

IV.16 LIVESTOCK GRAZING

This chapter analyzes the potential impacts to grazing allotments and private grazing land from implementation of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP or Plan) alternatives. For purposes of this programmatic-level analysis, existing conditions for grazing appear in Volume III, Chapter III.16.

IV.16.1 Approach to Impact Analysis

IV.16.1.1 General Methods

This Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) is a programmatic document; its analysis is therefore primarily for typical impacts and does not evaluate the site-specific impacts of specific projects. Project-specific impacts would be assessed both during the permitting process and in future separate National Environmental Policy Act/California Environmental Quality Act (NEPA/CEQA) documents.

Potential impacts are based on to what degree Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing allotments and non-BLM grazing land intersect with proposed Development Focus Areas (DFAs) and existing and proposed Conservation Planning Areas. Data for non-BLM land is from the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). Please note that BLM grazing allotments include some non-BLM lands. As a result, there is some overlap between BLM grazing allotments and FMMP-designated, non-BLM grazing lands.

Assumptions used in the analysis of livestock grazing impacts include the following:

- Livestock grazing would not be permitted in areas developed for utility-scale solar and geothermal energy production, but are likely compatible with wind and transmission development.
- For wind energy projects, livestock might need to be removed from areas during blasting or heavy equipment operations. However, depending on the location, size, and design of a wind project, wind development generally would not preclude livestock grazing.
- All existing leases and permits would be subject to terms and conditions established by BLM regulations.
- Vegetation would be re-established through reclamation and restoration practices upon decommissioning of renewable energy projects, to the standards required by BLM regulations and project-specific design criteria.

- Livestock grazing allotments on public lands are tied to private property owned by grazing permittees (referred to as the “base property”).
- There are 2,595,000 acres in BLM grazing allotments in the Plan Area. Based on FMMP mapping, there are 969,000 acres of private grazing lands in the Plan Area. Because BLM grazing allotments include private permittee-owned or controlled base property, some private lands are included in both the BLM grazing allotment analysis and the non-BLM private grazing land analysis.

The general metric used for assessing impacts to livestock grazing is the acreage of livestock grazing allotments (or FMMP-designated grazing land) that would overlap with renewable energy development under each alternative. Where grazing overlaps with a Conservation Designation, alterations may be made to BLM grazing allotments in accordance with new permit terms and conditions (e.g., trailing, season of use), but grazing would not be entirely prohibited on those allotments. Grazing may be prohibited on private grazing land that overlaps with Conservation Planning Areas.

IV.16.1.2 CEQA Standards of Significance

There are no specific CEQA thresholds for either grazing or grazing allotments. Grazing allotments within the Plan Area are managed by BLM; however, there are also grazing lands outside of areas managed by BLM. Impacts to agricultural resources are addressed in Chapter IV.12. For purposes of this analysis, the following impact thresholds are used:

- Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.
- Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

IV.16.2 Typical Impacts Common to All Action Alternatives

The potential effects of renewable energy development (solar, wind, and geothermal) and their right-of-way (ROW) requirements (major transmission, generator tie-lines [gen-ties], and substations) on livestock grazing within the Plan Area were evaluated in part by reviewing the Solar Programmatic EIS (PEIS), Wind PEIS, and Geothermal PEIS.

This section analyzes impacts from typical solar, wind, and geothermal energy development and its required transmission and ROWs. DRECP alternatives would generate future renewable energy development applications within identified DFAs, and each project would undergo individual NEPA and/or CEQA analysis for its impacts. Impacts related to renewable energy projects and their associated facilities would vary depending on the technology proposed, location of the project area, the time and degree of disturbance from development, and the size and complexity of the facilities.

IV.16.2.1 Impacts of Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

As described in Chapter III.16, there are several grazing allotments within the Plan Area. These allotments are within private, state, and federal lands. Where there is grazing on public lands, it is authorized through grazing permits or leases. BLM grazing regulations specify that permits or leases can be cancelled with a 2-year notification to the grazing permittee when the land will be put to a public purpose that precludes livestock grazing (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 4110.4-2[b]). The grazing regulations also provide reimbursement to grazing permittees for their share of the value of authorized grazing improvements on public land.

Grazing activities would be excluded or modified in areas developed for utility-scale renewable energy production, both inside or outside of DFAs. All or portions of grazing permits or leases within areas developed for renewable energy production would be cancelled or modified after a permittee receives the required 2-year notification. Depending on conditions unique to an individual grazing operation, reductions or changes to authorized grazing use may be necessary because of the loss of all or part of either the forage base or range improvements (e.g., fencing, water development, seedings). Livestock grazing on public lands is the main source of livelihood for many public land ranchers, and significant reductions in permitted grazing would adversely affect the economic value of ranches and threaten their continued viability. More detailed socioeconomic analysis would be conducted in future project-specific CEQA and NEPA reviews.

IV.16.2.1.1 Impacts of Site Characterization

Generally, site characterization for wind, solar, and transmission development would have minimal if any impacts on livestock grazing. For geothermal development, exploration activities could affect large areas of grazing in the short-term during construction of well pads, exploration wells, and roads.

IV.16.2.1.2 Impacts of Construction and Decommissioning

The construction and decommissioning of renewable energy and transmission facilities could result in impacts to livestock grazing. Impacts include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Loss of forage for livestock in areas cleared of vegetation.
- Loss of forage, reduced forage palatability because of dust on vegetation, increase and spread of noxious weeds, and increases in occurrence of wildland fire.
- Noise and other disturbance may affect distribution of livestock and subsequently affect vegetation communities.

- Increased traffic could result in livestock injury or death; harassment of livestock; or management issues (e.g., open gates).
- Soil and water contamination could harm forage and livestock.
- Social and economic impacts to ranchers and communities could result from the modification or loss of grazing privileges, particularly where grazing has been a longstanding and important tradition. Other potential socioeconomic impacts are discussed in Chapter IV.23.

IV.16.2.1.3 Impacts of Operations and Maintenance

The operations and maintenance of renewable energy and transmission facilities would generally have minimal impacts to livestock grazing. Wind and transmission facilities would generally have smaller impacts than solar or geothermal because of the smaller footprints of those technologies. Once constructed, wind and transmission facilities would not prevent grazing. Access to renewable energy facilities (many in remote locations) for during operation and maintenance may result in disturbance, injury, or harassment of livestock by vehicles and noise along roadways and other ROWs. Livestock movement may be restricted by fencing around solar and geothermal projects. If they are not fenced, geothermal facility sump pits could adversely affect impact livestock grazing by exposing livestock to toxic concentrations of minerals and chemicals from drilling fluids.

IV.16.2.2 Impacts of the Reserve Design

Impacts on livestock grazing from reserve design and conservation actions may be both adverse and beneficial. In areas where new Reserve Design Lands allow grazing, impacts may be beneficial when livestock is maintained in existing numbers and seasons of use. In other areas, reserve design and CMAs would restrict grazing, reducing herd numbers and seasons of use. In some cases, grazing allotments may be unavailable for grazing for conservation purposes. Within BLM-administered lands, any existing grazing permit or lessee would be given a 2-year notice before making an area unavailable for grazing.

IV.16.2.3 Impacts of BLM Land Use Plan Decisions

IV.16.2.3.1 Impacts of Renewable Energy Development and Transmission on BLM Lands

The typical impacts from the various renewable energy and transmission technologies on BLM lands would be the same as those described in Section IV.16.2.1. However, the specific locations in which renewable energy and transmission development would be allowed would be driven by LUPA decisions, which may encourage or restrict development in some areas.

IV.16.2.3.2 Impacts of BLM Land Designations and Management Actions

Because the BLM LUPA designations for conservation, public lands would be managed to protect ecological, historic, cultural, scenic, scientific, and recreation resources and values, livestock grazing may sometimes be restricted or limited. While other land uses are allowed within these areas, those uses must be compatible with the resources and values that the land designation is intended to protect.

Impacts to grazing use could be beneficial or neutral in areas where grazing allotments are protected from renewable energy development by LUPA designation decisions. Adverse impacts to grazing could occur in areas where allotments are reduced or eliminated through land use designations (e.g., in ACECs or within NCLs). Adverse impacts may also result if a LUPA designation restricts access to grazing allotments by closing roads.

Where SRMAs are increased, there could be impacts to grazing from OHV riding, hunting, fires, and access to areas within grazing allotments. To the extent SRMAs exclude surface occupancy from renewable energy development and maintain or enhance recreational setting characteristics of remoteness and naturalness, they may also provide limited protections to grazing allotments.

Details on allowable uses and management within NCLs appear in the LUPA description in Volume II. Details on the goals, objectives, allowable uses, and management actions for each ACEC and SRMA unit are in the LUPA worksheets in Appendix H.

IV.16.2.4 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan and General Conservation Plan

The Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) would be administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and would be applicable to the entire Plan Area. The GCP would be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and would be applicable to nonfederal lands, a subset of the entire Plan Area.

IV.16.2.4.1 Natural Community Conservation Plan

The impacts of renewable energy development permitted under the NCCP would be the same as those defined for the Plan-wide impacts, including the typical impacts described in Section IV.16.2 and for each alternative.

IV.16.2.4.2 General Conservation Plan

The GCP would not affect BLM-managed lands in grazing allotments, but may affect private land grazing. The types of impacts resulting from renewable energy development per-

mitted under the GCP would be the same as those defined for the Plan-wide impacts, including the typical impacts described in Section IV.16.2. However, the locations where these impacts would occur would vary by alternative. Any differences in these impacts that result from the locational differences are described for each alternative.

IV.16.3 Impact Analysis by Alternative

The following sections present impact analysis for the No Action Alternative, the Preferred Alternative, and Alternatives 1 through 4. Impacts on grazing are summarized in Table IV.16-1 and Table IV.16-2.

**Table IV.16-1
Acres of Grazing Land Converted to Nonagricultural Use for Renewable Energy and Transmission Development by Alternative**

Component	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
BLM grazing allotments	19,000	15,000	11,000	16,000	12,000	10,000
Non-BLM grazing land	10,000	23,000	26,000	18,000	24,000	25,000

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

**Table IV.16-2
Acres of Grazing Land Included in Reserve Design by Alternative**

Component	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
BLM grazing allotments	—	990,000	1,007,000	1,066,000	1,003,000	966,000
Non-BLM grazing land	—	29,000	37,000	52,000	38,000	29,000

Note: These totals include BLM LUPA conservation areas (excluding existing) and Conservation Planning Areas for BLM grazing allotments. For private (non-BLM) grazing lands, totals include only Conservation Planning Areas. The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Table IV.16-3
Acres of Private Grazing Land Converted to Nonagricultural Use for Renewable Energy and Transmission Development by County by Alternative

DRECP Counties	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Kern County	3,000	3,000	600	3,000	800	4,000
Los Angeles County	2,000	3,000	800	2,000	2,000	4,000
San Bernardino	5,000	17,000	24,000	13,000	21,000	18,000
Total	10,000	23,000	26,000	18,000	24,000	25,000

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Table IV.16-4
Acres of Private Grazing Land Included in Reserve Design (Conservation Planning Areas) by County by Alternative

DRECP Counties	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Kern County	—	4,000	11,000	6,000	11,000	4,000
Los Angeles County	—	7,000	9,000	7,000	9,000	7,000
San Bernardino	—	19,000	17,000	39,000	18,000	18,000
Total	—	29,000	37,000	52,000	38,000	29,000

Note: These totals include BLM LUPA conservation areas (excluding existing) and Conservation Planning Areas for BLM grazing allotments. For private (non-BLM) grazing lands, totals include only Conservation Planning Areas. The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Table IV.16-5
Acres of Grazing Allotments Impacted by Renewable Energy and Transmission by Ecoregion Subarea by Alternative

Ecoregion Subarea	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mtns	2,000	0	0	0	0	0
Imperial Borrego Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	4,000	2,000	0	1,000	0	400

Table IV.16-5
Acres of Grazing Allotments Impacted by Renewable Energy and
Transmission by Ecoregion Subarea by Alternative

Ecoregion Subarea	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Mojave and Silurian Valley	200	20	30	100	20	10
Owens River Valley	0	2,000	5,000	2,000	3,000	3,000
Paramint Death Valley	0	0	0	40	500	200
Pinto Lucerne and Eastern Slopes	200	2,000	2,000	3,000	2,000	2,000
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mtns	0	0	0	0	0	0
Providence and Bullion Mtns	6,000	400	500	400	700	200
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	7,000	8,000	4,000	10,000	6,000	5,000
Total	19,000	15,000	11,000	16,000	12,000	10,000

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Table IV.16-6
Acres of BLM Grazing Allotments Overlapping with
BLM LUPA Conservation/Reserve Design

Component	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Renewable energy and transmission development	12,000	7,000	7,000	12,000	6,000	4,000
BLM LUPA Conservation Reserve Design	-	849,000	848,000	901,000	845,000	809,000

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

IV.16.3.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative assumes that the state's renewable energy goals would be achieved without the DRECP and that renewable energy, transmission development, and mitigation for projects in the Plan Area would be developed on a project-by-project basis in a pattern consistent with past and ongoing renewable energy and transmission projects.

Any areas currently excluded from development by statute, regulation, or proclamation would retain those exclusions. Any areas that are administratively excluded would continue to be assessed based on management guidance within BLM local field office land-use plans. Without the DRECP, renewable energy development would continue to be patchy, which could result in fragmentation and loss of additional parts of livestock grazing permits, leases, and allotments.

IV.16.3.1.1 Impacts Within the Entire Plan Area in No Action Alternative

IV.16.3.1.1.1 Impacts and Mitigation for Renewable Energy and Transmission Development in No Action Alternative

Impact Assessment

Potential impacts to livestock grazing from renewable energy and transmission facility development under the No Action Alternative, by ecoregion subarea, are summarized and presented in Table R2.16-1, Table R2.16-31, and Table R2.16-54. For the No Action Alternative, defined impacts are the types identified by lead agencies for approved solar, wind, geothermal, and transmission projects.

