

Bureau of Land Management
Quarterly Report
June 30, 2014

1. Route Monitoring and Compliance

a. Monitoring Compliance with Route Closures at a Statistically Significant Level – Update from March 2014 Quarterly Report

Pursuant to the Protocol Monitoring Plan, for the first year of the first 3-year monitoring cycle commencing August 2013, BLM has completed field inspection and data recordation on 91 miles of the 112 miles of field sample routes, and 42 miles of the 50 miles of aerial sample routes. Table 1 lists the routes field monitored and Table 2 lists the routes aerially monitored in this reporting period.

Table 1. Routes Field Monitored Since April 2014	
Subregion	Routes Monitored
Rands	R066
Red Mountain	RM0064

Table 2. Routes Aerially Monitored Since April 2014						
Subregion	Routes Monitored					
Afton	AC8710					
Black Mountain	BM6328	BM6258	BM6271	BM6256		
Broadwell	BL8650	BL9489				
Calico Mountain	CM7651A					
Cronese Lake	CL8128	CL8138	CL8243			
Coolgardie	CG7158					
Darwin	SE45					
El Mirage	EM4654	EM4665	EM4687	EM4698		
El Paso	EP428					
Fremont Peak	FP5308R	FP5316	FP5332A	FP5386	FP5396	FP5405A
	FP5408	FP6383A				
Harper Lake	HL6253	HL6284				
Iron Mountain	IM5807	IM5856				
Joshua Tree	JT1952	JT1966				
Juniper Flats	JF4343					
Kramer Hills	KH4815	KH5204C	KH5251A	KH5257B	KH6105	
Middle Knob	MK128	MK79				
Mitchell Mtn	MM7194B	MM7198A				

Newberry/ Rodman	NR7534B	NR8436B	NR8443	NR8449		
North Searles	P963					
Ord Mountain	OM7350F					
Pisgah Crater	PC8632					
Rands	R45	R910				
Rattlesnake Canyon	RC2320	RC2356	RC2362	RC3414		
South Searles	RM3142	RM8217				
Stoddard Valley	SV2602	SV7304				
Wonder Valley	WV3536					

BLM anticipates completing the first year of protocol monitoring (*i.e.*, 112 miles of routes field monitored and 50 miles of routes monitored via aerial photography) by July 31, 2014. Following the completion of the first year of protocol monitoring, BLM will develop a Year 1 Memo in accordance with the Protocol Monitoring Plan. This Year 1 Memo will be included as an attachment to the September 2014 Quarterly Report.

b. Summary of Monitoring/Enforcement Effort – Update from March 2014 Quarterly Report

BLM law enforcement (LE) Rangers conducted 270 compliance checks (*e.g.*, wilderness, Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), cultural sites) and 86 enforcement contacts within the West Mojave planning area. Of these 86 enforcement contacts, 51 pertained directly to off-route (43 CFR 8341.1(b)), closed area (43 CFR 8341.1(c), CA VC 38301(b)), wilderness (43 CFR 6302.20(d)), National Scenic Trail (43 CFR 8351.1-1(a)), and other motor vehicle violations. Written reports were prepared for some of these violations as part of the incident management and response system (IMARS) in support of pending investigations. Table 3 provides an overview of LE actions by patrol sector within the West Mojave planning area.

Patrol Sector	Compliance Checks	Federal Violation Notice	State/Local Citation	Written Warning	Written Report Filed
<i>Barstow</i>					
81	27	1	0	3	2
82	40	2	0	0	0
83	32	0	0	2	0
84	1	0	0	0	3
85	3	0	0	0	0
86	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Ridgecrest</i>					
1	3	0	0	0	0
2	1	5	0	0	0
3	13	1	0	1	11

4	19	0	0	0	2
5	17	0	0	1	2
6	54	0	1	5	22
7	55	0	2	3	17
<i>Needles</i>					
92	4	0	0	0	0
<i>Palm Springs</i>					
2	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	270	9	3	15	59

c. Maintenance and Restoration Actions – Update from March 2014 Quarterly Report

BLM personnel installed Limited Use Area signs within the Darwin, Sierra, Red Mountain, and Ridgecrest Subregions. These signs were placed near the junctions of designated routes with paved roads. These signs inform public land visitors entering these areas that vehicle travel is limited to designated routes only.

BLM staff fabricated and installed three trailhead and two roadhead signs in the Rademacher Hills Trail system within the Ridgecrest Subregion. The Rademacher Hills trail system is a very popular network of trails that is used by many of the residents of Ridgecrest management area for such activities as hiking, running, horseback riding, and mountain biking.

