	\$8,490,000
Total One-time Capital Costs	\$13,370,000
Notes:	
*The additional 9 FTE under alternative A are included in two OFS requests that been Regionally prioritized. The current staffing level is below the authorized level; the additional staffing would add 4 FTE to the authorized level of 43 FTE. The new staffing level would total 47 FTE.	
**Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails.	



Photos (top to bottom): 1. A waterfall inside Bear Gulch Cave. Photo by Paul G. Johnson. 2. Visitors hiking out of Bear Gulch Cave. NPS photo.

Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience

Concept

Pinnacles would provide visitors with high quality backcountry experiences, including solitude, quiet, and immersion in natural settings. Natural and cultural resources and visitor use opportunities would be managed in an integrated fashion for protection, restoration, and maintenance of natural and cultural resources and backcountry experiences, in cooperation with the surrounding communities and neighbors.

The key components of alternative B are as follows:

- Facilities would be minimized and located in existing developed areas. On the east side, facilities would be concentrated in the campground area. A small visitor center would be constructed to replace the current East Pinnacles Visitor Center/campground store when the current structure reaches the end of its useful life. There would be an emphasis on determining whether infrastructure located in the primitive zone should be removed. The Chaparral parking lot, North Chalone Peak, the bottomlands and riparian areas along Sandy Creek would be restored. The Moses Spring area would also be studied to determine how to improve natural functions.
- Visitors would be provided with a range of high quality backcountry experiences, including opportunities for solitude within natural settings. Visitor use would be dispersed. Existing recreational uses would continue. Some new trails would be built to provide access to new areas within the monument including the newly added lands. Small scale interpretive and educational facilities and guided programs would be provided. Formal interpretation and education about wilderness values would be enhanced.
- Natural resources protection would emphasize conserving and restoring natural functions, protecting watershed values, and protecting sensitive wildlife areas with a focus on providing visitors with a backcountry experience where natural processes predominate.
- Cultural resources would continue to be protected. Significant historic resources would be maintained, while some documented structures that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not being used for park operations could be removed.
- The preservation of wilderness character would be enhanced through the highest amount of acreage zoned “primitive,” both within and outside of designated wilderness.
- Boundary adjustments - see *Common to All*.



View of the High Peaks from the North Wilderness Trail. NPS photo.

Management Actions for Alternative B:

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Recreation

To provide visitors with a range of high quality backcountry experiences, including opportunities for solitude and experiences in natural settings, the monument would focus on dispersing visitor use and minimizing the amount of direct visitor management (i.e. fewer visitor facilities, signs, etc.). To reduce crowding, protect viewsheds, and minimize development, more of the monument would be zoned as “primitive” under this alternative. Existing uses such as hiking, climbing, and picnicking would continue. Developed camping would be provided at the east side campground. Construction of new trails would provide a range of experiences and would disperse visitors. New trails would provide connections in remote wilderness areas, between existing trails, and access to new areas in the monument. Trails leading from the campground to the bottomlands and surrounding canyons, including in McCabe Canyon, and a connector trail between the new west side facilities and Chaparral are proposed in this alternative. Future site planning for each trail would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis.

Small to medium-sized groups would be accommodated with the addition of some small walk-in picnic areas and the maintenance of existing group campsites and the amphitheater, but new facilities for large groups would not be built. To promote a sense of solitude throughout the monument, group size limits may be instituted, especially on wilderness trails.

New uses that require facilities and infrastructure, such as horseback riding and backcountry camping, would not be added.

Interpretation and Education

Interpretation and education within the monument would emphasize visitor self-reliance. Small-scale interpretive and educational facilities and guided programs would be limited. Formal interpretation and education about wilderness values would be enhanced and would be provided when possible outside the monument or at the monument’s perimeter. Primary interpretive programming on cultural resources would also be developed. Education programs such as Camp Pinnacles would be provided under this alternative. The monument would avoid placing waysides, bulletin boards, and signs on trails and near wilderness areas. Existing waysides in wilderness areas would be removed.

FACILITIES

Under this alternative, the monument would minimize its development footprint. As noted above, structures that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not being used for park operations would be removed. Small new facilities would support visitor use and education.

East Side Facilities

Facilities would be concentrated in the campground area to locate visitor services and facilities away from the core of the monument. A small replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center (approximately 1,500 sf) and a campground store would be constructed in a previously disturbed area in the campground to replace the current visitor center/campground store building when it reaches the end of its useful life. The current building was not designed for multiple functions occurring in the same space. It has structural deficiencies and public health concerns. A replacement east side entrance station would be constructed between the monument entrance and campground to replace the existing entrance station located at the previous monument boundary. Locating the replacement entrance station closer before visitors reach the main park sites and facilities would improve visitor orientation and circulation. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints for these structures and would be subject to additional environmental analysis. As in other alternatives, the campground area would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources. In addition, a small picnic area would be added in the campground area. The amphitheater would be retained, but the swimming pool would be removed if it was determined to be no longer cost-effective to maintain.

The monument’s headquarters would remain in Bear Gulch, although some functions could be moved to other facilities if needed. The Moses Spring parking area would be removed or reconfigured to improve natural hydrologic and habitat functions.

At the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, the Bacon House would be rehabilitated and used for storage. The Bacon Barn and other contributing structures in the Ben Bacon Ranch core would be stabilized and/or rehabilitated for improved storage or other adaptive reuses. The Butterfield Homestead would continue to be protected and both barns would be stabilized and/or rehabilitated.

Shuttle stops would be improved with minimal amenities where practicable, including shade structures and visitor information, and would be designed to blend with the environment.

West Side Facilities

The west side would be managed to retain a natural and quiet character, while providing for increased visitor services and safety, through the new facilities.

The Chaparral parking area, and the road from the overflow lot turn-off to the Chaparral parking area would be removed. The Chaparral picnic area would remain a walk-in facility and parking would be provided at the existing overflow lot. The entrance gate would continue to be closed at night and camping would not be provided. A connector trail between the new west side facilities and Chaparral would be constructed.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources protection would emphasize conserving and restoring natural functions, protecting watershed values, and protecting sensitive wildlife areas to provide visitors with a backcountry experience where natural processes predominate.

Much of the natural resources management under this alternative would mirror current actions or actions proposed in the other alternatives (See *Common to All* for more details on raptor monitoring, re-establishment of the California condor, removal of nonnative invasive species, vegetation, fire, wilderness, wildlife, air quality management, and hydrological and geological resources).

Formerly developed areas would be restored to a greater extent, especially sensitive areas. Emphasis would be on assessing and removing infrastructure located in the primitive zone. Structures that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and which are not being used for operations that could be removed include fencing, temporary housing structures in the bottomlands and McCabe Canyon, buildings 14, 7, and 207 in Bear Gulch, and the facilities being replaced at Chaparral. North Chalone Peak, the Chaparral parking lot, the bottomlands, Moses Spring, and riparian areas along Sandy Creek would be restored. A site plan for the Moses Spring parking and picnic area would evaluate opportunities to improve natural hydrologic conditions and habitat functions. The bottomlands would be restored to oak savanna, consistent with policy requirements within a designated cultural landscape. There would be more emphasis placed on detection and prevention of nonnative invasive species throughout the monument.

Research would continue to be encouraged, however monitoring stations and research apparatus would likely be encountered less frequently or would be less obtrusive in the field.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources would continue to be protected. Most cultural resource management actions would be the same as described in *Common to All* and as noted under *East Side Facilities*. The monument would enhance the cultural resource management program to expand understanding and guide management of the monument's cultural resources. The remote North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout, a structure eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), would be removed due to its poor condition, challenges with ongoing maintenance of the remote structure which requires access through private property, and environmental liability issues. Except for removal of the North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout, historic resources within the monument would be maintained. Structures that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not being used for park operations could be removed. These structures would be the same as those identified under *Natural Resources* above. A range of preservation treatments, including rehabilitation for compatible uses, could be applied to historic resources, depending on their significance.

COMMERCIAL SERVICES

The monument has an existing concession contract for camping, limited convenience and grocery items that expires in April 2018. After this contract expires, the monument would consider authorizing a new concession contract for camping, limited convenience and/or grocery items. The monument would also consider allowing some additional commercial activities consistent with the general management plan and NPS service-wide policies.

PARTNERSHIPS, REGIONAL COOPERATION, AND OUTREACH

Actions would be the same as described in *Common to All*, plus:

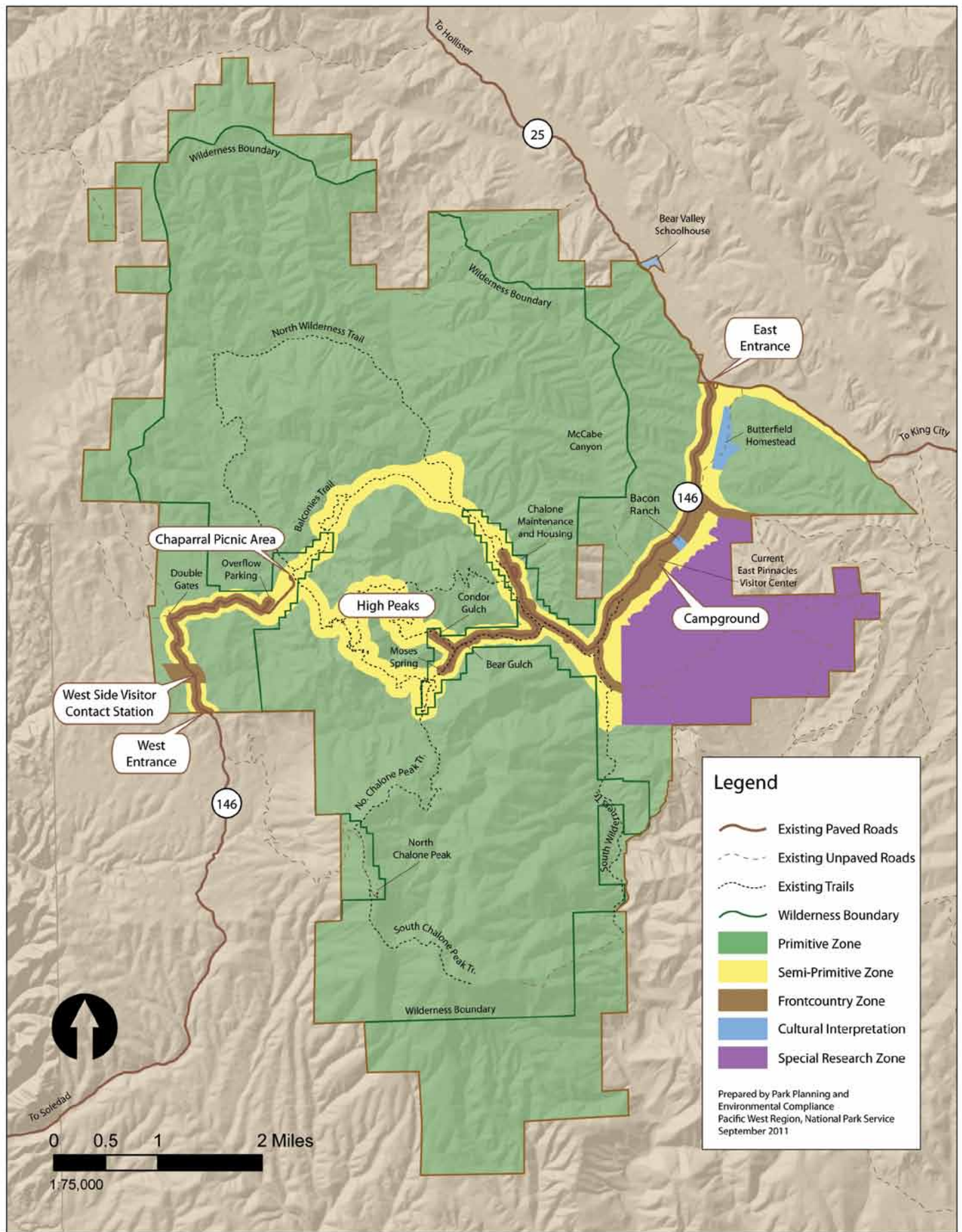
Outreach to communities would focus on providing more information regarding wilderness opportunities, stewardship, and wilderness values.

Management of Specific Areas

BOTTOMLANDS

The bottomlands would offer a variety of visitor use opportunities, including interpretation of natural and cultural resources and quality backcountry experiences. The natural ecosystem, including native plant communities and oak savanna, would predominate. Historic structures could be adaptively reused as noted above under *East Side Facilities*. Interpretation of the

Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience



cultural landscape would be focused on the Ben Bacon Ranch core and Butterfield Homestead. A road would provide administrative vehicle and public nonmotorized access to the former ranch sites and canyons from the campground. Visitor facilities at the bottomlands would be developed only after park managers have determined that there would be little or no risk of spread of nonnative invasives from the bottomlands into uninfested areas of the monument from visitor activity (See *Common to All* for further guidance).

EAST SIDE CAMPGROUND DEVELOPED AREA

As in other alternatives, the campground area would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources. Visitor experiences would be improved at the campground. The small replacement visitor center would allow for more interpretive space and would minimize conflicts with sales areas. A new day use area would create more picnicking opportunities. New trail connections from the campground to remote areas would allow for visitor dispersal and new visitor use opportunities in the backcountry.

WEST SIDE

The west side would be managed to retain a natural and quiet character, while providing for increased visitor services and safety, through the new facilities. The Chaparral parking area, and the road from the overflow lot turn-off to the Chaparral parking area would be removed. The Chaparral picnic area would remain a walk-in facility and parking would be

provided at the existing overflow lot. As in alternative A, there would be no camping and the area would be available for day use only. A connector trail between the new west side facilities and Chaparral would be constructed. Visitor information, interpretive exhibits, and interpretive activities would be provided at the visitor contact station.

BEAR GULCH, CONDOR GULCH, AND CHALONE

As described under *East Side Facilities*, headquarters would remain in Bear Gulch, although some functions could be moved to other facilities. The Moses Spring area would be reconfigured to improve natural hydrologic and habitat functions. Visitor information and a small number of exhibits would continue to be provided at the Bear Gulch Nature Center. Condor Gulch would continue to be used for storage. As in alternative A, the Chalone area would be used for maintenance, emergency operations, and staff housing.

HIGH PEAKS

This core visitor activity area would be actively managed to provide ample opportunities for solitude, including indirect management (adding trails for greater visitor dispersal, wilderness values education, etc.) and direct management (group size controls, use permits, etc.), if necessary.

MCCABE CANYON

A trail would connect the campground to McCabe Canyon ridge. Visitors would experience solitude and



Moses Spring parking area. NPS photo.

enjoy an additional long-distance wilderness hiking opportunity to a previously inaccessible area. Small, focused interpretation and education programs at McCabe Canyon would be developed in cooperation with traditionally associated people to interpret resources important to people of the past and present.

BEAR VALLEY SCHOOL

The Bear Valley School building would be rehabilitated for meeting space and minimal external interpretive features would be added. Community use opportunities would be available. See *Common to All* for further guidance. If San Benito County develops a plan for a regional system of trails including connections to the monument, a trail connection from Bear Valley to McCabe Canyon would be considered.

Management Zones

The management zones for alternative B would be applied to monument lands to identify an area's predominant use and desired future conditions. Specific boundaries of the management zones are provided in the map for alternative B. The management zones are explained in further detail in Table 2. The following description identifies the locations and details for the application of management zones in alternative B.

PRIMITIVE ZONE

Under alternative B, the predominant zone applied to the monument is the primitive zone. The primitive zone would include the following areas:

- Most of the wilderness areas to provide visitors ample opportunities to experience solitude, natural sounds, and a sense of remoteness. However, portions of heavily used trails within wilderness in the core of the monument would be excluded from this zone.
- Remote areas beyond the wilderness boundary extending to the park boundary.
- The majority of the upland area east of the bottomlands to provide quality backcountry experiences for visitors, including on trails.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE ZONE

The semi-primitive zone would include the following areas:

- The bottomlands, but excluding the Butterfield homestead. This area would extend northeast along the Highway 25 boundary to the ridgeline along the northeast edge. The eastern boundary would follow the park road but would allow for a 500 foot buffer adjacent to the road.

- Bear Gulch, Condor Gulch, and Chalone with 1,000 foot corridors centered on existing paved and unpaved roads, trails, and parking.
- A 500 foot wide corridor paralleling the Highway 146 frontcountry area on the east side.
- A 1,000 foot corridor centered on popular trails including Juniper Canyon, Rim, Condor Gulch, Bear Gulch, Bench, Old Pinnacles, High Peaks, Balconies trails, and the North Wilderness Trail from the Old Pinnacles Trail intersection to Willow Spring. The Hawkins Peak area would be excluded.
- West side lands surrounding developed areas and other potential high use areas to allow for trails in these areas.
- A 1,000 foot corridor centered on the South Wilderness Trail extending to the base of slopes to the west and into Grassy Canyon after the intersection with the Condor Area road.

FRONTCOUNTRY ZONE

The frontcountry zone would include the following areas:

- A 500 foot corridor centered on Highway 146 on the east side.
- The existing developed footprint of the campground, lands northeast excluding the Bacon house (area includes 1000 feet east from road), and north to the existing unpaved road access to the Regan property.
- A 500 foot corridor centered on existing paved roads and structures in the Bear Gulch, Condor Gulch, and Chalone areas
- A 500 foot corridor centered on Hwy 146 on the west side from the park entrance to the overflow lot, and including other paved roads and structures.
- A 500 foot corridor along the South Wilderness trail/administrative road to junction with the road from the condor enclosure area, then following the road to the enclosure area boundary.

CULTURAL INTERPRETATION ZONE

The cultural interpretation zone would include the following areas:

- The Ben Bacon Ranch core and Butterfield Homestead areas. These two areas have concentrated historic and archeological resources. The Butterfield Homestead includes the barns, windmill, and previously tilled land. The Ben Bacon Ranch core includes the Bacon house, barn, and other historic structures. The zoned

area would start east of the park road at the Bacon driveway, extend 500 feet along the roadway and then approximately 700 feet to the toe of the slope.

- The Bear Valley School area.

SPECIAL RESEARCH ZONE

The special research zone would include the area managed for condor research and other areas landlocked by this area, extending west to the semi-primitive zone.

User Capacity

Monument staff would monitor social and resource indicators, evaluate current conditions against standards, and take appropriate steps to ensure the monument's user capacity is not exceeded (See user capacity section later in this chapter for indicators, standards, and management and monitoring strategies that would be followed).

Estimated Costs

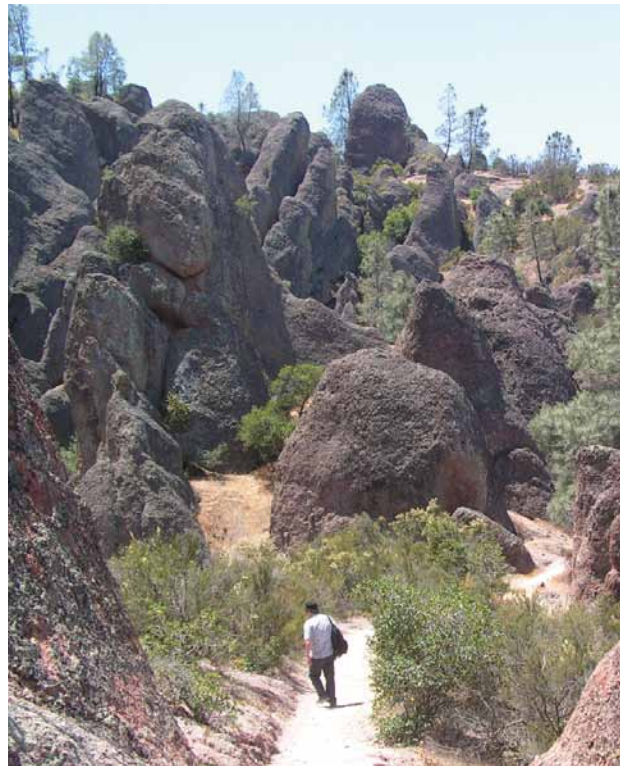
Cost estimates for alternative B are identified below in Table 6. The costs shown here are not for budgeting purposes; rather, they are only intended to show a relative comparison of costs among the alternatives.

Implementation of the approved plan will depend on future funding. The approval of this plan does not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement the plan would be forthcoming. Full implementation of the actions in the approved general management plan would likely take many years.

ONE-TIME CAPITAL COSTS

Alternative B would consist of the improvements to facilities and structures described previously in *Facilities*. There would be projects related to preservation of historic structures, restoration of natural areas, and improvements to visitor facilities and construction of new visitor facilities as well. Under this alternative, one-time capital costs include new trails, visitor facilities (small replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center), facility improvements, facility removal (including North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout and Chaparral parking lot), and restoration of those areas, and other habitat improvements and resource protection measures (livestock fencing of remote lands).

Projects that involve replacement of infrastructure and other facilities, removal of facilities, and stabilization and rehabilitation of historic structures would address deferred maintenance. Under this alternative, examples of these projects include replacement of the



Hiker on the High Peaks Trail. NPS photo.

Bear Gulch sewer system (common to all), replacement of the East Pinnacles Visitor Center, removal of the North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout, removal of parking, road, and comfort station at Chaparral, and stabilization and rehabilitation of cultural resources in the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, and Condor Gulch historic structures.

Projects are identified as either Priority 1 or Priority 2. Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 1 projects total \$4,910,000. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails. Priority 2 costs total \$16,400,000. The estimated one-time capital cost in 2011 dollars is approximately \$21,310,000 (see table 5). This cost includes the common to all costs (\$12,500,000) described under alternative A.

STAFFING

Implementation of alternative B would require additional staffing for increased restoration efforts, additional cultural resources program needs, new interpretive and educational programming, and additional maintenance needs.

