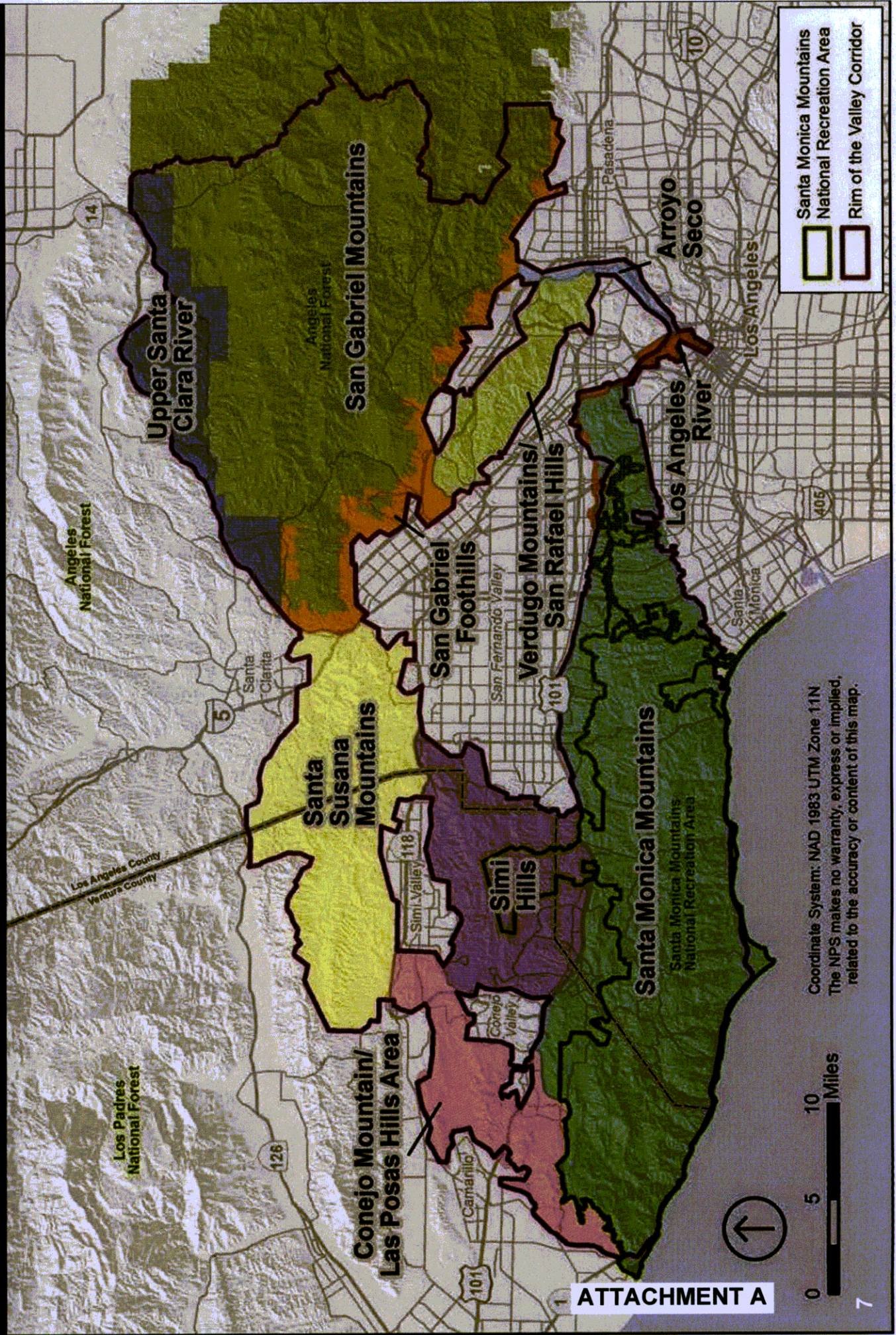


Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study

National Park Service
Department of the Interior