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) Desert Restoration Corps' season came to a close on June 5, 2014, after SCS volunteers spent eight months in the Mojave Desert area. During this last quarter, these restoration crews restored over 5 acres (*e.g.*, rake, seed, plant on over 7 miles line of sight) within the Jawbone-Butterbredt ACEC and the Rand Mountain Fremont Valley Management area. The crews also restored over three acres, constructed barriers (*e.g.*, peeler posts, fencing), and installed signs along the boundaries of the Kiavah, Bright Star and Coso Wildernesses.

In the Juniper Flats Subregion, BLM personnel installed four restrictor gates (*see* JF3358 “before and after” photos below), constructed post and cable wing fencing to prevent access around the gates, installed two pipe gates, repaired existing gates and wing fencing, installed signs and restored several sites within line of sight. This work focused on designated routes within the Juniper Flats Limited Use Area, including route numbers JF3354M, JF3358M, JF3221M, JF3255, and JF3223. (NOTE: “M” indicates the route is intended for use by motorcycles.)



JF3358M Before



JF3358M After

2. Kiosks – Update from March 2014 Quarterly Report

BLM continued to perform regular and ongoing maintenance of the information kiosks throughout the WEMO planning area during this last quarter. These efforts included the replacement of Subregion maps, posting of notices, painting, plexiglass replacement, and other structural repairs as needed.

Table 4 lists the location of the eight kiosks that were installed during this reporting period.

Table 4. Kiosks Installed Since April 2014	
Subregion	Kiosk Location
Broadwell Lake	BL7815 and BL8685
Broadwell Lake	BL8685 and BL8670
Cronese Lake	CL8315 and Power Line
Cronese Lake	CL8315 and CL7684 Power Line
Harper Lake	HL7140 and Ft. Irwin Rd, Power Line
El Mirage	EM4800 and EM4695, Power Line, Hwy 395
Michel Mountain	MM7140 and Power Line
Newberry/Rodman	NR8435 and Camp Rock

3. Proper Functioning Condition – Seeps and Springs – Update from March 2014 Quarterly Report

Thirteen Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments were completed within the WEMO planning area in the second quarter of 2014. Table 5 shows the results of the PFC assessments.

Table 5. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessments Conducted Within the WEMO Planning Area in the Second Quarter of 2014				
WEMO Subregion	Unique Identifier and/or Name	Date	Finding	Notes
<i>Ridgecrest Field Office</i>				
Red Mountain	RM01 Cuddeback Alkali Well 1	2014	PFC	Old Well, needs to be properly abandoned.
Red Mountain	RM02 Cuddeback Alkali Well 2	2014	Functioning At Risk (FAR)	Old Well, Salt Cedar present, growing from well casing.
Red Mountain	RM03 Steam Well	2014	Non-Functional	Old Well. Cabin destroyed no access to well.
<i>Barstow Field Office</i>				
Coolgardie	BAR14-01	2014	FAR Upward	One of three springs in a spring complex. Paradise Spring NW
Coolgardie	BAR14-02	2014	FAR Upward	Paradise Spring East
Coolgardie	BAR14-03	2014	FAR Stable	Paradise Spring Central
Calico Mtn.	BAR14-04	2014	PFC	Sweetwater Spring
Coolgardie	BAR14-05	2014	FAR	Lane Well, Salt Cedar present
Coolgardie	BAR14-06	2014	Non-functional	Nobel Well, filled in
Coolgardie	BAR14-07	2014	Non-functional	Williams Well, Accessible, needs to be properly abandoned.
Coolgardie	BAR14-08	2014	FAR	Unknown Well, Trespass use
Stoddard Valley	BAR14-09	2014	PFC	RZ Spring
Stoddard Valley	BAR14-10	2014	PFC	Stoddard Mountain Spring

4. Mojave Fringed-Toed Lizard – Update from March 2104 Quarterly Report

BLM personnel conducted surveys for the Mojave fringed-toed lizard (MFTL) (*Uma scoparia*) between June 11 and June 17, 2014. These surveys covered four geographic areas designated as Yermo, Manix, Raser, and Twentynine Palms. Generally the surveyor walked 750 meter transects, but also meandered throughout parcels (internal surveys) where previous survey efforts were negative for the presence of MFTL (such as Yermo Parcel 2). Survey data concerning detections of both MFTL and Zebra tailed lizards (*Callisaurus draconoides*) were recorded using GPS technology.

A total of eight transects were walked in 2014. Fewer transects were walked than in 2012 and 2013 since survey efforts were primarily concentrated in areas where MFTL were detected

previously. Sand temperatures ranged from 21° C (70° F) to 45° C (113° F) during the June 11-17 survey period. This period was cool in the morning with sand temperatures below 30° C (86° F). Afternoons were very windy with gusts in excess of 16 miles per hour (MPH), sometimes reaching above 30 MPH, and with sand temperatures above 30° C (86° F).

The survey results were mixed. MFTL were not detected in areas where they were detected in previous years. However, MFTL were detected in two parcels where previous years' surveys did not detect MFTL. No MFTL were detected on transects in any of the Yermo Parcels this year. One MFTL was detected in both the Yermo 2 parcel and the Manix 1 parcel in the internal surveys of these parcels.

