

## **4.13 RECREATION**

### **4.13.1 Proposed Project**

#### **4.13.1.1 Affected Environment**

The majority of the Proposed Project is located on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with the exception of approximately 10 miles of the southern half of Segment 3.

All of Segments 1 and 2 are located within BLM-managed land that provides recreationists opportunities for camping, rockhounding, bird watching, and hunting. Segment 1 is also located approximately 100 feet west of the Primm Valley Golf Club, which is parallel to Segment 1 for approximately 1.6 miles. The Primm Valley Golf Club is located off of Interstate 15, approximately 4 miles south of the Stateline community of Primm. The Primm Valley Golf Club has two separate golf courses—the Lake Course and the Desert Course—a club house, and a 22-acre golf academy. The northern portion of Segment 3 travels through the northern part of Ivanpah Dry Lake. Ivanpah Dry Lake is used frequently for both national and international recreation events, including landsailing regattas and kite buggy competitions. No other national, state, or local parks or recreational facilities exist in or near Segments 1, 2, or 3.

The BLM-managed land within the Proposed Project area is managed under the BLM's California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan. Recreational activities such as camping, rockhounding, bird watching, and hunting are typical permitted uses on BLM-managed land; however, the BLM also contains specially designated recreation areas. The Stoddard Valley Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Area is an area designated by the BLM and parallels the northern half of Segment 3 for approximately 8 miles. It is located just south of Barstow and is bordered by Interstate 15 on the west and State Route 247 on the east. The area contains two 25-mile OHV loops—one designated for 4-wheel drive vehicles and the other for motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles. Organized races and other competitive OHV events take place year-round. Other recreational activities at the Stoddard Valley OHV Area include hiking, rock scrambling, rock hounding, bird watching, and camping.

#### **4.13.1.2 Threshold Significance**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), impacts to recreational resources would be considered significant if the Proposed Project:

- increases the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility will occur or be accelerated; or
- requires the construction or expansion of recreational facilities to meet population demand, which might result in an adverse physical effect on the environment.

#### **4.13.1.3 Impacts and Mitigation**

The Proposed Project would border the Primm Valley Golf Club for an approximate 1.6-mile-long portion of Segment 1. Access to the area would be maintained throughout construction of the project; however, visitors who frequent the golf course may be exposed to increased noise, dust, traffic, and odors for a short duration from construction equipment. Construction activities along Segment 1 are anticipated to take up to 1 month and would not significantly disrupt use of the Primm Valley Golf Club due to the fact the project activities would be outside the facility and limited to existing road and utility rights-of-way (ROWs).

An approximate 8-mile-long section of Segment 3 of the fiber optic cable line travels along a dirt roadway located in the Stoddard Valley OHV Recreational Area. The section is part of the 4-wheel drive Stoddard Valley OHV track. Project construction in this area would temporarily disrupt recreational use of the track and areas immediately adjacent to the track. Additionally an approximate 2.5-mile-long section of Segment 3 of the fiber optic cable line travels across the northern part of Ivanpah Dry Lake. Visitors who frequent these facilities may be exposed to increased noise, dust, traffic, and odors for a short duration

from construction equipment. Should the Proposed Project be approved, the Project applicant would be required to implement the following mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level:

- MM-REC-01: Project construction shall be scheduled to not occur during organized racing events.
- MM-REC-02: Proper signage shall be posted along the fiber optic cable line through the Stoddard Valley OHV Recreational Area, Ivanpah Dry Lake, and at the entrance to the Primm Valley Golf Club at least 2 weeks prior to construction in these areas. The signage shall include contact information, a description of construction activities, and the construction schedule.

Increases in demand for recreational facilities are typically associated with substantial increases in population. Because the Proposed Project involves replacing segments of existing underground fiber optic cable to maintain AT&T Corp.'s current service, the Proposed Project would not result in increased population growth or the increased use of neighborhood, regional, or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of existing facilities would occur or be accelerated.

The Proposed Project does not include construction of recreational facilities, nor does it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Additionally, the construction of the Proposed Project would occur in existing roadway and utility ROWs and would not involve the creation of a new utility corridor through parks or recreational areas. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in any adverse physical effects on the environment from construction or expansion of additional recreational facilities.

After implementation of the mitigation measures outlined previously, impacts to recreational resources would be considered to be less than significant, and no additional mitigation measures are required pursuant to CEQA.

#### **4.13.2 No Action Alternative**

Selection of the No Action Alternative, as described in Section 2.5.1 No Action Alternative, would not result in construction of the Proposed Project, and potential effects to recreational resources as described in Section 4.13.1.3 Impacts and Mitigation would not occur.