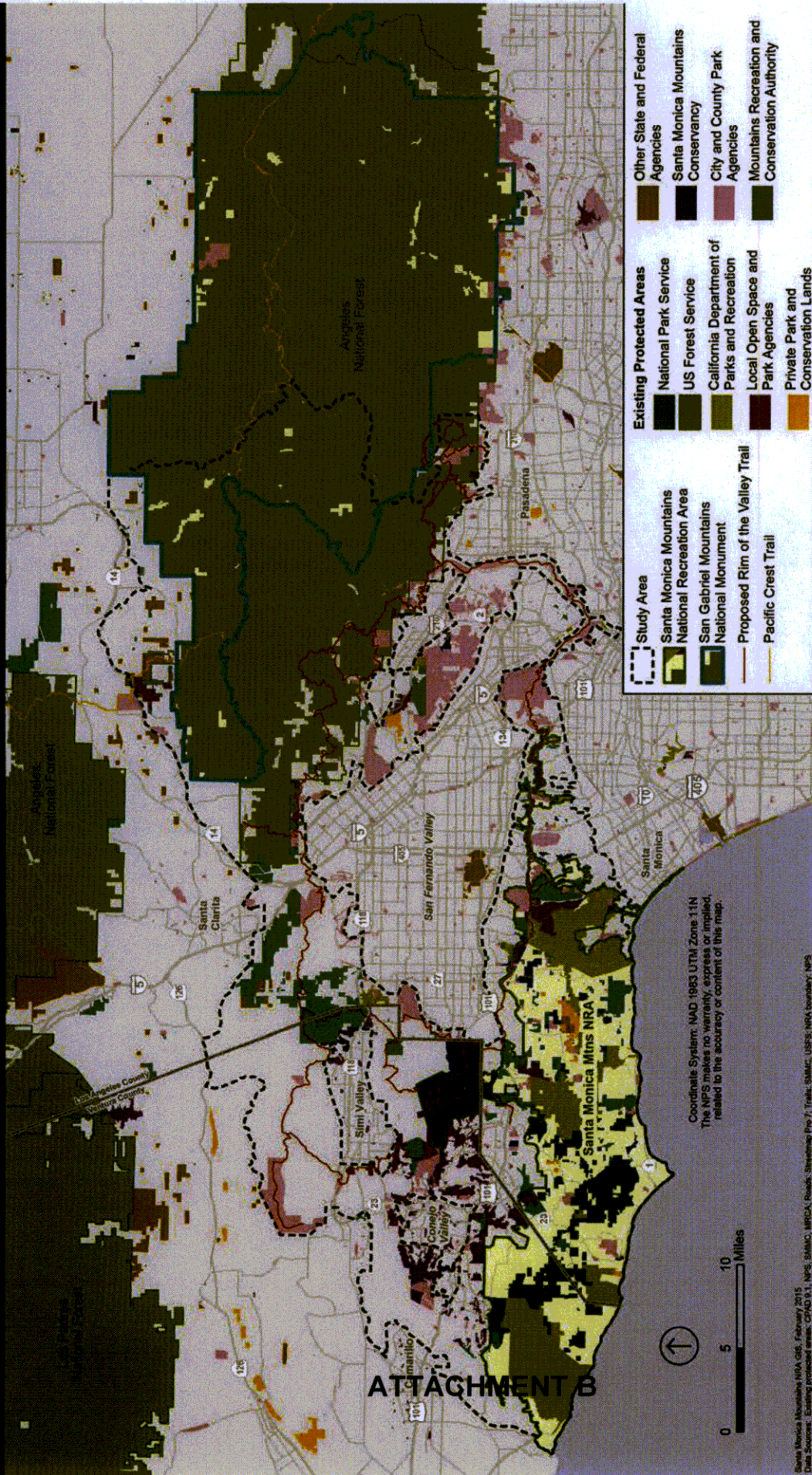


ATTACHMENT A

Alternative A

Continuation of Current Management (No Action)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Concept:

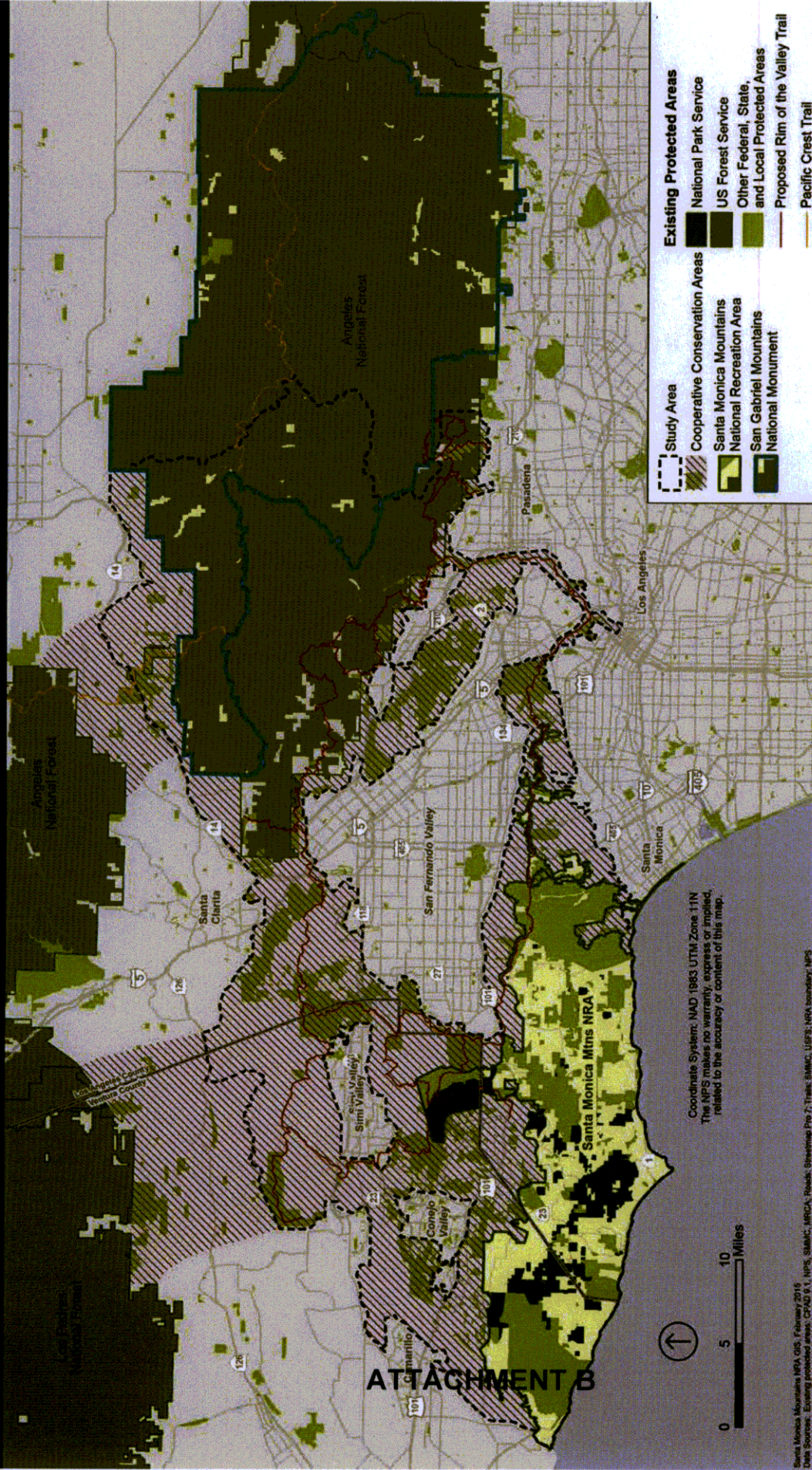
NPS roles would continue:

- Existing national park and historic trail units.
- Existing financial and technical assistance programs.