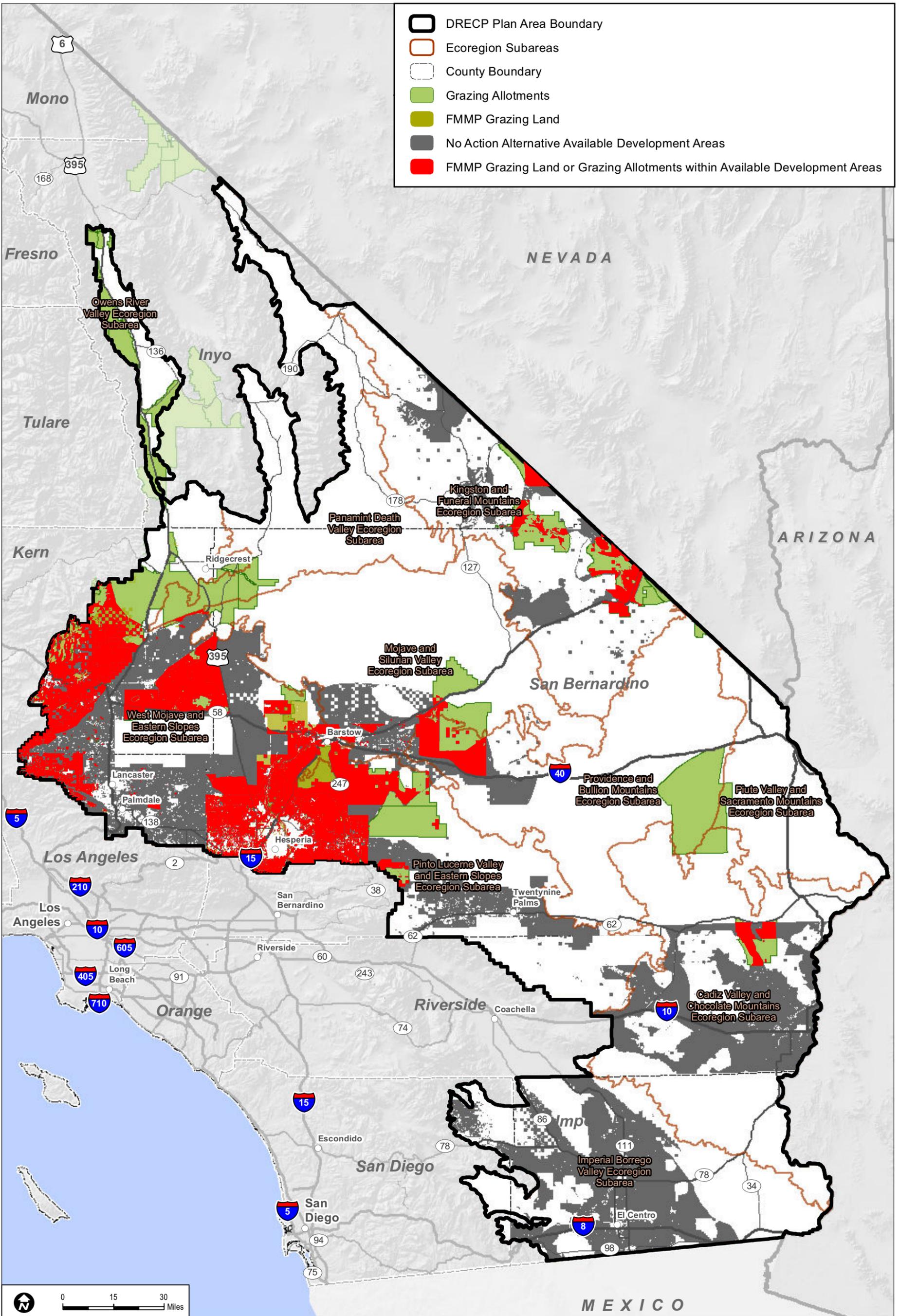
Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

Under the No Action Alternative, 19,000 acres of livestock grazing allotments would overlap with available development areas (15,000 acres of solar, 2,000 acres of wind, and 1,000 acres of transmission).

The majority of overlap would likely be within the following ecoregion subareas: Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains (2,000 acres of solar); Kingston and Funeral Mountains (4,000 acres of solar); Providence and Bullion Mountains (5,000 acres of solar and 300 acres of transmission); and West Mojave and Eastern Slopes (4,000 acres of solar, 2,000 acres of wind, and 1,000 acres of transmission). Within the other ecoregion subareas there would be minimal or no overlap of grazing allotments with available development areas under the No Action Alternative (see Figure IV.16-1, Grazing, No Action Alternative).

BLM grazing permits and leases would likely be reduced, modified, or cancelled in areas where solar and geothermal projects are developed. If full allotments are still and grazing continues in undeveloped portions of allotments, there would still be a loss of forage in areas approved for development. Renewable energy development may result in adverse socioeconomic impacts to ranchers and grazing communities from the modification or loss of grazing privileges, particularly where grazing has been a longstanding and important tradition.

Renewable energy and transmission development would occur on 10,000 acres of private grazing lands (5,000 acres for solar, 3,000 for wind, and 2,000 for transmission). Affected private grazing land would be in Kern County (3,000 acres), Los Angeles County (2,000 acres), and San Bernardino County (5,000 acres). In areas of solar development, grazing would likely be eliminated for the life of the project.



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (2010)

FIGURE IV.16-1

Grazing Land in Available Development Areas – No Action Alternative

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Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Renewable energy and transmission development would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing lands. Fugitive dust from construction would reduce forage palatability. Construction may spread noxious weeds and increase wildland fires. Livestock may be adversely affected by construction noise and move to areas farther from construction activities, impacting vegetation and forage (over-grazing). Project use of local water wells could reduce the amount of water available for livestock. Increased traffic would increase the potential for livestock injury or death from vehicle collisions. Increased access to grazing areas could cause grazing management problems through interference with pasture gates. Construction activities could also lead to accidental soil and water contamination that would harm both forage and livestock.

Laws and Regulations

Existing laws and regulations would reduce the impacts of renewable energy development projects in the absence of the DRECP. Relevant regulations are presented in the Regulatory Setting in Volume III. Note that because this EIR/EIS addresses amendments to BLM's land use plans, these plans are addressed separately and are not included in this section. The requirements of relevant regulations would reduce impacts through the following mechanisms:

- The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 mandates that occupation and use of rangelands must be regulated to preserve the land and its resources from destruction or unnecessary injury, and to provide for the orderly use, improvement, and development of public rangelands. The Taylor Grazing Act also provides that "grazing privileges recognized and acknowledged shall be adequately safeguarded" (43 United States Code [U.S.C.] Section 315[b]).
- The Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Act of 2002 (California Code, Division 10.4, 10330-10344, Section 10332) provides for the following: to prevent the conversion of rangeland, grazing land, and grassland to nonagricultural uses; to protect the long-term sustainability of livestock grazing; and, to ensure continued wildlife, water quality, watershed, and open-space benefits to the State of California from livestock grazing.
- Laws related air quality (described in Section III.2, Air Quality) would reduce impacts related to fugitive dust.
- Laws related to water quality (described in Section III.6, Groundwater, Water Supply and Water Quality) would reduce impacts from sedimentation and accidental spills.

- Laws governing hazardous materials (described in Section III.22, Public Safety and Services) would reduce impacts related to potential spills and contamination.
- Several Design Features from the Solar PEIS would reduce impacts on grazing lands from solar projects in BLM Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) and Solar PEIS Variance Lands: RG1-1 (coordinate with BLM and grazing permittees to avoid, minimize, and mitigate for impacts on grazing operations) and RG2-1 (construct roads to minimize their impact on grazing operations).
- Solar PEIS also includes numerous Design Features that would reduce the impacts of solar energy development on adjacent grazing operations within BLM SEZs and Solar PEIS Variance Lands. These Design Features address soil resources and erosion (SR1-1, SR2-1, SR3-1, SR3-2, SR4-1, SR4-2, SR4-3, ER2-1); water quality (WR1-1, WR2-1, WR3-1, WR4-1, ER1-1); air quality (AQC1-1, AQC2-1, AQC3-1, AQC4-1); weed management (ER3-1); hazardous materials (HMW1-1, HMW2-1, HMW3-1, HMW4-1, HMW4-2, HS1-1, HS2-1, HS3-1); restoration after decommissioning (ER4-1); and land use conflicts (LR1-1).

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures adopted for approved renewable energy and transmission development projects would likely be the same measures that would be applied in the future under the No Action Alternative. These measures would likely require some coordination with grazing operators and minimization of impacts on grazing operations.

IV.16.3.1.1.2 Impacts from Reserve Design in the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative has no reserve design, but without approval of an action alternative, there would be continued protection of existing LLPAs like wilderness areas. In addition, under the No Action Alternative, renewable energy projects would continue to be evaluated and approved with project-specific mitigation requirements.

Potential impacts to livestock grazing resulting from existing BLM conservation land designations (such as ACECs and SRMAs) under the No Action Alternative are summarized and shown in Table R2.16-2, Table R2.16-32, Table R2.16-55, and in Appendix R2. Under the No Action Alternative there would be no change to existing BLM conservation land designations or to lands available for livestock grazing. There would be no impacts from conservation land designations on available livestock grazing lands.

Under the No Action Alternative, existing protected areas and BLM Conservation Designations would provide ongoing conservation. However, there would be no reserve design equivalent to provide landscape scale guidance on how to offset the effects of renewable energy or transmission development. Therefore, the conservation generated from renew-

able energy or transmission development would be solely based on the mitigation requirements imposed on a project-by-project basis, taking into consideration the cumulative effects of other projects in the applicable area.

Currently, approximately 48% of grazing allotment acres are located within existing protected lands or BLM land designations (such as ACECs) (Table R2.16-4 in Appendix R2). The Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains ecoregion subarea would have the highest percentage (89%) of grazing allotment acres in existing protected areas and BLM conservation, followed by the Providence and Bullion Mountains (67%), and Mojave and Silurian Valley (66%) ecoregion subareas.

IV.16.3.1.2 Impacts on BLM Lands of Existing BLM Land Use Plans in No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, existing BLM land use plans within the Plan Area would continue to be implemented within BLM-administered lands. These land use plans would continue to allow for renewable energy and transmission development within certain land designations, including Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) and Variance Lands. These projects would continue to require LUPAs for approval if they are proposed outside SEZs or Solar Variance Lands.

Potential overlap of renewable energy and transmission development with grazing allotments within BLM LUPA boundaries (California Desert Conservation Plan [CDCA] Plan Area, Caliente Resource Management Plan [RMP] Area, and Bishop RMP Area) are shown in Table R2.16-3 (Appendix R2). Overlap of BLM ACECs and SRMAs with grazing allotments within land use plan boundaries (CDCA Plan Area, Caliente Resource Management Plan (RMP) Area, and Bishop RMP Area) are summarized and presented in Table R2.16-4 (Appendix R2).

Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under existing land use plans would be the same as discussed in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1 (Plan-wide analysis).

IV.16.3.1.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan in No Action Alternative

The NCCP would apply to all lands within the Plan Area. In the absence of Plan implementation, the NCCP would not be approved and no incidental take permits would be issued under the NCCP. Projects would continue to be considered by the appropriate lead agency on an individual basis. The impacts that would occur in the absence of the NCCP would be the same as those described in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.1.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan in No Action Alternative

As described in Appendix M, the GCP would apply to nonfederal lands in the Plan Area. In the absence of Plan implementation, the GCP would not be approved and no incidental take permits would be issued under the GCP. Projects would continue to be considered by the appropriate lead agency on an individual basis. The impacts that would occur in the absence of the GCP would be the same as those described in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1 (Plan-wide analysis), but would be specific to nonfederal lands.

IV.16.3.1.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area in No Action Alternative

Outside of the Plan Area, additional transmission lines would be needed to deliver the additional renewable energy to load centers (areas of high demand). It is assumed that new Outside the Plan Area transmission lines would use existing transmission corridors between the Plan Area and existing substations in the more populated coastal areas of the state. The Outside the Plan Areas through which new transmission lines might be constructed are San Diego, Los Angeles, North Palm Springs–Riverside, and Central Valley. These areas and their livestock grazing are described in Section III.16.5.

No grazing allotments are crossed by transmission corridors in the Los Angeles and North Palm Springs–Riverside areas. In the San Diego area, 2 allotments are traversed for a distance of total 2.3 miles. In the Central Valley, 8 grazing allotments are traversed by the transmission corridor for a total distance of 42 miles. Ten additional allotments are outside of the corridor but within 1.5 miles.

IV.16.3.1.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

Transmission towers have relatively small footprints and are widely spaced, resulting in a minimal loss of acreage available for grazing. Livestock would not be restricted for the tower area except during construction, and vegetation would be restored around the towers. Access to towers in existing corridors generally would be on existing access roads with spurs to the new towers, as needed. Spurs would also result in minor grazing acreage loss.

Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Changes from construction and operation of transmission towers would not block access to grazing land and would not adversely impact adjacent grazing lands.

IV.16.3.1.5.2 Impacts of Existing BLM Land Use Plans Outside the Plan Area

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing BLM CDCA Plan would continue to be implemented on CDCA lands outside the Plan Area. Under the No Action Alternative, renewable energy and transmission projects would continue to be proposed and developed through BLM's existing policies. Impacts on livestock grazing would be of the types described in Section IV.16.2.1, with mitigation measures included on a case-by-case basis. The existing land designations, such as existing protected areas, ACECs, and National Scenic and Historic Trails, would continue to be managed to protect their associated values and resources.