Survey results conducted in the Twentynine Palms ACEC parcel were comparable to the 2013 survey results. In 2013, three transects were conducted for MFTL, and four MFTL were detected. In 2014, one transect was conducted and one MFTL was detected; two MFTL were detected by internal survey.

Surveys of the Razor ACEC parcel continued to show negative results for the presence of MFTL. A single transect was walked in 2013 with negative results for the presence of MFTL. In 2014, one surveyor carried out an internal survey of the ACEC and found no MFTL.

The survey results for 2012, 2013 and 2014 are set forth in Table 6.

Location	2012 Number of Transects	2013 Number of Transects	2014 Number of Transects	2012 Number of MFTL Detections	2013 Number of MFTL Detections	2014 Number of MFTL Detections
Yermo 1	4	5	2	3	0	0
Yermo 2	2	2	internal surv	0	0	1*
Yermo 3	4	1	2	3	1	0
Manix 1	0	1	internal surv	n/a	0	1*
Manix 2	0	1	2	n/a	0	0
Manix 3	0	5	1	n/a	2	0
Razor	0	1	internal surv	n/a	0	0
Twentynine Palms	0	3	1	n/a	4	1, 2*

* MFTL detected during internal survey.

The results of the 2014 surveys may be due in part to weather conditions. Early June experienced a heat wave with ambient air temperatures above 38° C (100°F). MFTL are generally not detectable at sand temperatures at or above about 50° C (120° F).

New detections of MFTL in 2014 are a result of a change in detection methodology. For instance, instead of walking 750 meter transects for three of the parcels, the surveyor carried out internal surveys of the parcels, recording observations of MFTL. In these parcels (*i.e.*, Yermo 2, Manix 1, and Razor), 750 meter transects in 2012 and 2013 did not detect MFTL, possibly due to

poor habitat quality and inherent low MFTL numbers in these locations. MFTL may be more abundant on adjacent private lands where habitat is more abundant or of better quality.

5. Status of Planning – Update from March 2104 Quarterly Report

The BLM Interdisciplinary Team is continuing to review potential route network alternatives. BLM is also working with the State Historic Preservation Office on the development of a Programmatic Agreement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available for public review in October, 2014.

6. Chronology of Management Actions – Update from March 2014 Quarterly Report

March 25, 2014: BLM personnel held a field meeting with personnel from United States Forest Service (USFS), San Bernardino National Forest, in order to identify boundary fence alignment and access issues.

April 9, 2014: BLM and the Pacific Crest Trail Association completed a site visit on Pacific Crest Trail in the Middle Knob area, south of Highway 58.

April 14, 2014: BLM met with potential partners to discuss coordination of additional signing and restoration activities for Lane Mountain Milkvetch and adjacent desert tortoise habitat.

April 23, 2014: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with personnel from Kern County, City of Ridgecrest, California City and California Department of Transportation to discuss route designation and the concerns of each of these jurisdictions.

April 25, 2014: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with personnel from Joshua Tree National Park to discuss route designation, mapping, and access issues.

April 26, 2014: BLM and the Friends of Jawbone hosted Moose Anderson Days. This event was attended by 66 volunteers who volunteered work on BLM administered public lands. The volunteers cleaned up some of the public lands in the Middle Knob Subregion, filling up two roll-off dumpsters with trash and filling a larger utility trailer with tires.

April 29, 2014: BLM held a follow-up field meeting with personnel from USFS, San Bernardino National Forest, in order to evaluate options for a potential parking area for hikers into the Deep Creek area.

May 6, 2014: BLM held a follow-up interagency coordination meeting with the City of Ridgecrest in order to accommodate those not able to attend on April 23, and to allow more specific discussion and map review.

May 7, 2014: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with personnel from Inyo County and the California Department of Transportation to discuss route designation and the concerns of each these jurisdictions.

May 14, 2014: BLM held a Meet and Confer session with counsel and representatives of plaintiff and intervenor groups as directed by Judge Vadas' March 31, 2014 Order.

May 28, 2014: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with personnel from the City of Barstow to discuss route designation and potential coordination opportunities.

June 3, 2014: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with personnel from USFS, Sequoia National Forest to discuss routes along the western WEMO border that abut the National Forest.

June 5, 2014: BLM held a meeting with partners groups to discuss coordination of additional signing and restoration needs and proposed activities in Fremont-Kramer desert tortoise habitat.

June 24, 2014: BLM held a follow-up Meet and Confer conference with counsel and representatives of plaintiff groups.

June 26, 2014: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with personnel from San Bernardino County to discuss route designation and potential coordination opportunities.

June 30, 2014: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with personnel from the Town of Apple Valley to discuss route designation and potential coordination opportunities.