Alternative B

Cooperative Conservation Partnership

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



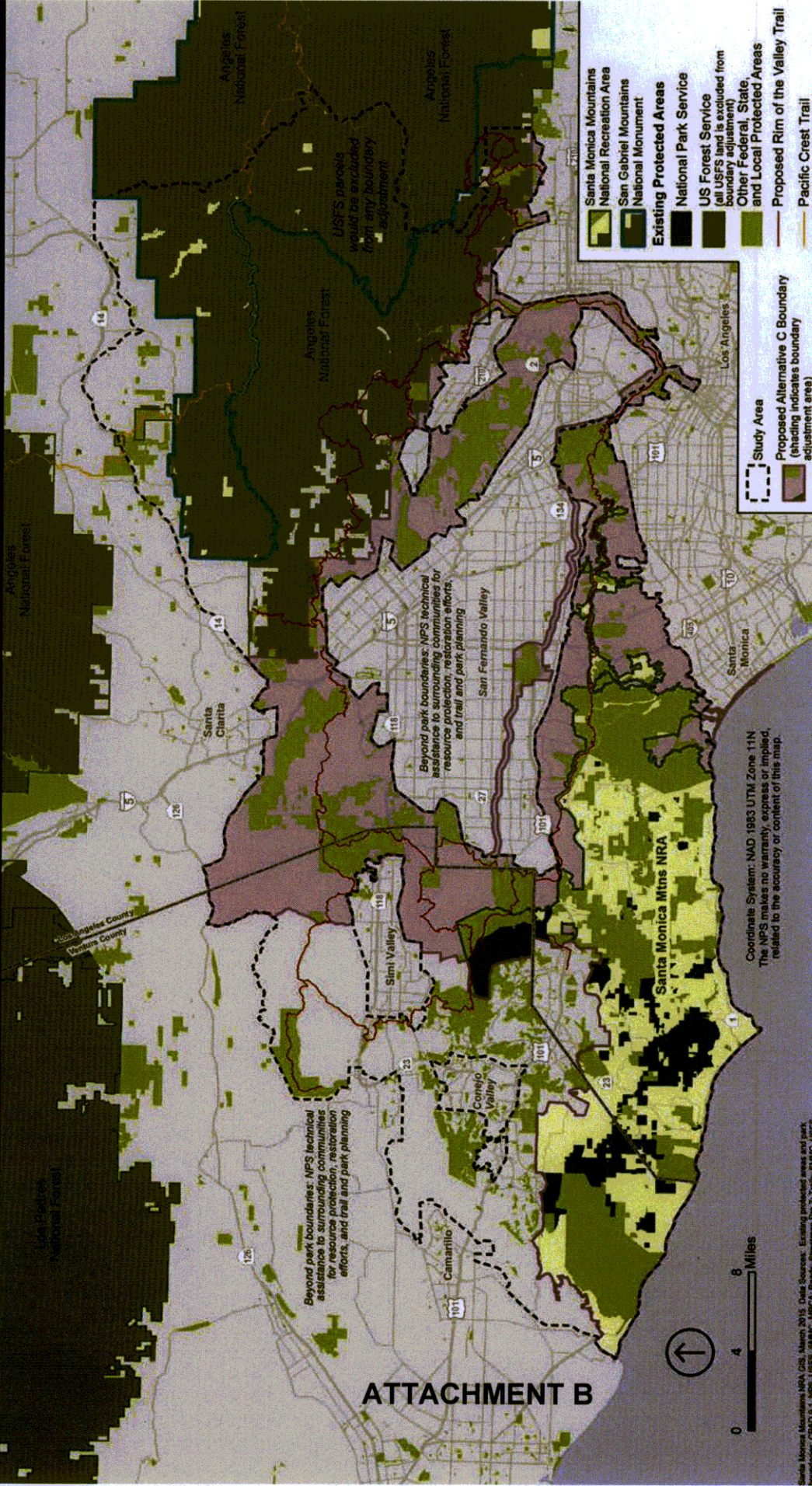
Concept:

- Partnership authorization
- No new NPS areas or boundary adjustment
- Includes study area and landscape linkages to the north providing for habitat connectivity

Alternative C (NPS Preferred Alternative)