Under the No Action Alternative, there are 370,00 acres of grazing allotments in BLM LUPA lands outside the Plan Area (within the CDCA Plan). Potential impacts to grazing allotments resulting from BLM land use plan decisions outside the Plan Area are summarized and shown in Table R2.16-5 (Appendix R2).

Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under existing land use plans outside the Plan Area would be the same as discussed in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.1.6 CEQA Significance Determination: No Action Alternative

LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres. Construction of renewable energy projects and transmission would continue to convert some grazing land to nonagricultural use. Available development areas under the No Action Alternative includes 19,000 acres of grazing allotments on BLM land and 10,000 acres of private grazing lands. Lead agencies would likely require site restoration after projects are decommissioned, but since projects are likely to be operational for 30 or more years grazing may not resume after decommissioning. Therefore, grazing allotments and private grazing lands would be permanently lost. Because of the very large amount of grazing land remaining in the Plan Area, this impact would be adverse, but less than significant.

LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Renewable energy and transmission development would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing lands, which are described in Section IV.16.2.1.2. These potential impacts would be minimized by Solar PEIS Design Features and existing regulations governing water quality, hazardous materials, and air pollution. In addition, lead agencies would likely require that renewable energy projects implement a variety of project-specific mitigation measures to protect adjacent grazing land through controlling traffic, water use, hazardous material spills, water use, erosion, fugitive dust, and the spread of weeds. In the absence of the DRECP, these mitigation measures would not necessarily be consistent among projects. However, because existing regulations and Solar PEIS Design

Features would minimize most effects on adjacent grazing operations, impacts would be adverse, but less than significant.

IV.16.3.2 Preferred Alternative

IV.16.3.2.1 Plan-wide Impacts of Implementing the DRECP: Preferred Alternative

IV.16.3.2.1.1 Plan-wide Impacts and Mitigation Measures from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

Impact Assessment

Potential impacts to grazing resulting from renewable energy and transmission facility development under the Preferred Alternative are summarized and presented in Table R2.16-6, Table R2.16-33, and Table R2.16-56 (in Appendix R2).

Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

Under the Preferred Alternative, grazing allotments would overlap with 15,000 acres of renewable energy and transmission development. This development would include solar (11,000 acres), wind (800 acres), geothermal (1,000 acres), and transmission (2,000 acres). The majority of impacts would occur within the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregion subarea (8,000 acres). In addition, renewable energy would affect 23,000 acres of private grazing lands. Private grazing lands would be converted by solar (18,000 acres), wind (3,000 acres), and transmission (2,000 acres) development. This development would be primarily in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes ecoregion subarea and in San Bernardino County.

BLM grazing permits and leases would likely be cancelled, modified, or reduced where solar and geothermal projects are developed. If grazing continues in undeveloped portions of allotments, there would still be a loss of forage in areas cleared of vegetation. Renewable energy development may result in adverse socioeconomic impacts to ranchers and grazing communities from the modification or loss of grazing privileges, particularly where grazing has been a longstanding and important tradition. On private grazing lands, grazing would be eliminated for solar development.

Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Renewable energy and transmission development under the Preferred Alternative would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing operations. Potential impacts would be the

same as those described for the No Action Alternative (see Figure IV.16-2, Grazing, Preferred Alternative), tables IV.16-5 and IV.16-6, and Appendix R2 Table R2.16-6, Table R2.16-33, and Table R2.16-56 for more details on where impacts to grazing would occur.

Impacts in Study Area Lands

“Study Area Lands” refers to three categories of lands shown on alternative maps: Future Assessment Areas (FAAs), Special Analysis Areas (SAAs) and DRECP Variance Lands.

Future Assessment Areas. Lands within FAAs are neither reserve lands nor DFAs; they are simply areas that are deferred for future assessment. The future assessment will determine their suitability for renewable energy development or for ecological conservation. If renewable energy development occurs on FAA lands, a LUPA would not be required. FAAs for each alternative are included and located as shown in Table IV.1-2 and Figure II.3-1 in Volume II. The FAAs represent areas where renewable energy development or inclusion to the reserve design could be implemented through an amendment to the DRECP, though additional assessment would be required.

Because most of the FAAs are presented as undesignated areas in the action alternatives, there would be no difference between the FAAs in the Preferred Alternative except that renewable development in an FAA would not require a BLM LUPA, so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Development of the FAAs would not impact grazing because projects would still undergo environmental review and grazing allotments would still be covered by BLM regulations (see Section III.16.1.1, Livestock Grazing, Federal Regulatory Setting).

Special Analysis Areas. There are two areas defined as SAAs, representing areas subject to ongoing analysis. These areas (located in the Silurian Valley and just west of U.S. Route 395 [U.S. 395] in Kern County) have high value for renewable energy development, and also high value for ecological and cultural conservation and recreation. SAA lands are expected to be designated as either DFAs or included in the reserve design.

DRECP Variance Lands. DRECP Variance Lands represent the BLM Solar PEIS Variance Lands screened for the DRECP and based on BLM screening criteria. Covered Activities could be permitted for NCCP purposes only through an NCCP plan amendment. However, development of renewable energy on Variance Lands would not require a BLM LUPA so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Development of the DRECP Variance Lands would not impact grazing because projects would still undergo environmental review and would still be governed by BLM regulations (see Section III.16.1.1, Livestock Grazing, Federal Regulatory Setting).

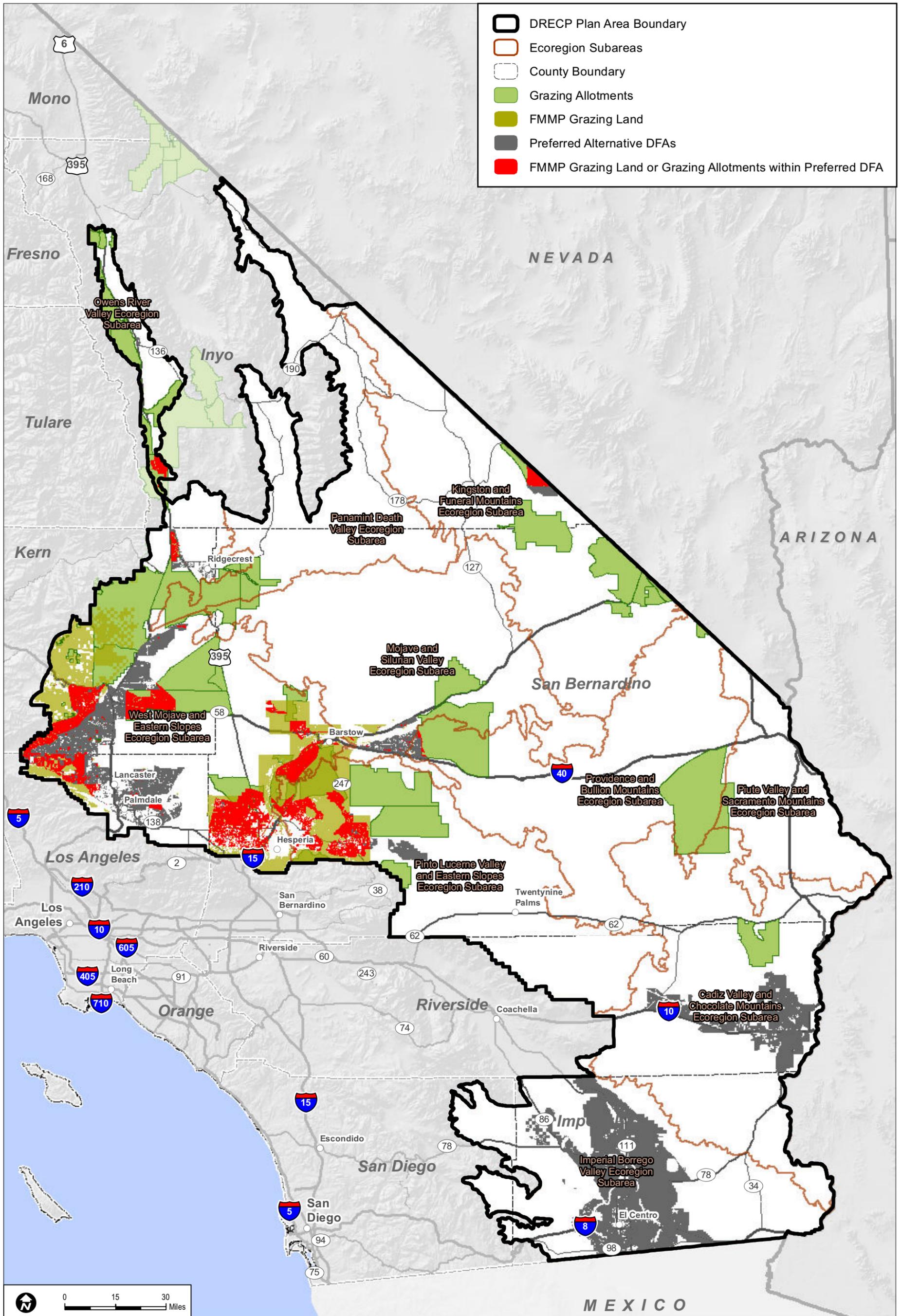
Impact Reduction Strategies and Mitigation

The implementation of the Plan would result in conservation of some desert lands as well as the development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities on other lands. There are several ways in which the impacts of renewable energy development covered by the Plan would be lessened. First, the Plan incorporates CMAs for each alternative, including specific biological reserve design components and LUPA components. Also, the implementation of existing laws, orders, regulations and standards would reduce the impacts of project development. If significant impacts would still result after implementation of CMAs and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, then specific mitigation measures are recommended in this section.

Conservation and Management Actions

The conservation strategy for the Preferred Alternative (see Section II.3.1.1) defines specific actions that would reduce the impacts of this alternative. The conservation strategy includes a definition of the reserve design and specific CMAs for the Preferred Alternative. While the CMAs were developed for BLM lands only, this analysis assumes that all CMAs would also be applied to nonfederal lands.

CMAs for livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands are outlined in Appendix H, and include actions that apply to project-specific activities. The BLM CMAs for grazing include proposed standards of rangeland health and guidelines for grazing management within the California Desert District allotments (Bishop and Bakersfield have approved standards and guidelines in place and are not modified by the DRECP). Grazing regulations (43 CFR 4110.4-2[b]) describe the process of devoting all or parts of a grazing allotment to another purpose and providing permittees and lessees with a 2-year notification. Relinquishment of grazing permits and leases falls under the 2012 Appropriations Act (Public Law 112-74) and provides policy whereby permittees and lessees can donate their permits and leases back to BLM for permanent relinquishment through the land use planning process. Grazing allotments that were voluntarily relinquished prior to fiscal year 2012 would be identified in the DRECP as permanently unavailable for grazing.



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (2010)

FIGURE IV.16-2

Grazing Land within DFAs – Preferred Alternative

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The following CMAs are also relevant to livestock grazing:

- BLM-Specific Air Resources CMAs.
- BLM-Specific Soil, Water, and Water-Dependent Resources CMAs.
- AM-PW-9 (Water Quality).
- AM-PW-10 (Soil Resources).
- AM-PW-11 (Weed Management).
- AM-PW-12 (Fire Management).
- AM-PW-13 (Noise).
- AM-PW-15 (Nuisance Wildlife and Invasive Species).
- AM-LL-2 (Hydrology).
- AM-TRANS-1 (Transmission Impacts).

Laws and Regulations

Similar to the No Action Alternative, existing laws and regulations will reduce impacts of Plan implementation (e.g., impacts related to air and water quality). Relevant regulations are presented in the Regulatory Setting in Volume III. The requirements of relevant laws and regulations are summarized for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

Mitigation Measures

After implementation of the CMAs and existing laws and regulations, the following mitigation measures would be applied to further reduce the DRECP's adverse impacts.

Mitigation Measures for Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

- LG-1a** **Minimize Impacts on Livestock Grazing.** If a project is sited on or adjacent to grazing land, the DRECP permittee shall:
- a) Minimize paving and ground disturbing activities to the maximum extent practical within grazing areas to maintain soil and forage quality.
 - b) Coordinate with the applicable county and other stakeholders early in the planning process to consider options to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to active grazing land and adjacent livestock grazing operations.

- c) Notify adjacent grazing operators of construction schedules and provide a point of contact for complaints about impacts to adjacent livestock and grazing lands. The DRECP permittee shall also reimburse the applicable county's Agricultural Commissioner's office for any necessary nonfederal lands investigations into any complaints received.

Mitigation Measures for Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands. Mitigation Measure LG-1a would apply to Impact LG-2 as well.

IV.16.3.2.1.2 Impacts of the Reserve Design in Preferred Alternative

Potential impacts to livestock grazing resulting from Reserve Design Lands under the Preferred Alternative are presented here and in Table R2.16-7, Table R2.16-35, and Table R2.16-57 in Appendix R2.

Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

The Preferred Alternative reserve design would overlap with 990,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments and 29,000 acres of private grazing land through the BLM LUPA and Conservation Planning Areas.

Under the Preferred Alternative, potential impacts on livestock grazing and grazing allotments from Reserve Design Lands would be both beneficial and adverse. Proposed ACEC and National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) designations could benefit livestock grazing as a result of disturbance caps designed to conserve and protect the resource values. Development in NLCS lands would be limited to 1% of total authorized disturbance, or to the level allowed by collocated ACEC and wildlife allocations, whichever is more restrictive. These disturbance caps and other management actions would minimize surface disturbance and provide protection for livestock grazing in active allotments. Proposed SRMAs could potentially have both adverse or beneficial impacts on grazing, depending on allowable uses within the SRMAs.

Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Reserve Design Lands would not involve activities or facilities that would adversely impact adjacent grazing.

