

This document was approved by the State Park & Recreation Commission on February 11, 2005:

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

Final
General Plan
& EIR

sch#2002021060



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Resolution 13-2005
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California
February 11, 2005

**Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®
General Plan and Environmental Impact Report**

WHEREAS, the Director of the California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan and Environmental Impact Report ("Plan") for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®; and

WHEREAS, the Plan provides conceptual parameters and guidelines for the long-term management, development, and operation of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® to provide for the future public use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality, resources, and diversity; and

WHEREAS, this Commission is responsible for the approval of the Plan pursuant to California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5002.2; and

WHEREAS, the Plan, including related future implementation actions, is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PRC Section 5002.2, the Plan includes the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as a part of a General Plan, pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15166 (CEQA Guidelines), providing discussion of the probable impacts of future development, establishing goals, policies and objectives, and addressing all the requirements of an EIR (recirculated for extensive public review); and

WHEREAS, the Plan functions as a "tiered EIR" pursuant to PRC 21093, covering general goals and objectives of the Plan, and that the appropriate level of CEQA review will be conducted for each project relying on the Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Commission recognizes the uniqueness and distinction of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® for its expansiveness and its abundance of significant natural, historic, and prehistoric resources as well as the outstanding recreational opportunities that are based on said values;

Continued on page two:

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

RESOLVED: this Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis in the Plan prior to approving the Plan, and this Commission finds and certifies that the Plan reflects the independent judgment and analysis of this Commission and has been completed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and be it

RESOLVED: in connection with its review of the Plan prior to approving the General Plan, this Commission independently finds that the environmental conclusions contained in the Environmental Analysis Section of the Plan are supported by facts therein and that each fact in support of the findings is true and is based on substantial evidence in the record and that mitigation measures or other changes or alterations have been incorporated into the Plan which will avoid or substantially lessen the potential impacts identified in the Plan; and be it

RESOLVED: in connection with its review of the Plan prior to approval of the Plan, this Commission finds the mitigation measures incorporated in the Environmental Analysis Section of the Plan, together with the resource protection policy guidelines in the Plan, to be feasible and appropriate mitigation for the potential environmental impacts identified in the Plan and adopts them as part of its approval of the Plan consistent with PRC Section 21081.6(b); and be it

RESOLVED: The location and custodian of the Plan and other materials which constitute the record of proceeding on which the Commission's decision is based is: State Park and Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001, Phone 916/653-0524, Facsimile 916/653-4458; and be it

RESOLVED: The California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® General Plan and Environmental Impact Report, dated December 2004; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: that a Notice of Determination be filed with the Office of Planning and Research within five (5) days of this approval;

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on February 11, 2005, at its duly noticed public meeting in San Diego, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 2-11-05
Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Ruth Coleman, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission



Resolution 15-2005
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California
February 11, 2005

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®
Anza-Borrego Desert State Wilderness Expansions

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into a category specified in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5019.50;

WHEREAS, one of these classifications is "State Wilderness," which consists of those areas of relatively undeveloped, state-owned or leased land, which have retained its primeval character and influence or have been substantially restored to a near-natural appearance; where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man and where man himself is a visitor; and

WHEREAS, a State Wilderness (per PRC 5019.68) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; and

WHEREAS, a State Wilderness must be of sufficient size to make practicable its characteristics, or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition;

WHEREAS, the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® General Plan has proposed that the Anza-Borrego Desert State Wilderness be expanded by expanding existing wilderness management areas and adding 1 new wilderness management area (as delineated in the General Plan document, and further delineated in *Attachment A: Naming and Classification of Various Parcels Within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®*), to provide for the recognition and protection of the unique wilderness environment; and

WHEREAS, the proposed expansions comprise thousands of acres that meet the definition of State Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, the designation and preservation of this area will protect the wilderness qualities for future generations;

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resources Code, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the portions of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® as a State Wilderness as described in *Attachment A: Naming and Classification of Various Parcels Within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®* and in the *Anza-Borrego Desert State® Park General Plan*.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on February 11, 2005, at its duly noticed public meeting in San Diego, California.