Rim of the Valley Boundary Adjustment

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



ATTACHMENT B

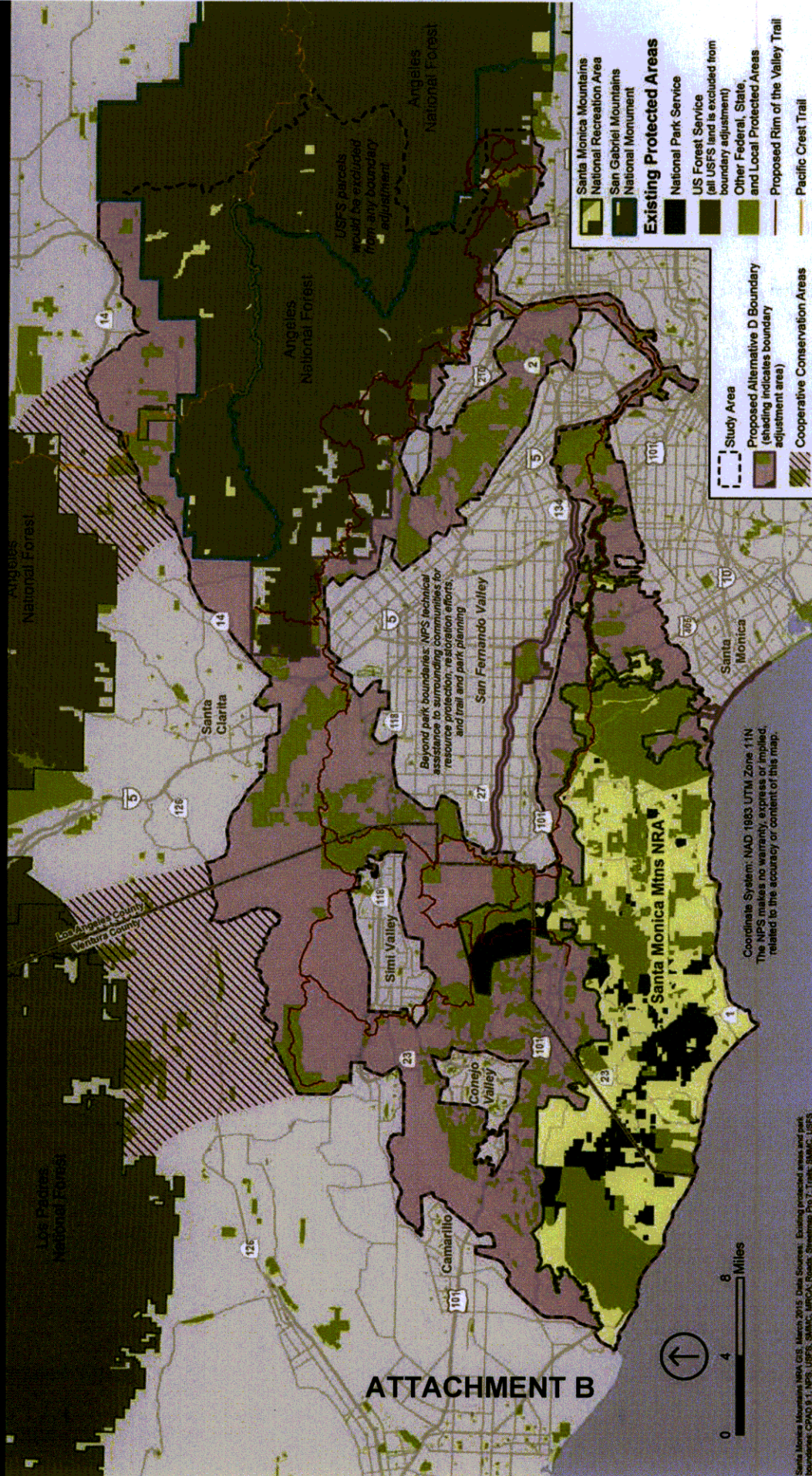
Concept:

- SMMNRA boundary adjustment
- Focus on areas closest to densest urban populations
- Los Angeles River corridor
- Landscape linkage to San Gabriel Mountains

Alternative D

Regional Rim of the Valley Boundary Adjustment and Cooperative Conservation Areas

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



ATTACHMENT B

Concept:

- SMMNRA boundary adjustment
- Partnership authority for landscape connections to north
- Focus on large natural areas
- Includes expanded recreation opportunities