IV.16.3.2.2 Impacts of DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment on BLM Land: Preferred Alternative

This section addresses two components of effects of the BLM LUPA: the streamlined development of renewable energy and transmission on BLM land under LUPA, and the impacts of the amended land use plans themselves.

IV.16.3.2.2.1 Impacts from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development on BLM Land

Under the Preferred Alternative 7,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments would occur within DFAs on BLM-administered lands. Potential impacts to grazing allotments resulting from DFAs under the Preferred Alternative on BLM-administered lands are summarized here and presented in Table R2.16-8 (Appendix R2). Under the Preferred Alternative, there would be no grazing allotments within DFAs in the Caliente or Bishop RMP Areas. Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under the Preferred Alternative would be the same as discussed in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.2.2.2 Impacts of Changes to BLM Land Designations

Under the Preferred Alternative, existing and proposed protected areas and BLM Conservation Designations would provide ongoing conservation of lands, including livestock grazing allotments within these areas. Reserve Design Lands may also result in restrictions to grazing or the designation of allotments as unavailable for grazing.¹

Under all action alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative, the following grazing allotments within BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for grazing: Pilot Knob, Cady Mountain, Cronese Lake, and Harper Lake. The forage allocated to these allotments would be permanently re-allocated to wildlife and ecosystem functions.

Under the Preferred Alternative, the following grazing allotments would be permanently unavailable (the forage designated for other uses): Buckhorn Canyon, Crescent Peak, Double Mountain, Jean Lake, Johnson Valley, Kessler Springs, Oak Creek, Chemehuevi, Piute Valley, and Valley View.

These allotments would be permanently unavailable for the following reasons:

- NLCS lands (converted for wildlife and ecosystem values): Crescent Peak, Jean Lake, and Kessler Springs allotments.

¹ Relinquishment of the grazing permit or lease is not the action that makes the land permanently unavailable for grazing. The Land Use Planning process completed by BLM is the activity that makes the land permanently unavailable for livestock grazing.

- DFAs (for renewable energy and transmission development): Oak Creek allotment.
- Other uses: Buckhorn Canyon, Double Mountain, Johnson Valley, Chemehuevi, Piute Valley, and Valley View allotments.

Overlaps of livestock grazing allotments with reserve design on BLM-administered lands under the Preferred Alternative are shown in Table R2.16-9 (Appendix R2). Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under existing land use plans would be the same as discussed in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.2.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: Preferred Alternative

The analysis of Covered Activities under the NCCP is equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives. Reserve design features and other conservation actions under the NCCP alternatives represent more detailed categories of the reserve design under the interagency Plan-wide alternatives. These NCCP differences in reserve design features do not affect nonbiological resources analyzed in this document, and the analysis of reserve design and CMAs under the NCCP is therefore equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives, as described in Section IV.16.3.2.1.

IV.16.3.2.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan

Impacts of the GCP for the Preferred Alternative would be similar to those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would occur on nonfederal lands only.

IV.16.3.2.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area

IV.16.3.2.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

The impacts of Outside the Plan Area transmission on livestock grazing would be the same under all alternatives. These impacts are as described for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.16.3.1.5 (Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area in No Action Alternative).

IV.16.3.2.5.2 Impacts of BLM LUPA Decisions Outside the Plan Area

There are 350,000 acres of grazing allotments on BLM LUPA lands outside the Plan Area. Potential impacts to livestock grazing resulting from BLM LUPA decisions under the Preferred Alternative for the CDCA outside the Plan Area are shown in Table R2.16-10 (Appendix R2). Impacts of the Preferred Alternative outside the Plan Area would be similar to those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis.

IV.16.3.2.6 CEQA Significance Determination for the Preferred Alternative

LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres. Under the Preferred Alternative, construction of renewable energy projects and transmission and designation of Reserve Design Lands would convert some grazing land to nonagricultural use. Renewable energy and transmission development would affect 15,000 acres of grazing allotments on BLM land and 23,000 of private grazing lands. The Reserve Design Lands would protect some grazing areas and restrict grazing in other areas. Mitigation Measure LG-1a (Minimize impacts on livestock grazing) would reduce impacts through ensuring coordination with BLM and grazing operators. Because of the very large amount of grazing land in the Plan Area and because of the protection provided by Mitigation Measure LG-1a, this impact would be adverse, but less than significant.

LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands. Renewable energy and transmission development would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing lands, described in Section IV.16.2.1.2, Typical Impacts. CMAs would minimize most of these impacts. In addition, Mitigation Measure AG-1a would require coordination with grazing operations for construction schedules. With the implementation of these measures, impacts would be less than significant.

IV.16.3.2.7 Comparison of the Preferred Alternative With No Action Alternative

Chapter IV.27 presents a comparison of all action alternatives and the No Action Alternative across all disciplines. This section summarizes the comparison of the Preferred Alternative with the No Action Alternative.

IV.16.3.2.7.1 Preferred Alternative Compared With No Action Alternative for Plan-wide DRECP

A comparison between the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative within DFAs for the Plan-wide DRECP is summarized here.

- **No Action Alternative:** 19,000 acres of livestock grazing allotments would overlap with available development areas. In addition, 10,000 acres of private grazing lands would be converted to nonagricultural use by renewable energy development.
- **Preferred Alternative:** 15,000 acres of livestock grazing allotments would overlap with DFAs. In addition, 23,000 acres of private grazing lands would be converted to nonagricultural use by renewable energy development.
- The Preferred Alternative would therefore potentially affect 4,000 fewer acres of BLM grazing allotments and 13,000 more acres of non-BLM grazing lands, compared with the No Action Alternative.

The differences between the Preferred Alternative and No Action Alternative within Reserve Design Lands are summarized here.

- **Preferred Alternative:** There would be 990,000 acres of overlap between BLM grazing allotments and reserve design (BLM LUPA and Conservation Planning Areas). The reserve design under the Preferred Alternative would create more concentrated areas of conservation and would, therefore, have reduced impacts on grazing compared with piecemeal conservation efforts under the No Action Alternative.

IV.16.3.2.7.2 Preferred Alternative Compared With No Action Alternative for the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment

A comparison between the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative within DFAs for the BLM LUPA is summarized here.

- **No Action Alternative:** 12,000 acres of grazing allotments within the BLM LUPA may overlap with available development areas.
- **Preferred Alternative:** 7,000 acres would occur within DFAs on BLM-administered lands.
- Impacts from potential renewable energy and transmission development to livestock grazing would be lower under the Preferred Alternative by 5,000 acres.

The differences between the Preferred Alternative and No Action Alternative within Reserve Design Lands are summarized here.

- **No Action Alternative:** Grazing allotments overlap with existing conservation designations, but there would be no new conservation designations under the No Action Alternative.
- **Preferred Alternative:** Grazing allotments would overlap with 849,000 acres of new conservation designations.

The Preferred Alternative includes proposed NLCS designations as well as designations of NSHT management corridors and lands with wilderness characteristics; this increases the total number of acres under conservation and protection when compared with the No Action Alternative. Under the Preferred Alternative management of most existing allotments would not change, but allotments listed in Section IV.16.3.2.2.2 would be permanently unavailable for grazing.

IV.16.3.2.7.3 Preferred Alternative Compared With No Action Alternative for NCCP

The impacts of the NCCP for the Preferred Alternative are the same as those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis. As a result, the comparison of the Preferred Alternative with the No Action Alternative for the NCCP is the same as described for the Plan-wide DRECP.

IV.16.3.2.7.4 Preferred Alternative Compared With No Action Alternative for the GCP

The impacts of the GCP for the Preferred Alternative would be similar to those defined in Section IV.12.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would be on nonfederal lands only. In the absence of Plan implementation, the GCP would not be approved and the impacts of projects would continue to be evaluated individually by the appropriate lead agency.

IV.16.3.3 Alternative 1

IV.16.3.3.1 Plan-wide Impacts of Implementing the DRECP: Alternative 1

IV.16.3.3.1.1 Plan-wide Impacts and Mitigation Measures from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

Impact Assessment

Potential impacts to grazing allotments resulting from renewable energy and transmission facility development under Alternative 1 are summarized here and presented in Table R2.16-11, Table R2.16-38, and Table R2.16-58 in Appendix R2.

Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

Under Alternative 1, BLM grazing allotments would overlap with 11,000 acres of renewable energy and transmission development. This would include solar (8,000 acres), wind (200 acres), and transmission (3,000 acres) development. The majority of impacts would occur within the Owens River Valley (5,000 acres) and West Mojave and Eastern Slopes (4,000 acres) ecoregion subareas.

In addition, renewable energy would convert 26,000 acres of private grazing lands to nonagricultural use. Private grazing lands would be converted by solar (22,000 acres), wind (1,000 acres), and transmission (2,000 acres) development. This development would be primarily in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes and Western Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregion subareas and in San Bernardino County.

Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

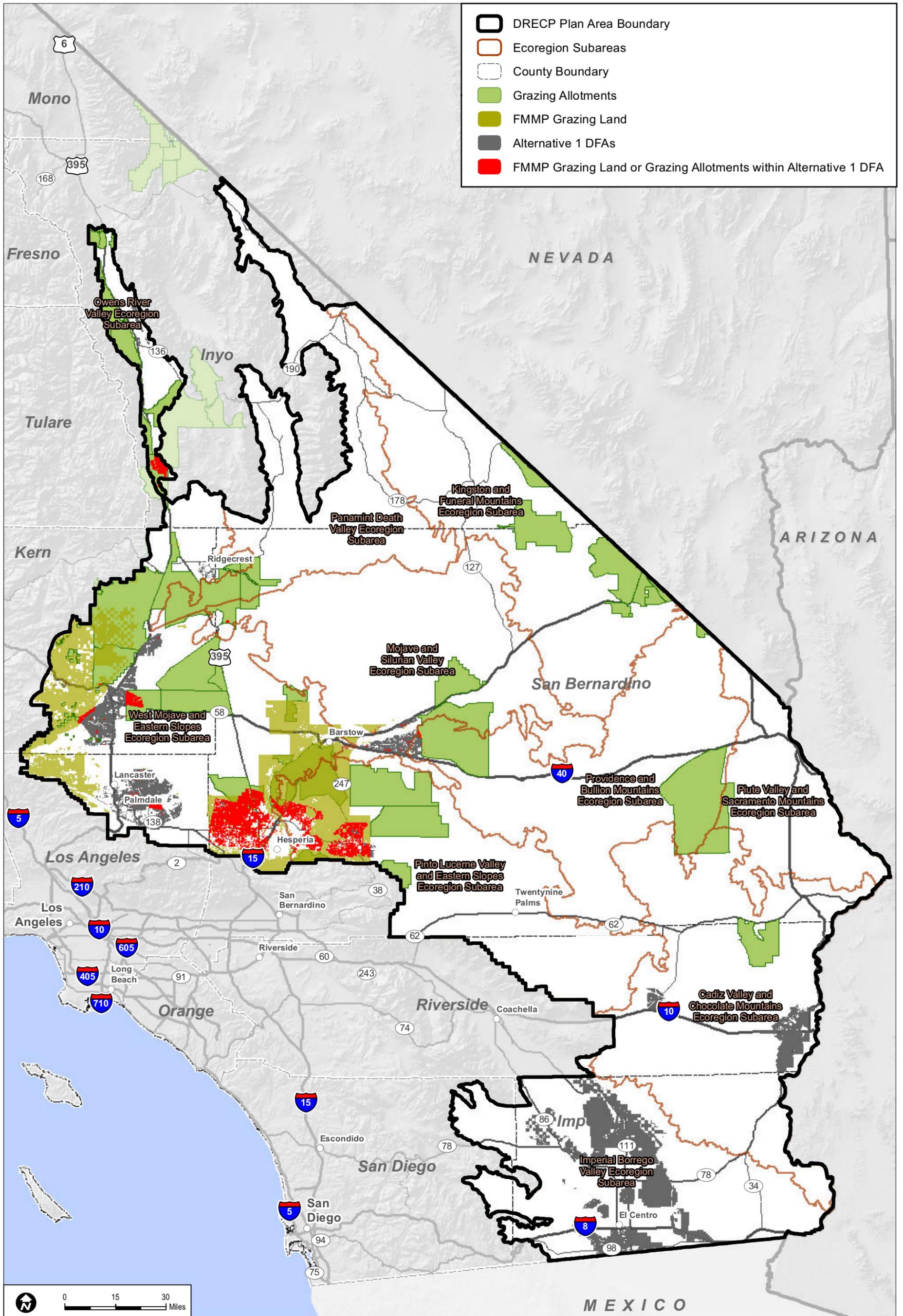
Renewable energy and transmission development under Alternative 1 would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing operations. Potential impacts would be the same types as those described for the No Action Alternative. See Figure IV.16-3 (Grazing, Alternative 1) and Appendix R2 Tables R2.16-11, Table R2.16-38, and Table R2.16-58 for more details on where impacts to grazing would occur.

Impacts in Study Area Lands

Future Assessment Areas. There are no FAAs in this alternative.

Special Analysis Areas. Designating the SAAs as conservation would have no impact on this resource. Impacts would be the same as those described for the Plan-wide reserve design.

DRECP Variance Lands. DRECP Variance Lands represent the BLM Solar PEIS Variance Lands screened for the DRECP and based on BLM screening criteria. Covered Activities could be permitted for NCCP purposes only through an NCCP plan amendment. However, development of renewable energy on Variance Lands would not require a BLM LUPA, so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Development of the Variance Lands would not impact grazing because projects would still undergo environmental review and grazing allotments would still be covered by BLM regulations (see Section III.16.1.1, Livestock Grazing, Federal Regulatory Setting).