By: _____ *ORIGINAL SIGNED BY* _____ Date: 2-11-05

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Ruth Coleman, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission



Resolution 16-2005
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California
February 11, 2005

**Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®
Cultural Preserve Subclassification**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into a category specified in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, one of these classifications is "Cultural Preserve," which (per PRC 5019.74) consists of distinct non-marine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of a state park unit to preserve special features; and

WHEREAS, the Cultural Preserve must be large enough to provide for the effective protection of the prime cultural resources from damaging influences;

WHEREAS, the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® General Plan has proposed that a Cultural Preserve be established within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®, to protect the integrity of significant cultural resources present; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Cultural Preserve comprises over 400 acres which is a practicable management unit; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of this area would protect the center of significant Kumeyaay Native American resources; and the sites associated with the Mormon Battalion Trail, Southern Emigrant Trail, and the Butterfield Stage Station;

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resources Code, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above identified portion of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® as a Cultural Preserve with the name of We-nelsch Cultural Preserve and as delineated in the *Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® General Plan* and further delineated in *Attachment A: Naming & Classification Delineations of Various Parcels Within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®*.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on February 11, 2005, at its duly noticed public meeting in San Diego, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 2-11-05

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Ruth Coleman, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission

ATTACHMENT A:
WILDERNESS & PRESERVE – NAMING & CLASSIFICATION
Delineations of Various Parcels Within
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® (ABDSP)

The Department, following the preparation of a Preliminary General Plan/EIR for the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® (ABDSP) involving public input, is making recommendations regarding the classification of lands within the Park. These classifications are consistent with the proposed addition of approximately 55,797 acres of State Wilderness and the proposed addition of 443 acres of Cultural Preserve discussed in §3.2.4.5, §3.2.4.6, and shown in Figure 6.6 of the Preliminary General Plan/Final EIR. The following description further clarifies the geographic areas and naming for these proposed additions. No authorized roads will be closed as a direct result of these proposed actions. New roads and other visitor facilities, except for trails and minimal regulatory, informational, and interpretive signage, may not be constructed in areas that are classified as State Wilderness.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® was named and classified in 1963 by the Parks and Recreation Commission. It combined the former *Anza Desert State Park* acquired in 1933 and the *Borrego State Park*. ABDSP includes two State Wildernesses: the **Santa Rosa Mountains State Wilderness** and the **Anza-Borrego Desert State Wilderness**. All of the lands proposed to be added to the two existing wildernesses meet and exceed the qualifications for State Wilderness (SW). The lands proposed to be named and classified as a Cultural Preserve (CP) meet the criteria for that classification. An overview of the current classifications and the proposed classification changes are shown in *Figure 1* and *Figure 1.2*.

I. Santa Rosa Mountains State Wilderness (subunit #627)

1. **EXPAND Existing Boundary** - The Santa Rosa Mountains SW was created by the California Legislature in 1974. The Plan proposes to add approximately 1,795 acres (in two parcels) to this SW, increasing its size to approximately 107,670 acres. The small, eastern parcel (approx. 440 acres) brings the boundary of the SW down to the edges of Calcite Mine, Palm Wash, and North Palm Wash Roads, and contains resource values similar to those in the existing SW. The western parcel (approx. 1,355 acres) is located at the upper end of Borrego Valley in the lower Coyote Creek drainage, and includes important wildflower habitat.
2. **ADD New Wilderness Management Area (WMA)** - The **Wil-ye** WMA Located in upper Coyote Canyon north of the existing Santa Rosa Mountains SW and northeast of Coyote Canyon Road, this proposed WMA encompasses all areas within the Riverside County portion of the Park from the authorized primitive roads, out to the boundary of ABDSP. It is proposed to add this new WMA to the Park, consisting of approximately 29,482 acres. This parcel was not Park land when the Parks and Recreation Commission classified the other SW areas. The proposed WMA is in a roadless area rich in natural and cultural resources similar to those in existing adjacent Wilderness Management Areas, home of the endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep, mountain lions, and mule deer. The

area is geographically and biologically diverse, with habitats containing Pinyon pine, juniper, and Coulter pine. Although the area is bordered by the popular Coyote Canyon Road area, this area has exceptional opportunities for experiencing quiet and solitude.