New research and resource management programs proposed in alternative B would require three new FTE

(one FTE is one person working 40 hours per week for one year, or the equivalent). A full-time physical scientist would assist with restoration efforts proposed under this alternative, help maintain or restore ecological processes, assist with climate change initiatives and monitoring, and would provide technical expertise to inform interpretation. A full-time cultural resources specialist would manage the cultural resources program, implement compliance requirements as the NHPA 106 coordinator, monitor historic districts and archeological sites, ensure that baseline inventories and reports are conducted, advise on DOI standards for historic structures, coordinate with law enforcement, and provide technical expertise to inform interpretation. A half-time museum technician would maintain collections at Pinnacles and would provide public access to collections under the direction of a Curator of Record located in the San Francisco Bay Area Network. A part-time GIS specialist would maintain Pinnacles GIS data and produce maps and GIS analysis as needed. A part-time archeology technician would complete and update archeological site condition assessments (surveys), NEPA compliance, and would provide input on proposed projects, and follow the Secretary of the Interior's standards.

Additional interpretation and education staff (4.63 FTE) would be needed to meet additional visitor services needs and to provide additional interpretive opportunities. A full-time interpreter would focus on non-personal programming. A full-time educator would provide greater outreach to schools and would develop and conduct new education programs. Additional visitor use assistants/park guides would be needed on both sides of the monument to meet additional visitor needs. In addition, a part-time/seasonal interpretive ranger would provide technical expertise to inform interpretation.

New trails, a replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center, and additional facility needs would require additional staff for the facilities division (3 FTE). A maintenance worker would be added to assist with the construction and maintenance of new trails. A maintenance worker/custodian would provide maintenance for the east side facilities, including the visitor center, Ben Bacon Ranch historic resources, and the Bear Valley School building. A maintenance worker would provide maintenance of the west side facilities.

A full time wilderness ranger would patrol the wilderness and other backcountry areas of the monument.

All fire suppression activities within the monument would continue to be managed in Unified Command with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and NPS.

Four FTE would be needed to meet additional park administration needs. A budget technician, administrative support technician, and information technology specialist would provide additional support to monument staff. A part-time planner/ compliance specialist would lead planning efforts and a part-time volunteer coordinator would manage the volunteer program.

Proposed New Staffing in Alternative B:

- Research and Resource Management – 3 FTE: physical scientist, cultural resources specialist, and other part-time/shared positions including a museum technician, GIS specialist, and archeology technician
- Interpretation and Education – 4.63 FTE: interpreter, educator, visitor use assistants/park guides, and part-time/shared/seasonal positions including a park ranger for cultural programs interpretation, and additional part-time/seasonal visitor use assistants
- Facilities – 3 FTE: a trails worker, custodian, and maintenance worker
- Law Enforcement and Emergency Services – 1 FTE: wilderness ranger
- Administration / Superintendent – 4 FTE: budget technician, administrative support assistant, IT specialist, and part-time volunteer coordinator

Total Staffing = 63 FTE. Staffing includes the 47 FTE described under alternative A plus 15.63 new FTE.

ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

This alternative would be implemented with the current staffing levels plus additional staff identified in OFS requests under alternative A, and 15.63 additional FTEs for resource management and protection, interpretation, facility maintenance, administration, and research. The addition of these positions would add approximately \$1,100,000 to the operating base for Alternative B. Additional operations and maintenance costs related to capital investments would be \$100,000. The total annual operating costs for alternative B would be approximately \$5,590,000 per year (in 2011 dollars).

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF ONE-TIME COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE B: EMPHASIZE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

Location	Infrastructure, Facility, and Resource Projects	Facility Rehabilitation	Historic Preservation	Natural Resource Restoration	Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	New Construction	Facility Removal	Priority
Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District	Preserve (stabilize or rehabilitate) Ben Bacon Ranch core historic structures*		\$280,000					1
	Bacon House – rehabilitate historic structure for use as improved storage		\$50,000					1
	Preserve and rehabilitate Butterfield Homestead historic resources for adaptive reuse*		\$330,000					1
	Bottomlands area – manage invasive nonnative species*			\$380,000				1
Bear Gulch	Replacement of sewer system*				\$2,500,000			1
	Rehabilitate Bear Gulch Road to improve drainage*				\$3,710,000			2
	Replace telecommunications and electric lines in Bear Gulch*				\$3,070,000			2
	Chief Ranger House (Bldg #2) - adaptively reuse for office space	\$10,000						2
	Remove four noncontributing structures in Bear Gulch headquarters area						\$160,000	2
	Remove unused pipes at Pinnacles Dam (Bear Gulch Dam) and restore cave and canyon areas			\$30,000				2
Pinnacles Campground	Construct East Pinnacles Visitor Center				\$1,270,000			2
	Construct replacement campground store and concession office (remove concession trailer)				\$470,000			2
	Reconfigure campsites to protect riparian areas			\$40,000				1
	Remove swimming pool			\$40,000				1
	Install bikeracks at campground, nature center and trailheads					\$30,000		1
Bear Valley	Stabilize historic school building*		\$400,000					1
Chalone	Remove / replace east side entrance station				\$440,000			2
	Construct accessible Bench trail improvement					\$250,000		1
	Construct accessible Valley Oak interpretive loop trail					\$440,000		2
Condor Gulch	Rehabilitate Historic Gas House Building and Horse Barn		\$80,000					2
McCabe Canyon	Construct trail along McCabe Canyon ridge					\$390,000		2
	Restore disturbed areas to improve hydrology			\$30,000				1
Moses Spring	Reconfigure or remove road and parking to restore natural processes			\$100,000				2

Location	Infrastructure, Facility, and Resource Projects	Facility Rehabilitation	Historic Preservation	Natural Resource Restoration	Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	New Construction	Facility Removal	Priority
West Side	North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout – remove fire lookout						\$370,000	2
	Improve Chaparral picnic area*	\$120,000						1
	Remove Chaparral facilities (including parking, road section, comfort station, vault tanks) and restore hydrologic functions						\$5,260,000	2
	Expand day use parking, create trailhead at overflow parking, and add vault toilets (relocate day use facilities from Chaparral)				\$300,000			2
	Construct connector trail – link West Side visitor contact station					\$180,000		1
Wilderness	Construct South Wilderness trail connection between the South Chalone Peak trail and South Wilderness trail*					\$150,000		2
	Remove weather stations, roads, scrapes, and fencing and restore areas			\$150,000				1
Parkwide	Picnic/group sites: Improve existing picnic areas; construct new picnic sites at Bottomlands, west side, and hike-in sites; construct picnic pavilion					\$120,000		1
	Improve shuttle stops	\$100,000						2
	Construct additional waysides / interpretive exhibits					\$50,000		2
	Construct fencing for remote areas	\$10,000						1
	Total Priority 1 Projects:	\$130,000	\$1,060,000	\$640,000	\$2,500,000	\$580,000	\$0	
	Total Priority 2 Projects:	\$110,000	\$80,000	\$130,000	\$9,260,000	\$1,030,000	\$5,790,000	
	Total Costs by Category:	\$240,000	\$1,140,000	\$770,000	\$11,760,000	\$1,610,000	\$5,790,000	
	TOTAL ONE-TIME COSTS:							
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * = Cost items that are common to all alternatives Projects are identified as either "Priority 1" or "Priority 2" projects. Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails. Costs include NPS Class C estimate mark-ups, including location factors, design contingency, construction management, and construction contingency. Trails have not been designed; descriptions include approximate length. 								

TABLE 6: ALTERNATIVE B SUMMARY OF COSTS

Annual Operational Costs	
Existing Annual Operational Costs	\$3,600,000
Additional Staffing Costs:	
+9 FTE (alternative A)	\$790,000
+15.63 FTE (alternative B)	\$1,100,000
Additional Operations & Maintenance Costs Related to Capital Investments	\$100,000
Total Annual Operational Costs	\$5,590,000
One-time Capital Costs	
Facility Rehabilitation	
Priority 1 Projects	\$130,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$110,000
Historic Preservation	
Priority 1 Projects	\$1,060,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$80,000
Natural Resource Restoration	
Priority 1 Projects	\$640,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$130,000
Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	
Priority 1 Projects	\$2,500,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$9,260,000
New Construction	
Priority 1 Projects	\$580,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$1,030,000
Facility Removal	
Priority 1 Projects	\$0
Priority 2 Projects	\$5,790,000
Total Priority 1 Projects	\$4,910,000
Total Priority 2 Projects	\$16,400,000
Total One-time Capital Costs	\$21,310,000
Notes:	
*The additional 9 FTE under alternative A are included in two OFS requests that been Regionally prioritized. The current staffing level is below the authorized level; the additional staffing would add 4 FTE to the authorized level of 43 FTE.	
**Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails.	



Photos (top to bottom): 1. Search and Rescue (SAR) cache at Chalone. 2. Juniper Canyon Trail. 3. View of the Chaparral parking and day use area from the High Peaks. NPS photos.

Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences

Concept

Pinnacles would provide an expanded array of visitor use opportunities, including recreation, interpretation, and education, consistent with the NPS mission and regional needs. Opportunities would be provided on the new lands and other areas that receive lower visitor use. Diverse types of activities and groups would be encouraged.

The key components of alternative C are as follows:

- Facilities would be focused on supporting an expanded array of visitor use opportunities. A larger East Pinnacles Visitor Center would be constructed between the campground and Highway 25 entrance to replace the current visitor center/campground store when the current structure reaches the end of its useful life. On the east side, most visitor facilities would be concentrated in the campground area.
- Pinnacles would reach out to a broad audience by offering a wider range of recreational opportunities and learning experiences. New visitor uses like equestrian use and backcountry camping would be provided where such uses do not detract from resource or social values. New trails would be built to provide a wide variety of experiences. Additional interpretive and educational facilities and guided programs would also be provided.
- Natural resources protection would emphasize the importance of a natural setting and resource integrity for the visitor experience.
- Cultural resources would be protected and managed with a focus on providing visitors with opportunities to experience the broader history of the region.
- Boundary adjustments and wilderness - see *Common to All*.
- The monument would increase partnership efforts and outreach programs focused on visitor use opportunities.

Management Actions For Alternative C:

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Recreation

To reach out to a broad audience, the monument would offer a wider range of recreational opportunities, including new uses like horseback riding and backcountry camping where such uses do not detract from resource or social values. Compared to alternative B, more of the monument would be zoned as “semi-primitive” and “frontcountry” to encourage a wider variety of uses, group sizes, and visitor activities in more locations.

As in other alternatives, existing uses such as hiking, climbing, and picnicking would continue. Developed camping would be provided at the east side campground.

Construction of new trails would provide a wide variety of experiences, from remote wilderness connections to short accessible loops and interpretive trails, and would disperse use from the core of the monument. New trails would provide connections between existing trails and access into new areas in the monument where opportunities are limited, including the bottomlands and McCabe Canyon on the east, and connections from the new west side visitor contact station. Future site planning for each trail would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis.

Bicycling would be allowed on unpaved roads outside of wilderness. Bike racks would also be placed at east-side trailheads to encourage bicycle use on paved roads.

Equestrian use, compatible with the historic landscape, would be allowed on designated roads and trails in the bottomlands only after park managers have determined that there would be little or no risk of spread of nonnative invasives from the bottomlands into unfested areas of the monument. It is likely that some priority invasive species may be controlled in certain areas of the bottomlands before others. Consequently, partial opening or seasonal equestrian use may also be employed if selected areas of the bottomlands suitable for equestrian use have been determined to have high priority invasive species under control. Seasonal equestrian use could also be possible during times when priority invasive plant seeds or other plant propagules are less likely to be dispersed. For example, yellow star-thistle seeds are most easily dispersed from July-October, but other times of the year, seeds are less likely to be dispersed from equestrian use, especially if the use is limited to dirt roads or other similar wide trails.

A small number of backcountry campsites would be established on a trial basis if suitable locations could be identified. Backcountry campsites could be located in primitive or semi-primitive zones. Upon establishment, backcountry campsites would be closely monitored to determine whether unacceptable impacts on resource or social values were occurring. Pending this evaluation, backcountry camping could continue after the trial period if impacts were adequately mitigated. If identified within wilderness, the location of backcountry campsites, along with their specifications, would be decided in a Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis.

A small walk-in campground (up to 10 sites) would be added on the west side to replace a former campground destroyed by flooding in Chaparral. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis. The campground would likely contain site markers, fire rings, picnic tables, and vault toilets.

Interpretation and Education

The monument would emphasize serving multiple audiences through a wide variety of media and programming, including interactive displays, more waysides on trails, additional interpretive materials and more opportunities for visitor involvement in science and stewardship projects. Educational programming would focus on significant resources of the monument and the broader regional history. Interpretation and research would focus on the interrelationships between natural resources and the layers of human history in the region. Additional facilities for interpretation and education would be provided on both sides of the monument.

FACILITIES

Under this alternative, new facilities would be focused on supporting an expanded array of visitor use opportunities.

East Side Facilities

A larger visitor center (approximately 6,000 sf) would be built between the Highway 25 entrance and the campground in a previously disturbed area to replace the current East Pinnacles Visitor Center/campground store building when it reaches the end of its useful life. As described in alternative B, the current building was not designed for multiple functions occurring in the same space. It has structural deficiencies and public health concerns. A new picnic area, as well as a covered picnic structure for groups, would be provided. The visitor center and picnic area would be

designed to provide better separation between day use visitors and campers, improving visitor experience. A replacement east side entrance station would be constructed between the park entrance and the East Pinnacles Visitor Center to improve visitor orientation and circulation. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints for these structures and would be subject to additional environmental analysis. The campground area would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources. Reconfiguration could include removal of campsites from sensitive areas and adding replacement campsites in more suitable areas. Group sites would be improved and could also be used for environmental education programs such as Camp Pinnacles. A replacement campground store would be constructed and the amphitheater and swimming pool would be retained.

Additional parking would be constructed to meet the needs of the campground, visitor center, and day use sites.

As in alternatives A and B, the monument's headquarters would remain in Bear Gulch, although some functions could be moved to other facilities if needed. Parking capacity in Bear Gulch would remain unchanged.

At the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, the Bacon House would be rehabilitated for adaptive reuse as office space. Other historic structures (barn, etc.) could also be adaptively reused. The Butterfield Homestead would offer a cultural resource-focused visitor experience, including possible "living farm" use. Facilities for equestrian use, such as staging areas, would be provided. As in alternative B, structures that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not useful for park operations would be removed.

Enhanced small-scale amenities would be provided at shuttle stops where practicable, including shade structures, visitor information, and water availability. Shuttle stop facilities would be designed to blend with the park environment.

West Side Facilities

The west side would be managed to retain a natural and quiet character, while providing for increased visitor services and safety.

New trail connections would be developed, including a trail to link the new visitor contact station with the existing trail system. Improved picnic sites would include shade structures. A small (up to 10 sites) walk-in campground would be provided (possibly at Jawbone Canyon, across from the overflow parking



McCabe Canyon. NPS photo.

area). The campground would likely contain site markers, fire rings, picnic tables, and vault toilets. As with other development projects, archeological surveys would be completed to help determine appropriate siting of these facilities. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis.

At Chaparral, the existing parking lot, picnic area, comfort station, and road, which currently are located in flood-prone areas, would be removed and relocated to appropriate areas within the frontcountry zone. The relocation areas could include the overflow parking area and the area near the new visitor contact station.

West side facilities would be designed to accommodate potential shuttle service.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources protection would emphasize the importance of a natural setting and resource integrity for the visitor experience. Ample opportunities to experience ecological communities and geologic features would be provided.

Much of the natural resources management under this alternative would mirror current actions or actions proposed in the other alternatives (See *Common to All* for more details on raptor monitoring, re-establishment of the California condor, removal of nonnative invasive species, vegetation, fire, wilderness, wildlife, air quality management, and hydrological and geological resources).

The monument would emphasize nonnative invasive plant removal alongside trails and scenic areas where these species may spread into new park areas and/or detract from the visitor experience of the natural environment. Equestrian use of the bottomlands would only be allowed when nonnative invasive weeds are under control. Where appropriate in the cultural landscape, native alternatives would first be sought, such as using perennial native grasses instead of cultivated barley. Nonnative non-invasive agricultural vegetation could be used in the bottomlands. Visitors and volunteers would be actively engaged in natural resource service learning opportunities such as wildlife monitoring or habitat restoration. These projects would promote public engagement with Pinnacles' research, as well as with science in general.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Under this alternative, cultural resources would be protected and managed to provide visitors with opportunities to experience the broader history of the region.

Except for those actions associated with new interpretive opportunities, most cultural resource management actions would be the same as *Common to All*.

The monument would enhance the cultural resource management program to expand understanding and guide management of the monument's cultural resources.

Actions associated with historic structures on the east side would be the same as noted under *East Side Facilities*. Structures that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not useful for operations that could therefore be removed include fencing, temporary housing structures in the bottomlands and McCabe Canyon, buildings 14, 7, and 207 in Bear Gulch, and the facilities being replaced at Chaparral. The North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout would be rehabilitated and adaptively reused for administrative purposes and/or visitor interpretation and education.

Additional opportunities would be available to connect visitors to significant cultural resources within and outside the monument through immersion in historic settings. These would include increasing interpretation

of historic resources, including the Bear and Condor Gulch structures built by the CCC, Native American history, homesteading resources, and historic mining resources, as well as increased efforts to share cultural resources research information with the public and partners. There would also be possible “living farm” use of the Butterfield Homestead and equestrian use staged from the bottomlands. Visitor access to collections would be increased through development of interpretive museum displays in the replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center.

COMMERCIAL SERVICES

The east side campground would remain (See *East Side Facilities* for more details). The monument has an existing concession contract for camping, limited convenience and grocery items that expires in April 2018. After this contract expires, the monument would consider authorizing a new concession contract for camping, limited convenience and/or grocery items, firewood sales, rental of bicycles, climbing gear sales, wireless internet services and any other recreational activities consistent with the GMP and NPS service-wide policies.

The monument would also consider allowing commercial interpretive tours consistent with the GMP and NPS service-wide policies.

PARTNERSHIPS, REGIONAL COOPERATION, AND OUTREACH

In addition to actions described in *Common to All*, outreach would focus on providing information regarding recreational opportunities in the monument. Pinnacles would participate in efforts to work with government agencies, ranchers, cattleman’s associations, land trusts, rangeland conservation coalitions, and citizens to support common objectives for open spaces that provide habitat connectivity, dark night skies, clean air, and livelihoods for its neighbors. More community events would be provided at the monument. The monument would partner with gateway communities and other agencies to provide better signage and interpretation. A volunteer coordinator would seek local community involvement in management actions and issues. The monument would seek to increase tribal involvement.

Management of Specific Areas

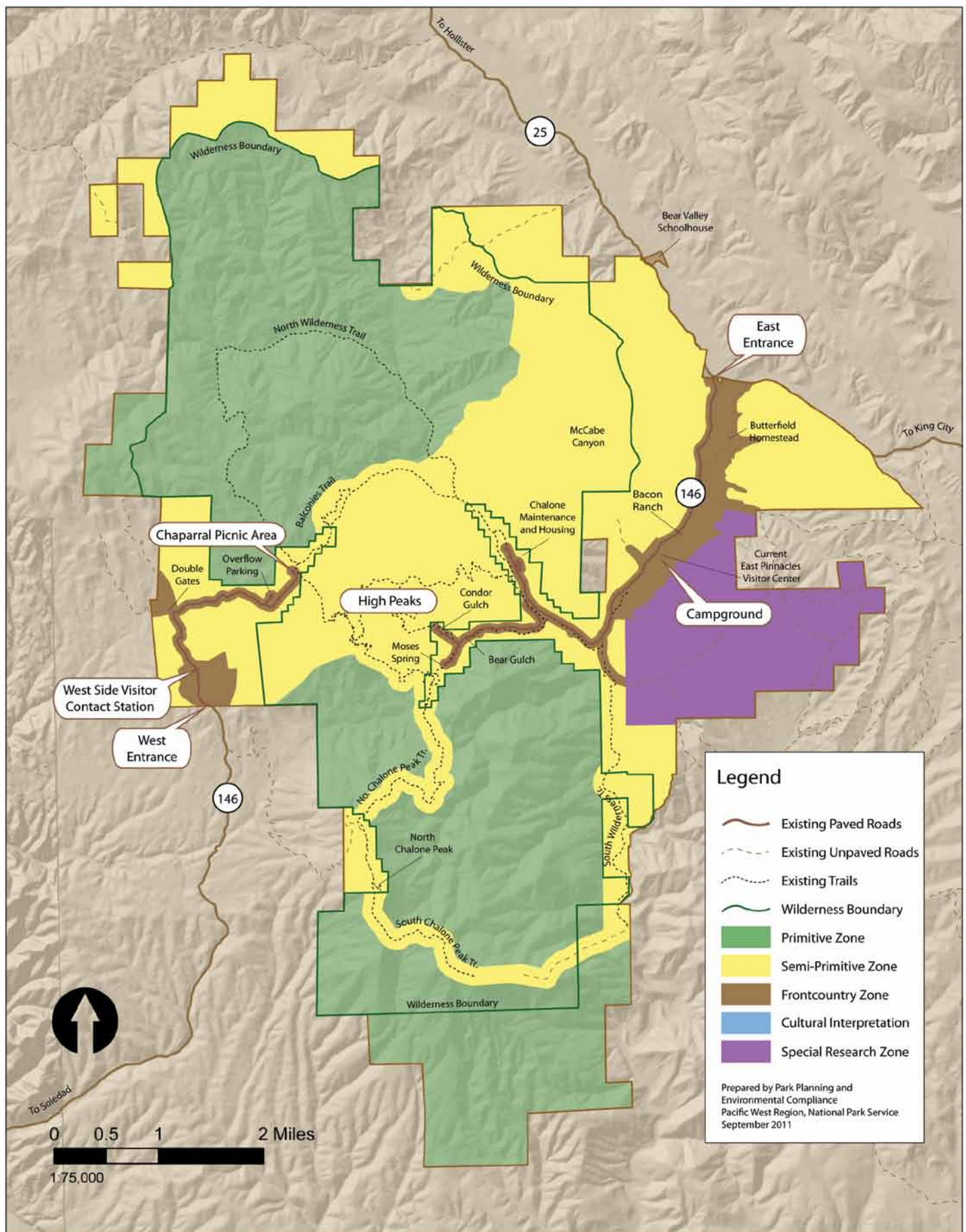
BOTTOMLANDS

The bottomlands would be managed for visitor use opportunities consistent with the cultural landscape and to explore the interrelationships between natural resources and multiple layers of human history and culture, ranging from homesteading to Native American traditional practices. The natural ecosystem, including native plant communities and oak savanna, would predominate. Visitor facilities at the bottomlands, including those associated with equestrian use,



Photos (left to right): 1. Amah Mutsun tribal members and UC Santa Cruz visit cooperative habitat restoration research site. Photo by Chuck Striplen. 2. A volunteer restoration crew pulls exotic plants, with the High Peaks in the background. NPS photo.

Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences



would be developed only after park managers have determined that there would be little or no risk of spread of nonnative invasives from the bottomlands into uninfested areas of the monument from visitor activity (See *Common to All* for further guidance). Visitor facilities would be provided for group use, equestrian use, and trails designed for varying physical abilities and recreational interests. New trails would connect the campground to the bottomlands and the canyons to the east. Historic structures could be adaptively reused as noted above under *East Side Facilities*. The Butterfield Homestead would offer a new visitor experience, including interpretation, possible “living farm” use. Structures that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not being used for park operations would be removed.

EAST SIDE CAMPGROUND DEVELOPED AREA

The east side campground developed area would provide a wide range of new visitor experiences, including a new day use area to serve groups and a larger replacement visitor center built in a previously disturbed area between Highway 25 and the campground to replace the current East Pinnacles Visitor Center/campground store when the current structure reaches the end of its useful life. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis. As in other alternatives, the campground area would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources. Current campground amenities would be retained. New trails for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use would improve visitor dispersal and provide new visitor use opportunities.

WEST SIDE

The west side would be managed to retain a natural and quiet character, while providing for increased visitor services and safety. At Chaparral, the existing parking lot, picnic area, comfort station, and road, which currently are located in flood-prone areas, would be removed and relocated to appropriate areas within the frontcountry zone. Former facility footprints would be restored. New trail connections would be developed. Improved picnic sites would include shade structures. A small (approximately 10-site) walk-in campground would be added. The campground would likely contain site markers, fire rings, picnic tables, and vault toilets. Interpretive opportunities and programs would be provided.

BEAR GULCH, CONDOR GULCH, AND CHALONE

As in alternative B, headquarters would remain in Bear Gulch, although some functions could be moved to other facilities. Condor Gulch would be

rehabilitated for use as office space. New opportunities to experience the CCC cultural landscape would be implemented, possibly including passive external interpretation of the Condor Gulch structures or some Bear Gulch structures. Visitor information would also continue to be provided at the Bear Gulch Nature Center. As in alternatives A and B, the Chalone area would continue to be used for maintenance, emergency operations, and staff housing.

HIGH PEAKS

Visitor use activities in this area would remain essentially unchanged, although more of the area would be zoned semi-primitive (versus primitive in alternative B, to allow for higher use levels by individuals and groups while maintaining wilderness values. To help disperse use from the High Peaks, new trails in other areas of the monument would also be constructed.

MCCABE CANYON

This watershed would be managed to promote understanding of the canyon’s natural and cultural resources, as well as its traditional use by California Indian people. Park staff could work with associated tribes to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into resource management, in conjunction with other management techniques. Interpretation and education, developed in cooperation with traditionally associated people, could be provided and could include waysides. Visitor access would be provided through new trail(s).

BEAR VALLEY SCHOOL

The Bear Valley School building would be rehabilitated and used for educational/interpretive purposes although as in Alternatives A and B, it could also include compatible community use. Facilities such as a small new comfort station, day use parking area, picnic area, and utilities could be constructed but would be designed and sited so as not to detract from the significance of the historical setting. A small picnic/gathering area could also be added. See *Common to All* for further guidance.

Management Zones

The management zones for alternative C would be applied to monument lands to identify an area’s predominant use and desired future conditions. Specific boundaries of the management zones are provided in the map for alternative C. The management zones are explained in further detail in Table 2. The following description identifies the locations and details for the application of management zones in alternative C.

PRIMITIVE ZONE:

The primitive zone would include the following areas:

- The remote portions of designated wilderness where visitors can experience solitude, natural sounds, and a sense of remoteness. Portions of more heavily used trails that are within wilderness in the core of the monument would be excluded and would be zoned semi-primitive.
- Most of the southern half of the monument, except for the North Chalone Peak trail, South Chalone Peak trail, South Wilderness trail, North Chalone Peak area, and the area east of the South Wilderness trail.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE ZONE:

The semi-primitive zone would include the following areas:

- The upland area east of the bottomlands to provide trails, other recreational opportunities, including periodic high use.
- The McCabe Canyon watershed, lands between the eastern boundary of the watershed and Hwy 25 (with a 500 foot corridor west of Hwy 146), the area along the pig fence to the end of the unpaved road, and the Willow Spring drainage and all lands south to the park road to provide visitor use opportunities and a transition between pristine and developed areas.
- Northwestern and western sections beyond designated wilderness that include unpaved roads.
- On the west side, lands surrounding developed areas and other potential high use areas. There could be trails in these areas.
- In the Bear Gulch, Condor Gulch, and Chalone areas, the semi-primitive zone would exclude 1,000 foot corridors centered on existing paved and unpaved roads, trails, and parking.
- Popular trail areas in the High Peaks core area, including trails and lands between the core trail system with a 1,000 foot corridor centered on Juniper Canyon, Rim, Condor Gulch, Bear Gulch, Bench, Old Pinnacles, and Balconies trails.
- The North Wilderness Trail section from Old Pinnacles intersection to Willow Spring, North Chalone Peak, South Chalone Peak and the South Wilderness Trail.
- The North Chalone Peak area and areas west to the park boundary.
- The area south of the condor enclosure area and east of the South Wilderness trail to the park boundary.

FRONTCOUNTRY ZONE:

The frontcountry zone would include the following areas:

- A 500 foot corridor centered on Highway 146 on the east side, but with a 1,000 foot corridor for the first 400 feet from the park entrance.
- The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District except only extending 1,000 feet up each drainage, the campground existing developed footprint, the area east to the existing unpaved road access to private property, the campground bench area west of Hwy 146, and the entrance of McCabe Canyon from Hwy 146, through the development in the bottom of McCabe Canyon to approximately 1,200 feet from the park road, to allow for flexibility for siting facilities and a range of visitor opportunities, including cultural interpretation and recreation activities such as trails and horseback riding.
- The Bear Valley School area would be zoned as frontcountry.
- A 500 foot corridor centered on existing paved roads and structures in the Bear Gulch, Condor Gulch, and Chalone areas.
- A 500 foot corridor centered on Highway 146 from the west side park entrance to the overflow lot. The area would also include other paved roads, and structures.
- A 500 foot corridor along existing unpaved roads including the land between the roads in the Double Gates area and the ridges along Jawbone Canyon would to allow for a small walk-in campground on the west side.
- A 500 foot corridor along the South Wilderness trail/administrative road to the junction with the road from the condor enclosure area and up to the enclosure boundary.



Hikers rest on the High Peaks Trail. NPS photo.



Photos (left to right) 1. Bear Gulch in 1929 showing original camping cabins. This view is from point in middle of present parking lot, looking toward Nature Center. Flag pole would be in center of view, or slightly to the left. Photo by Asst. Engineer A. van V. Dunn to Hommon, PINN Coll., RG 79, Entry 7, Box 607, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD. 2. Bear Gulch Nature Center from a similar viewpoint in the present day. NPS photo.

CULTURAL INTERPRETATION ZONE

There are no areas zoned cultural interpretation under this alternative.

SPECIAL RESEARCH ZONE:

The area managed for condor research would be zoned as special research. Other areas landlocked by the enclosure area extending west to the semi-primitive zone would also be within this zone.

User Capacity

Monument staff would monitor social and resource indicators, evaluate current conditions against standards, and take appropriate steps to ensure the monument's user capacity is not exceeded (see user capacity section later in this chapter for indicators, standards, and management and monitoring strategies that would be followed).

Estimated Costs

Cost estimates for alternative C are identified in Table 8. The costs shown here are not for budgeting purposes; rather, they are only intended to show a relative comparison of costs among the alternatives.

The implementation of the approved plan would depend on future funding. The approval of this plan does not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement the plan would be forthcoming. Full implementation of the actions in the approved general management plan would likely take many years.

ONE-TIME CAPITAL COSTS

Alternative C would consist of the improvements to facilities and structures described previously in *Facilities*. There would be projects related to preservation of historic structures, restoration of natural areas, and improvements to visitor facilities and construction of new visitor facilities as well. One-time capital costs include new trails, visitor facilities (replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center, covered picnic area, equestrian facilities, and walk-in campground on the west side), facility improvements, removal of underused structures and restoration of those areas, and other habitat improvements and resource protection measures.

Projects that involve replacement of infrastructure and other facilities, removal of facilities, and stabilization and rehabilitation of historic structures would address deferred maintenance. Under this alternative, examples of these projects include replacement of the Bear Gulch sewer system (common to all), replacement of the East Pinnacles Visitor Center, removal of parking, road, and comfort station at Chaparral, and stabilization and rehabilitation of cultural resources in the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, historic Bear Valley School building, North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout, and Condor Gulch historic structures.

Projects are identified as either Priority 1 or Priority 2. Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 1 projects total \$6,580,000. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of

those areas, and additional trails. Priority 2 costs total \$27,810,000. The estimated total one-time capital cost in 2011 dollars is approximately \$34,390,000 (see table 7). This cost includes the common to all costs described under alternative A.

STAFFING

Implementation of alternative C would require additional staffing for increased visitor use opportunities, increased monitoring, increased cultural resources program needs, new interpretive and educational programming, and additional maintenance needs.

New research and resource management programs proposed in alternative C would require 3.25 FTE. Two new full-time staff positions (FTEs - one FTE is one person working 40 hours per week for one year, or the equivalent) and several seasonal or part-time/shared positions. A physical scientist and cultural resources specialist would conduct programs similar to those described in alternative B. A half-time museum specialist would manage the museum collections at Pinnacles. Other part-time staff (GIS specialist and archeology technician) would have roles similar to those described in alternative B.

Additional interpretation and education staff (6 FTE) would be needed to meet expanded visitor services and provide additional opportunities. An interpreter and an educator would have roles similar to described in alternative B. Another park ranger would provide technical expertise for interpretation focused on cultural resources. Three visitor use assistants/park guides would be needed on both sides of the monument to meet additional visitor needs.

Similar to alternative B, new trails, a replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center, and additional facility needs would require additional staff (4 FTE) for the facilities division. Two maintenance workers would be needed to construct and maintain trails. A maintenance worker/custodian would provide maintenance for the east side facilities, including the visitor center, Ben Bacon Ranch historic resources, and the Bear Valley School building. A maintenance worker would provide maintenance of the west side facilities. Another part-time or seasonal maintenance worker would provide additional services on the east side.

Wilderness rangers (1 full-time and 1 seasonal) would patrol the wilderness and other backcountry areas of the monument.

All fire suppression activities within the monument would continue to be managed in Unified Command with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and NPS.

Four new full-time positions would be needed to meet additional park administration needs. A budget technician, administrative support technician, and information technology specialist would provide additional support to monument staff. A volunteer coordinator would manage the monument's volunteer program.

Proposed New Staffing in Alternative C:

- Research and Resource Management – 3.25 FTE (a physical scientist, cultural resources specialist, and 3 part-time/shared positions including a museum technician, GIS specialist, and archeology technician)
- Interpretation and Education – 6 FTE: an interpreter, educator, visitor use assistants/park guides, a park ranger for cultural programs interpretation
- Facilities – 4.5 FTE: trails workers, custodian, and maintenance worker, and a an additional half-time custodian
- Rangers – 1.5 FTE: a wilderness ranger and an additional seasonal ranger)
- Administration / Superintendent – 4.5 FTE: a budget technician, administrative support assistant, an IT specialist, and a volunteer coordinator

Total Staffing = 67 FTE. Staffing includes the 47 FTE described under alternative A plus 19.75 new FTE.

ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

This alternative would be implemented with an additional 9 FTE identified in OFS requests under alternative A and additional 19.75 FTE for resource management and protection, interpretation, facility maintenance, visitor protection, and administration. The additional staffing would add approximately \$1,400,000 to the operating base for Alternative C. Additional operations and maintenance costs related to capital investments would be \$250,000. The total annual operating costs for alternative C would be approximately \$6,040,000 per year.

TABLE 7: SUMMARY OF ONE-TIME COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE C: EXPAND VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Location	Infrastructure, Facility, and Resource Projects	Facility Rehabilitation	Historic Preservation	Natural Resource Restoration	Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	New Construction	Facility Removal	Priority
Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District	Preserve (stabilize or rehabilitate) Ben Bacon Ranch core historic structures*		\$280,000					1
	Bacon House – preserve historic structure and adaptively reuse for office space		\$340,000					1
	Preserve and rehabilitate Butterfield Homestead historic resources for adaptive reuse*		\$330,000					1
	Bottomlands area – manage invasive nonnative species*			\$380,000				1
	Bottomlands area – provide interpretation of cultural resources (including living farm)	\$10,0000						1
Bear Gulch	Construct foot and equestrian trail along historic road alignment and provide minimal facilities for equestrian use					\$300,000		1
	Replacement of sewer system*				\$2,500,000			1
	Rehabilitate Bear Gulch Road to improve drainage*				\$3,710,000			2
	Replace telecommunications and electric lines in Bear Gulch*				\$3,070,000			2
	Construct East Pinnacles Visitor Center				\$2,575,000	\$5,785,000		2
Pinnacles Campground	Construct replacement campground store and concession office (remove concession trailer)				\$470,000			2
	Install bike racks at campground, nature center and trailheads					\$30,000		1
	Stabilize historic school building		\$400,000					1
	Remove / replace east side entrance station				\$670,000			2
	Construct accessible Bench trail improvement					\$250,000		1
Condor Gulch	Construct accessible Valley Oak interpretive loop trail					\$440,000		2
	Rehabilitate Historic Gas House Building and Horse Barn		\$80,000					2
	Historic Gas House Building and Horse Barn – adaptive reuse as office space, including trenching utilities	\$2,000,000						2
McCabe Canyon	Construct loop trail, including portion of ridge					\$60,000		1
Mount Defiance	Construct backcountry trail connecting North Chalone Peak trail to South Wilderness, Bench, and new Valley Oak trails					\$500,000		2

Location	Infrastructure, Facility, and Resource Projects	Facility Rehabilitation	Historic Preservation	Natural Resource Restoration	Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	New Construction	Facility Removal	Priority
West Side	North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout – stabilize; rehabilitate and adaptively reuse contingent upon funding		\$2,560,000					2
	Improve Chaparral picnic area*	\$120,000						1
	Remove Chaparral facilities (including parking, road section, comfort station, vault tanks) and restore hydrologic functions						\$5,260,000	2
	Expand day use parking, create trailhead at overflow parking, and add vault toilets (relocate day use facilities from Chaparral)				\$300,000			2
	Construct connector trail – link West Side visitor contact station					\$680,000		1
Wilderness	Construct west side walk-in campground					\$410,000		1
	Construct South Wilderness trail connection between the South Chalone Peak trail and South Wilderness trail*					\$150,000		2
	Develop minimal backcountry campsites					\$10,000		1
	Remove weather stations, roads, scrapes, and fencing and restore areas			\$150,000				1
	Picnic/group sites: Improve existing picnic areas; construct new picnic sites at Bottomlands, west side, and hike-in sites; construct picnic pavilion					\$330,000		1
Parkwide	Construct additional waysides / interpretive exhibits					\$60,000		2
	Improve shuttle stops	\$180,000						2
	Total Priority 1 Projects:	\$130,000	\$1,350,000	\$530,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,070,000	\$0	
	Total Priority 2 Projects:	\$2,180,000	\$2,640,000	\$0	\$10,795,000	\$6,935,000	\$5,260,000	
	Costs by Category:	\$2,310,000	\$3,990,000	\$530,000	\$13,295,000	\$9,005,000	\$5,260,000	
	TOTAL ONE-TIME COSTS:							
Notes: * = Cost items that are common to all alternatives • Projects are identified as either "Priority 1" or "Priority 2" projects. Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails. • Costs include NPS Class C estimate mark-ups, including location factors, design contingency, construction management, and construction contingency. • Trails have not been designed; descriptions include approximate length.								

TABLE 8: ALTERNATIVE C SUMMARY OF COSTS

Annual Operational Costs	
Existing Annual Operational Costs	\$3,600,000
Additional Staffing Costs:	
+9 FTE (alternative A)*	\$790,000
+20 FTE (alternative C)	\$1,400,000
Additional Operations & Maintenance Costs Related to Capital Investments	\$250,000
Total Annual Operational Costs	\$6,040,000
One-time Capital Costs	
Facility Rehabilitation	
Priority 1 Projects**	\$130,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$2,180,000
Historic Preservation	
Priority 1 Projects	\$1,350,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$2,640,000
Natural Resource Restoration	
Priority 1 Projects	\$530,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$0
Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	
Priority 1 Projects	\$2,500,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$10,795,000
New Construction	
Priority 1 Projects	\$2,070,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$6,935,000
Facility Removal	
Priority 1 Projects	\$0
Priority 2 Projects	\$5,260,000
Total Priority 1 Projects	\$6,580,000
Total Priority 2 Projects	\$27,810,000
Total One-time Capital Costs	\$34,390,000
Notes:	
*The additional 9 FTE under alternative A are included in two OFS requests that been Regionally prioritized. The current staffing level is below the authorized level; the additional staffing would add 4 FTE to the authorized level of 43 FTE.	
**Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails.	



Photos (top to bottom): 1. A Common Flower Moth rests on a popcorn flower during a rain storm. Photo by Paul G. Johnson. 2. Camp Pinnacles performs a skit about condors. NPS photo.

Alternative D: Link People and Resources (Preferred Alternative)

Concept

Pinnacles would engage a broad range of visitors in the enjoyment, understanding, and stewardship of natural and cultural resources and values of the Gabilan Mountains ecoregion. Pinnacles would focus on ways to connect diverse audiences and resources, to acknowledge the interrelationship between natural and cultural resources, and to protect, preserve, and restore ecological communities and processes.

The key components of alternative D, the preferred alternative, are as follows:

- Facilities would be used to support increased visitor understanding of natural and cultural resources and/or would serve management, operational, and administrative functions. A replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center would be built in the vicinity of the existing visitor center to replace the current visitor center/campground store when the current structure reaches the end of its useful life. On the east side, most visitor facilities would be concentrated in the campground area.
- Pinnacles would connect visitors, communities, and resources in a variety of ways. New opportunities, such as backcountry camping, would be provided where such uses do not detract from resource or social values. New trails could be built to provide a wide variety of experiences. Interpretation and education would focus on science and history learning. There would be opportunities to learn about the significant resources of the monument and the monument's broader context in the Gabilan Mountains ecoregion. The monument could participate in developing and staffing regional visitor and interpretation centers.
- Natural resources would be protected to a high degree and natural ecosystem functions would be restored when practicable and beneficial. Natural resources protection would be enhanced by a strong education and research emphasis.
- Cultural resources would be managed to protect and interpret their significance, connect those resources within their broader regional history, and to provide visitors with opportunities to experience and learn about the interrelationship between humans and the environment.

- Boundary adjustments and wilderness - see *Common to All*.
- The monument would increase partnership efforts and outreach programs focused on regional protection of significant resources, habitat connectivity, and open rural working landscapes.

Management Actions for Alternative D:

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Recreation

Because this alternative emphasizes connecting visitors, communities, and resources, the monument would provide more opportunities for individuals and groups, including schools and families.

As in other alternatives, existing uses such as hiking, climbing, and picnicking would continue. Developed camping would be provided at the east side campground.

Construction of new trails would provide a wide variety of experiences as in alternative C. These would range from remote wilderness connections to short accessible loops and interpretive trails, and to disperse use from the core of the monument. New trails would provide connections between existing trails and access into new areas in the monument where opportunities are lacking, including the bottomlands, McCabe Canyon, and the west side. Future site planning for each trail would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis.

Picnic areas (new and improved facilities) would be provided on both sides of the monument near visitor service areas including restrooms, parking, and drinking water.

As in alternative C, a small number of backcountry campsites would be established on a trial basis if suitable locations could be found. Backcountry campsites could be located in primitive or semi-primitive zones. If identified within wilderness, the location of backcountry campsites, along with their specifications, would be decided in a Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis.

A small walk-in campground (up to 10 sites) would be added on the west side as described in alternative C. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis.

Interpretation and Education

Interpretation and education would focus on science and history under this alternative. Interpretation of significant park resources would continue through an increase in formal programs, informal interpretation, waysides, and brochures both within and outside of the monument. For example, passive interpretation, such as waysides, could be provided at the Butterfield homestead site, McCabe Canyon, and the West Side mining district. The monument could also participate in developing and staffing regional visitor and information centers. An expanded environmental education program, including Camp Pinnacles, would be developed.

A range of “outdoor classroom” opportunities, including programming and curriculum development for a variety of audiences and locations, would provide opportunities for visitors to learn about monument resources and the park’s broader context.

Opportunities for visitor involvement in science and stewardship projects would be emphasized.

FACILITIES

Under this alternative, new facilities would be used to support increased visitor understanding of natural and cultural resources, while other facilities would continue to serve management, operational, and administrative functions in the monument.