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (2010)

FIGURE IV.16-3

Grazing Land within DFAs – Alternative 1

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Impact Reduction Strategies and Mitigation

The implementation of the Plan would result in conservation of some desert lands as well as the development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities on other lands. There are several ways in which impacts of renewable energy development covered by the Plan would be lessened. First, the Plan incorporates CMAs for each alternative, including specific biological reserve design components and LUPA components. Also, the implementation of existing laws, orders, regulations and standards would reduce the impacts of project development. If significant impacts would still result after implementation of CMAs and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, then specific mitigation measures are recommended in this section.

Conservation and Management Actions

The conservation strategy for Alternative 1 (see Section II.3.1.1) defines specific actions that would reduce the impacts of this alternative. The conservation strategy includes a definition of the reserve design and specific CMAs for the Preferred Alternative. While the CMAs were developed for BLM lands only, this analysis assumes that all CMAs would be applied also to nonfederal lands.

Laws and Regulations

Similar to the No Action Alternative, existing laws and regulations will reduce certain impacts of Plan implementation. Relevant regulations are presented in the Regulatory Setting in Volume III. The requirements of relevant laws and regulations are summarized for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

Mitigation Measures

After implementation of the CMAs and existing laws and regulations, Mitigation Measure LG-1a (minimize impacts on livestock grazing) will be applied to further reduce some of the DRECP's adverse impacts.

IV.16.3.3.1.2 Impacts from Reserve Design

Potential impacts to livestock grazing resulting from Reserve Design Lands under Alternative 1 are presented here and in Table R2.16-12, Table R2.16-39, and Table R2.16-59.

Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

The Alternative 1 reserve design would overlap with 1,007,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments and 37,000 acres of private grazing land through the BLM LUPA and Conservation Planning Areas.

Potential impacts on livestock grazing and grazing allotments from Reserve Design Lands would be both beneficial and adverse. Proposed ACEC and NLCS designations would benefit livestock grazing as a result of disturbance caps designed to conserve and protect the resource values. Development in NLCS lands would be limited to 1% of total authorized disturbance, or to the level allowed by collocated ACEC and wildlife allocations, whichever is more restrictive. These disturbance caps and other management actions would minimize surface disturbance and provide protection for livestock grazing in active allotments. Proposed SRMAs could potentially have adverse or beneficial impacts on grazing, depending on the allowable uses within the SRMAs. Where grazing activities are restricted or eliminated, impacts would be adverse.

Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Reserve Design Lands would not involve activities or facilities that would adversely impact adjacent grazing.

***IV.16.3.3.2 Impacts of DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment on BLM Land:
Alternative 1***

This section addresses two components of effects of the BLM LUPA: the streamlined development of renewable energy and transmission on BLM land under the LUPA, and the impacts of the amended land use plans themselves.

IV.16.3.3.2.1 Impacts from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development on BLM Land

Under Alternative 1, there would be 7,000 acres within DFAs on BLM-administered lands. Potential impacts to grazing allotments resulting from DFAs under Alternative 1 on BLM-administered lands are summarized here and presented in Table R2.16-13 (Appendix R2). Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under Alternative 1 would be the same as discussed in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.3.2.2 Impacts of Changes to BLM Land Designations

Under Alternative 1, existing and proposed protected areas and BLM Conservation Designations would provide ongoing conservation of lands, including livestock grazing allot-

ments within these areas. Reserve Design Lands may also result in restrictions to grazing or designation of allotments as unavailable for grazing.

Under all action alternatives, including Alternative 1, the following grazing allotments within BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for grazing: Pilot Knob, Cady Mountain, Cronese Lake, and Harper Lake. The forage allocated to these allotments would be reallocated to wildlife and ecosystem functions.

Under Alternative 1, the following grazing allotments would be considered relinquishable (designated for other uses): Buckhorn Canyon, Crescent Peak, Double Mountain, Jean Lake, Johnson Valley, Kessler Springs, Oak Creek, Chemehuevi, Piute Valley, and Valley View. These allotments would be relinquished as follows:

- NLCS lands (convert for wildlife and ecosystem values): Crescent Peak allotments.
- ACECs (converted for wildlife and ecosystem values): Jean Lake, Kessler Springs, and Valley View allotments.
- Other uses: Buckhorn Canyon, Double Mountain, Johnson Valley, Oak Creek, Chemehuevi, Piute Valley allotments.

Overlaps of livestock grazing allotments with reserve design on BLM-administered lands under Alternative 1 are shown in Table R2.16-14 (Appendix R2). Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under existing land use plans would be the same as discussed in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.3.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: Alternative 1

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 1 would be the same as those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis.

IV.16.3.3.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan

The impacts of the GCP for Alternative 1 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would occur on nonfederal lands only.

IV.16.3.3.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area

IV.16.3.3.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

The impacts of transmission outside the Plan Area on livestock grazing would be the same under all alternatives. These impacts are as described for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.16.3.1.5.

IV.16.3.3.5.2 Impacts of BLM LUPA Decisions Outside the Plan Area

Potential impacts to livestock grazing resulting from BLM LUPA decisions under Alternative 1 for the CDCA outside the Plan Area are shown in Table R2.16-15 (Appendix R2). Impacts of Alternative 1 outside the Plan Area would be similar to those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis.

IV.16.3.3.6 CEQA Significance Determination for Alternative 1

LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres. Under Alternative 1, construction of renewable energy projects and transmission and designation of Reserve Design Lands would convert some grazing land to nonagricultural use. Renewable energy and transmission development would affect 11,000 acres of grazing allotments on BLM land and 26,000 acres of private grazing lands. The reserve design would protect some grazing areas and restrict grazing in other areas. Mitigation Measure LG-1a (Minimize impacts on livestock grazing) would reduce impacts through ensuring coordination with BLM and grazing operators. Because of the very large amount of grazing land in the Plan Area and with the protection included in Mitigation Measure LG-1a, this impact would be adverse, but less than significant.

LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands. Renewable energy and transmission development would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing lands, described in Section IV.16.2.1.2. CMAs would minimize most of these impacts. In addition, Mitigation Measure AG-1a would require coordination with grazing operations for construction schedules. With implementation of these measures, impacts would be less than significant.

IV.16.3.3.7 Comparison of Alternative 1 With the Preferred Alternative

Chapter IV.27 presents a comparison of all action alternatives and the No Action Alternative across all disciplines. This section summarizes the comparison of Alternative 1 with the Preferred Alternative.

IV.16.3.3.7.1 Alternative 1 Compared With Preferred Alternative for Plan-wide DRECP

A comparison between Alternative 1 and the Preferred Alternative within DFAs for the Plan-wide DRECP is summarized here.

- **Alternative 1:** A total of 11,000 acres of livestock grazing allotments would overlap with DFAs. In addition, 26,000 acres of non-BLM grazing land would overlap with renewable energy and transmission development.
- **Preferred Alternative:** A total of 15,000 of livestock grazing allotments would overlap with DFAs. In addition, 23,000 acres of non-BLM grazing land would overlap with renewable energy and transmission development.

- Alternative 1 would affect 4,000 fewer acres of BLM grazing allotments and 3,000 more acres of private grazing lands than the Preferred Alternative.

The differences between Alternative 1 and the Preferred Alternative within Reserve Design Lands are summarized here.

- **Alternative 1:** The Alternative 1 reserve design would overlap with 1,007,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments and 37,000 acres of non-BLM grazing lands.
- **Preferred Alternative:** The Preferred Alternative reserve design would overlap with 990,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments and 29,000 acres of non-BLM grazing lands.
- Alternative 1 would overlap 17,000 more acres of grazing allotments and 8,000 more acres of private grazing lands than the Preferred Alternative.

See Table IV.16-2 through Table IV.16-5 for the locations of private grazing land and BLM grazing allotments potentially affected by Alternative 1 and the Preferred Alternative.

IV.16.3.3.7.2 Alternative 1 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment

A comparison between Alternative 1 and the Preferred Alternative within DFAs for the BLM LUPA follows.

- **Alternative 1:** 7,000 acres of grazing allotments would occur within DFAs on BLM-administered lands.
- **Preferred Alternative:** 7,000 acres of grazing allotments would occur within DFAs

The differences between Alternative 1 and Preferred Alternative within Reserve Design Lands are summarized here.

- **Alternative 1:** There would be 848,000 acres of grazing allotments within Reserve Design Lands.
- **Preferred Alternative:** There would be 849,000 acres of grazing allotments with Reserve Design Lands.

IV.16.3.3.7.3 Alternative 1 Compared With Preferred Alternative for NCCP

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 1 are the same as those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis. As a result, the comparison of Alternative 1 with the Preferred Alternative for the NCCP is the same as described for the Plan-wide DRECP.

IV.16.3.3.7.4 Alternative 1 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the GCP

The agricultural impacts of the GCP for Alternative 1 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.12.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but would occur on nonfederal lands only.

IV.16.3.4 Alternative 2

IV.16.3.4.1 Plan-wide Impacts of Implementing the DRECP: Alternative 2

IV.16.3.4.1.1 Plan-wide Impacts and Mitigation Measures from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

Impact Assessment

Potential impacts to grazing allotments resulting from renewable energy and transmission facility development under Alternative 2 are summarized here and presented in Table R2.16-16, Table R2.16-42, and Table R2.16-60 in Appendix R2.

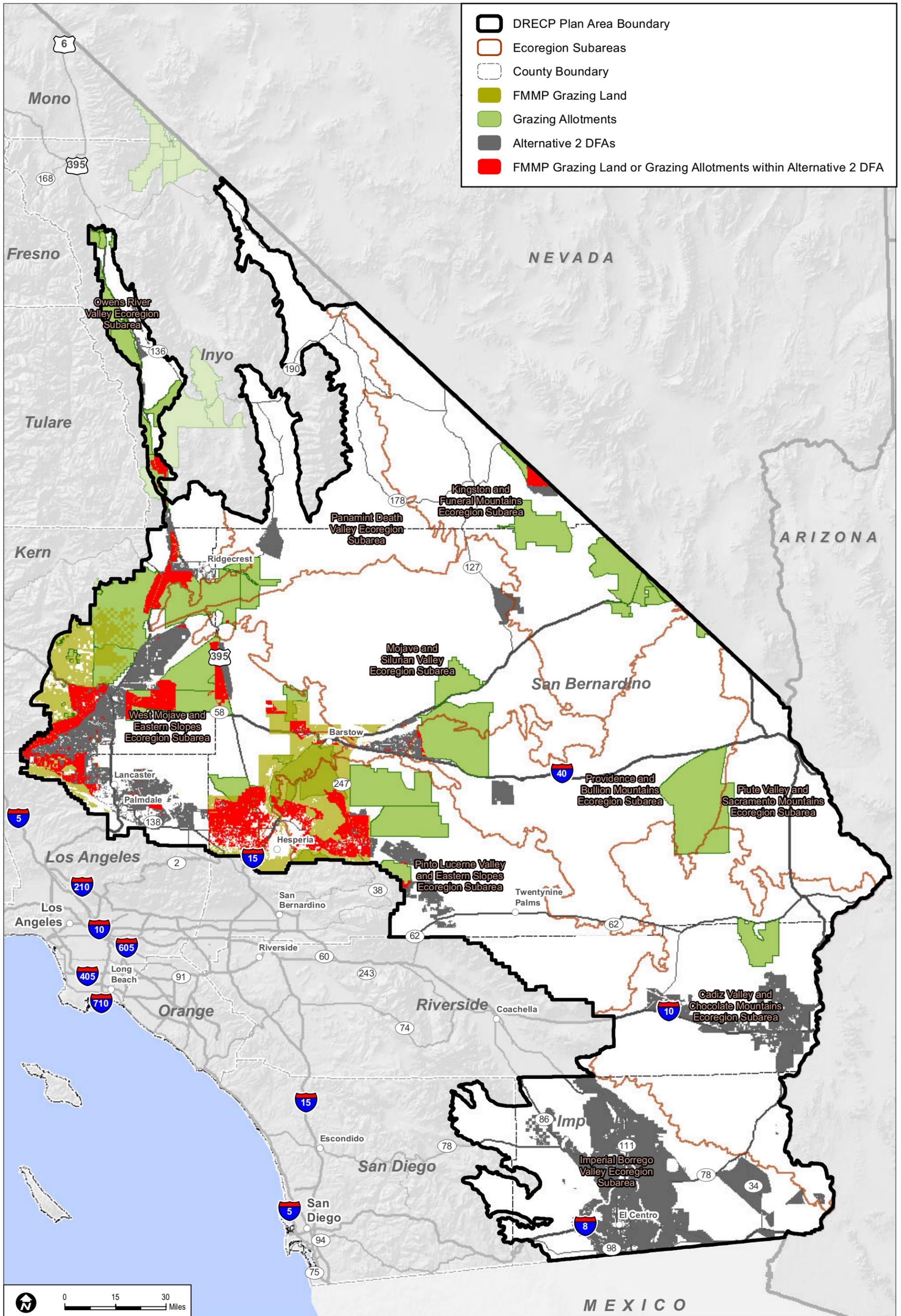
Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

Under Alternative 2, grazing allotments would overlap with a total of 16,000 acres of renewable energy development. This would include solar (11,000 acres), wind (1,000 acres), geothermal (800 acres), and transmission (3,000 acres) development. The majority of impacts would be within the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes (10,000 acres) ecoregion subarea.

In addition, renewable energy would convert 18,000 acres of private grazing lands to nonagricultural use. Private grazing lands would be converted by solar (12,000 acres), wind (3,000 acres), and transmission (3,000 acres) development. This development would be primarily in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes and West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregion subareas, and in San Bernardino County.

Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Renewable energy and transmission development under Alternative 2 would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing operations. Potential impacts would be the same types as those described for the No Action Alternative. See Figure IV.16-4 (Grazing, Alternative 2) and Appendix R2 Table R2.16-16, Table R2.16-42, and Table R2.16-60 for more details on where impacts to grazing would occur.