The Cahuilla Native American people lived in the Canyon for hundreds of years prior to European exploration, and "Wil-yee" is the Cahuilla name for all of the Coyote Canyon area. Its meaning is similar to "the opening," "the clearing," or "the parting." The name was suggested by representatives of the modern-day Cahuilla tribe in consultation with State Park staff. The Department would like to recognize the history and contributions of the Cahuilla people in the classification and naming of this WMA by adding it to the existing Santa Rosa Mountains SW.

II. Anza-Borrego Desert State Wilderness (subunit #624)

The Anza-Borrego Desert SW was classified by the California Parks and Recreation Commission in 1981 and further expanded in 1982. It currently consists of 12 individually-named Wilderness Management Areas (WMA); some of which are contiguous with each other except for being separated by roadways. It is proposed to add additional acreage to three of these existing WMAs. All of the existing WMAs are presented below alphabetically. In addition, one **new** WMA (Sin Nombre) is established to further increase the size of Anza-Borrego Desert State Wilderness.

1. **Agua Caliente WMA** - Located in the southern half of the Park, it is situated on the Park's western border and separated from Whale Peak WMA by County Road S-2. No additional acreage is proposed.
2. **Carrizo Badlands WMA** - Located in the southern half of the Park, it is situated directly adjacent to the Carrizo Impact Area along its eastern border, and separated from Vallecito Mountains WMA by an unpaved road. No additional acreage is proposed.
3. **Carrizo Canyon WMA** - Located at the southern boundary of the Park, it is separated from Jacumba Mountain WMA by a railroad corridor. No additional acreage is proposed.
4. **Desert Oasis WMA** - Located in the northeastern part of the Park, it is situated south of County Road S-22 and south of Santa Rosa Mountains SW. No additional acreage is proposed.
5. **Granite Mountain WMA** - Located on the eastern boundary of the Park north of Whale Peak WMA, and adjacent to the private community of Shelter Valley. No additional acreage is proposed.
6. **Grapevine Mountain WMA** - Located near the intersection of County Road S-2 and State Highway 78, inclusion of three land parcels are proposed to add approximately 463 acres to this wilderness, increasing its size to approximately 9,081 acres. All three parcels have resource values identical to those in the existing wilderness, and will bring the southeastern/-western boundary of the Grapevine Mountain WMA down to County Road S-2, State Highway 78, and out to the Park's western boundary.