East Side Facilities

A replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center (approximately 3,800 sf) and a replacement campground store would be built in a previously disturbed area in the vicinity of the current visitor center/campground store building to replace the structure when it reaches the end of its useful life. As described in alternatives B and C, the current building was not designed for multiple functions occurring in the same space. It has structural deficiencies and public health concerns. The replacement visitor center and a picnic area would be designed to provide better separation between day use visitors and campers, improving visitor experience. A replacement entrance station would be constructed along Route 146 between the park entrance and visitor center to improve visitor orientation and circulation. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints for these structures and would be subject to additional environmental analysis. As in all alternatives, the campground area would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources. Reconfiguration could include removing campsites from sensitive areas and adding new campsites in more suitable areas. Group sites would be improved and could also be used

for environmental education programs. The swimming pool would be retained. The amphitheater would be relocated to a location that would be accessible, appropriate for group use, and away from sensitive habitat.

Construction of additional parking to meet the needs of the campground, visitor center, and day use would be considered in facility and site plans.

The monument’s headquarters would remain in Bear Gulch, although some functions would be moved to other facilities (e.g. the Bacon House). Parking capacity in Bear Gulch would remain unchanged. As in alternative B, a site plan would be prepared for the Moses Spring parking and picnic area to improve natural hydrologic conditions and habitat functions.

At the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, the Bacon House would be adaptively reused as office space for park staff and/or researchers. Other historic structures (such as the barn, etc.) could also be adaptively reused. The Butterfield Homestead would be preserved and managed for cultural landscape values that showcase the historic homesteading period. Rehabilitation for historically compatible modern use would also be possible.

Enhanced small-scale amenities would be provided at shuttle stops where practicable, including shade structures, visitor information, and water availability. Shuttle stop facilities would be designed to blend with the park environment.

West Side Facilities

Actions would be the same as Alternative C.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources, including ecological communities, watershed values, sensitive wildlife populations, geologic features, water quality, air quality, natural quiet, and natural darkness, would be protected to a high degree and natural ecosystem functions would be restored when practicable and beneficial. Natural resources protection would be enhanced by a strong education and research emphasis. Resource management would acknowledge that humans and the landscape are inseparable; that the environment has been shaped for thousands of years by human use. This knowledge would inform restoration actions where appropriate.

Much of the natural resources management under this alternative would mirror current actions or actions proposed in the other alternatives (See *Common to All* for more details on raptor monitoring, re-establishment of the California condor, removal of nonnative

invasive species, vegetation, fire, wilderness, wildlife, air quality management, and hydrological and geological resources).

Restoration would include removal of structures that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not useful for park operations. These could include fencing, temporary structures in the bottomlands and McCabe Canyon, buildings 14, 7, and 207 in Bear Gulch, and the facilities being replaced at Chaparral. As mentioned above, the site plan for the Moses Spring parking and picnic area would evaluate opportunities to improve natural hydrologic conditions and habitat functions.

This alternative would provide a greater degree of restoration of natural processes, compared to alternatives A and C. Priority would be given to areas likely to receive the greatest ecological benefit, including the bottomlands and riparian areas along Sandy Creek. Nonnative invasive vegetation would continue to be treated or removed in the bottomlands. Under this alternative, revegetation would occur using native species.

This alternative would link people to park resources through a strong science / resource communication program that would enhance public and staff understanding of significant park resources. Increased cooperation with universities and other scientific and educational institutions and organizations would boost research opportunities and information sharing, as well as allow better integration of knowledge in monument resource protection actions. As available, facilities would be provided for scientists and other researchers to work collaboratively with the monument. Maintaining relationships with communities and neighbors to find common ground would be a priority for expanded preservation and protection of regional geologic, watershed, and open space resources.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources would be managed to protect and interpret their significance and to connect these resources to a broader regional history, and provide visitors with opportunities to experience and learn about the interrelationship between humans and the environment.

Most cultural resources management actions would be the same as described in *Common to All*.



East Pinnacles Visitor Center and campground store. NPS photo.

In addition, the monument would enhance the cultural resource management program to expand understanding and guide management of the monument's cultural resources, which include: Native American archeological and ethnographic resources; archeological, structural and landscape resources representing exploration and homesteading by Spanish and American colonizers and settlers; development of the park by NPS and Depression era programs such as the CCC; later NPS Mission 66 buildings and structures; archives and museum collections; and other resources. The program would provide greater professional care and management of museum archives.

Actions associated with historic structures on the east side would be the same as noted under *East Side Facilities*. As in other action alternatives, structures that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not being used for park operations could be removed. These structures would be the same as those identified in alternative C and under Natural Resources above. The North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout would continue to be stabilized and rehabilitation for administrative adaptive reuse could occur contingent upon funding. If funding for rehabilitation cannot be found five years after the GMP has been approved, the monument would plan for the removal of the fire lookout. Interpretation of its significance would be provided at North Chalone Peak.

Historic mining resources would be protected and interpreted in the Chaparral / West Side area.

Visitor access to collections would be increased through development of interpretive museum displays.

COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Actions would be the same as alternative C.

PARTNERSHIPS, REGIONAL COOPERATION, AND OUTREACH

Pinnacles would participate in efforts to work with government agencies, ranchers, cattleman's associations, land trusts, rangeland conservation coalitions, and citizens to support common objectives for open spaces that provide habitat connectivity, dark night skies, clean air, and livelihoods for its neighbors. For sites outside the monument that are related to the purpose and significance of Pinnacles, new partnerships/agreements with schools, affiliated tribes, surrounding agencies, and gateway communities would be developed to increase regional resource protection and to provide new educational and interpretive opportunities. The monument would partner with gateway communities and other agencies to provide wayfinding and interpretation. The monument could

participate in developing and staffing regional visitor and interpretive centers. A volunteer coordinator would seek local community involvement in management actions and issues. The monument would seek to increase interagency cooperation and tribal involvement in resource protection and restoration. (See also *Common to All*).

Management of Specific Areas

BOTTOMLANDS

The bottomlands would be managed to explore the interrelationships between natural resources and multiple layers of human history and culture, ranging from homesteading to Native American traditional practices. The natural ecosystem, including native plant communities such as oak savanna, would predominate. Historic structures could be adaptively reused as noted above under East Side Facilities. The bottomlands would offer a variety of visitor use opportunities, including immersion in the historic and natural settings, interpretation of historic resources, and service learning. A range of trail experiences, lengths, and accessibility would be provided, including between the campground and the Butterfield Homestead. Road access between the campground and the bottomlands would serve hikers and bicyclists. Visitor facilities at the bottomlands would be developed only after park managers have determined that there would be little or no risk of spread of nonnative invasives from the bottomlands into uninfested areas of the monument from visitor activity (See *Common to All* for further guidance).

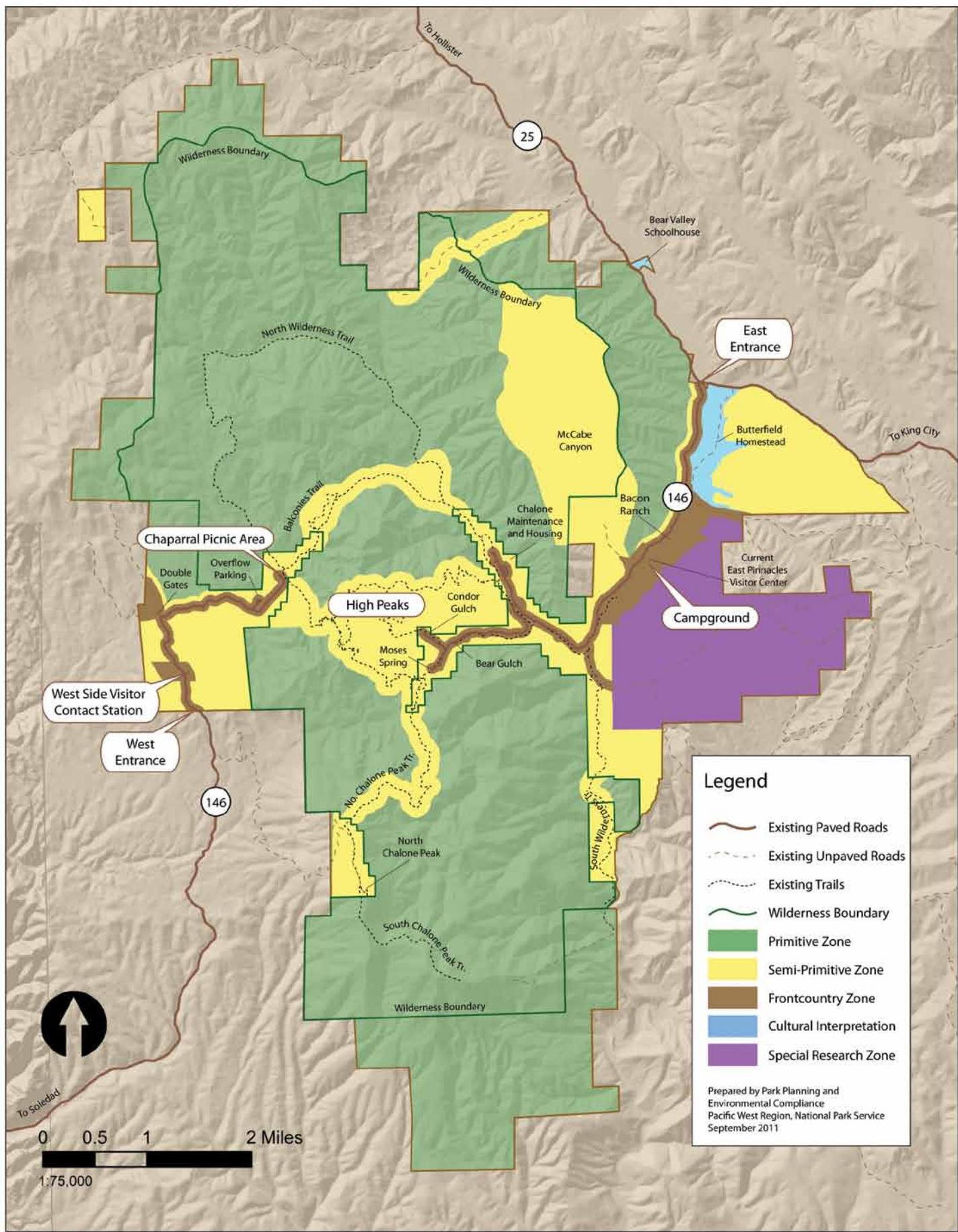
EAST SIDE CAMPGROUND DEVELOPED AREA

The east side campground developed area would provide a wide range of new visitor experiences including a replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center when the current building reaches the end of its useful life. A new day use area and facilities to serve groups would be developed. As in other alternatives, the campground area would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources. Campground amenities would be retained including replacement of the campground store. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis. New trails would improve visitor dispersal and provide new opportunities to experience these areas.

WEST SIDE

Actions would be the same as in alternative C.

Alternative D: Link People and Resources (Preferred Alternative)





BEAR GULCH, CONDOR GULCH, AND CHALONE

Actions would be the same as in alternative C, except Condor Gulch structures would be used as storage instead of office space. In addition a site plan for the Moses Spring parking and picnic area would evaluate opportunities to improve natural hydrologic conditions and habitat functions.

HIGH PEAKS

Visitor use activities would remain essentially unchanged. High Peaks trails would be zoned semi-primitive to allow for periodic higher use by individuals and groups while maintaining wilderness values. New trails throughout the monument would help disperse use from the High Peaks.

MCCABE CANYON

The watershed would be managed to promote natural processes, research, long-term monitoring, education and interpretation, and ethnobotanical practices. Education and interpretation would focus on the inter-relationships between natural resources and layers of human history and prehistory. New trails would be provided away from sensitive resources. Park staff could work with traditionally associated people to provide interpretation and incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into resource management, in conjunction with other management techniques.

BEAR VALLEY SCHOOL

Using donated funds to the extent possible, the Bear Valley School building would be rehabilitated as a partnership project for education/interpretation purposes and compatible community use. External interpretive features would be added. Facilities such as a small new comfort station, day use parking area, picnic area, and utilities could be constructed but would be designed and sited so as not to detract from the significance of the historical setting. A small new building for office space for partners or agency staff could also be constructed. See *Common to All* for further guidance.

Photos (top to bottom): 1. Jawbone Canyon. 2. Camping at the east side campground. 3. Visitors participate in a ranger-led hike. 4. Ben Bacon House. NPS photos.

Management Zones

The management zones for alternative D would be applied to monument lands to identify an area's predominant use and desired future conditions. Specific boundaries of the management zones are provided in the map for alternative D. The management zones are explained in further detail in Table 2. The following description identifies the locations and details for the application of management zones in alternative D.

PRIMITIVE ZONE:

The primitive zone would include the following areas:

- The designated wilderness areas where visitors can experience solitude, natural sounds, and a sense of remoteness.
- The area between Highway 146 and McCabe Canyon and north of the canyon excluding a 1,000 foot corridor centered on an unpaved road in the northern part of the monument.
- Remote lands in the northwestern portion of the monument landlocked by wilderness except for a small isolated area in the northwest corner of the monument that includes unpaved road access.
- Popular trails that are within wilderness in the core of the monument would be excluded. A 1,000 foot corridor centered on these trails would be excluded from this zone.
- Most of the southern half of the monument, except for the North Chalone Peak trail, North Chalone Peak area, portions of the South Wilderness trail, and the area east of the South Wilderness trail.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE ZONE:

The semi-primitive zone would include the following areas:

- The upland area east of the bottomlands to provide trails and other recreation opportunities.
- The McCabe Canyon watershed to provide visitor use opportunities, including trails.
- Unpaved roads, including a 1,000 foot corridor centered on an unpaved road in the northern part of the monument and a small isolated section of the monument in the northwest corner that includes unpaved road access.
- A 250 foot corridor west of the Highway 146 frontcountry zone.
- Popular trails in the core of the monument, including a 1,000 foot corridor centered on Juniper Canyon, Rim, Condor Gulch, Bear Gulch, Bench, Old Pinnacles, and Balconies trails.

- Other trails including the North Wilderness Trail section from Old Pinnacles intersection to Willow Spring, North Chalone Peak, South Chalone Peak and South Wilderness Trail.
- All areas near Bear Gulch, Condor Gulch, and Chalone outside wilderness.
- Lands surrounding developed areas on the west side and other potential high use areas, including areas outside designated wilderness.
- A 500 foot corridor north of the double gates and overflow parking areas that would be zoned frontcountry.
- Chaparral areas not zoned frontcountry to provide visitor opportunities including trails.
- The North Chalone Peak area and surrounding area outside wilderness.
- The area south of the condor enclosure area and east of the South Wilderness trail outside wilderness.

FRONTCOUNTRY ZONE:

The frontcountry zone would include the following areas:

- A 500 foot corridor centered on Highway 146 on the east side.
- The lower portion of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, the area east to the existing unpaved road access to private property, the campground and bench area west of Highway 146, and the entrance of McCabe Canyon (includes the development in the bottom of McCabe Canyon to approximately 1,200 feet from the park road). This area would allow for flexibility for siting facilities and a range of visitor use opportunities, including cultural interpretation and recreation, such as trails.
- A 500 foot corridor centered on existing paved roads and structures in the Bear Gulch, Condor Gulch, and Chalone areas.
- A 500 foot corridor centered on Highway 146 on the west side from park entrance to overflow lot, and other paved roads and structures.
- The double gates area, including a 500 foot corridor along existing unpaved roads, and Jawbone Canyon ridges to allow for a small walk-in campground on the west side.
- A 500 foot corridor along the South Wilderness trail/administrative road trail to junction with the road from the condor enclosure area, and up to the enclosure area boundary.

CULTURAL INTERPRETATION ZONE:

The cultural interpretation zone would include the following areas:

- The northern half of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District extending 1,000 feet up each drainage.
- The Bear Valley School area.

SPECIAL RESEARCH ZONE:

The area managed for condor research is zoned as special research. Other areas landlocked by this area extending west to the semi-primitive zone are also within this zone.

User Capacity

Monument staff would monitor social and resource indicators, evaluate current conditions against standards, and take appropriate steps to ensure the monument's user capacity is not exceeded (See user capacity section later in this chapter for indicators, standards, and management and monitoring strategies that would be followed under this alternative).

Estimated Costs

Cost estimates for alternative D are identified below in Table 10. The costs shown here are not for budgeting; rather, they are only intended to show a relative comparison of costs between the alternatives.

The implementation of the approved plan will depend on future funding. The approval of this plan does

not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the actions in the approved general management plan would likely take many years.

ONE-TIME CAPITAL COSTS

Alternative D would consist of the improvements to facilities and structures described previously in *Facilities*. There would be projects related to preservation of historic structures, restoration of natural areas, and improvements to visitor facilities and construction of new visitor facilities. One-time capital costs include new trails, visitor facilities (includes replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center and walk-in campground on the west side), facility improvements, removal of underused structures (including west side facilities at Chaparral) and restoration of those areas, and other habitat improvements and resource protection measures.

Projects that involve replacement of infrastructure and other facilities, removal of facilities, and stabilization and rehabilitation of historic structures would address deferred maintenance. Under this alternative, examples of these projects include replacement of the Bear Gulch sewer system (common to all), replacement of the East Pinnacles Visitor Center, removal of parking, road, and comfort station at Chaparral, rehabilitation or removal of the North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout, and stabilization and rehabilitation of cultural resources in the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, historic Bear Valley School building, and Condor Gulch historic structures.

Projects are identified as either Priority 1 or Priority 2. Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance,



Photos (left to right): 1. A ranger assists with parking while visitors line up for the park shuttle. 2. Amphitheater. NPS photos.

natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 1 projects total \$6,350,000. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails. Priority 2 costs total \$19,650,000. The estimated total one-time capital cost in 2011 dollars is approximately \$26,000,000 (see table 9). This cost includes the common to all costs described under alternative A.

STAFFING

Implementation of alternative D would require additional staffing for increased research and restoration efforts, additional cultural resources program needs, new interpretive and educational programming, and additional maintenance needs. In particular, several staff would be needed on the west side for resource protection and visitor needs.

New research and resource management programs proposed in alternative D would require staffing similar to that as proposed in alternative C, including two new full-time staff (physical scientist and cultural resources specialist) and several seasonal or part-time/shared staff (museum technician, GIS specialist, and archeology technician). One full-time position (FTE) is one person working 40 hours per week for one year, or the equivalent.

Interpretation and education staff would be similar to alternative C to meet additional visitor services and provide additional opportunities. In addition to the positions in alternative C, a seasonal interpreter would staff a “visitor information center” in surrounding communities.

Additional staff for the facilities division would be similar to alternative C. New trails, a replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center, and additional facility needs would require additional trails workers and custodians.

Staffing for wilderness rangers would be the same as in alternative C.

All fire suppression activities within the monument would continue to be managed in Unified Command with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and NPS.

Four new full time positions would be needed to meet additional park administration needs similar to alternative C.

Proposed New Staffing in Alternative D:

- Research and Resource Management – 3.25 FTE: a physical scientist, cultural resources specialist, and 3 part-time/shared positions including a museum technician, GIS specialist, and archeology technician)
- Interpretation and Education – 6.16 FTE: an interpreter, educator, visitor use assistants/park guides, 2 part-time or seasonal park rangers for cultural programs interpretation and to staff a visitor information center in the surrounding community)
- Facilities – 3.5 FTE: a trails worker, custodian, maintenance worker, and an additional half-time custodian)
- Protection Rangers – 1.5 FTE: a wilderness ranger and an additional seasonal ranger)
- Administration / Superintendent – 4.5 FTE: a budget technician, administrative support assistant, an IT specialist, and a volunteer coordinator)

Total Staffing = 66 FTE. Staffing includes the 47 FTE described under alternative A plus 19 new FTE.

ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

This alternative would be implemented with additional staff identified in OFS requests under alternative A and additional 19 FTE for resource management and protection, interpretation, maintenance, visitor protection, and administration. The addition of these positions would add approximately \$1,350,000 to the operating base for Alternative D. Additional operations and maintenance costs related to capital investments would be \$200,000. The total annual operating costs for alternative D would be approximately \$5,940,000 per year.

TABLE 9: SUMMARY OF ONE-TIME COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE D: LINK PEOPLE AND RESOURCES (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

Location	Infrastructure, Facility, and Resource Projects	Facility Rehabilitation	Historic Preservation	Natural Resource Restoration	Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	New Construction	Facility Removal	Priority
Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District	Preserve (stabilize or rehabilitate) Ben Bacon Ranch core historic structures*		\$280,000					1
	Bacon House – adaptively reuse for office space		\$340,000					1
	Preserve and rehabilitate Butterfield Homestead historic resources for adaptive reuse*		\$330,000					1
	Bottomlands area – manage invasive nonnative species*			\$380,000				1
Bear Gulch	Replace sewer system*				\$2,500,000			1
	Rehabilitate Bear Gulch Road to improve drainage*				\$3,710,000			2
	Replace telecommunications and electric lines in Bear Gulch*				\$3,070,000			2
	Chief Ranger House (Bldg #2) - adaptively reuse for office space	\$10,000						2
Pinnacles Campground	Construct East Pinnacles Visitor Center				\$2,575,000	\$2,575,000		2
	Construct replacement campground store and concession office (remove concession trailer)				\$470,000			2
	Install bike racks at campground, nature center and trailheads					\$30,000		1
Bear Valley	Stabilize historic school building*		\$400,000					1
Chalone	Remove / replace east side entrance station				\$440,000			2
	Construct accessible Bench trail improvement					\$250,000		1
	Construct accessible Valley Oak interpretive loop trail					\$440,000		2
Condor Gulch	Rehabilitate Historic Gas House Building and Horse Barn*		\$80,000					2
McCabe Canyon	Construct loop trail, including portion of ridge					\$120,000		1
Moses Spring	Restore disturbed areas to improve hydrology			\$30,000				1
	Prepare site plan for Moses Spring parking and picnic area to improve natural hydrologic conditions			\$100,000				2

Location	Infrastructure, Facility, and Resource Projects	Facility Rehabilitation	Historic Preservation	Natural Resource Restoration	Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	New Construction	Facility Removal	Priority
West Side	North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout – rehabilitate or remove:							
	Rehabilitate and adaptively reuse contingent upon partnership funding (This cost is the same as alternative C)**	\$2,560,000						2
	Remove fire lookout						\$370,000	2
	Improve Chaparral picnic area*	\$120,000						1
	Remove Chaparral facilities (including parking, road section, comfort station, vault tanks) and restore hydrologic functions						\$5,260,000	2
	Expand day use parking, create trailhead at overflow parking, and add vault toilets (relocate day use facilities from Chaparral)				\$300,000			2
Wilderness	Construct connector trail – link West Side visitor contact station					\$680,00		1
	Construct west side walk-in campground					\$410,000		1
	Construct South Wilderness trail connection between the South Chalone Peak trail and South Wilderness trail*					\$150,000		2
Parkwide	Develop minimal backcountry campsites					\$10,000		1
	Picnic/group sites: Improve existing picnic areas; construct new picnic sites at Bottomlands, west side, and hike-in sites; construct picnic pavilion					\$440,000		1
	Construct additional waysides / interpretive exhibits					\$30,000		1
	Improve shuttle stops	\$100,000						2
	Total for Priority 1 Projects:	\$120,000	\$1,350,000	\$410,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,970,000	\$0	
	Total for Priority 2 Projects:	\$110,000	\$80,000	\$100,000	\$10,565,000	\$3,165,000	\$5,630,000	
	Costs by Category:	\$230,000	\$1,430,000	\$510,000	\$13,065,000	\$5,135,000	\$5,630,000	
	TOTAL ONE-TIME COSTS:							
Notes:								
* = Cost items that are common to all alternatives								
** = Under alternative D, there are two treatment options for North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout (rehabilitate contingent upon external funding or remove the fire lookout. The cost for removal is used for the total cost for this alternative, as rehabilitation would only occur with external (partnership) funding.								
• Projects are identified as either "Priority 1" or "Priority 2" projects. Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails.								
• Costs include NPS Class C estimate mark-ups, including location factors, design contingency, construction management, and construction contingency.								
• Trails have not been designed; descriptions include approximate length.								