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (2010)

FIGURE IV.16-4

Grazing Land within DFAs – Alternative 2

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Impacts in Study Area Lands

Future Assessment Areas. Lands within FAAs are neither reserve lands nor DFAs; they are simply areas that are deferred for future assessment. The future assessment will determine their suitability for renewable energy development or for ecological conservation. If renewable energy development occurs on FAA lands, a LUPA would not be required. FAAs for each alternative are shown in Table IV.1-2 and Figure II.5-1 in Volume II. The FAAs represent areas where renewable energy development or inclusion to the reserve design could be implemented through an amendment to the DRECP, but additional assessment would be required.

Because most of the FAAs are presented as “undesigned areas” in the action alternatives, there would be no difference between the FAAs in the Preferred Alternative except that renewable development in an FAA would not require a BLM LUPA, so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Development of the FAAs would not impact grazing because projects would still undergo environmental review and grazing allotments would still be covered by BLM regulations (see Section III.16.1.1, Livestock Grazing, Federal Regulatory Setting).

Special Analysis Areas. Designating the SAAs as available for development would result in impacts similar to those identified for the DFAs for Plan-wide impacts.

DRECP Variance Lands. DRECP Variance Lands represent the BLM Solar PEIS Variance Lands screened for the DRECP and based on BLM screening criteria. Covered Activities could be permitted for NCCP purposes only through an NCCP plan amendment. However, development of renewable energy on Variance Lands would not require a BLM LUPA, so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Development of the DRECP Variance Lands would not impact grazing because projects would still undergo environmental review and grazing allotments would still be covered by BLM regulations (see Section III.16.1.1, Livestock Grazing, Federal Regulatory Setting).

Impact Reduction Strategies and Mitigation

The implementation of the Plan would result in conservation of some desert lands as well as the development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities on other lands. There are several ways in which the impacts of the renewable energy development covered by the Plan would be lessened. First, the Plan incorporates CMAs for each alternative, including specific biological reserve design components and LUPA components. Also, the implementation of existing laws, orders, regulations and standards would reduce the impacts of project development. If significant impacts would still result after implementa-

tion of CMAs and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, then specific mitigation measures are recommended in this section.

Conservation and Management Actions

The conservation strategy for Alternative 2 (see Section II.3.1.1) defines specific actions that would reduce the impacts of this alternative. The conservation strategy includes the definition of the reserve design and specific CMAs for the Preferred Alternative. While the CMAs were developed for BLM lands only, this analysis assumes that all CMAs would be applied also to nonfederal lands.

Laws and Regulations

Similar to the No Action Alternative, existing laws and regulations will reduce certain impacts of Plan implementation. Relevant regulations are presented in the Regulatory Setting in Volume III. The requirements of relevant laws and regulations are summarized for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

Mitigation Measures

After implementation of the CMAs and existing laws and regulations, Mitigation Measure LG-1a (minimize impact on livestock grazing, as described for the Preferred Alternative) will be applied to further reduce some of the DRECP's adverse impacts.

IV.16.3.4.1.2 Impacts from Reserve Design

Potential impacts to livestock grazing resulting from Reserve Design Lands under Alternative 2 are presented here and in Table R2.16-17, Table R2.16-43, and Table R2.16-61.

Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

The Alternative 2 reserve design would overlap with 1,066,000 of BLM grazing allotments and 52,000 acres of private grazing land through the BLM LUPA and Conservation Planning Areas.

Potential impacts on livestock grazing and grazing allotments from reserve design would be both beneficial and adverse. Proposed ACEC and NLCS designations would benefit livestock grazing as a result of disturbance caps designed to conserve and protect the resource values. Development in NLCS lands would be limited to 0.25% of total authorized disturbance, or to the level allowed by collocated ACEC and wildlife allocations, whichever is more restrictive. These disturbance caps and other management actions would minimize surface disturbance and provide protection for livestock grazing in active allotments. Pro-

posed SRMAs could potentially have adverse or beneficial impacts on grazing, depending on the allowable uses within the SRMAs. Where grazing activities are restricted or eliminated, impacts would be adverse.

Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Reserve Design Lands would not involve activities or facilities that would adversely impact adjacent grazing.

IV.16.3.4.2 Impacts of DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment on BLM Land: Alternative 2

This section addresses two components of effects of the BLM LUPA: the streamlined development of renewable energy and transmission on BLM land under the LUPA, and the impacts of the amended land use plans themselves.

IV.16.3.4.2.1 Impacts from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development on BLM Land

Under Alternative 2, there would be 12,000 acres of grazing allotments within DFAs on BLM-administered lands, all within the CDCA Plan. Potential impacts to grazing allotments resulting from DFAs under Alternative 2 on BLM-administered lands are shown in Table R2.16-18 (Appendix R2). Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under Alternative 2 would be the same as discussed in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.4.2.2 Impacts of Changes to BLM Land Designations

Under Alternative 2, existing and proposed protected areas and BLM Conservation Designations would provide ongoing conservation of lands, including livestock grazing allotments within these areas. Reserve Design Lands may also result in restrictions to grazing or designation of allotments as unavailable for grazing.

Under all action alternatives, including Alternative 2, the following grazing allotments within BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for grazing: Pilot Knob, Cady Mountain, Cronese Lake, and Harper Lake. The forage allocated to these allotments would be reallocated to wildlife and ecosystem functions.

Under Alternative 2, the following grazing allotments would be considered relinquishable (designated for other uses): Buckhorn Canyon, Crescent Peak, Double Mountain, Jean Lake, Johnson Valley, Kessler Springs, Oak Creek, Chemehuevi, Piute Valley, and Valley View. These allotments would be relinquished as follows:

- NLCS lands (convert for wildlife and ecosystem values): Crescent Peak, Double Mountain, and Valley View allotments.

- DFAs: Oak Creek allotment.
- Other uses: Buckhorn Canyon, Jean Lake, Johnson Valley, Kessler Springs, Chemehuevi, and Piute Valley allotments.

Overlaps of livestock grazing allotments with reserve design on BLM-administered lands under Alternative 2 are shown in Table R2.16-19 (Appendix R2). Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under existing land use plans would be the same as discussed in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.4.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: Alternative 2

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 2 would be the same as those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis.

IV.16.3.4.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan

The impacts of the GCP for Alternative 2 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would occur on nonfederal lands only.

IV.16.3.4.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area

IV.16.3.4.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

The impacts of transmission outside the Plan Area on livestock grazing would be the same under all alternatives. These impacts are as described for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.16.3.1.5.

IV.16.3.4.5.2 Impacts of BLM LUPA Decisions Outside the Plan Area

Potential impacts to livestock grazing resulting from BLM LUPA decisions under Alternative 1 for the CDCA outside the Plan Area are presented in Table R2.16-20 (Appendix R2). Impacts of Alternative 2 outside the Plan Area would be similar to those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis.

IV.16.3.4.6 CEQA Significance Determination for Alternative 2

LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres. Under Alternative 2, construction of renewable energy projects and transmission and designation of Reserve Design Lands would convert some grazing land to nonagricultural use. Renewable energy and transmission development would affect 16,000 acres of grazing allotments on BLM land and 18,000 acres of private grazing lands. The Reserve Design Lands would protect some grazing areas and restrict grazing in other areas. Mitigation Measure LG-1a (Minimize

impacts on livestock grazing) would reduce impacts through ensuring coordination with BLM and grazing operators. Because of the very large amount of grazing land in the Plan Area and the protection included in Mitigation Measure LG-1a, this impact would be adverse, but less than significant.

LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands. Renewable energy and transmission development would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing lands, which are described in Section IV.16.2.1.2, Typical Impacts. CMAs would minimize most of these impacts. In addition, Mitigation Measure AG-1a would require coordination with grazing operations for construction schedules. With the implementation of these measures, impacts would be less than significant.

IV.16.3.4.7 Comparison of Alternative 2 With Preferred Alternative

Chapter IV.27 presents a comparison of all action alternatives and the No Action Alternative across all disciplines. This section summarizes the comparison of Alternative 2 with the Preferred Alternative.

IV.16.3.4.7.1 Alternative 2 Compared With Preferred Alternative for Plan-wide DRECP

A comparison between Alternative 2 and the Preferred Alternative within DFAs for the Plan-wide DRECP follows.

- **Alternative 2:** 16,000 acres of livestock grazing allotments and 18,000 acres of non-BLM grazing land would overlap with renewable energy and transmission development.
- **Preferred Alternative:** 15,000 acres of grazing allotments and 23,000 acres of private grazing lands would overlap with DFAs.
- Alternative 2 would affect 1,000 more acres of grazing allotments and 5,000 acres less private grazing lands than the Preferred Alternative.

The differences between Alternative 2 and the Preferred Alternative within Reserve Design Lands are summarized here.

- **Alternative 2:** The Alternative 2 reserve design would overlap with 1,066,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments and 52,000 acres of private grazing land through the BLM LUPA and Conservation Planning Areas.
- **Preferred Alternative:** The Preferred Alternative reserve design would overlap with 990,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments and 29,000 acres of private grazing land through the BLM LUPA and Conservation Planning Areas.

- Alternative 2 would overlap with 76,000 more acres of BLM grazing allotments and 23,000 more acres of private grazing land than the Preferred Alternative.

See tables IV.16-2 through IV.16-5 for the locations of private grazing land and BLM grazing allotments potentially affected by Alternative 2 and the Preferred Alternative.

IV.16.3.4.7.2 Alternative 2 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment

A comparison between Alternative 2 and the Preferred Alternative within DFAs for the BLM LUPA follows.

- **Alternative 2:** A total of 12,000 acres of grazing allotments would occur within DFAs on BLM-administered lands.
- **Preferred Alternative:** A total of 7,000 acres would occur within DFAs on BLM-administered lands.
- Alternative 2 would affect 5,000 more acres than the Preferred Alternative.

The differences between Alternative 2 and Preferred Alternative within Reserve Design Lands are summarized here.

- **Alternative 2:** 901,000 acres of grazing allotments would overlap with reserve design.
- **Preferred Alternative:** 849,000 acres of private grazing lands would overlap with reserve design.
- There would be 52,000 acres more overlap under Alternative 2.

IV.16.3.4.7.3 Alternative 2 Compared With Preferred Alternative for NCCP

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 2 are the same as those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis. As a result, the comparison of Alternative 2 with the Preferred Alternative for the NCCP is the same as described for the Plan-wide DRECP.

IV.16.3.4.7.4 Alternative 2 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the GCP

The agricultural impacts of the GCP for Alternative 2 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.12.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but would occur on nonfederal lands only.

IV.16.3.5 Alternative 3

IV.16.3.5.1 Plan-wide Impacts of Implementing the DRECP: Alternative 3

IV.16.3.5.1.1 Plan-wide Impacts and Mitigation Measures from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

Impact Assessment

Potential impacts to grazing allotments resulting from renewable energy and transmission facility development under Alternative 3 are summarized here and presented in Table R2.16-21, Table R2.16-46, and Table R2.16-62.

Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

Under Alternative 3, grazing allotments would overlap with solar (8,000 acres), wind (400 acres), geothermal (1,000 acres), and transmission (3,000 acres) development (total of 12,000 acres). The majority of impacts would occur within the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes (6,000 acres) ecoregion subarea.

In addition, renewable energy would convert 24,000 acres of private grazing lands to nonagricultural use. Private grazing lands would be converted by solar (19,000 acres), wind (2,000 acres), and transmission (3,000 acres) development. As with the previous alternatives, this would be primarily in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes and West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregion subareas, and in San Bernardino County.

Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Renewable energy and transmission development under Alternative 3 would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing operations. Potential impacts would be the same types as those described for the No Action Alternative. See Figure IV.16-5 (Grazing, Alternative 3) and Appendix R2 Tables R2.16-21, Table R2.16-46, and Table R2.16-62 for more details on where impacts to grazing would occur.

Impacts in Study Area Lands

Future Assessment Areas. Lands within FAAs are neither reserve lands nor DFAs; they are simply areas that are deferred for future assessment. The future assessment will determine their suitability for renewable energy development or for ecological conservation. If renewable energy development occurs on FAA lands, a LUPA would not be required. FAAs for each alternative are shown in Table IV.1-2 and Figure II.6-1 for Alternative 3 in

Volume II. The FAAs represent areas where renewable energy development or inclusion to the reserve design could be implemented through an amendment to the DRECP, but additional assessment would be required.