7. **Jacumba Mountain WMA** - Located at the south end of the park, it is separated from Carrizo Canyon WMA by a railroad corridor. No additional acreage is proposed.
8. **Sheep Canyon WMA** - Located in the northwestern corner of the Park, it is bounded on the north by the Riverside/San Diego County line, on the east by the community of Borrego Springs and Coyote Canyon Road, to the south by County Road S-22, and to the west by the Park boundary. It is proposed to add approximately 13,636 acres (in eight parcels) to this wilderness, increasing its size to approximately 72,630 acres. The largest parcel to be added (approx. 10,762 acres) is located in upper Coyote Canyon, to include the land south of Coyote Canyon Road to the Park's western boundary, and south to the Riverside/San Diego County line and the Alder Canyon Road. This area has resource values identical to those in the existing wilderness, including habitat for the endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and other endangered species, as well as important prehistoric and historic resources. When the original SW classification was made, this land did not belong to the Park. The other proposed additions also have resources identical to those in the existing wilderness, and would bring the boundaries of the wilderness into line with natural boundaries without altering current visitor uses.
9. **Pinyon Ridge WMA** - Located in the central part of the Park, it is separated from Grapevine Mountain WMA by Grapevine Canyon Road, bounded on the south by County Road S-3, on the east by the community of Borrego Springs, and on the north by County Road S-2. No additional acreage is proposed.
10. **Sombrero Peak WMA** - Located in the southern part of the Park along the western border, bounded on the east by County Road S-2. No additional acreage is proposed.
11. **Vallecito Mountains WMA** - Located in the central part of the Park, it is bounded on the north by State Highway 78, separated from Whale Peak WMA (to the southwest) by Pinyon Mountain and Hapaha Flat Roads, and from Carrizo Badlands WMA (to the southeast) by Fish Creek Road. It is proposed to add approximately 3,228 acres (in four parcels) to the existing wilderness, increasing its size to approximately 85,492 acres. The two parcels on the east, and the parcel in the southwest, have similar resource qualities to the existing wilderness. These are parcels that have been added to the Park since the SW classification in 1982; addition of these parcels would not alter current visitor uses. The western-most parcel, at the intersection known as Scissors Crossing, extends the Vallecito Mountains WMA to County Road S-2 and State Highway 78. Because it includes the newly acquired Sentenac Ciénaga, this parcel is a valuable desert wetland located at the hub of a prehistoric Native American community and at the crossroads of many historic routes, including the Butterfield Stage and Southern Emigrant Trail. This area represents the highest values of State Wilderness.
12. **Whale Peak WMA** - Located in the south-central part of the Park, it is separated from Vallecito Mountains WMA on the north by Pinyon Mountain and Hapaha Flat Roads, from Agua Caliente WMA on the south by County Road S-2, from Granite Mountain WMA on the northwest by County Road S-2. No additional acreage is proposed.

13. **ADD New Wilderness Management Area (WMA)** - The proposed **Sin Nombre WMA** is located in the southeastern part of the Park north of County Road S-2 and separated from Carrizo Badlands WMA on the north by Carrizo Creek Wash, following the 600-foot contour line to include the southern half of sections 13 and 14. It is bounded on the west by Canyon Sin Nombre and on the east by the BLM Coyote Mountains Wilderness. This plan proposes to add this new WMA into the existing Anza-Borrego Desert SW, consisting of approximately 6,923 acres. This pristine roadless area includes the valuable desert wetland resources of Carrizo Marsh, several sensitive species of flora, important cultural and paleontological sites, and spectacular scenic resources with high quality badlands formations. This area is one of the most isolated in the Park, with tremendous opportunities for experiencing solitude. "Sin Nombre" is Spanish for "without name."

III. New Proposed Cultural Preserve

We-nelsch CP - Located in the western-most wedge of a road junction known as Scissors Crossing, a new parcel of land has been added to ABDSP. Bounded by County Road S-2 at the north and State Highway 78 at the southeast, the State Park boundary forms northern and southern extents of the approximately 443-acre parcel that staff proposes be classified as a CP. The existing dirt road that runs through the parcel is not included in the CP designation. The Preserve boundary extends to within 30 feet of either side of the centerline of this road. The existing power line that runs through the parcel is also not included in the CP designation. The Preserve boundary abuts both sides of the existing utility easement.

This newly acquired property is at the center of a huge Kumeyaay Native American village site that was occupied until the early 20th century. The plentiful natural resources attracted the Native Americans to this rich area at the juncture of mountains and desert. This natural crossroads area would later attract European explorers and settlers, and includes portions of the Mormon Trail and Southern Emigrant Trail. The village was the site of one of the first major interactions between Native Americans and Europeans in the region, and is also the site of the remains of a Butterfield Stage Station.

"We-nelsch" is the Kumeyaay place-name for this village, as noted in the papers of Edward Davis, who was present when the Native Americans who lived in the village were moved to the Pala Reservation in 1903. The words were translated by Cinon Duro, Head Man of the Mesa Grande Kumeyaay people at the time, as meaning "rock move." This name makes sense given the potential for seismic activity in the area. The adjacent area to the south is still commonly known as Earthquake Valley. This name was chosen for the CP in consultation with members of the modern-day Kumeyaay community. The Department would like to recognize the history and contributions of the Kumeyaay people in the classification and naming of this area.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