TABLE 10: ALTERNATIVE D SUMMARY OF COSTS

Annual Operational Costs	
Existing Annual Operational Costs	\$3,600,000
Additional Staffing Costs:	
+9 FTE (alternative A)*	790,000
+19 FTE (alternative D)	\$1,350,000
Additional Operations & Maintenance Costs Related to Capital Investments	\$200,000
Total Annual Operational Costs	\$5,940,000
One-time Capital Costs	
Facility Rehabilitation	
Priority 1 Projects**	\$120,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$110,000
Historic Preservation	
Priority 1 Projects	\$1,350,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$80,000
Natural Resource Restoration	
Priority 1 Projects	\$410,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$100,000
Facility / Infrastructure Replacement	
Priority 1 Projects	\$2,500,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$10,565,000
New Construction	
Priority 1 Projects	\$1,970,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$3,165,000
Facility Removal	
Priority 1 Projects	\$0
Priority 2 Projects	\$5,630,000
Total Priority 1 Projects	\$6,350,000
Total Priority 2 Projects	\$19,650,000
Total One-time Capital Costs	\$26,000,000
Notes:	
*The additional 9 FTE under alternative A are included in two OFS requests that been Regionally prioritized. The current staffing level is below the authorized level; the additional staffing would add 4 FTE to the authorized level of 43 FTE.	
**Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails.	



Photos (top to bottom): 1. Climbing and hiking advisory signs on the west side. 2. View of the overflow parking area. NPS photos.

User Capacity

Overview

General management plans (GMPs) for national park system units are required by law to identify and address implementation commitments for user capacity, also known as carrying capacity. The National Park Service (NPS) defines user capacity as the types and levels of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the quality of park resources and visitor experiences consistent with the purposes of the park. Managing user capacity in national parks is inherently complex and depends not only on the number of visitors and the sensitivity of park resources, but also on where the visitors go, what they do, and the “footprints” they leave behind. In managing for user capacity, park staff and partners rely on a variety of management tools and strategies rather than relying solely on regulating the number of people in a park area. In addition, the ever-changing nature of visitor use in parks requires a deliberate and adaptive approach to user capacity management.

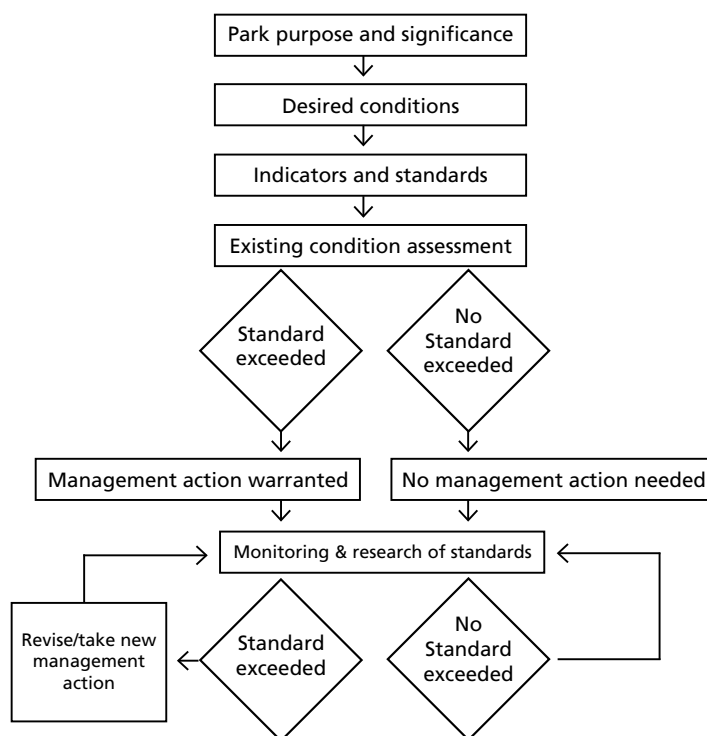
The foundations for making user capacity decisions in this GMP are the purpose, significance, special mandates, and management zones associated with the park. The purpose, significance, and special mandates define why the park was established and identify the most important resources, values, and visitor use opportunities that would be protected and provided for. The management zones in each action alternative describe the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, including appropriate types of activities and general use levels, for different locations throughout the park. The zones, as applied in the alternatives, are consistent with, and help the NPS achieve, its specific purpose, significance and special mandates. As part of the NPS’s commitment to implement user capacity, park staff would abide by these directives for guiding the types and levels of visitor use that would be accommodated while sustaining the quality of park resources and visitor experiences consistent with the purposes of the park.

In addition to these important directives, this plan includes indicators and standards for Pinnacles National Monument. Indicators and standards are measurable variables that would be monitored to track changes in resource conditions and visitor experiences. The indicators and standards help the NPS ensure that desired conditions are being attained, supporting the fulfillment of the monument’s legislative and policy mandates. The GMP also identifies the types of management actions that would be taken to achieve desired conditions and related legislative and policy mandates.

Table 11 includes the indicators, standards, and potential future management strategies, allocated by management zones, that would be implemented as a result of this planning effort. The planning team considered many potential issues and related indicators that would identify impacts of concern, but those described below were considered the most important, given the unique characteristics and vulnerability of the resource or visitor experience affected by visitor use. The planning team also reviewed the experiences of other parks with similar issues to help identify meaningful indicators. Standards that represent the minimum acceptable condition for each indicator were then assigned, taking into consideration the qualitative descriptions of the desired conditions, data on existing conditions, relevant research studies, staff management experience and expertise, and scoping related to public preferences.

User capacity decision making is a form of adaptive management (see figure 1) because it is an iterative process in which management decisions are continuously informed and improved. Indicators are monitored, and adjustments are made as appropriate based on a thorough problem analysis. As monitoring of conditions continues, managers may decide to modify or add indicators if better ways are found to measure important changes in resource and social conditions. Information on the NPS monitoring efforts, related visitor use management actions, and any changes to the indicators and standards would be available to the public.

FIGURE 1: USER CAPACITY FRAMEWORK



Resource Indicators and Standards

The priority *resource* indicators for Pinnacles National Monument are associated with the following issues:

- Disturbance to archeological and cultural sites
- Reports of intentional vandalism
- Changes in native plant communities from the introduction and spread of nonnative invasive plant species
- Visitor created trails
- Known entry into closed, sensitive areas of the monument
- Bare ground in high use riparian areas

The condition of these resources is already being monitored and managed in various ways, but the indicators described below would help the monument staff track specific influences to these resources as a result of visitor use.

Disturbance to archeological and cultural sites:

Visitor use impacts on archeological and cultural sites include wear on historic structures and unintentional disturbance to archeological resources and historic structures. Cultural resources are nonrenewable, so impacts, especially those resulting from disrespectful behavior, must be minimized to the extent possible. The monument staff is already using internal guidelines to monitor cultural resources. The indicator for human impacts to archeological and cultural sites is based on this existing monitoring protocol. Management efforts would be focused on maintaining the integrity and condition of all sites, so the standard has been set at no more than one observed disturbance per year. To ensure that this standard is maintained, visitor education and enforcement of park regulations would continue, and fencing or closure of particularly vulnerable areas would be considered.

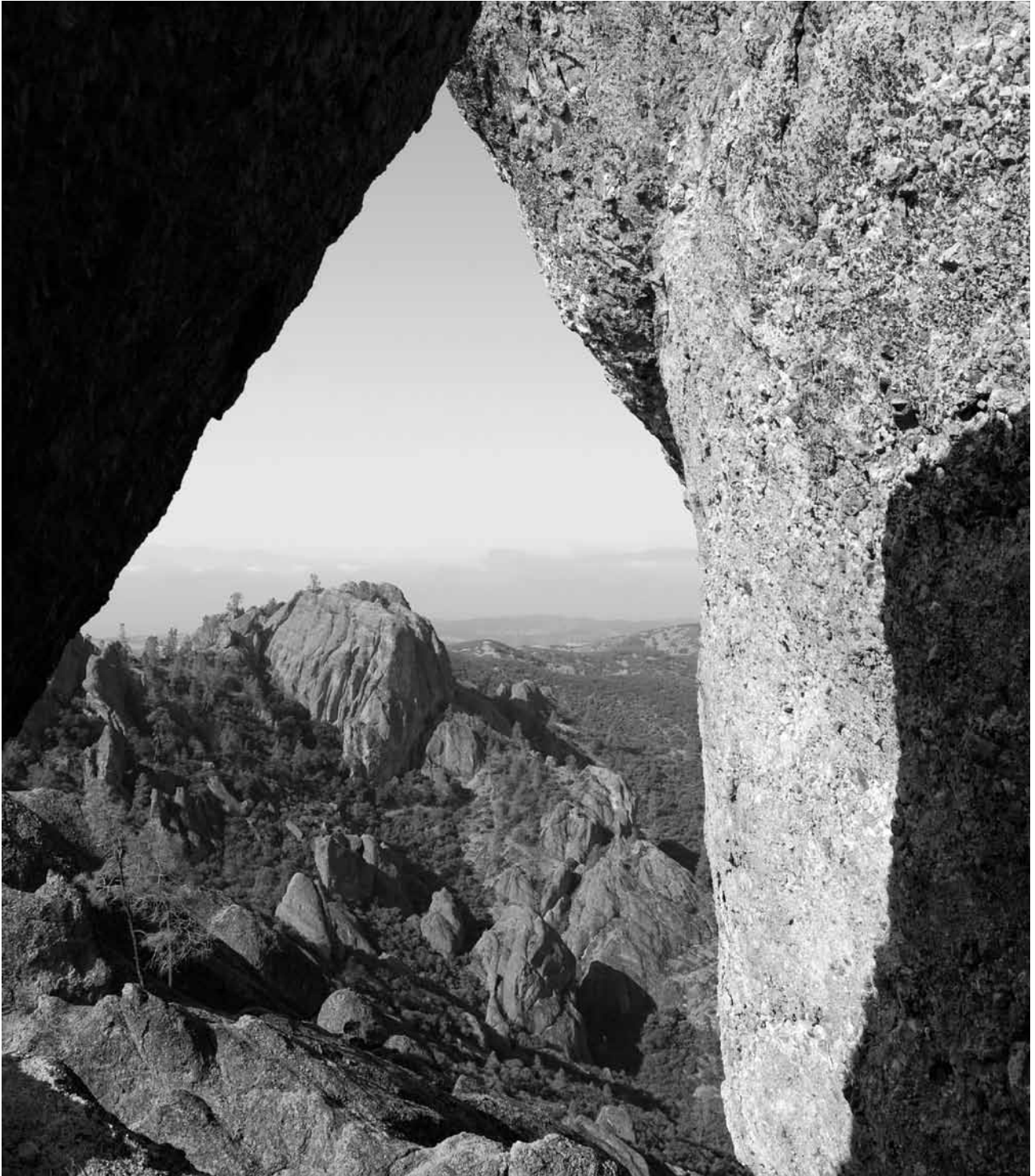
Reports of intentional vandalism: Natural and cultural resources are also vulnerable to intentional acts of vandalism such as graffiti on rocks or historical structures, carving letters or symbols into trees, knocking down rock walls, scraping/ picking moss from boulders and rock wall surfaces, defacing signs, driving off-road, and building fires in the talus caves or anywhere outside designated areas in the campground. The monument staff is already tracking this visitor impact to cultural, historical and natural resources. The indicator for vandalism is based on this existing monitoring protocol. Management efforts would be focused on maintaining the integrity and condition of all sites by not allowing more than six incidences of intentional vandalism per year. To ensure that this standard is

maintained, visitor education and enforcement of park regulations would continue, and a possible increase in surveillance and/or closure of particularly vulnerable areas would be considered.

Introduction and spread of nonnative invasive species:

The spread of invasive species is one of the most pressing ecological issues facing public land managers today. Invasive species are also considered one of the major threats to biodiversity. Monument staff and the NPS inventory and monitoring program are already tracking the introduction and spread of invasive species. Linking the introduction and spread of invasive species to visitor use is often difficult. For this reason, monitoring would focus on new species/populations along the primary trail corridors and primary roads, and would be linked to existing inventory and monitoring protocols. One goal of existing management activities is to minimize the introduction of new and the spread of existing invasive nonnative species, so the standard was set at no more than two new priority invasive plant species appearing along high use trail corridors and primary roads within a three year period (See list of priority invasive plants in the *Affected Environment*). Also, to ensure that invasive species are not proliferating elsewhere in the monument, the standard was set at no more than three new distinct populations of priority species known to be elsewhere in the monument. Monument staff could provide visitors with related educational programs and/or materials and increase early detection monitoring of invasive species to make certain this standard is not exceeded.

Visitor created trails: Visitors leaving designated trails can cause impacts in areas adjacent to the trail, such as erosion, compaction of soils, and loss of vegetation. Disturbed areas are also prime habitat for invasive species. Visitor created trails often lead to precarious overlooks, areas of loose rock, and sensitive cultural and natural areas that are a concern for monument staff due to safety and resource impact issues. Monitoring the number of visitor created trails per year will allow monument staff to ensure that the resources adjacent to designated trails are not being adversely impacted. Within the High Peaks area, the standards of no more than a net increase of 4 visitor-created trails per year and no more than 25 visitor-created trails at any given time were chosen because of the flexibility in measuring several visitor impacts at once (e.g. erosion, compaction). Twenty-five is the baseline number of social trails allowed in the High Peaks area. The baseline condition for other areas in the monument will be determined as data become available. The monument could apply similar indicators and standards to the other areas in the future. These measures provide park managers with the



flexibility to monitor these indicators when new trails are constructed in the monument. The net increase of social trails and the cap on the number of social trails may be adjusted if the park adds new trails to the official trail system. If the standard for this indicator were exceeded and if it is determined that unauthorized trails are caused by visitor use, the following management strategies are among those that could be

used: temporary or permanent trail closures, visitor education, increased enforcement, improved delineation of designated trails and overlooks, redesign or relocation of trails or overlooks, revegetation / removal of unauthorized trails, formalization of unauthorized trails to accommodate visitor interest, the installation of temporary or permanent signage, and limiting or reducing levels of use.

Unauthorized entry into closed, sensitive areas of the monument: Pinnacles National Monument has several areas that are subject to closure because of the potential to affect certain sensitive species. Two species are the Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), listed as a sensitive species by the state of California, and the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), a federally endangered species. The monument has been a vital site for the protection of the California condor and continues to foster its recovery. Certain areas of the monument may be closed to visitation depending on where the birds choose to nest and raise their young. In addition, certain talus caves in the monument are important habitat for the bats. For this reason, the caves are fully closed from mid-May to mid-July while the bats are raising their young and in October with partial closures in other times of the year. These two examples demonstrate the importance of an indicator that measures the disturbance to sensitive species. The monument staff already monitors for unauthorized entries into these closed areas, and the standard will be set at no more than two unauthorized entries into these closed areas per year. This standard will help minimize disturbances and protect these sensitive species. Management strategies that address this indicator include education, the installment of barriers, more intensive monitoring and patrols of the sensitive areas, as well as the installation of sensors and/or cameras.

Bare ground in high use riparian areas: Riparian areas within the monument are sensitive to visitor use and thus use in these areas has the potential to cause greater impacts than in other areas. As with social trails, impacts such as an increase in bare ground, a loss of vegetation, soil compaction, and erosion are all possible outcomes of visitor use in the monument's riparian areas. A few areas are especially vulnerable to impacts because they accommodate a high number of visitors. The campground has several campsites located in a sensitive riparian area and the picnic area at Bear Gulch, adjacent to the riparian area, gets a great deal of day use. Adhering to the standard of no more than a 10% increase in bare ground for the monument's riparian areas will help to maintain the riparian areas in as pristine a condition as possible while accommodating a reasonable amount of visitor use. When evaluating this indicator and standard, monument staff would need to consider natural events, such as floods that may also contribute to an increase in the overall bare ground. If the monitoring of the percent of bare ground in riparian areas starts to trend upward, management strategies such as education of visitors, re-routing of trails, strategic fencing, reduction of the number of available opportunities in the riparian areas, moving campsites to a less sensitive location and temporary closure of highly impacted areas may be used.

Visitor Experience Indicators and Standards

The priority *visitor experience* indicators for Pinnacles National Monument would be associated with the following issues:

- Crowding and use conflicts
- Wait times at parking areas
- Visitor participation in park programs and activities

Similar to the resource indicators, visitor use opportunities and related experiences in the monument are already being monitored and managed in various ways, but the indicators described below would help the monument staff track these specific issues more systematically to ensure that desired conditions are being achieved.

Many people visit Pinnacles National Monument seeking a wilderness experience and solitude. Crowding and conflicts can be of particular concern for such visitors. A study conducted in 2003 found that 77% of visitors felt wilderness was extremely to very important; 91% of visitors felt natural sounds/quiet was extremely to very important; 72% felt that experiencing solitude was extremely to very important (NPS 2003). To protect these values that visitors have stated are important to them, an indicator of the number of people at one time was identified as an important measure of crowding. The monument is currently expanding its efforts to collect more detailed visitor use information to further develop this indicator and standard. Given the importance of this issue to the visitor experience and the need to strategically and

Visitors cool off during summer at the east side campground swimming pool. NPS photo.



comprehensively manage visitor activities during high use times, the monument staff believes that a more thorough analysis of this issue is necessary and prudent prior to establishing the indicator and standard. This assessment was in progress at the time of publication of this plan. When the standard is developed, it will help reduce the influences of crowding on visitor use opportunities to experience solitude or natural sounds. If management action is deemed necessary, then monument staff can provide educational programs to help disperse use, impose group size limitations, conduct soundscape monitoring, administer permits, or require a reservation system.

Maintaining high levels of visitor satisfaction with park experiences is an important management goal. Because of the high levels of use that occur at the monument during peak use times, visitors often have to drive around looking for a parking spot, are unable to park near the main attractions, have to wait for a shuttle to get to the main attractions, or are unable to get in to the park. Those that cannot get into the monument often have to wait until a parking space opens, or on rare occasions, they park outside the monument and walk in. The monument staff has established that current wait times to enter the park at peak times are generally considered unacceptable and may be detracting from visitors' experiences and overall satisfaction with their visit. Parking outside the monument boundary and walking into the park along the main road poses a safety hazard both to those driving and those walking along the road. To track this issue over the long term, an indicator for wait times to enter the park would be monitored. A preliminary standard of no more than a 20-45 minute wait to park during peak use times is proposed. The low end of this standard is within the recommended wait time proposed in a 2008 transportation study conducted at the monument (Nelson/Nygaard Consulting 2008). Research is underway to determine wait times to enter the monument, however, and further evaluation and validation of this standard is needed. If management action is deemed necessary, education about peak use times, real time information about current use, additional enforcement and potentially a reservation system would help park staff maintain desired conditions during peak use times.

The monument's interpretive and outreach programs are intended to educate visitors and local community members about what makes Pinnacles National Monument unique and worthy of conservation. The number of visitors participating in interpretive programs and the time monument staff spends participating in outreach activities is part of a current monitoring protocol. The standard will be no less than 6% of total visitation per year participates in monument programs and activities, which is consistent

with current participation rates. If participation rates begin to trend downward, then monument staff would evaluate the effectiveness of current program offerings, provide more opportunities for outreach and interpretation, or increase community engagement programs.

Long-term Monitoring

The monument staff would continue monitoring use levels and patterns, including user capacity indicators, throughout the monument. The rigor of monitoring the indicators (e.g., frequency of monitoring cycles, amount of geographic area monitored) might vary considerably depending on how close existing conditions are to the standards. If the existing conditions are far from exceeding the standard, the rigor of monitoring might be less than if the existing conditions are close to or trending toward the standard.

Initial monitoring of the indicators would determine if the indicators are accurately measuring the conditions of concern and if the standards truly represent the minimally acceptable condition of the indicator. Monument staff might decide to modify the indicators or standards and revise the monitoring program if better ways are found to measure changes caused by visitor use. Most of these types of changes should be made within the first several years of initiating monitoring. After this initial testing period, adjustments would be less likely to occur. Finally, if use levels and patterns change appreciably, the monument staff might need to identify new indicators to ensure that desired conditions are achieved and maintained. This iterative learning and refining process, a form of adaptive management, is a strength of the NPS user capacity management program.

