

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

Action Topics	Alternative 1: No Action (Continuation of Existing Conditions)	Alternative 2: Proposed Action
Area designation	Commonly identified as a National Recreation Area, but with no enabling legislation or legislated boundary.	Designated by Congress as a National Recreation Area, with enabling legislation and a legislated boundary.
NRA management	NPS would continue to manage the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the NRA, and associated facilities, pursuant to Reclamation law, NPS law, the 1965 MOA between NPS and Reclamation, and other applicable laws and regulations. However, the permanence of NPS as the manager of said resources would not be assured.	NPS would manage the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the NRA, and associated facilities, pursuant to Reclamation law; NPS law, including new legislation establishing the NRA; a revised MOA, which would further define the administrative jurisdiction, roles, and responsibilities of Reclamation and its managing entities, NPS, and Western within the NRA; and other applicable laws and regulations. The permanence of NPS as the manager of these resources would be assured.
Reclamation projects management	Reclamation and its managing entities, and Western, would continue to construct, operate, maintain, replace, and expand their facilities pursuant to Reclamation law, the 1965 MOA, and other applicable laws and regulations, and would have unrestricted access to their lands and facilities.	Reclamation and its managing entities, and Western, would construct, operate, maintain, replace, and expand their facilities pursuant to Reclamation law, the revised MOA, and other applicable laws and regulations; and would have unrestricted access to their lands and facilities.
Acres of land within NRA by agency source	Reclamation (NPS managed per agreement with Reclamation) – 40,360 acres NPS – 1,105 acres BLM – None USFS (NPS managed) – 325 acres CDOW – None	Reclamation (NPS managed per agreement with Reclamation) – 41,860 acres NPS – 1,105 acres BLM (NPS managed) – 5,840 acres USFS (NPS managed) – 2,885 acres CDOW (NPS managed, if acquired by exchange) – 140 acres

Note: Under Alternative 1, NPS would manage other agency lands under agreement with each agency. Under Alternative 2, NPS would manage Reclamation land under agreement with Reclamation; however, lands that Reclamation deems are no longer necessary for the project would be transferred to NPS, unless otherwise identified by this study. Also, other agency lands would be transferred to NPS to administer and manage.

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Total initial acres within NRA	41,790 acres	51,830 acres (Increase of 10,040 acres)
Land managed under agreement to be deleted from NRA	None	USFS – 80 acres The 80 acres of USFS land managed under agreement with USFS are not Reclamation withdrawn; therefore, upon passage of legislation, NPS would return these lands to USFS to manage.
Possible future deletion of Reclamation land from NRA, subject to approval and revocation by Reclamation, for potential purposes stated	None	To be managed by BLM (NPS interim management) – 800 acres There is a potential for some NRA lands to be exchanged for private COA lands, subject to landowner agreement. Although the location of those NRA lands, and the number of acres would be confirmed by a future LPP, 363 acres on the north side of CO 92 have already been identified as appropriate NRA lands to be exchanged for COA lands.
Conservation Opportunity Area	None	Private – 24,300 acres A COA would be established adjacent to the proposed NRA boundary. NPS would be authorized by Congress to use resource conservation tools to partner with neighbors to conserve resources and values identified as important to the NRA.
Legislated authority to implement resource conservation tools	NPS could provide only limited technical assistance. Landowners would have to work with other agencies and organizations to utilize tools such as conservation funding and establishment of conservation easements.	An LPP would be written and implemented. NPS would be authorized to implement tools for resource conservation and to secure funding to assist willing landowners within the COA.
Resource conservation tools	NPS could provide only limited technical assistance to adjacent landowners regarding resource conservation issues.	NPS would implement tools outlined in the <i>Toolbox of Incentives for Resource Conservation</i> . These include technical assistance, general agreements, incentive payments, acquisition of conservation easements or other property rights, purchase and retained use and occupancy, and fee simple acquisition.

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Joint Agency Management Effort (JAME)	NPS, and other land management agencies with lands adjacent to the NRA, would continue to meet to address resource issues that are common to each agency. NPS would continue to cooperate with CDOW to address wildlife and habitat issues, and in managing fishing and hunting within the NRA.	Same as Alternative 1.
Estimated costs of implementation	\$500,000 for one-time costs; with no additional recurring annual costs.	<p>\$3,690,000 to \$14,973,000 for one-time costs, including acquiring interests in land from willing landowners; plus recurring annual costs of \$160,000 per year for additional staff and related expenditures.</p> <p>This study recognizes that the availability of federal funds for acquiring interests in land may be limited. However, many of the goals and objectives of Alternative 2 would still be achievable through the application of other tools that could be used to provide incentives to willing landowners for conserving resources.</p>
Staffing requirements	No change in existing staff.	<p>Initially, one additional FTE staff position to implement the Proposed Action during the first ten years, and to oversee its operation into the future. As implementation nears completion, the need for a full time employee may decrease, but many of the functions of the “partnership liaison” position would remain indefinitely.</p> <p>As interests in land are acquired, one additional FTE, shared among all five operating divisions at the NRA, for operations associated with acquisition of new lands from other government agencies and from willing private landowners.</p>