Table 6-11: Summary of Environmental Consequences by Impact Topics

Impact Topic	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>Land Use</p>	<p>No effect on private lands No additional regulatory or land use authority over existing agencies or local governments.</p> <p>Long-term beneficial effects from preserving 340,000 acres of parks and open space and from ongoing stewardship and cooperation in protection of SMMNRA public lands.</p> <p>Ongoing adverse effects from regional growth and development; from poor or no coordination among groups working toward land protection, and on prime and unique farmlands from conversion to other uses.</p>	<p>Similar to Alternative A with local governments retaining land use authority.</p> <p>Additional beneficial effects from protecting open space through development of cooperative conservation plan. Potential for local governments to leverage funding and resources for additional open space protection within study area.</p> <p>Increased access to NPS and other expertise in natural and cultural resources protection and interpretation/education. Expansion of SMMNRA cooperative management efforts in study area.</p> <p>Potential for minor beneficial effects on prime and unique farmlands if cooperative conservation plan encouraged protection.</p>	<p>Local and state governments would continue to have regulatory authority over nonfederal lands within the SMMNRA boundary. However, where applicable and depending on authorizing legislation some activities within the boundary could be subject to permitting related to nonfederal oil and gas leasing, mineral extraction, and solid waste facilities. Beneficial effects from expansion of SMMNRA authority to work cooperatively with park neighbors within and outside boundary.</p> <p>Potential for local jurisdictions to increase public land protection in areas under their authority.</p> <p>Opportunity for NPS to purchase lands from willing sellers to better protect significant resources, such as key wildlife corridors or other open space connections.</p> <p>Enhanced ability to protect a connected system of public lands through cooperative partnerships and targeted land acquisition.</p> <p>Same potential for minor beneficial effects on prime and unique farmlands if these were protected through voluntary easements or stewardship programs.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C plus:</p> <p>More opportunities to work with partners to protect significant lands on the western edge of the study area.</p>
<p>Paleontological Resources</p>	<p>Beneficial effects from ongoing protection of one of the most diverse and extensive assemblages of fossil resources in the national park system in SMMNRA.</p> <p>Continued outstanding opportunities for research regarding paleontological resources from proximity to world-class educational institutions resulting in opportunities to learn about fossil resources in SMMNRA.</p> <p>Ongoing adverse effects from threats, such as unauthorized collecting, erosion, and development of unprotected areas containing fossil resources.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A plus:</p> <p>Beneficial effects from opportunities to protect additional fossiliferous formations in Rim of the Valley area through cooperative conservation plan.</p> <p>Expanded opportunities for research and protection of paleontological resources beyond the current SMMNRA boundary through partnerships.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B plus:</p> <p>Beneficial effects from improved opportunities to protect additional fossiliferous formations not within SMMNRA. Beneficial effects from opportunities to document and research additional paleontological resources, such as in the Santa Susana Mountains and to work with others to protect them.</p>	<p>Similar to Alternative C plus:</p> <p>Beneficial effects from opportunities to better understand the Conejo volcanics, Sespe and Llajas formations, among others in the western study area.</p>

Table 6-11: Summary of Environmental Consequences by Impact Topics (continued)

Impact Topic	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>Water Resources</p>	<p>No effect on existing water rights, water supply, treatment, flood protection or other infrastructure or functions associated with maintaining the public water supply in the study area. No new beneficial uses.</p> <p>Alternative A would continue to have no effect on water quantity or water supply management actions in most of the study area. Where public lands are protected, there would continue to be negligible to moderate direct and indirect beneficial effects. Actions to manage recreational use and to construct visitor facilities would likely continue to have negligible to minor, and occasionally the potential for moderate, localized adverse effects.</p>	<p>Actions in Alternative B would be the same as Alternative A. No specific actions would affect water resources; however, the cooperative conservation plan could improve protection of open space, increasing the potential for beneficial effects.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B, plus:</p> <p>Potential for additional beneficial effects from protection of lands for conservation purposes if these contained important water resources and additional adverse effects from actions associated with recreational use of these public lands.</p> <p>Because Alternative C would likely include more degraded lands and more recreational opportunities, there could be slightly more adverse effects from increased focus on recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>Similar to Alternative C, with a potential for more beneficial effects from additional opportunities to protect lands in partnership with others in the expanded boundary.</p>
<p>Vegetation</p>	<p>Alternative A would continue to have a range of beneficial and adverse effects. Beneficial effects would be contributed by a variety of direct and indirect actions, the most important of which would continue to be long-term protection of vegetation communities in SMMNRA by the NPS and partner agencies and in the Rim of the Valley Corridor study area by other public and private agencies and organizations. Other beneficial effects would be contributed from restoration actions. Adverse impacts would continue to be related to actions to provide for public recreational use, including for trails and other facilities. Negligible to minor localized impacts would also likely continue to occur from visitor use.</p>	<p>Alternative B would have potential for additional beneficial effects on vegetation if the cooperative management plan resulted in additional protection of plant communities not found in SMMNRA or targeted restoration of important areas.</p>	<p>Alternatives C would have greater long-term beneficial effects from a coordinated approach to protection of plant communities and from improved cooperative actions by public and private agencies and organizations to manage them. Protection of more areas could allow for plant community resilience as the area continues to develop and change.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C plus more opportunities for vegetation community protection because of larger area within the proposed boundary expansion.</p>
<p>Wildlife</p>	<p>Alternative A would likely continue to have long-term beneficial and negligible to moderate localized adverse effects from ongoing activities in SMMNRA. The actions of other agencies in land conservation and habitat restoration would also likely contribute long-term beneficial effects in the study area. To the extent that SMMNRA and others conducted research and agencies and organizations working together in the study area continued to identify and moved toward implementation of protection for wildlife habitat linkages and movement corridors, there would be long-term beneficial effects.</p>	<p>Alternative B would have similar long-term beneficial effects from land protection and actions to protect wildlife in SMMNRA. In the study area, Alternative B could provide the direction needed for agencies and organizations working on their own to conserve resources and to protect lands, a long-term indirect beneficial effect.</p>	<p>Alternative C would provide for additional land conservation by the NPS in the study area that could be directed toward wildlife and wildlife habitat protection.</p>	<p>Actions in Alternative D would be likely to result in greater long-term beneficial effects due to the broad direction for connectivity and the larger area encompassed within the proposed boundary expansion.</p>