TABLE 11: SUMMARY OF USER CAPACITY INDICATORS, STANDARDS, AND POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Indicators	Standards	Management Strategies
# of observed disturbances to archeological and cultural sites.	No more than 1 observed disturbance per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take appropriate law enforcement action • Consultation of park cultural resource specialist on preservation strategies • Outreach/education/waysides • Signage (e.g. stay on trails) • Increased monitoring of sites • Fencing of areas • Repair/rehab of sites • Rerouting of a trail to avoid area • Make more impervious to visitor use by hardening the site • Remote sensors to monitor activity • Closure of a site
# of incidences of reported intentional vandalism.	No more than 6 incidences of intentional vandalism per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take appropriate law enforcement action • Visitor education • Community outreach • Signage • Community patrols • Ranger patrols • Increase surveillance • Rehabilitation of affected site • Limit access • Site closures
Increase in new species/ populations along high-use trail corridors and primary roads.	No more than 2 new priority invasive nonnative plant species detected within a 3 year period along high use trails and primary roads. Additionally, no more than 3 new distinct populations of priority species known to be elsewhere in the monument.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education to increase preventative measure • Increase early detection monitoring • Trail and/or road closures
<p>1. Net increase in visitor-created trails per year (rate) in the High Peaks area.</p> <p>2. Number of visitor-created trails at any given time (cap) in the High Peaks area.</p>	<p>1. No more than a net increase of 4 visitor-created trails per year in the High Peaks area.</p> <p>2. No more than "25" visitor-created trails at any given time (25 = baseline) in the High Peaks area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take appropriate law enforcement action • Education • Signs • More monitoring • Barriers • Guided hikes/access limitations • Removal/rehabilitation of trails • Reroute of trail • Expansion of existing trails • Permits
Number of unauthorized entries into closed areas per year.	No more than 2 unauthorized entries into closed areas per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Additional barriers • Additional monitoring • More patrols • Installation of sensors

Indicators	Standards	Management Strategies
% of bare ground in riparian areas in high use areas.	No more than 10% overall increase (over the current baseline) in area that is bare ground in riparian areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take appropriate law enforcement action • Education • Signs • Barriers • More monitoring • Guided hikes/access limitations • Permits • Removal/rehab of bare ground • Reroute of trail • Reduce number of visitor facilities/experiences • Temporary closures • Relocation of visitor services
Number of people at one time at a destination (excluding frontcountry).	<p>The amount of people at a destination at one time will be managed to sustain the desired visitor experience*</p> <p>*The exact metric and associated standard will be determined through additional research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education to disperse use • Interpretive programs designed to disperse use • Signs/wayfinding • More monitoring • Guided hikes/access limitations • Group size limitations • Alternative parking strategies • Time restrictions • Temporary closures • Reroute of trail • Soundscape monitoring • Permits • Reservation
Wait time for parking during peak use periods.	<p>Visitors will not wait more than 20-45 minutes for a parking space during peak use periods*</p> <p>* The exact metric and associated standard will be determined through additional research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirect visitors to other destinations • Trip planning/education about off peak times/ Additional signage • Electronic sign on the HWY • Additional shuttles inside park • Shuttle from outside the park • Reservation system
% of annual visitors participation in monument programs and activities.	6% of annual visitors will participate in monument programs and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of current programs • Advertise programs • Enhance education and outreach • Increase community engagement



Wildflowers of Pinnacles. Clockwise from top left: California Buckeye, Indian Paintbrush, Sticky Monkeyflower, Mariposa Lily, Foothill Penstemon, Chamise, Venus Thistle, Elegant Clarkia. NPS Photos.

Summary Tables of Alternatives and Impacts

TABLE 12: ALTERNATIVES SUMMARY

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Concept			
This alternative provides a baseline for evaluating changes and impacts in other alternatives. Under this alternative, the NPS would continue to manage Pinnacles as it is currently managed, following existing management policies and programs.	Pinnacles would provide visitors with high quality backcountry experiences, including solitude, quiet, and views of natural settings. Resources and opportunities would be managed in an integrated fashion for protection, restoration, and maintenance of natural and cultural resources and backcountry experiences, in cooperation with the surrounding communities and neighbors.	Pinnacles would provide an expanded array of visitor use opportunities, including recreation, interpretation, and education, consistent with the NPS mission and regional needs. Opportunities would be provided on the new lands and other areas that receive lower visitor use. Diverse types of activities and groups would be encouraged.	Pinnacles would engage a broad range of visitors in the enjoyment, understanding, and stewardship of natural and cultural resources and values of the Gabilan Mountains ecoregion. Pinnacles would focus on ways to connect diverse audiences and resources, to acknowledge the interrelationship between natural and cultural resources, and to protect, preserve, and restore ecological communities and processes.
Visitor Experience			
<p>Recreation - Common to All:</p> <p>Recreational opportunities would be dispersed to reduce congestion and improve visitor experience quality.</p> <p>Existing recreation activities such as hiking, climbing, and picnicking would continue. Developed camping would continue at the east side campground.</p> <p>Climbing use would continue in congruence with raptor advisory updates and voluntary closures. The monument would continue to work in close coordination with the climbing community, including the Friends of Pinnacles – an organization focused on climbing. A Climbing Management Plan would be developed. Existing bolted routes would be allowed where critical resources are not adversely affected.</p> <p>New recreational facilities may include additional trails. A South Wilderness Trail connection would be constructed.</p>			
<p>Recreation</p> <p>Visitor service levels would continue. A diversity of uses, including hiking, climbing, viewing scenery, developed camping, and picnicking would be provided.</p>	<p>Recreation</p> <p>Provide high quality backcountry experiences by dispersing visitor use and minimizing direct visitor management. More areas would be zoned “primitive” to reduce crowding, protect viewsheds, and minimize development. To promote a sense of solitude, group size limits may be instituted, especially on wilderness trails.</p>	<p>Recreation</p> <p>Reach out to a broad audience by offering a wider range of recreational opportunities, including horseback riding and backcountry camping when such uses do not detract from resource or social values. More areas would be zoned “semi-primitive” and “frontcountry” to encourage a wider variety of uses.</p>	<p>Recreation</p> <p>Connect visitors, communities, and resources. A moderate portion of the monument would be zoned to allow for group uses.</p>
The current trail system would be maintained.	Construction of new trails, including remote wilderness connections and trails on the bottomlands and surrounding canyons would provide a diversity of experiences and would disperse visitors.	Construction of new trails would provide a wide variety of experiences, from remote wilderness connections to short accessible loops and interpretive trails, and to disperse use from the core of the monument.	As in alternative C, construction of new trails would provide a wide variety of experiences, from remote wilderness connections to short accessible loops and interpretive trails, and to disperse use from the core of the monument.

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
A road for administrative vehicle use and visitor use for hiking and bicycling would connect the campground to the bottomlands with a section following an existing road alignment.	Same as alternative A.	A road for administrative vehicle use and visitor use for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use would connect the campground to the bottomlands with a section following an existing road alignment.	Same as alternative A.
Bicycling opportunities at the campground and on paved roads would continue.	Same as alternative A.	Allow biking on dirt roads outside wilderness. Add bike racks at east-side trailheads.	Same as alternative A.
Current picnic and group facilities would remain. Minor improvements (such as adding shade) could be made.	Small to medium-sized groups would be accommodated, including the addition of some small walk-in picnic areas. No new facilities for large groups.	Picnic areas would be provided on both sides of the monument near visitor service areas.	Same as alternative C.
No horseback riding use by visitors.	Same as alternative A.	Allow equestrian use on designated roads and trails at the bottomlands to the extent that it is compatible with the historic landscape.	Same as alternative A.
No backcountry camping use by visitors.	Same as alternative A.	A small number of backcountry campsites would be established on a trial basis, if suitable locations could be identified. Future site planning would identify specific locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis. If located in wilderness, the specifications of the backcountry campsites, would be decided in a Wilderness Stewardship Plan.	Same as alternative C.
No west side walk-in campground.	Same as alternative A.	Construct a walk-in campground (up to 10 sites) on the west side.	Same as alternative C.
<p>Interpretation and Education - Common to All:</p> <p>Continue to provide interpretive programs and media regarding monument significance.</p> <p>Education programs such as Camp Pinnacles would continue.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Interpretive Plan would be updated and would include new opportunities for education and interpretation of cultural resources.</p> <p>The monument would consider multi-use options for the Bear Gulch nature center including administrative purposes and visitor orientation.</p> <p>A virtual museum would be developed to provide public access to a portion of Pinnacles' museum collections.</p>			

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
<p>Interpretation and Education</p> <p>Provide current interpretive services.</p> <p>Continue limited education programs.</p>	<p>Interpretation and Education</p> <p>There would be limited interpretive and educational facilities and guided programs.</p>	<p>Interpretation and Education</p> <p>Serve multiple audiences through a wide variety of media and programming, including interactive displays, more waysides on trails, additional interpretive materials, and more opportunities for visitor involvement in science and stewardship projects.</p> <p>Education programming would focus on significant resources and the broader regional history.</p>	<p>Interpretation and Education</p> <p>Focus on science and history learning. Interpret significant resources through an increase in formal programs, informal interpretation, waysides, and brochures.</p> <p>Emphasize visitor involvement in science and stewardship projects.</p>
Current interpretation facilities would remain. Continue to provide visitor information at the east side entrance station (on weekends), Bear Gulch Nature Center, East Pinnacles Visitor Center, and West Pinnacles Visitor Contact Station.	Formal interpretation and education on wilderness values would be enhanced and would be provided when possible outside the monument or at the monument's perimeter.	Provide indoor space for interpretation and education on both sides of the monument.	"Outdoor classroom" opportunities, including programming and curriculum development, would provide visitors with opportunities to learn about significant resources and the monument's broader context.
Continue to provide non-personal interpretive information (waysides, internet information, trailhead and facility bulletin boards).	Avoid placing waysides, bulletin boards, and signs on trails and near wilderness areas. Remove existing waysides in wilderness.	As described above, a variety of media including displays, waysides and additional interpretive materials would be provided.	Passive interpretation (e.g. waysides) could be provided at the Butterfield homestead, McCabe Canyon, and the West Side mining district.
No staff for regional visitor and interpretation centers.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	The monument could participate in developing and staffing regional visitor and interpretation centers.
Facilities			
<p>Common to All:</p> <p>The monument would plan for the removal or relocation of facilities from flood prone areas that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not being used for park operations. Natural processes would be restored in these areas where feasible.</p> <p>Building footprints would be compact, by using previously disturbed areas where possible and minimizing impacts on ecological components and processes.</p> <p>Pinnacles would take measures to reduce energy use (carbon emissions) through monument operations and to increase energy and fuel efficiency using sustainable facility design and other means, such as by expanding shuttle use during peak visitation periods.</p>			
Most facilities and trails would remain and continue to be maintained, including minor improvements to visitor facilities.	Minimize development footprint. Remove structures that do not contribute to the historical significance of the monument and are not being used for park operations.	Facilities would be focused on supporting an expanded array of visitor use opportunities.	Facilities would be used to support increased visitor understanding of natural and cultural resources and/or to serve management, operational, and administrative functions.

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
<p>East Side Facilities - Common to All:</p> <p>The east side campground would be reconfigured to protect sensitive riparian areas, improve operations, and to improve visitor experience. An amphitheater and store would be retained in the campground.</p> <p>Headquarters would remain at Bear Gulch, but if Bear Gulch headquarters buildings are heavily damaged or lost (e.g. fire or flood), headquarters would be rebuilt outside of Bear Gulch in a suitable location in the frontcountry zone (for example, on the bench across the road from the Pinnacles campground).</p> <p>On the bottomlands, some historic structures would be stabilized and could also be adaptively reused (see “Cultural Resources”). Existing utilities would be replaced as needed, including the Bear Gulch sewer system.</p> <p>Most housing would continue to be located at Chalone and could be expanded if needed.</p> <p>Maintenance facilities would remain at Chalone.</p> <p>Existing roads would be maintained, except as noted in some alternatives and management zone maps. If administrative roads are no longer needed, they could be removed, re-contoured, or used as trails. McCabe Road would be used by administrative vehicles only. A public trail and administrative roads would provide access to the bottomlands.</p> <p>A shuttle service with stops at the East Pinnacles Visitor Center, Bear Gulch, campground, and other major sites would continue to be used to reduce congestion and carbon emissions from visitor vehicles. The monument would continue to pursue environmentally friendly shuttle vehicles and operations.</p>			
<p>East Side Facilities</p> <p>The visitor center would remain at the campground store.</p>	<p>East Side Facilities</p> <p>A small replacement visitor center (approximately 1,500sf) and campground store would be constructed in the vicinity of the campground when the current structure reaches the end of its useful life.</p>	<p>East Side Facilities</p> <p>A larger replacement visitor center (approximately 6,000sf) would be built between the Highway 25 entrance and the campground when the current structure reaches the end of its useful life. A replacement campground store would also be constructed in the campground.</p>	<p>East Side Facilities</p> <p>A replacement visitor center (approximately 3,800sf) and campground store would be built in the vicinity of the campground when the current structure reaches the end of its useful life.</p>
<p>The day use/picnic area would remain.</p>	<p>A new picnic area would be constructed.</p>	<p>Construct a picnic area and a covered picnic structure for groups.</p>	<p>Same as alternative B.</p>
<p>The entrance station would remain in its current location just beyond the campground.</p>	<p>A replacement entrance station would be installed between the entrance and campground.</p>	<p>A replacement entrance station would be installed between the entrance and visitor center.</p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p>
<p>The campground would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources while maintaining a similar scale. Existing amenities (campground store and swimming pool) would be retained.</p>	<p>The campground would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources and create a small picnic area. The swimming pool would be removed if determined to be no longer cost-effective to maintain.</p>	<p>The campground area would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources. Replacement campsites (for those removed in sensitive areas) could be added in more suitable areas. The campground store, amphitheater, and swimming pool would be retained.</p>	<p>The campground would be reconfigured to protect sensitive resources. Replacement campsites (for those removed in sensitive areas) could be added in more suitable areas. The campground store and swimming pool would be retained.</p>
<p>The amphitheater would remain, and accessibility improvements would be made.</p>	<p>The amphitheater would be retained.</p>	<p>Same as alternative B.</p>	<p>The amphitheater would be relocated to a suitable location.</p>

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Existing parking capacity on the east side would be retained.	Construction of additional parking to meet the needs of the campground, visitor center, and day use would be considered in those facility and site plans. As described below, the Moses Spring parking area could be removed.	Construction of additional parking to meet the needs of the campground, visitor center, and day use would be considered in those facility and site plans. Parking capacity in Bear Gulch would remain.	Same as alternative B.
Condor Gulch would continue to be used for storage. Visitor facilities at Moses Spring would be retained.	Some functions could be moved from headquarters in Bear Gulch to other facilities. Condor Gulch would continue to be used for storage. A site plan would be prepared to determine if the Moses Spring parking area should be removed to improve natural hydrologic and habitat functions.	Some functions could be moved from headquarters in Bear Gulch to other facilities. Condor Gulch would be rehabilitated for use as office space.	Some functions would be moved from headquarters in Bear Gulch to other facilities (e.g. the Bacon House). Condor Gulch would continue to be used for storage. A site plan would be prepared for the Moses Spring area to improve natural hydrologic and habitat functions.
No equestrian use or facilities.	Same as Alternative A.	Facilities for equestrian use, such as staging areas, would be provided in the bottomlands.	Same as Alternative A.
The shuttle service and current stops would remain.	Shuttle stops would have minimal amenities and would blend with the environment.	Enhanced small-scale amenities would be provided at shuttle stops, including shade, visitor information, and water. Shuttle stop facilities would be designed to blend with the environment.	Enhanced small-scale amenities would be provided at shuttle stops, including shade, visitor information, and water. Shuttle stop facilities would be designed to blend with the environment.
West Side Facilities - Common to All Restoration efforts started during construction of replacement West Side facilities (visitor contact station, entrance station, maintenance facility, and housing) would continue, including removing decommissioned facilities from flood-prone areas, as well as recontouring and revegetating former building footprints and other disturbed areas. Visitor facilities such as parking, picnicking, a comfort station, and trail access would continue to be provided. Picnic sites would be improved, including shade structures. Shuttle service could be provided.			
West Side Facilities At Chaparral, the parking lot, picnic area, comfort station, and road, which are located in flood-prone areas, would remain.	West Side Facilities The Chaparral parking area and the road from the overflow lot turn-off to the parking area would be removed. The Chaparral picnic area would remain, as a walk-in facility, and parking would remain at the overflow lot.	West Side Facilities The Chaparral parking lot, picnic area, comfort station, and road, located in flood-prone areas, would be removed and relocated to appropriate areas within the frontcountry zone.	West Side Facilities Same as Alternative C.
Existing trails would remain.	A connector trail between the new visitor contact station to Chaparral would be constructed.	New trail connections would be developed.	Same as alternative C.
The entrance gate would be closed at night; camping would not be provided.	Same as alternative A.	A small (up to 10 sites) walk-in campground would be provided (possibly at Jawbone Canyon, across from the overflow parking area).	Same as alternative C.

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Wilderness			
<p>Common to All:</p> <p>A wilderness stewardship plan would provide guidance for wilderness stewardship activities such as resource protection, day use activities, climbing, infrastructure removal, and backcountry camping (if applicable). This plan will follow the guidance recently developed and articulated in the NPS Wilderness Stewardship Planning Handbook and Director's Order 41.</p> <p>Continue to follow other national wilderness requirements and policies (e.g. management interventions considered only when necessary to manage the site as wilderness, restricted use of aircraft or motorized vehicles, minimum tool analysis, Leave No Trace®, etc).</p> <p>Protection of resource values within designated wilderness could continue to include restoration activities as are required for maintaining or recovering wilderness, including infrastructure removal, and fencing out nonnative species.</p>			
Natural and Cultural Resources: Combined Resource Management			
<p>Common to All:</p> <p>Continue to follow existing laws, policies, guidelines, and approved monument plans in coordinating and balancing the management of natural and cultural resources.</p> <p>Continue to implement and expand long-term monitoring programs, baseline studies, inventories, and research.</p> <p>Increase involvement of traditionally associated peoples in research and protection of resources with traditional cultural meaning and value. Document and interpret the influences of traditionally associated peoples on the landscape.</p> <p>Museum collections would be managed according to the Museum Management Plan.</p> <p>Pinnacles would work cooperatively with surrounding neighbors, communities, local agencies, associated tribes, and organizations to protect the rural character and benefits of open working landscapes.</p> <p>Visitor access in certain areas would continue to be managed, based on long term monitoring, to protect sensitive resources.</p> <p>The monument would prepare a resource stewardship strategy (underway 2012).</p>			
Natural Resources			
<p>Common to All:</p> <p>Pinnacles would continue existing natural resource management activities, including bat and raptor monitoring, re-establishment of the California condor, and removal of nonnative invasive species.</p> <p>Visitor access in certain areas would continue to be managed, based on long-term monitoring, to protect sensitive resources.</p> <p><i>Seasonal closures would continue at the talus caves and raptor nesting areas to protect threatened and sensitive species.</i></p> <p>Visitor facilities, including trails, at the bottomlands would be developed only after park managers have determined that there would be little or no risk of spread of nonnative invasives from the bottomlands into uninfested areas of the monument from visitor activity. Consequently, partial opening or seasonal visitor use may be employed if selected areas of the bottomlands have been determined to have high priority invasive species under control or during times when priority invasive plant seeds or other plant propagules are less likely to be dispersed.</p> <p>Extirpated native species, such as Foothill yellow-legged frogs, could be re-established at Pinnacles.</p> <p>Continue to control nonnative species, including feral pigs and highly invasive plants.</p> <p>Continue current efforts to protect and restore riparian areas, while considering other resources and monument needs.</p> <p>Geologic resources and processes would continue to be highlighted and protected.</p> <p>A natural resource condition assessment would be completed.</p> <p>Continue to implement the monument's Fire Management Plan. Fires would be managed to protect structures, lives, property, and to achieve desired resource conditions; adaptive management would be used. Fire management activities would continue to be coordinated with cultural resource identification and protection.</p> <p>Continue particulate, ozone, and visibility monitoring at the east entrance. Placement of additional air quality monitoring equipment could occur based on NPS Air Quality Division recommendations.</p> <p>Climate Change</p> <p>Pinnacles would continue to support, encourage, and conduct scientific research related to understanding the effects of climate change on monument resources and/or the broader region, including coordinating efforts with other agencies. The monument would strive to accomplish goals of the Climate Friendly Action Plan.</p>			

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Continue natural resources management activities (See <i>Common to All</i>).	Emphasize conserving and restoring natural functions, protecting watershed values, and protecting sensitive wildlife areas.	Emphasize importance of a natural setting for the visitor experience. Provide ample opportunities to experience ecological communities and geologic features.	Protect natural resources to a high degree and restore natural functions when practicable and beneficial. Resource management would acknowledge that humans and the landscape are inseparable; that the environment has been shaped for thousands of years by human use.
Continue restoration efforts, including enhancement of habitat areas in the bottomlands, McCabe Canyon, and in former facility locations at Chaparral.	Emphasize restoration and development removal in sensitive areas, especially in the primitive zone. Restore the bottomlands to oak woodland savanna. Emphasize detecting nonnative invasive species. Restore North Chalone Peak, Chaparral parking lot, the bottomlands, and riparian areas along Sandy Creek. Prepare a site plan for the Moses Spring parking and picnic area to improve natural hydrologic conditions and habitat functions.	Emphasize nonnative invasive plant removal alongside trails and scenic areas where these species may spread into new park areas and detract from visitor experience. Equestrian use of the bottomlands will only be allowed when weeds are under control.	Restore natural processes with priority on areas likely to receive the highest ecological benefit, including the bottomlands and riparian areas along Sandy Creek. Nonnative invasive vegetation would continue to be treated or removed in the bottomlands. Areas that could be restored include fencing, temporary housing structures in the bottomlands and McCabe Canyon, buildings in Bear Gulch, the facilities being replaced at Chaparral, and possibly the Moses Spring area.
Continue natural resources research and education efforts and partnerships. Provide facilities, as available, for researchers.	Continue research opportunities; however, there would be fewer or less obtrusive equipment in the field.	Visitors and volunteers would be actively engaged in natural resource service learning opportunities. These projects would promote public engagement with Pinnacles' research and science in general.	Natural resources protection would be enhanced by a strong education and research emphasis. Link people to park resources through a strong science / resource communication program to enhance public and staff understanding of significant resources. Increased cooperation with universities, scientific and educational organizations would boost research opportunities and information sharing. As available, facilities would be provided for scientists and other researchers to work collaboratively with the park. Expand preservation and protection of resources through maintaining relationships with communities and neighbors possessing associated resources.