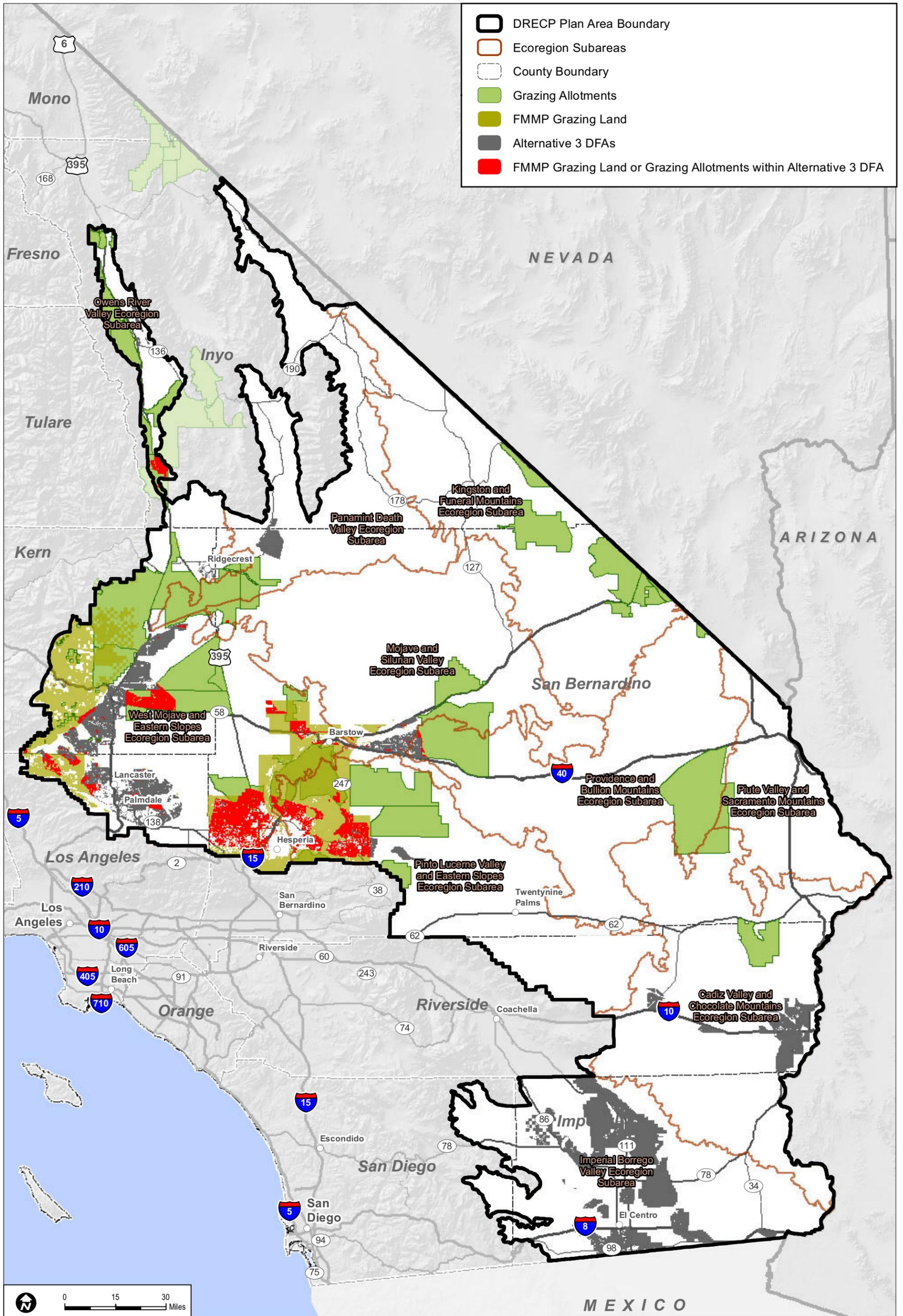
Because most of the FAAs are presented as “undesigned areas” in the action alternatives, there would be no difference between the FAAs in the Preferred Alternative except that renewable development in an FAA would not require a BLM LUPA, so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Development of the FAAs would not impact grazing because projects would still undergo environmental review and grazing allotments would still be covered by BLM regulations (see Section III.16.1.1, Livestock Grazing, Federal Regulatory Setting).

Special Analysis Areas. Designating the SAAs as conservation would have no impact on this resource. Impacts would be the same as those explained for the Plan-wide reserve design.

DRECP Variance Lands. DRECP Variance Lands represent the BLM Solar PEIS Variance Lands screened for the DRECP and based on BLM screening criteria. Covered Activities could be permitted for NCCP purposes only through an NCCP plan amendment. However, development of renewable energy on Variance Lands would not require a BLM LUPA, so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Development of the DRECP Variance Lands would not impact grazing because projects would still undergo environmental review and grazing allotments would still be covered by BLM regulations (see Section III.16.1.1, Livestock Grazing, Federal Regulatory Setting).

Impact Reduction Strategies and Mitigation

The implementation of the Plan would result in conservation of some desert lands as well as the development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities on other lands. There are several ways in which impacts of renewable energy development covered by the Plan would be lessened. First, the Plan incorporates CMAs for each alternative, including specific biological reserve design components and LUPA components. Also, the implementation of existing laws, orders, regulations and standards would reduce the impacts of project development. If significant impacts would still result after implementation of CMAs and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, then specific mitigation measures are recommended in this section.



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (2010)

FIGURE IV.16-5
Grazing Land within DFAs – Alternative 3

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Conservation and Management Actions

The conservation strategy for Alternative 3 (see Section II.3.1.1) defines specific actions that would reduce the impacts of this alternative. The conservation strategy includes a definition of the reserve design and specific CMAs for the Preferred Alternative. While the CMAs were developed for BLM lands only, this analysis assumes that all CMAs would be applied also to nonfederal lands.

Laws and Regulations

Similar to the No Action Alternative, existing laws and regulations will reduce certain impacts of Plan implementation. Relevant regulations are presented in the Regulatory Setting in Volume III. The requirements of relevant laws and regulations are summarized for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

Mitigation Measures

After implementation of the CMAs and existing laws and regulations, Mitigation Measure LG-1a (Minimize impacts on livestock grazing, as defined for the Preferred Alternative) will be applied to further reduce some of the DRECP's adverse impacts.

IV.16.3.5.1.2 Impacts from Reserve Design

Potential impacts to livestock grazing from Reserve Design Lands under Alternative 3 are presented here and in Table R2.16-22, Table R2.16-47, and Table R2.16-63.

Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

The Alternative 3 reserve design would overlap with 1,003,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments and 38,000 acres of private grazing land through the BLM LUPA and Conservation Planning Areas.

The effects of Reserve Design Lands would be both beneficial and adverse. Proposed ACEC and NLCS designations would benefit livestock grazing as a result of disturbance caps designed to conserve and protect the resource values. Development in NLCS lands would be limited to 0.25% of total authorized disturbance, or to the level allowed by collocated ACEC and wildlife allocations, whichever is more restrictive. These disturbance caps and other management actions would minimize surface disturbance and thereby provide protection for livestock grazing in active allotments. Proposed SRMAs could potentially have adverse or beneficial impacts on grazing, depending on the allowable uses within the SRMAs. Where grazing activities are restricted or eliminated, impacts would be adverse.

Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Reserve Design Lands would not involve activities or facilities that would adversely impact adjacent grazing.

IV.16.3.5.2 Impacts of DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment on BLM Land: Alternative 3

This section addresses two components of effects of the BLM LUPA: the streamlined development of renewable energy and transmission on BLM land under the LUPA, and the impacts of the amended land use plans themselves.

IV.16.3.5.2.1 Impacts from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development on BLM Land

Under Alternative 3, there would be 6,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments within DFAs on BLM-administered lands. Potential impacts to grazing allotments resulting from DFAs under Alternative 3 on BLM-administered lands are presented in Table R2.16-23 (Appendix R2). Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under Alternative 3 would be the same as discussed under Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.5.2.2 Impacts of Changes to BLM Land Designations

Under Alternative 3, existing and proposed protected areas and BLM Conservation Designations would provide ongoing conservation, including livestock grazing allotments. Reserve Design Lands may also result in restrictions to grazing or designation of allotments as closed (relinquished), or unavailable for grazing.

Under all action alternatives, including Alternative 3, the following grazing allotments within BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for grazing: Pilot Knob, Cady Mountain, Cronese Lake, and Harper Lake. The forage allocated to these allotments would be reallocated to wildlife and ecosystem functions.

Under Alternative 3, the following grazing allotments would be relinquishable (designated for other uses): Buckhorn Canyon, Crescent Peak, Double Mountain, Jean Lake, Johnson Valley, Kessler Springs, Oak Creek, Chemehuevi, Piute Valley, and Valley View. These allotments would be relinquished as follows:

- NLCS lands (convert for wildlife and ecosystem values): Crescent Peak, Jean Lake, and Kessler Springs allotments.
- Other uses: Buckhorn Canyon, Double Mountain, Johnson Valley, Oak Creek, Chemehuevi, Piute Valley, and Valley View allotments.

Overlaps of livestock grazing allotments with reserve design on BLM-administered lands under Alternative 2 are shown in Table R2.16-24 (Appendix R2). Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under existing land use plans would be the same as discussed in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.5.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: Alternative 3

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 3 would be the same as those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis.

IV.16.3.5.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan: Alternative 3

The impacts of the GCP for Alternative 3 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.12.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would occur on nonfederal lands only.

IV.16.3.5.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area

IV.16.3.5.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

The impacts of transmission outside the Plan Area on livestock grazing would be the same under all alternatives. These impacts are as described for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.16.3.1.5.

IV.16.3.5.5.2 Impacts of BLM LUPA Decisions Outside the Plan Area

Potential impacts to livestock grazing resulting from BLM LUPA decisions under Alternative 1 for the CDCA outside the Plan Area are presented in Table R2.16-25 (Appendix R2). Impacts of Alternative 3 outside the Plan Area would be similar to those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis.

IV.16.3.5.6 CEQA Significance Determination for Alternative 3

LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres. Under Alternative 3, construction of renewable energy projects and transmission and designation of Reserve Design Lands would convert some grazing land to nonagricultural use. Renewable energy and transmission development would affect 12,000 acres of grazing allotments on BLM land and 24,000 acres of private grazing lands. The Reserve Design Lands would protect some grazing areas and restrict grazing in other areas. Mitigation Measure LG-1a (Minimize impacts on livestock grazing) would reduce impacts through ensuring coordination with BLM and grazing operators. Because of the very large amount of grazing land in the Plan Area and the protection offered through Mitigation Measure LG-1a, this impact would be adverse, but less than significant.

LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands. Renewable energy and transmission development would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing lands, which are described in Section IV.16.2.1.2 (Typical Impacts). CMAs would minimize most of these impacts. In addition, Mitigation Measure AG-1a would require coordination with grazing operations for construction schedules. With the implementation of these measures, impacts would be less than significant.

IV.16.3.5.7 Comparison of Alternative 3 With Preferred Alternative

Chapter IV.27 presents a comparison of all action alternatives and the No Action Alternative across all disciplines. This section summarizes the comparison of Alternative 3 with the Preferred Alternative.

IV.16.3.5.7.1 Alternative 3 Compared With Preferred Alternative for Plan-wide DRECP

A comparison between Alternative 3 and the Preferred Alternative within DFAs for the Plan-wide DRECP is summarized here.

- **Alternative 3:** 12,000 acres of livestock grazing allotments and 24,000 acres of non-BLM grazing land would overlap with renewable energy and transmission development.
- **Preferred Alternative:** 15,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments and 23,000 acres of private grazing land would overlap with renewable energy and transmission development.
- Alternative 3 would affect 3,000 fewer acres of BLM grazing allotments and 1,000 more acres of private grazing land than the Preferred Alternative.

The differences between Alternative 3 and the Preferred Alternative within Reserve Design Lands follow.

- **Alternative 3:** The Alternative 3 reserve design would overlap with 1,003,000 acres of grazing allotments and 38,000 acres of private grazing land.
- **Preferred Alternative:** The Preferred Alternative reserve design would overlap with 990,000 acres of grazing allotments and 29,000 acres of private grazing land.
- Alternative 3 would overlap with 13,000 more acres of BLM grazing allotments and 9,000 more acres of private grazing lands than the Preferred Alternative.

See tables IV.16-2 through IV.16-5 for the locations of private grazing land and BLM grazing allotments potentially affected by Alternative 3 and the Preferred Alternative.

IV.16.3.5.7.2 Alternative 3 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment

A comparison between Alternative 3 and the Preferred Alternative within DFAs for the BLM LUPA follows.

- **Alternative 3:** 6,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments would occur within DFAs on BLM-administered lands.
- **Preferred Alternative:** 7,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments would occur within DFAs on BLM-administered lands.
- Alternative 3 would affect 1,000 fewer acres of BLM grazing allotments than the Preferred Alternative.

The differences between Alternative 3 and the Preferred Alternative within Reserve Design Lands are summarized here.

- **Alternative 3:** There would be 845,000 acres of grazing allotments overlapping with reserve design on BLM land.
- **Preferred Alternative:** There would be 849,000 acres of grazing allotments overlapping with reserve design on BLM land.
- Under Alternative 3, 4,000 fewer acres of grazing allotments would overlap with reserve design on BLM land.

IV.16.3.5.7.3 Alternative 3 Compared With Preferred Alternative for NCCP

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 3 are the same as those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis. As a result, the comparison of Alternative 3 with the Preferred Alternative for the NCCP is the same as described for the Plan-wide DRECP.

IV.16.3.5.7.4 Alternative 3 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the GCP

The agricultural impacts of the GCP for Alternative 3 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.12.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would occur on nonfederal lands only.

IV.16.3.6 Alternative 4

IV.16.3.6.1 Plan-wide Impacts of Implementing the DRECP: Alternative 4

IV.16.3.6.1.1 Plan-wide Impacts and Mitigation Measures from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

Impact Assessment

Potential impacts to grazing allotments resulting from renewable energy and transmission facility development under Alternative 4 are summarized here and presented in Table R2.16-26, Table R2.16-50, and Table R2.16-64 in Appendix R2.

Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

Under Alternative 4, grazing allotments would overlap with solar (7,000 acres), wind (500 acres), geothermal (1,000 acres), and transmission (2,000 acres) development (total of 10,000 acres). The majority of impacts would occur within the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes (5,000 acres) ecoregion subarea. In addition, renewable energy would convert 25,000 acres of private grazing lands to nonagricultural use. Private grazing lands would be converted by solar (22,000 acres), wind (2,000 acres), and transmission (1,000) development. This development would be primarily in the West Mojave (18,000 acres) and Pinto Lucerne (7,000) ecoregion subareas and in San Bernardino County (18,000 acres).