Table 6-11: Summary of Environmental Consequences by Impact Topics (continued)

Impact Topic	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Special Status Species	Existing threats and ongoing adverse effects to sensitive species and habitats would continue and could also continue to have adverse effects; however, it is likely that because of the importance of sensitive species and habitat conservation, that all of the alternatives could contribute beneficial effects. In Alternative A the SMMC would continue to have the ability to protect important resource areas in the legislated portions of the Rim of the Valley study area.	Similar to Alternative A.	In Alternatives C and D, the NPS would also have this authority if a potential boundary expansion occurred. As a result, there would be mandates from more than one agency to protect sensitive species and habitats, likely resulting in long-term beneficial effects from targeted actions to protect these species.	Similar to Alternative C.
Prehistoric and Historic Archeological Resources	<p>Ongoing beneficial effects from opportunities to study and document the more than 1,000 archeological sites within SMMNRA boundary.</p> <p>Opportunities to study the more than 550 additional sites in the Rim of the Valley corridor would be dependent on the initiative of existing landowners, such as SMMC. Where these exist in the Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, there would be similar ongoing research and documentation as in SMMNRA. Periodic surveys of new public lands or areas proposed for development could increase the number of known sites.</p> <p>A range of beneficial effects would also occur from traditional use activities in SMMNRA and Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.</p>	<p>Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.</p> <p>Partnership opportunities in Alternative B could lead to additional survey of and protection for archeological sites in areas beyond SMMNRA where agency and organization goals coincided. This could lead to better understanding of identified transition zones between ethnographic territories. Agencies and organizations managing land in the partnership area could work together to better understand the resources in the Rim of the Valley areas.</p>	<p>Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.</p> <p>Additional long-term beneficial effects from the potential boundary expansion could include comprehensive research and documentation of sites in the area and creation of a network of stakeholders to recommend sites for protection. Protecting lands related to the transition between the Chumash and Tongva/Gabrielino and new sites related to the Serrano could improve understanding of archeological resources.</p>	Impacts would be similar to Alternative C, however, there would be more opportunities to protect additional significant archeological resources because additional areas would be included within the boundary and/or partnership areas.
Historic Structures/ Cultural Landscapes	<p>There would be a range of beneficial and adverse effects, depending on the resource, its location and the land manager/owner and their own or access to expertise in historic/cultural resources. Some effects could range from minor to moderate and could affect the integrity of the historic structure or cultural landscape.</p> <p>In SMMNRA and other federally protected areas, overall effects would be beneficial and long-term, with preservation maintenance actions and ongoing research to assess key characteristics to preserve.</p>	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A; however, there would be a greater likelihood of long-term beneficial effects because of improved knowledge and access to NPS cultural resources staff. In addition development of cultural resources protection plans would identify the character-defining features of the historic structure and/or cultural landscape and identify the means to protect and/or to undertake preservation actions for these.	Similar to Alternative B.	Similar to Alternative B.
Visitor Experience: Access and Transportation	No or negligible beneficial or adverse effects on visitor access and transportation	Same as Alternative A.	Negligible to minor adverse and beneficial effects on transportation and minor beneficial effects on visitor access, with the potential for localized moderate beneficial effects from providing more close-to-home opportunities for urban communities.	Same as Alternative C; however there could be less emphasis on urban community recreational opportunities, depending on funding and management priorities, because of the larger size of this boundary expansion.