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Cultural Resources Common to All: <p>Cultural resources would be documented and assessed for significance in accordance with existing policy. Features / landscapes eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places would be nominated.</p> <p>Develop long-term treatment strategies for significant cultural resources (archeological sites, historic buildings, structures and landscapes). Appropriate treatments for cultural resources, including adaptive reuse of historic structures, would be applied.</p> <p>Policy-required baseline studies, such as an archeological overview and assessment, historic structures reports, and a historic resource study would be completed. Identification studies, site condition assessments, and long term preservation strategies would be developed. A traditional association (ethnographic) study would also be completed.</p> <p>Conduct regular monitoring of significant cultural resources for protection and preservation. This would include providing staff and volunteers with guidelines and training.</p> <p>Historic structures could be adaptively reused; the nature of the use may vary.</p> <p>Management of cultural landscapes would be balanced with natural resource objectives, monument operations needs, and visitor use.</p> <p>Prepare a determination of eligibility for listing the Bear Valley School building on the National Register of Historic Places. Prepare a Historic Structure Report to document the physical history of the building and determine appropriate preservation treatments. The Bear Valley School building would be rehabilitated and interpretation about its significance would be provided.</p>			
<p>Continue to lack in-park cultural resource expertise, resulting in continued dependence on NPS regional staff to assist in cultural resource management and compliance.</p> <p>Continue current level of cultural resources education, interpretation, and research would continue. Interpretation of cultural resources would likely remain limited.</p>	<p>Continue protection of cultural resources.</p> <p>Maintain significant historic resources. Protect historic resources through a range of preservation treatments. Rehabilitation of historic structures for compatible uses would be possible. Historic structures lost to fire or flood would not be rebuilt if not serving an operational function.</p>	<p>Protect and manage cultural resources to provide visitors with opportunities to experience the broader history of the region.</p> <p>Connect visitors to significant cultural resources within and outside the park through immersion in historic settings. Increase interpretation of historic resources as well as efforts to share information with the public and partners.</p>	<p>Manage cultural resources to protect and interpret their significance and to connect these resources to a broader regional history, and provide visitors with opportunities to experience and learn about the interrelationship between humans and the environment.</p> <p>Establish a cultural resource management program to expand understanding of the monument's cultural resources and to provide additional guidance for their management.</p>
<p>The Bacon house would be stabilized and used for storage. Other historic structures (such as the barn) would be stabilized.</p> <p>The Butterfield homestead area would continue to be protected and historic structures would be stabilized.</p>	<p>Same as alternative A, except the Bacon house would be rehabilitated for improved storage.</p>	<p>The Bacon House would be adaptively reused as office space. Other historic structures could also be adaptively reused.</p> <p>The Butterfield Homestead would offer a cultural resource-focused visitor experience.</p>	<p>The Bacon House would be adaptively reused as office space for park staff and/or researchers. Other historic structures could also be adaptively reused.</p> <p>The Butterfield Homestead would be preserved or rehabilitated and managed for cultural landscape values to reflect the historic homesteading period.</p>

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
The Bear Valley School building would be rehabilitated and community use as a meeting space could be available. Passive interpretation about its significance would be provided.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A, plus: The school building would also be used as a special interpretive program area, and could possibly be available for rental managed by a concession or partner organization. A small comfort station, day use parking, and a picnic area could be constructed but would be designed and sited so as not to detract from the significance of the historical setting.	Same as alternative C, plus: A small new building for office space for partners or agency staff could also be constructed.
Documented structures that do not contribute to the monument's significance and are not being used for operations could be removed.	Remove documented structures that do not contribute to the monument's significance and are not being used for operations.	Remove documented structures that do not contribute to the monument's significance and are not being used for operations. These could include fencing, temporary housing structures in the bottomlands and McCabe Canyon, buildings in Bear Gulch, and the facilities being replaced at Chaparral.	Remove documented structures that do not contribute to the monument's significance and are not being used for operations (See "Facilities" above).
The North Chalone Peak fire lookout would be stabilized.	Under alternative B, the fire lookout and road would be removed and the North Chalone Peak area would be restored. Interpretation of its significance would be provided at North Chalone Peak.	The fire lookout would be stabilized and rehabilitation for adaptive re-use would be contingent upon external funding.	The fire lookout would be stabilized and rehabilitation for adaptive re-use could be contingent upon funding. If funding for rehabilitation cannot be found five years after the GMP has been approved, the monument would plan for the removal of the fire lookout. Interpretation of its significance would be provided at North Chalone Peak.
Historic mining resources would be protected in the West Side area.	Same as alternative A.	Protect and interpret historic mining resources in the Chaparral / West Side area.	Same as alternative C.
Continue current level of museum displays	Same as alternative A.	Develop additional interpretive museum displays.	Same as alternative C.

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Commercial Services			
Common to All: Continue to work with a cooperating association to run the bookstore sales in the East Pinnacles Visitor Center.			
Continue to authorize a concession contract for camping, limited convenience and grocery items. Continue to authorize a concessioner to provide additional services. Other recreational concession activities may also be authorized with the approval by the Superintendent. The concessioner and a cooperating association would continue to operate in the shared East Pinnacles Visitor Center/ Campground General Store building.	Consider authorizing a concession contract for camping, limited convenience and/or grocery items. Consider allowing some additional commercial activities consistent with the general management plan and NPS service-wide policies.	Consider authorizing a concession contract for camping, limited convenience and/or grocery items. Consider allowing commercial interpretive tours consistent with the general management plan and NPS service-wide policies.	Same as Alternative C.
User Capacity			
Continue to manage visitation based on approved plans. Continue to respond to user capacity issues on a case-by-case basis, with facility capacity (including parking) largely setting the monument's user capacity. Continue to study user capacity issues to better manage visitors.	Monument staff would monitor social and resource indicators, evaluate current conditions against standards, and take appropriate steps to ensure the monument's user capacity is not exceeded.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Boundary Adjustments			
Common to All: Seek to acquire inholdings within the boundary if/when they become available from willing sellers. Consider administrative boundary changes to acquire lands from willing sellers adjacent to the boundary consistent with NPS <i>Management Policies</i> criteria. Prepare a comprehensive boundary study to identify park needs, inventory significant resources, and to determine minor boundary adjustment priorities.			

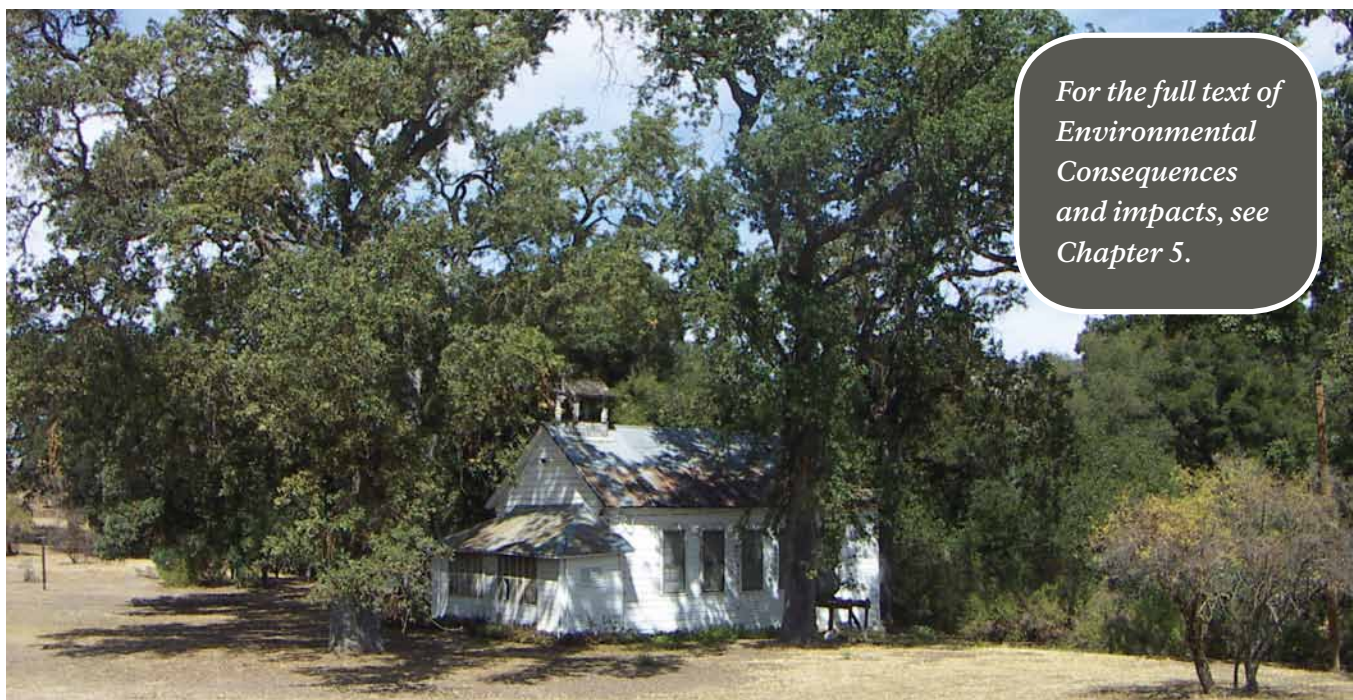
Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Partnerships, Regional Cooperation, and Outreach			
<p>Common to All:</p> <p>Continue to participate in community outreach activities including attending local meetings and special events.</p> <p>Engage communities, universities, Native American groups, Pinnacles Partnership friends group, and other organizations in resource protection, education, research, and interpretation.</p> <p>Community use opportunities of Bear Valley School could be available.</p> <p>Work cooperatively with surrounding neighbors, communities, local agencies, associated tribes, and organizations to protect regional resources (See also Combined Natural and Cultural Resource Management section).</p> <p>Pinnacles National Monument and Parque Nacional Quebrada del Condorito in Argentina would continue a sister park relationship to exchange information and resources regarding common themes at both parks.</p>			
See <i>Common to All</i>	<p>Actions would be the same as described in <i>Common to All</i>, plus:</p> <p>Outreach to communities would focus on providing information regarding wilderness opportunities, stewardship, and wilderness values.</p>	<p>Actions would be the same as described in <i>Common to All</i>, plus:</p> <p>Outreach would focus on providing information regarding recreational opportunities in the monument.</p> <p>More community events would be provided at the monument.</p> <p>The monument would partner with gateway communities and other agencies to provide better signage and interpretation.</p> <p>A volunteer coordinator would seek local community involvement in management actions and issues.</p> <p>Emphasize increased tribal involvement.</p>	<p>Actions would be the same as described in <i>Common to All</i>, plus:</p> <p>Participate in efforts to work with government agencies, ranchers, cattlemen's associations, land trusts, rangeland conservation coalitions, and citizens to support common ground of open spaces that provide habitat connectivity, dark night skies, clean air, and livelihoods for our neighbors.</p> <p>For sites outside the monument that are related to the purpose and significance of Pinnacles, new partnerships/agreements with schools, affiliated tribes, surrounding agencies, and gateway communities would be developed to increase regional resource protection and to provide new educational and interpretive opportunities.</p> <p>A volunteer coordinator would seek local community involvement in management actions and issues.</p> <p>The monument would increase interagency cooperation and tribal involvement in resource protection and restoration.</p>

TABLE 13: SUMMARY OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALTERNATIVES

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Annual Operational Costs				
Annual Operational Costs	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000
Additional Staffing (FTE)	9 FTE would be added under alternative A. These FTE are included in OFS requests that have been Regionally prioritized.			
		+15.63 FTE	+20 FTE	+19 FTE
Additional Staffing Costs	\$790,000	\$1,890,000	\$2,190,000	\$2,140,000
Additional Operations & Maintenance Costs Related to Capital Investments	\$30,000	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$200,000
Total Annual Operational Costs	\$4,420,000	\$5,590,000	\$6,040,000	\$5,940,000
One-time Capital Costs				
Facility Rehabilitation				
Priority 1 Projects	\$690,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$120,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$1,230,000	\$110,000	\$2,180,000	\$110,000
Historic Preservation				
Priority 1 Projects	\$1,010,000	\$1,060,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$2,640,000	\$80,000
Natural Resource Restoration				
Priority 1 Projects	\$680,000	\$640,000	\$530,000	\$410,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$0	\$130,000	\$10,795,000	\$100,000
Facility / Infrastructure Replacement				
Priority 1 Projects	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$6,780,000	\$9,260,000	\$10,160,000	\$10,565,000
New Construction				
Priority 1 Projects	\$0	\$580,000	\$2,070,000	\$1,970,000
Priority 2 Projects	\$400,000	\$1,030,000	\$6,935,000	\$3,165,000
Facility Removal				
Priority 1 Projects	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Priority 2 Projects	\$0	\$5,790,000	\$5,260,000	\$5,630,000
Total Priority 1 Projects	\$4,880,000	\$4,910,000	\$6,580,000	\$6,350,000
Total Priority 2 Projects	\$8,490,000	\$16,400,000	\$27,810,000	\$19,650,000
Total One-time Capital Costs	\$13,370,000	\$21,310,000	\$34,390,000	\$26,000,000
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects are identified as either "Priority 1" or "Priority 2" projects. Priority 1 projects include deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and the construction of some trails to provide visitor access to the new lands. Priority 2 projects include facility replacement, facility rehabilitation, removal of facilities and restoration of those areas, and additional trails. Construction gross costs include design contingency, construction management, and construction contingency. 				

TABLE 14: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Visitor Experience			
Access and Circulation			
<p>Existing parking areas, trails, and trailheads would continue to be available and many of these would continue to experience overcrowding during the peak season, leading to long-term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts.</p> <p>Public use of the Bear Valley School property would create minor to moderate adverse impacts due to poor vehicle turnout.</p> <p>Beneficial impacts include continuing maintenance and improvement of roads, sidewalks, parking areas, and trails.</p>	<p>Same as A, plus:</p> <p>Alternative B would have long-term benefits on access and circulation within the monument due to expansion of the trail system and increased trail crew staffing.</p> <p>Parking changes at Chaparral and Moses Spring would produce minor adverse impacts by relocating parking a short distance from the existing trailheads.</p> <p>Reconfiguration and design of the entrance station, East Pinnacles Visitor Center, Chaparral parking, and campground areas would result in improved traffic circulation, parking, and shuttle compatibility.</p>	<p>Same as B, except:</p> <p>Alternative C provides the greatest amount of parking, due to a larger replacement visitor center on the east side.</p> <p>Alternative C does not propose parking changes at Moses Spring.</p> <p>The provision of bicycle racks at trailheads would provide a small beneficial impact.</p> <p>Enhancement of shuttle stops through shade structures, drinking water, and visitor information could encourage more people to ride the shuttles which, in turn, would reduce congestion.</p>	<p>Same as C, except:</p> <p>Alternative D includes a site plan of the Moses Spring parking area to improve natural hydrologic conditions. If the parking area were to be removed, the potential impacts would be the same as described in alternative B.</p> <p>Providing staff to assist at regional information centers would benefit the public by disseminating traffic information before visitors reach the monument.</p>



Bear Valley School. NPS photo.

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Visitor Use Opportunities			
<p>The existing spectrum of visitor opportunities would continue to provide for visitor enjoyment and recreation. The continuation of current management practices under alternative A would not result in substantial changes to visitor use and would continue to provide beneficial effects.</p> <p>Alternative A would have some long-term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts on the visitor experience, primarily from conflicts resulting from peak use of limited facilities, challenges resulting from changing demographic needs, limited accessibility, and limited staffing.</p>	<p>Alternative B would provide high quality wilderness-centered experiences, benefitting users who seek experiences typically associated with wilderness. As the existing spectrum of visitor opportunities would continue to be provided, adverse impacts to visitor experience and use would be minor, while many benefits would be realized for those seeking solitude.</p> <p>Other beneficial impacts would include the opening of trail access to new areas of the monument and improved visitor services through redesign and reconfiguration of the east side entrance station, visitor center, and campground areas.</p> <p>Additional trail crew staffing would lead to improved maintenance of existing and new trails, providing better access to remote areas.</p> <p>Some visitors would experience a minor to moderate adverse impact due to removal of the swimming pool.</p>	<p>Alternative C would provide a new, limited equestrian opportunity. Some beneficial impacts would be realized due to the addition of this previously unavailable opportunity. Minor adverse impacts, however, would also occur when equestrian use conflicts with other trail uses or when associated facilities detract from the experience of non-equestrian users.</p> <p>Alternative C would provide an increased diversity of recreational experiences and amenities, with beneficial impacts. New amenities would include camping on the west side, new backcountry camping opportunities, and improved picnicking opportunities.</p> <p>Adverse impacts on visitor experience and use would be minor to moderate, typically associated with short-term construction impacts, while many long-term benefits would be realized for a variety of visitor types.</p> <p>As in alternative B, visitors would benefit from trail access to new areas and additional trail crew staffing.</p>	<p>Same as C, except:</p> <p>Alternative D would not provide equestrian opportunities.</p>
Interpretation and Education			
<p>Education and interpretive programs under alternative A would continue to provide beneficial effects to monument visitors, school groups and teachers, local communities, and organizations.</p> <p>In the long-term, staffing and programmatic constraints would continue to result in minor to moderate, adverse cumulative impacts on education and interpretation, as current demand for services is not met.</p>	<p>The beneficial effects described in alternative A would continue under alternative B.</p> <p>More effective outreach and off-site educational programs would result in more informed students and local participants, with beneficial effects.</p>	<p>The beneficial effects described in alternatives A and B would continue under alternative C.</p> <p>The monument's capacity for providing interpretive and educational services, both within and outside of the monument, would be substantially increased through additional exhibit space, enhancement of education programs, and more indoor and outdoor spaces for programming, with beneficial effects.</p>	<p>Same as C, plus:</p> <p>Beneficial impacts from participation in regional visitor / interpretive centers.</p>

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Wilderness Character			
Retention of the pig fence, reservoir, and other actions in alternative A would continue to have minor to moderate adverse impacts on the untrammeled quality of wilderness character. Existing infrastructure and facilities within wilderness include old roads and road traces, 32 miles of trails, the pig exclusion fence, Bear Gulch Reservoir, and various visitor aids such as handrails, signs, and steps on popular hiking trails. In addition, crowding, visitor use restrictions, visual impacts, and noise affect wilderness experiences. These existing facilities and conditions would continue to have a minor to moderate adverse effects on the undeveloped and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation qualities of wilderness.	Same as A, plus: New trail development would have a negligible to minor adverse impact on the solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation quality. Solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation would be enhanced through actions related to restoration, the broadest application of primitive zoning among the alternatives, and minimization of the development footprint throughout the monument.	Same as A, plus: New trail development and backcountry camping would have a minor adverse impact on the solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation quality.	Same as C, except: Alternative D contains slightly less semi-primitive zoning and slightly more primitive zoning, protecting the quality of solitude in more areas.
Natural Resources			
Air Quality			
Impacts on air quality are localized and short-term and arise from fires, barbeques, and vehicle use. Adverse impacts under all alternatives would be short-term, localized, and minor to moderate.	Same as A, plus: Additional short-term, localized, negligible to minor impacts associated with facility construction.	Same as A, plus: Some additional minor adverse impacts due to the addition of west side campfires. Some beneficial impacts due enhanced shuttle stops, if visitors drive less. Additional short-term, localized, minor to moderate impacts associated with facility construction.	Same as C

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Dark Night Skies			
Existing monument operations and visitor use would continue to have minor long-term adverse impacts on the monument's dark skies. No new developments would degrade night skies.	Existing monument operations and visitor use would continue to have minor long-term adverse impacts on the monument's dark skies. Alternative B would have the least adverse impact of the alternatives, due to the removal of structures and the most restrictive zoning outside of designated wilderness. Increased education and outreach efforts would have some beneficial effects.	Alternatives C and D would have the greatest impacts on the monument's dark night skies due to new development, including some areas on the bottomlands that have been unlit since acquisition by the monument. Impacts under these alternatives would be adverse, long-term, and minor. Increased education and outreach efforts would have some beneficial effects.	Same as C
Geological Resources			
Minor adverse impacts to geological resources would continue to occur, due to visitor activities, primarily near trails and climbing areas.	Same as A, plus: Higher potential for minor adverse impacts, due to greater trail development. Adding a physical scientist to the staff would have beneficial effects.	Same as B, plus: Slightly higher potential for minor impacts, due to greater trail development and camping opportunities that provide additional climber access.	Same as C
Soils			
Adverse impacts due to disturbance, compaction, and erosion near trails and visitor facilities would be negligible to minor.	Same as A, plus: Somewhat more potential for trail impacts in alternative B due to more new trail development. Short-term, minor to moderate impacts would occur during restoration of the Moses Spring, Chaparral, and North Chalone Peak areas, as well as construction, including the east side entrance station. Long-term beneficial effects would be produced through increased restoration and removal of social trails.	Same as A, plus: Greater impacts due to addition of equestrian use, additional trail development, backcountry campsites, and a walk-in west side campground. These adverse impacts would be minor to moderate and long-term in extent.	Same as C, except: Fewer minor to moderate adverse impacts due to lack of equestrian use. Long-term beneficial effects would be produced through increased restoration and removal of social trails.