Wilderness & Preserve Management Area Proposal

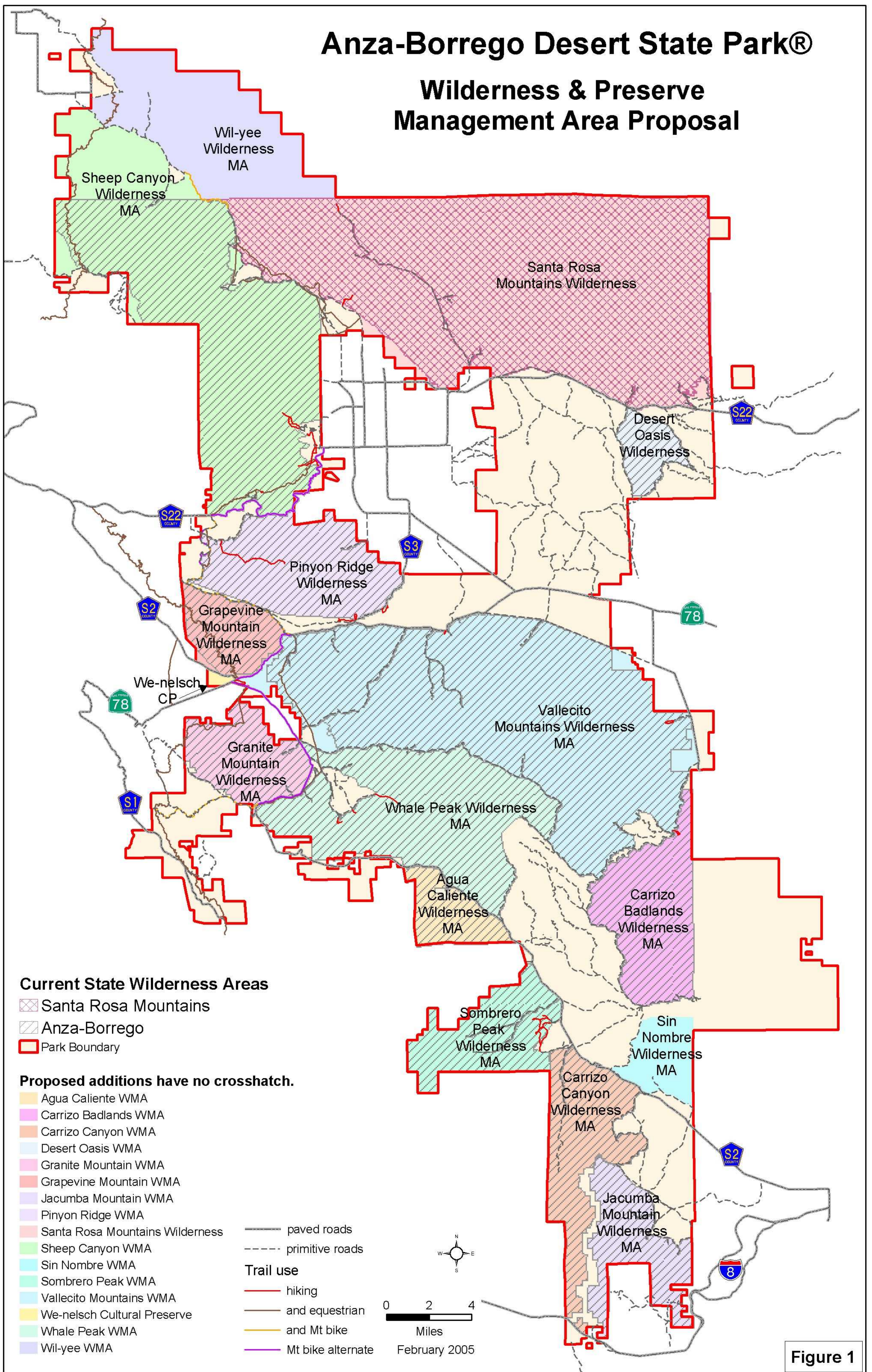
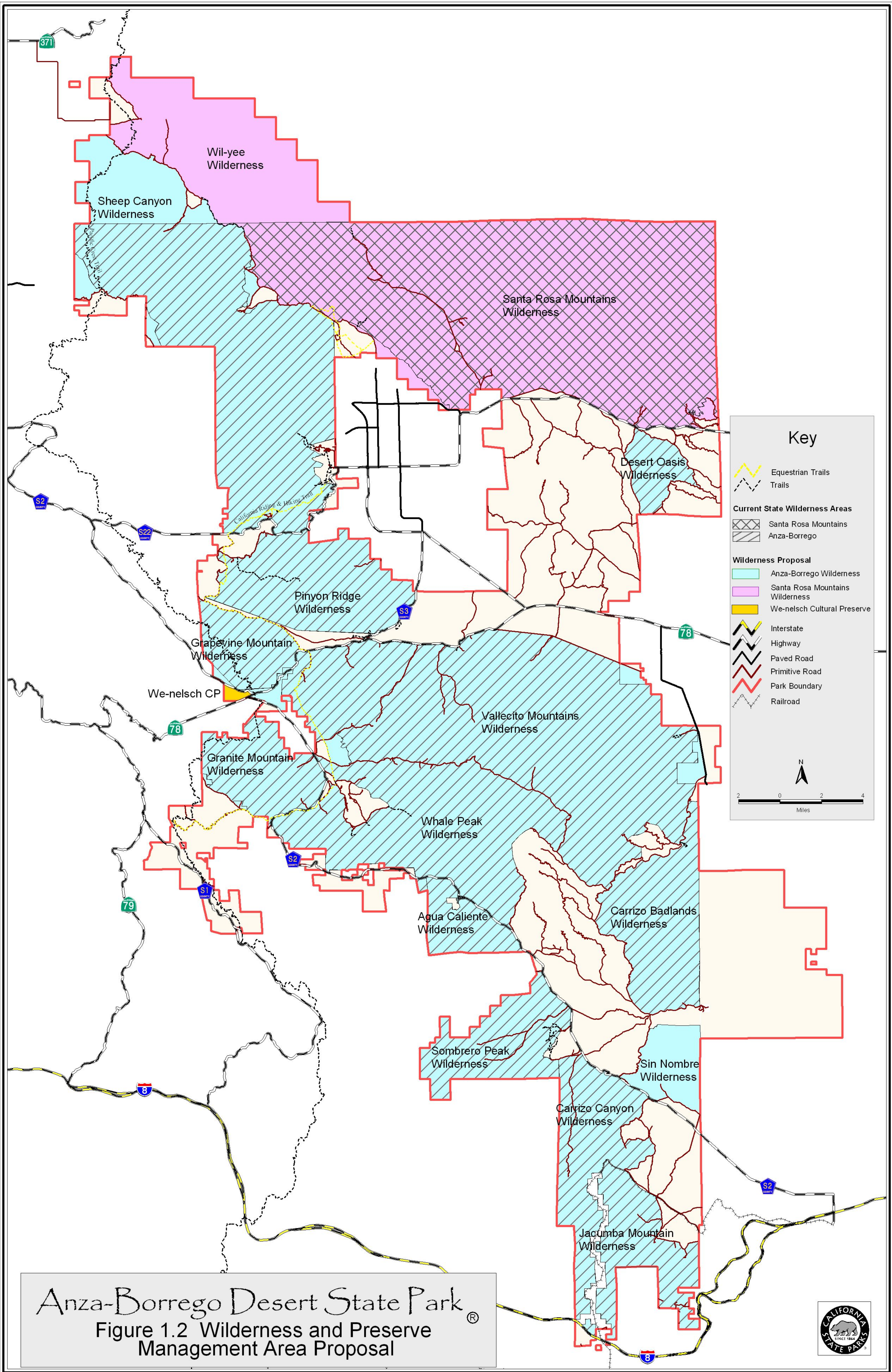


Figure 1



Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®
 Figure 1.2 Wilderness and Preserve Management Area Proposal