Table 6-11: Summary of Environmental Consequences by Impact Topics (continued)

Impact Topic	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Visitor Experience: Visitor Use Opportunities	There would continue to be a wide range of visitor use opportunities offered both within and outside SMMNRA. Visitors and residents would have the opportunity to participate in both formal and informal recreational activities at an array of sites, with long-term beneficial effects from the diversity of activities offered and from the assortment of groups that manage the sites within the study area boundary.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except that through the cooperative conservation plan, there is a possibility that visitors and residents could better understand the choice of activities available to them because these could be more widely advertised.	The range and breadth of activities available within the boundary of SMMNRA would increase. Public access and information about these could also increase, providing a range of beneficial effects.	Visitor use opportunities would be broad and far-reaching and would include activities provided by the NPS and its partner agencies within an expanded SMMNRA that would encompass more visitor use opportunities.
Visitor Experience: Interpretation, Education and Partnerships	Continued moderate beneficial and negligible to minor adverse effects on visitor experience from continued limited understanding of the NPS and its role in SMMNRA. There would be no additional beneficial effects associated with management of Rim of the Valley study area sites except associated with SMMC/MRCA continued acquisition/ and management of additional parklands.	Alternative B would likely slightly improve coordination among land management agencies in the Rim of the Valley study area and would therefore have some additional negligible beneficial effects from additional interpretation and education on visitor experience, but because entities within the partnership area would remain largely separate and there would likely be no overall coordination in interpretation and education, these benefits would remain slight.	Alternatives C and D would have some overall long-term beneficial and adverse effects from including more land within the boundary of SMMNRA, where visitor experience would likely be enhanced by more interpretive and educational programs offered by a wide array of agencies and organizations. Because, however, these alternatives would increase the number of entrances to SMMNRA parklands and because there is already some difficulty in identifying SMMNRA as a NPS unit and in identifying parklands within it as part of SMMNRA, there would continue to be some minor adverse effects on visitor understanding of the area unless extensive marketing occurred. The interpretive, educational and outreach programs themselves would continue to add greatly to visitor understanding of parklands and would likely meet a full range of other objectives in enhancing the visitor experience in these areas. Alternative C, however would have a focus on underserved communities and underrepresented groups and could, in the long-run improve these group's' identity with parklands, contributing to long-term protection of public lands, including national parks.	Similar to Alternative C plus: Alternative D would expand the area covered by these programs. Alternative C, however could have a focus on underserved communities and underrepresented groups and could, in the long-run improve these group's' identity with parklands, contributing to long-term protection of public lands, including national parks
Park Operations and Partnerships	There would be no change to SMMNRA management complexity (park operations).	There would be long-term adverse effects by increasing the complexity of park operations, because these would be spread across a broader area. There could also be a wide variety of beneficial effects from expanding public parklands protection through the SMMNRA model.	Beneficial effects would also occur if increased staffing and funding were associated with the proposed boundary adjustment and because the adjustment would increase the ability of SMMNRA to work with partners outside its current boundary on implementation actions that affected SMMNRA as a whole and on actions which could lead to long-term persistence of SMMNRA resources.	Similar to Alternative C, but the area encompassed by the potential boundary expansion would be larger and would therefore add to increasing the complexity associated with park operations and partnerships.

Table 6-11: Summary of Environmental Consequences by Impact Topics (continued)

Impact Topic	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Socioeconomics	<p>Ongoing negligible beneficial impacts contributed over time as ongoing management of SMMNRA continued. These impacts could potentially be more detectable in Ventura County because of its SMMNRA headquarters are located there and because of the number of staff living in the area.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A plus: increasing potential for additional negligible beneficial effects.</p>	<p>Similar to Alternatives A and B with a potential for impacts to range to minor if SMMNRA acquired more of a national identity and began to attract more of a market share of visitors to the region.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>
Environmental Justice	<p>Much of SMMNRA is closer to suburban and rural populations, who given the economic climate in southern California must have higher economic status to live in these areas.</p> <p>SMMNRA goals would continue to include linking disadvantaged populations to park resources through special initiatives when possible.</p> <p>Many economically disadvantaged populations in the study area lack access and the ability to partake of existing opportunities due to lack of close-to-home open space, lack of effective transportation, lack of culturally advantageous facilities or opportunities, and lack of knowledge about recreation and natural resources. Some populations also lack the desire to protect public parklands or have little or no knowledge or interest about public parklands beyond the nearest city facilities.</p> <p>These factors would continue to contribute to minor to moderate adverse effects on access to public parklands for these populations.</p>	<p>Similar to Alternative A; however partnership opportunities could include providing additional links to public lands for disadvantaged populations.</p>	<p>Potential to improve conditions regarding the health and well-being of disadvantaged populations by creating new public lands and where possible enhancing public access to those lands for people within the study area.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C</p>