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Hydrologic Systems and Processes			
Under Alternative A, no new structures are planned that would either affect stream flow or increase the amount of hardened surfaces in the monument, with the exception of a new South Wilderness Trail connection, with negligible to minor localized impacts.	<p>Increased restoration efforts, including removal of floodplain development at Chaparral and Moses Spring would provide long-term beneficial effects.</p> <p>Some trail and recreation development would result in minor adverse impacts in localized areas.</p>	<p>Higher levels of development, including a new east side visitor center, a west side walk-in campground, and several new trails, would produce long-term, minor to moderate levels of adverse impact.</p> <p>Removal of floodplain development at Chaparral would provide long-term beneficial effects.</p>	Same as C.
Water Quality			
Alternative A would continue to produce minor to moderate adverse impacts on water quality throughout the monument due to the continuing impacts of existing infrastructure and activities in and upstream of monument watersheds and streams, particularly the existing campground, Moses Spring parking, and Chaparral parking areas.	<p>Same as A, except:</p> <p>Restoration of the Moses Spring and Chaparral parking areas would provide long-term benefits.</p> <p>New trails would have negligible to minor long-term effects.</p> <p>Construction of new and replacement facilities would have short-term minor adverse effects.</p>	<p>Alternative C would produce minor to moderate adverse impacts, primarily due to a higher level of hardened surfaces to support increased visitor services and equestrian use.</p> <p>Restoration of the Chaparral parking area would provide long-term benefits.</p>	<p>Same as C, plus:</p> <p>Increased outreach efforts could provide beneficial effects.</p> <p>Fewer adverse impacts due to the lack of equestrian use.</p>
Natural Sounds			
<p>Long-term adverse impacts under alternative A would be minor to moderate in intensity, due to ongoing impacts in developed areas, along popular trails, and in caves.</p> <p>Some negligible to minor short-term impacts would occur due to construction of the South Wilderness Trail connection.</p>	<p>New trails would open visitor access to previously unvisited areas, resulting in negligible to minor adverse impacts.</p> <p>New development or ground-disturbing activities, including construction of a replacement entrance station and replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center, would have minor to moderate, short-term, adverse impacts.</p> <p>Some beneficial effects would be realized from the monument's interpretive programming focus on wilderness values and greater amounts of primitive zoning</p>	<p>Alternative C would have the greatest potential for minor to moderate adverse impacts due to trail access into more areas, equestrian use, greater visitor use of the bottomlands, and short-term construction impacts.</p>	<p>Same as C, except:</p> <p>Fewer localized, adverse impacts due to the lack of equestrian use.</p>

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Vegetation			
<p>Ongoing vegetation impacts would include damage to or loss of native vegetation due to maintenance activities, minor modifications to developed areas, recreational use, including trampling and soil compaction, and the spread of non-native species.</p> <p>Stabilization or rehabilitation of historic structures, trail maintenance and construction, recreational use (including social trails and trampling), and nonnative invasive plant introduction would continue to have minor to moderate adverse impacts.</p> <p>Current weed control and restoration efforts would continue to result in long-term beneficial effects.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts would occur in local areas under alternative B, due to current visitor use levels, replacement of a visitor center and entrance station in previously developed areas, and the introduction of visitors to new areas. An emphasis on restoration efforts and decreased development footprint, however, would lessen this overall impact.</p>	<p>Alternative C would have minor to moderate, long-term, adverse impacts on native vegetation, primarily from equestrian use, visitor use in remote, previously inaccessible areas and new infrastructure.</p> <p>Higher levels of development, including a new entrance station, equestrian facilities, and a replacement visitor center, would produce long-term, minor to moderate levels of adverse impact, with these facilities being constructed on previously developed land.</p> <p>Other facilities in new areas, such as a west side walk-in campground, backcountry campsites, and new trails, would produce moderate, localized, adverse impacts.</p>	<p>Same as C, except:</p> <p>No impacts due to equestrian activities and facilities.</p> <p>Higher level of restoration.</p>
Viewsheds and Scenic Resources			
<p>Minor, long-term, adverse impacts on visual resources would continue, primarily from visible infrastructure both within and outside of the monument.</p>	<p>Same as A, plus:</p> <p>Minor adverse long-term impacts on viewsheds could occur with the replacement of the entrance station. Other new construction would not be readily visible from trails or visitor use areas, or would occur in already developed areas, resulting in negligible adverse impacts.</p> <p>A high percentage of primitive zoning would limit potential future development, resulting in beneficial impacts.</p> <p>Minor to moderate short-term impacts could occur due to construction of facilities.</p>	<p>Same as A, plus:</p> <p>Minor adverse long-term impacts on viewsheds could occur with the replacement of the entrance station. Other new construction would not be readily visible from trails or visitor use areas, or would occur in already developed areas, resulting in negligible to minor adverse impacts.</p> <p>Minor to moderate short-term impacts could occur due to construction.</p>	<p>Same as C, except:</p> <p>Slightly less facility development resulting in negligible to minor adverse impacts.</p>

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat			
Existing resource management activities would continue to provide beneficial effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat. Trail construction and installation of shade structures at Chaparral would have negligible impacts.	Under alternative B, adverse impacts would be minor, mostly due to removal of the swimming pool, the reduction of wildlife-related education and research opportunities, and increased visitor access into new areas. Beneficial impacts would be realized from removal of the Moses Spring parking area, the Chaparral parking area, and increased restoration efforts.	Minor to moderate adverse impacts would occur with increased use in the campground and bottomlands areas, camping on the west side, increased bicycle use, and new trails. New and replacement buildings would be sited in previously developed areas, producing minor adverse effects. Beneficial impacts would be realized from removal of the Chaparral parking area and increased restoration efforts.	Same as C, except: A higher level of visitor and citizen engagement in wildlife and habitat issues under alternative D, along with increased restoration efforts, would provide beneficial effects.
Federally Listed and State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species			
Existing natural resource management activities would be continued, including California condor recovery, raptor monitoring, removal of exotic species, and restoration efforts in the bottomlands. These activities would result in long-term beneficial effects on habitats for all listed species. There would continue to be long-term minor to moderate adverse effects on California red-legged frogs from the parking area and development at Moses Spring.	In alternative B, adverse impacts would be minor, mostly due to removal of the swimming pool. The entrance station, the new East Pinnacles Visitor Center, and the proposed new trails would be subject to further environmental analysis. Adverse impacts to California red-legged frogs would be minor to moderate. Increased restoration efforts would benefit listed species.	The entrance station, the new East Pinnacles Visitor Center, and the proposed new trails would be subject to further environmental analysis. Adverse impacts to California red-legged frogs would be minor to moderate. Increased restoration efforts would benefit listed species.	Same as C, plus: Additional beneficial effects from more widespread restoration and fewer adverse impacts due to fewer facilities.
Cultural Resources			
Archeology			
Lack of specialized staff limits the ability of the monument to adequately address archeological resource preservation, resulting in minor to moderate adverse, long-term impacts. Installation of shade structures at Chaparral could potentially create negligible to minor adverse impacts.	The addition of staffed cultural resource program would benefit resources overall. New trails would have the potential for minor to moderate adverse impacts. New and replacement construction, limited to existing developed footprints, would avoid adverse impacts through identified mitigation measures and require additional compliance.	Same as B, plus: Minor to moderate adverse impacts could occur due to opening new areas to visitors and the development of a walk-in campground on the west side.	Same as C.

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Cultural Landscapes and Historic Structures			
<p>The monument's general ability to identify, inventory, conduct research and document cultural resource significance would continue to be limited by staffing constraints, with long-term, negligible to minor adverse effects.</p> <p>Some beneficial impacts would occur on historic structures and cultural landscapes, including stabilization and use of the Ben Bacon, Butterfield, and Bear Valley School structures, as well as ongoing restoration of the bottomlands area.</p>	<p>Implementation of alternative B would result in minor adverse effects and a Section 106 determination of "no adverse effect", with the exception of the North Chalone Peak fire lookout. Removal of the fire lookout would result in a major adverse effect (and an adverse effect determination under Section 106).</p>	<p>Implementation of alternative C would result in minor adverse effects and a Section 106 determination of "no adverse effect" on historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes.</p> <p>The North Chalone Peak fire lookout would benefit from rehabilitation and adaptive reuse.</p>	<p>Same as C, except:</p> <p>The North Chalone Peak fire lookout could be removed if funds are not available for rehabilitation. In this case, impacts would be the same as described for alternative B.</p>
Values, Traditions, and Practices of Traditionally Associated Peoples			
<p>Progress would continue to be made in documenting sites and resources significant to traditionally associated peoples, but this effort would rely on specific project funding. With the continuing loss of knowledge among traditionally associated peoples, the lack of sufficient staff and funding to document resources would result in moderate adverse impacts.</p>	<p>Establishment and staffing of a cultural resource program under alternatives B, C, and D would greatly benefit the protection, study, and knowledge of ethnographic resources in the monument.</p> <p>Minor adverse impacts could occur to ethnobotanical resources in McCabe Canyon due to improved visitor access to the area. Construction and design of McCabe Canyon trails, however, would be subject to additional environmental analysis to ensure protection of these resources.</p>	<p>Same as B, plus:</p> <p>Beneficial impacts related to increased visitor awareness due to enhanced interpretive efforts.</p>	<p>Same as C.</p>
Museum Collections			
<p>Minor adverse impacts due to insufficient environmental controls would continue, although a portion of the monument's collections may be moved to a shared facility in the reasonably foreseeable future.</p>	<p>Same as A, plus:</p> <p>Alternatives B, C, and D provide needed program staffing, reducing the level of impact to the monument's ability to document, exhibit, and interpret resources.</p>	<p>Same as B, plus:</p> <p>The replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center would be larger, with possible space to house or display additional collections at the monument, a beneficial impact.</p>	<p>Same as B</p>

Alternative A: No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience	Alternative C: Expand Visitor Experiences	Alternative D (Preferred): Link People and Resources
Monument Operations			
Alternative A would result in little immediate change to monument infrastructure or operations and would continue current levels of funding and staffing. Long-term, minor to moderate adverse impacts would continue.	<p>Alternative B would result in few changes to operational infrastructure, but would increase staffing, resulting in long-term beneficial impacts on functional capacity, but minor to moderate adverse effects due to insufficient office capacity.</p> <p>Replacement of the East Pinnacles Visitor Center would benefit operations and maintenance.</p>	<p>Under alternative C, minor to moderate adverse operational impacts would occur from facility and utilities needs at the Bacon House and Bear Valley Schoolhouse, as well as increased maintenance needs associated with other facilities.</p> <p>Management of visitor activities, including equestrian use, backcountry camping, and west side camping, would result in minor adverse impacts.</p> <p>Alternative C would also have long-term beneficial impacts on monument operations, primarily by increasing and relocating staff, providing additional office space, and redesigning the visitor entry experience on the east side.</p>	<p>Same as C, except:</p> <p>A smaller replacement visitor center would provide less space for staff needs.</p> <p>Equestrian uses would not be permitted, requiring no administration.</p> <p>Less office space would be provided.</p>
Socioeconomics			
<p>Alternatives A and B would have long-term, minor adverse impacts on the local and regional socioeconomic landscape, due to a possible unintended shift in monument visitation associated with a lack of appropriate facilities or activities for older or ethnically diverse visitors.</p> <p>Existing NPS employment, amenities, and education, as well as non-local travel spending, would continue to produce benefits for local communities.</p>	<p>Same as A, plus:</p> <p>Additional beneficial effects from replacement of the East Pinnacles Visitor Center, and new opportunities for improved interpretation, education, and recreation.</p> <p>Additional NPS spending and employment would increase economic benefits to the local communities.</p>	<p>Alternative C would produce long-term beneficial impacts through new opportunities and amenities for previously underrepresented groups and accommodation of increased visitation.</p> <p>Increased visitation due to improved facilities and additional recreational opportunities, including increased camping, could benefit the local economy.</p> <p>Additional NPS spending and employment would increase economic benefits to the local communities.</p>	<p>Same as C, except:</p> <p>Slightly less NPS spending on construction and other projects.</p>

Environmentally Preferable Alternative

The environmentally preferable alternative is defined as “the alternative that will promote national environmental policy as expressed in Section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act.” Section 101 states that it is the continuing responsibility of the federal government to . . .

1. fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
2. assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
3. attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
4. preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage; and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity, and a variety of individual choices;
5. achieve a balance between population and resource use which would permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life’s amenities; and
6. enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

The Council of Environmental Quality states that the environmentally preferable alternative is “the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it also means the alternative which best protects, preserves, and enhances historic,

cultural, and natural resources (46 FR 18026 – 46 FR 18038).” According to the NPS NEPA Handbook (DO-12), through identification of the environmentally preferred alternative, the NPS decision-makers and the public are clearly faced with the relative merits of choices and must clearly state through the decision-making process the values and policies used in reaching final decisions.

The environmentally preferable alternative for Pinnacles National Monument is Alternative B: Emphasize Backcountry Experience. This alternative best satisfies the national environmental goals—it provides the highest level of protection of natural and cultural resources while concurrently providing for a wide range of neutral and beneficial uses of the environment. This alternative maintains an environment that supports a diversity and variety of individual choices, and it integrates resource protection with an appropriate and preexisting range of visitor uses and understanding.

This alternative surpasses the other alternatives in realizing the full range of the Section 101 national environmental policy goals.

Alternative D, Link People and Resources, the preferred alternative, also meets many of the criteria. The enhancement of educational opportunities, research, and restoration of resources at the monument would result in a better understanding of the monument’s resources, thus better equipping the monument in fulfilling criteria 3, 4, and 5.

Alternative A, No Action, while accurately describing the current management direction and the best efforts of the staff, fails to satisfy the NEPA requirements outlined above when compared to the action alternatives. A shortage of funding for staff, programs, facilities, and services limits the monument’s effectiveness in achieving criteria 4 and 6.



West Side Visitor Center dedication event. NPS photo.

Alternative B, Emphasize Backcountry Experience would provide for more quality backcountry experiences and opportunities to restore resources. Restoration efforts, broader limitations on future development, a commitment to reduction of the development footprint, and the continuation and enhancement of all existing recreational opportunities best meet criteria 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6.

Alternative C, Expand Visitor Experiences would provide for a diverse range of visitor use opportunities, but there also would be a higher potential for more impacts to natural resources in comparison with the environmentally preferred alternative. For example, while alternative C provides a considerable amount of new visitor opportunities, these opportunities have more potential for increased visitor use in sensitive areas of the monument such as the West Side historic resource districts, the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, and McCabe Canyon.

Actions/Alternatives Considered But Dismissed From Detailed Consideration

The planning team originally developed four preliminary alternatives for public review. These preliminary alternatives included a “no action” alternative (Continue Current Management) and three action alternatives: Research and Learning, Backcountry Experience, and Expanded Visitor Experience.

The Choosing by Advantages method for identifying the preferred alternative resulted in the combination of alternative actions primarily from the Research and Learning and the Expanded Visitor Experience alternatives to create the preferred alternative, Link People and Resources. These actions best met the goals for the general management plan. Since many components from the former Research and Learning alternative were included in the preferred alternative and the public and planning team did not feel that the original concept was a strong stand-alone concept (most of the public suggested to merge elements of the Research and Learning concept with other alternatives), this alternative was ultimately dropped from consideration in the draft general management plan and environmental assessment.

Boundary Adjustments. Early in the alternatives development process, the planning team explored boundary adjustments as required by the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. After acquisition of the 2000-acre Pinnacles Ranch property in 2006, the park staff did not identify other major boundary modifications for the long-term, but indicated that

minor boundary adjustments could be made. One boundary adjustment considered but eliminated from further detailed consideration was the addition of the **Rock Springs Ranch (RS-Bar property)**. In 2010, Congressman Sam Farr requested the National Park Service to consider the 18,000-acre Rock Springs Ranch property for addition to Pinnacles National Monument from a willing seller. The National Park Service agreed to evaluate Rock Springs Ranch as part of the ongoing general management plan and to provide the Congressman with a brief report in advance of the draft GMP. The advantages of this addition to the park would have included additional significant resources related to the purpose of the park, additional lands for visitor enjoyment, and lands for administrative use. This boundary adjustment would have included lands within the San Andreas fault zone which would have provided additional opportunities to interpret the geologic story of the broader region.

During the evaluation process, the National Park Service determined that the addition of Rock Springs Ranch to Pinnacles does not appear to be feasible and that management of Rock Springs Ranch would only appear to be necessary or superior to alternative management strategies if other conservation agencies and organizations are not able to protect its significant resources. Rock Springs Ranch appears to be appropriate for management by another public agency such as the Bureau of Land Management, or through conservation easement or partnership arrangements. Because the addition of Rock Springs Ranch to Pinnacles does not appear to be feasible, the National Park Service did not include this area as a boundary expansion recommendation in the draft general management plan. However, the National Park Service recognizes the importance of its significant resources, the area’s complementary relationship to resources, stories, and values at Pinnacles National Monument, the value of preserving open space around the monument, and its potential for enhancing public enjoyment of Pinnacles National Monument and the region. In this draft general management plan, the National Park Service proposes that Pinnacles collaborate with current and future ranch owners and managers to achieve resource protection, visitor education and interpretation (if appropriate), and other conservation goals in congruence with existing uses such as ranching and hunting.

This analysis of Rock Springs Ranch has demonstrated the importance of systematic analysis of other lands and resources in the vicinity of Pinnacles. The general management plan recommends preparation of a comprehensive boundary study to identify park needs, inventory significant resources, and determine boundary adjustment priorities. (For further information about this boundary analysis, see appendix C.)

TABLE 15: FUTURE COMPLIANCE REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS

Action	Compliance Requirement
<p>Routine monitoring and stabilizing of archeological sites.</p> <p>Monitoring of cultural landscapes and historic structures to protect, preserve, maintain, and research them.</p>	<p>These items are programmatically excluded from future Section 106 review and SHPO consultation in accordance with the 2008 Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.</p>
<p>Development of new visitor facilities including, trails, the east side visitor center and day use facilities, backcountry and walk-in campsites, campground improvements, and vault toilets.</p> <p>New habitat restoration efforts.</p> <p>Removal of existing facilities including west side facilities at Chaparral, North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout, Bear Gulch non-contributing structures, and Moses Spring parking and picnic area.</p>	<p>NEPA Compliance – Although some of the listed actions have been generally assessed in the environmental consequences of this document, many details have yet to be identified (e.g. precise location, design, and size of a facility). The monument is committed to avoiding significant impacts or affecting special status species in the implementation of these actions. Appropriate NEPA compliance would be completed before such actions are initiated to ensure that impacts to monument resources and values are not significant and that special status species are not affected.</p> <p>Future Section 7 compliance - Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) would occur for restoration of monument habitat.</p> <p>Future Section 106 compliance review and SHPO consultation would likely be necessary and required before construction at the project implementation planning or design stages.</p>



Local laborers constructing new Bear Gulch entrance road, 1932. NPS photo.

Implementation of the General Management Plan

Once the general management planning process is completed, the selected alternative would become the new management plan for the monument and would be implemented in phases. The monument's strategic plan, business plan, and annual work plans would help develop priorities that would determine how best to implement the general management plan.

Implementation of the actions and developments proposed within the management plan is dependent upon funding available at the time of need. The approval of this general management plan does not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement the plan would be forthcoming.

In addition to funding, implementation of the preferred alternative also could be affected by other factors. More detailed planning and environmental documentation may be completed, as appropriate, before some of the actions would be carried out.

IMPLEMENTATION PLANS, STUDIES, AND DESIGN WORK WOULD INCLUDE:

Plans and Designs:

- Wilderness Stewardship Plan (may incorporate guidance for climbing)
 - Climbing Management Plan
 - Resource Stewardship Strategy (underway 2012)
 - Comprehensive Interpretive Plan Update
 - Continued Implementation of Museum Management Plan
 - Continued Implementation of Fire Management Plan
 - Various Trail Plans, including:
 - South Wilderness Trail Connection
 - Trail from Campground to Bottomlands
 - McCabe Canyon Trails
 - West Side Trails
 - Backcountry Campground Site Plans
 - West Side Walk-in Campground Site Plan
 - West Side (Chaparral) Facility Removal and Relocation Site Plans
 - Bottomlands Site Plan
 - East Side Picnic Area Site Plan
 - East Side Replacement Entrance Station Site Plan
 - East Side Campground Reconfiguration Site Plan, including Amphitheater Relocation Site Plan
 - East Side Shuttle Stop Site Plans
 - Replacement East Pinnacles Visitor Center and Campground Store Site Plan
 - Bear Valley Day Use Picnic Area Site Plan
 - Moses Spring Site Plan
- North Chalone Peak Fire Lookout Plan
 - Plans for Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structures, including:
 - Bear Valley School
 - Ben Bacon House
 - Butterfield Homestead
 - Bear Gulch Chief Ranger House (Building #2)

Studies and Data Needs:

- Comprehensive Boundary Study
- Watershed Condition Assessment
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Continued air quality monitoring
- Climate change vulnerability analysis
- Continued bat, raptor and California condor monitoring
- Continued non-native invasive species monitoring and removal
- Acoustical monitoring
- Traditional Association Study
- Historic Resource Study
- Long-term Preservation Strategies for Cultural Resources
- Historic Structures Reports, including Bear Valley School
- Bear Valley School Determination of Eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places
- Prepare Nominations for Significant Cultural Resources
- Update List of Classified Structures
- Visitor Survey
- Visitor Capacity Metrics and Standards, including:
 - Number of people at a destination at one time
 - Wait time for parking during peak use periods

In addition policy-required baseline studies and updates of existing plans such as the Fire Management Plan, Comprehensive Interpretive Plan, and Museum Management Plan would be completed when needed.