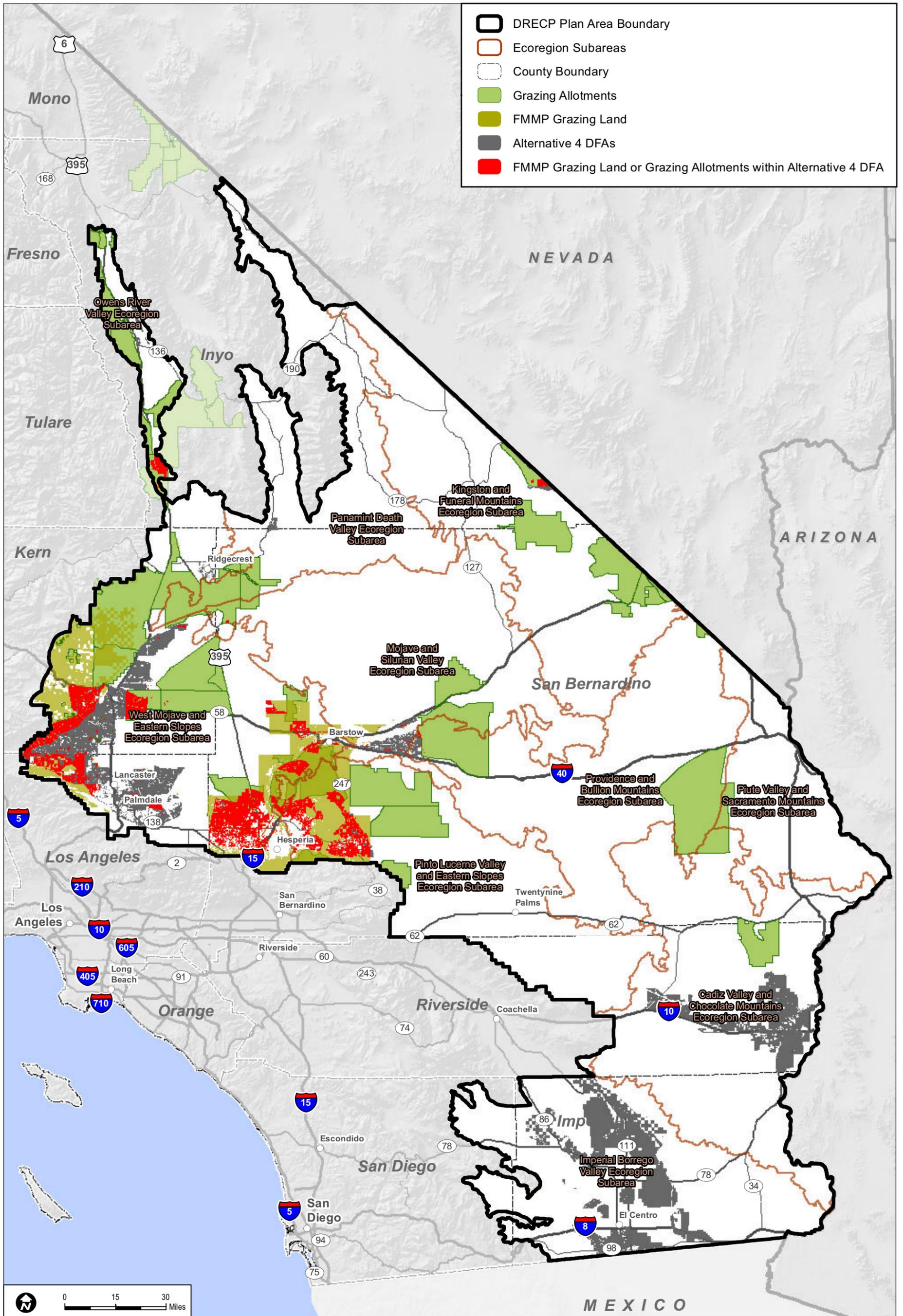
Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Renewable energy and transmission development under Alternative 4 would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing operations. Potential impacts would be the same types as those described for the No Action Alternative. See Figure IV.16-6 (Grazing, Alternative 4) and Appendix R2 Table R2.16-26, Table R2.16-50, and Table R2.16-64 for more details on where impacts to grazing would occur.

Impacts in Study Area Lands

Future Assessment Areas. There are no FAAs in this alternative.

Special Analysis Areas. Designating the SAAs as conservation would have no impact on this resource. Impacts would be the same as those explained for the Plan-wide reserve design.



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (2010)

FIGURE IV.16-6
Grazing Land within DFAs – Alternative 4

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DRECP Variance Lands. DRECP Variance Lands represent the BLM Solar PEIS Variance Lands screened for the DRECP and based on BLM screening criteria. Covered Activities could be permitted for NCCP purposes only through an NCCP plan amendment. However, development of renewable energy on Variance Lands would not require a BLM LUPA, so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Development of the DRECP Variance Lands would not impact grazing because projects would still undergo environmental review and grazing allotments would still be covered by BLM regulations (see Section III.16.1.1, Livestock Grazing, Federal Regulatory Setting).

Impact Reduction Strategies and Mitigation

The implementation of the Plan would result in conservation of some desert lands as well as the development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities on other lands. There are several ways in which the impacts of the renewable energy development covered by the Plan would be lessened. First, the Plan incorporates CMAs for each alternative, including specific biological reserve design components and LUPA components. Also, the implementation of existing laws, orders, regulations and standards would reduce the impacts of project development. If significant impacts would still result after implementation of CMAs and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, then specific mitigation measures are recommended in this section.

Conservation and Management Actions

The conservation strategy for Alternative 4 (see Section II.3.1.1) defines specific actions that would reduce the impacts of this alternative. The conservation strategy includes a definition of the reserve design and specific CMAs for the Preferred Alternative. While the CMAs were developed for BLM lands only, this analysis assumes that all CMAs would be applied also to nonfederal lands.

Laws and Regulations

Similar to the No Action Alternative, existing laws and regulations will reduce certain impacts of Plan implementation. Relevant regulations are presented in the Regulatory Setting in Volume III. The requirements of relevant laws and regulations are summarized for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

Mitigation Measures

After implementation of the CMAs and existing laws and regulations, Mitigation Measure LG-1a (Minimize impacts on livestock grazing, from the Preferred Alternative) will be applied to further reduce some of the DRECP's adverse impacts.

IV.16.3.6.1.2 Impacts from Reserve Design

Potential impacts to livestock grazing resulting from Reserve Design Lands under Alternative 4 are presented here and in Table R2.16-17, Table R2.16-51, and Table R2.16-65 (Appendix R2).

Impact LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres.

The Alternative 4 reserve design would overlap with 966,000 acres of grazing allotments and 29,000 acres of private grazing land through the BLM LUPA and Conservation Planning Areas.

Impacts from Reserve Design Lands would be both beneficial and adverse. Proposed ACEC and NLCS designations would benefit livestock grazing as a result of disturbance caps designed to conserve and protect the resource values. Development in NLCS lands would be limited to 1% of total authorized disturbance, or to the level allowed by collocated ACEC and wildlife allocations, whichever is more restrictive. These disturbance caps and other management actions would minimize surface disturbance and provide protection for livestock grazing in active allotments. Proposed SRMAs could potentially have adverse or beneficial impacts on grazing, depending on the allowable uses within the SRMAs. Where grazing activities are restricted or eliminated in Conservation Planning Areas, impacts would be adverse.

Impact LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands.

Reserve Design Lands would not involve activities or facilities that would adversely impact adjacent grazing.

IV.16.3.6.2 Impacts of DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment on BLM Land: Alternative 4

This section addresses two components of effects of the BLM LUPA: the streamlined development of renewable energy and transmission on BLM land under the LUPA, and the impacts of the amended land use plans themselves.

IV.16.3.6.2.1 Impacts from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development on BLM Land

Under Alternative 4, there would be 4,000 acres of grazing allotments within DFAs on BLM-administered lands. Potential impacts to grazing allotments resulting from DFAs under Alternative 4 on BLM-administered lands are presented in Table R2.16-28 (Appendix R2). Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under Alternative 4 would be the same as discussed under Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.6.2.2 Impacts of Changes to BLM Land Designations

Under Alternative 4, existing and proposed protected areas and BLM Conservation Designations would provide ongoing conservation, including livestock grazing allotments within these areas. Reserve Design Lands may also result in restrictions to grazing or designation of allotments as unavailable for grazing.

Under all action alternatives, including Alternative 4, the following grazing allotments within BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for grazing: Pilot Knob, Cady Mountain, Cronese Lake, and Harper Lake. The forage allocated to these allotments would be reallocated to wildlife and ecosystem functions.

Under Alternative 4, the following grazing allotments would be relinquishable (designated for other uses): Buckhorn Canyon, Crescent Peak, Double Mountain, Jean Lake, Johnson Valley, Kessler Springs, Oak Creek, Chemehuevi, Piute Valley, and Valley View. These allotments would be relinquished as follows:

- NLCS lands (convert for wildlife and ecosystem values): Crescent Peak. Jean Lake. And Kessler Springs allotments.
- DFAs: Oak Creek allotment.
- Other uses: Buckhorn Canyon, Double Mountain, Johnson Valley, Chemehuevi, Piute Valley, and Valley View allotments.

Overlaps of livestock grazing allotments with reserve design on BLM-administered lands under Alternative 4 are summarized here and shown in Table R2.16-29 (Appendix R2). Impacts to livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands under existing land use plans would be the same as discussed under Section IV.16.3.1.1.1.

IV.16.3.6.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: Alternative 4

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 4 would be the same as those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis.

IV.16.3.6.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan: Alternative 4

The impacts of the GCP for Alternative 4 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would occur on nonfederal lands only.

IV.16.3.6.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area

IV.16.3.6.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

The impacts of transmission outside the Plan Area on livestock grazing would be the same under all alternatives. These impacts are as described for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.16.3.1.5, Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area in No Action Alternative.

IV.16.3.6.5.2 Impacts of BLM LUPA Decisions Outside the Plan Area

Potential impacts to livestock grazing resulting from BLM LUPA decisions under Alternative 4 for the CDCA outside the Plan Area are presented in Table R2.16-30 (Appendix R2). Impacts of Alternative 4 outside the Plan Area would be similar to those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis.

IV.16.3.6.6 CEQA Significance Determination for Alternative 4

LG-1: Alternative would result in loss of livestock grazing acres. Under Alternative 4, construction of renewable energy projects and transmission and designation of Reserve Design Lands would convert some grazing land to nonagricultural use. Renewable energy and transmission development would affect 10,000 acres of grazing allotments on BLM land and 25,000 acres of private grazing lands. The Reserve Design Lands would protect some grazing areas and restrict grazing in other areas. Mitigation Measure LG-1a (Minimize impacts on livestock grazing) would reduce impacts through ensuring coordination with BLM and grazing operators. Because of the very large amount of grazing land in the Plan Area and the protection provided by Mitigation Measure LG-1a, this impact would be adverse, but less than significant with mitigation.

LG-2: Alternative would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair use of adjacent grazing lands. Renewable energy and transmission development would have a variety of impacts on adjacent grazing lands, which are described in Section IV.16.2.1.2, Typical Impacts. CMAs would minimize most of these impacts. In addition, Mitigation Measure AG-1a would require coordination with grazing operations regarding construction schedules. With the implementation of these measures, impacts would be less than significant.

IV.16.3.6.7 Comparison of Alternative 4 With Preferred Alternative

Chapter IV.27 presents a comparison of all action alternatives and the No Action Alternative across all disciplines. This section summarizes the comparison of Alternative 4 with the Preferred Alternative.

IV.16.3.6.7.1 Alternative 4 Compared With Preferred Alternative for Plan-wide DRECP

A comparison between Alternative 4 and the Preferred Alternative within DFAs for the Plan-wide DRECP is summarized here.

- **Alternative 4:** 10,000 acres of livestock grazing allotments and 25,000 acres of private grazing lands would overlap with DFAs.
- **Preferred Alternative:** 15,000 acres of livestock grazing allotments and 23,000 acres of private grazing lands would overlap with DFAs.
- Alternative 4 would affect 5,000 fewer acres of grazing allotments and 2,000 more acres of private grazing lands than the Preferred Alternative.

The differences between Alternative 4 and the Preferred Alternative within Reserve Design Lands follow.

- **Alternative 4:** The Alternative 4 reserve design would overlap with 966,000 acres of BLM grazing allotments and 29,000 acres of private grazing lands.
- **Preferred Alternative:** The Preferred Alternative reserve design would overlap with 990,000 acres of grazing allotments and 29,000 acres of private grazing lands.
- Alternative 4 reserve design would overlap with 24,000 fewer acres of grazing allotments and the same amount of private grazing land.

See tables IV.16-2 through IV.16-5 for the locations of private grazing land and BLM grazing allotments potentially affected by Alternative 4 and the Preferred Alternative.

IV.16.3.6.7.2 Alternative 4 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment

A comparison between Alternative 4 and the Preferred Alternative within DFAs for the BLM LUPA follows.

- **Alternative 4:** 4,000 acres of grazing allotments would occur within DFAs on BLM-administered lands.
- **Preferred Alternative:** 7,000 acres would occur within DFAs on BLM-administered lands.
- Alternative 4 would affect 3,000 fewer acres of grazing allotments on BLM lands.

The differences between Alternative 4 and the Preferred Alternative within Reserve Design Lands follow.

- **Alternative 4:** 809,000 acres of grazing allotments would overlap with reserve design on BLM lands.
- **Preferred Alternative:** 849,000 acres of grazing allotments would overlap with reserve design on BLM lands.
- Under Alternative 4, 40,000 fewer acres of grazing allotments would overlap with reserve design on BLM lands.

IV.16.3.6.7.3 Alternative 4 Compared With Preferred Alternative for NCCP

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 4 are the same as those defined in Section IV.16.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis. As a result, the comparison of Alternative 4 with the Preferred Alternative for the NCCP is the same as described for the Plan-wide DRECP.

IV.16.3.6.7.4 Alternative 4 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the GCP

The impacts of the GCP for Alternative 4 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.12.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but would occur on nonfederal lands only.