

3.15 SOCIOECONOMICS

The socioeconomics of the proposed expansion area is based on large acreages of vacant lands and low population densities. This rural landscape is surrounded by small communities outside of the expansion area that are near enough to provide most employment opportunities to the area. These communities include a stretch of towns along I-15 from Barstow to Baker to the south of the expansion area, Shoshone and Tecopa to the north of the expansion area, and the NTC itself. The private land base within the study area that contributes to county revenues includes 95,217 acres. County revenues are estimated at \$330,757 per year. Most private as well as public land is vacant. Activities occurring within the acquisition area that contribute measurably to employment and/or local economies include mining and grazing. Other activities that bring revenues to local communities include vehicular touring, hunting, camping, and other dispersed recreation activities.