

Bureau of Land Management
Quarterly Report
December 31, 2013

1. Route Monitoring and Compliance

a. Summary of Monitoring/Enforcement Effort – Update from September 2013 Quarterly Report

Law Enforcement Overview

Law Enforcement (LE) Rangers from the Barstow, Ridgecrest, Needles and Palm Springs Field Offices conducted 491 compliance checks (e.g., wilderness, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural sites) and 340 enforcement contacts, of which 80 pertained to off-route or closed area motor vehicle violations within the West Mojave planning area. Enforcement contacts included education, written warnings, and citations.

The State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Division conducted outreach and education in the Jawbone Canyon area over the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. This effort resulted in 365 informational contacts, as well as enforcement actions, citations, and medical responses.

BLM Recreation staff and Student Conservation Association crews conducted outreach and education in the Rand Mountains over the Thanksgiving weekend. Numerous checkpoints were staffed to educate visitors and issue permits for the Rand Mountain Management Area with, over 1,000 permits issued.

b. Maintenance and Restoration Actions – Update from September 2013 Quarterly Report

Regular field monitoring, maintenance and restoration efforts continue by both BLM personnel as well as Partner organizations such as the Friends of Jawbone. These efforts include, but are not limited to, wilderness boundary checks, Area of Critical Environmental Concern boundary checks, fence repairs, route checks, signing and restoration (e.g., rake, mulch). This work was conducted during routine field monitoring, as well as in response to observations reported by other personnel, both written (e.g., Subregion Observation Reports, Work Orders, email) and verbal.

2. Kiosks – Update from September 2013 Quarterly Report

BLM personnel continue to work on the upkeep and repair of the existing kiosks located throughout the West Mojave planning area. These efforts include replacing Subregion maps, posting of notices, painting, and structural repairs.

Six kiosks were installed at the following locations: Black Mountain Subregion on BL7480; Harper Lake Subregion on HL7159/HL6285; Iron Mountain Subregion on IM4800/IM5208;

Fremont Peak Subregion on FP5255/FP7140; Kramer Hills Subregion on KH4800/IM4800; and Kramer Hills Subregion on KH6159/KH6174.

3. Chronology of Management Actions – Update to September 2013 Quarterly Report

October 1-16, 2013: Federal government shutdown due to lapse in federal funding for Fiscal Year 2014; essentially all services provided by the Bureau of Land Management were suspended, with the exception of law enforcement activities related to the protection of life and property, and emergency response functions.

November 20, 2013: Telephone conference call between attorneys for Alliance for Responsible Recreation (ARR) Plaintiffs and Federal Defendants.

November 22, 2013: Personnel from the Barstow Field Manager met with representatives from the Friends of Juniper Flats. The discussion included agreement to jointly prepare an application for an OHV grant for restoration within the Juniper Flats Subregion.

November 22, 2013: The BLM California State Office forwarded to the BLM Washington Office the proposed mineral withdrawal package for the Lane Mountain Milkvetch located within the Coolgardie Mesa and West Paradise Conservation Areas.

November 26, 2013: The Western Watersheds Project, Defenders' of Wildlife, and the Center for Biological Diversity's petition for stay of the BLM Ridgecrest Field Manager's Final Grazing Decision for Lacey-Cactus-McCloud Allotment was denied by the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

November 27, 2013: Federal Defendants filed disclosure concerning the oral testimony that Federal Defendants intend to present in support of their response to ARR Plaintiffs Motion for Enforcement of Remedies Order.

December 4, 2013: The Western Watersheds Project and the Center for Biological Diversity filed a Notice of Voluntary Dismissal of their pending appeal of the grazing decision for the Lacey-Cactus-McCloud Allotment.

December 11, 2013: Personnel from the Barstow Field Manager met with representatives of the Friends of El Mirage. The discussion included agreement to prepare an application for an OHV grant for restoration within the El Mirage Subregion.