

Bureau of Land Management
Quarterly Report
March 31, 2014

1. Route Monitoring and Compliance

a. Monitoring Compliance with Route Closures at a Statistically Significant Level – Update from December 2013 Quarterly Report

Since August 2013, field inspection and data recordation have been completed on approximately 84 miles of the 112 miles of field sample routes selected for the first year of the first 3-year monitoring cycle pursuant to the Protocol Monitoring Plan. Table 1 lists the routes field monitored in this reporting period.

Subregion	Routes Monitored			
Stoddard Valley	SV2604	SV6557	SV6536	SV6501
Kramer Hills	KH6134	KH5243		
Afton Canyon	AC9604	AC8711		
Ord Mountains	OM6638			

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 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, which will be included as an attachment to the September 2014 Quarterly Report.

b. Summary of Monitoring/Enforcement Effort – Update from December 2013 Quarterly Report

BLM partnered with the Friends of Juniper Flats and United States Forest Service (USFS) for two public outreach events in the Juniper Flats Subregion. These events, held January 25 and March 15, 2014, provided information about the BLM designated route network and land use ethics (e.g., “Tread Lightly”).

BLM and USFS Law Enforcement (LE) personnel conducted several focused patrols along the Pacific Crest Trail. During these focused patrols LE personnel witnessed three individuals on motorcycles travelling off of a designed motorized route, but were unable to intercept these individuals due to the steep terrain inaccessible by patrol vehicle.

LE Rangers completed extended holiday patrol effort during the New Year’s, Martin Luther King and President’s Day holidays. LE Rangers coordinated with Kern County and San Bernardino County deputies and medical personnel to respond to LE, search and rescue, and medical aid incidents. LE Rangers monitored numerous special recreation permit events.

Ridgecrest LE Rangers also investigated several unpermitted events including three cross country dual sport motorcycle events investigated jointly with National Park Service personnel.

LE Rangers conducted 119 compliance checks (e.g., wilderness, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural sites) and 105 enforcement contacts, of which 22 (italicized below) pertained to off route (43 CFR 8341.1(b)) or closed area (43 CFR 8341.1(c)) motor vehicle violations within the West Mojave planning area. Table 2 provides an overview of LE actions by patrol sector within the West Mojave planning area.

Table 2. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area				
Patrol Sector	Compliance Checks	Federal Violation Notice	State/Local Citation	Written Warning
<i>Barstow</i>				
81	0	14	Not applicable	0
82	0	7	Not applicable	0
<i>43 CFR 8341.1(b)</i>		3		0
83	2	15	Not applicable	18
84	0	1	Not applicable	0
85	1	0	Not applicable	1
86	12	0	Not applicable	1
<i>Ridgecrest</i>				
1	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	11	7	0	5
<i>43 CFR 8341.1(b)</i>		2		4
<i>43 CFR 8341.1(c)</i>		1		0
4	4	1	0	0
5	5	0	2	4
<i>43 CFR 8341.1(b)</i>			1	3
6	38	9	6	11
<i>43 CFR 8341.1(c)</i>		1		6
7	40	0	0	3
<i>43 CFR 8341.1(b)</i>				1
<i>Needles</i>				
92	2	0	Not applicable	0
<i>Palm Springs</i>				
2	4	0	Not applicable	0
TOTAL	119	54	8	43

c. Maintenance and Restoration Actions – Update from December 2013 Quarterly Report

BLM personnel and Partner organizations continue regular field monitoring, maintenance and restoration efforts.

In the Juniper Flats Subregion, the Barstow Field Office, with the assistance of an Americorps crew, installed 173 signs; constructed 500 feet of barrier fence; repaired 367 feet of barrier fence; restored (e.g., rake, mulch) 5,360 feet of trail; and removed 637 pounds of trash from public lands.

In the Ridgecrest Field Office management area, Student Conservation Association (SCA) crews monitored 183 sites along wilderness boundaries (e.g., Grass Valley, Golden Valley); restored (e.g., rake, seed, plant) 42 sites within line of sight (over 3 acres); constructed 2,725 feet of barrier (e.g., peeler post, fencing); and installed signs.

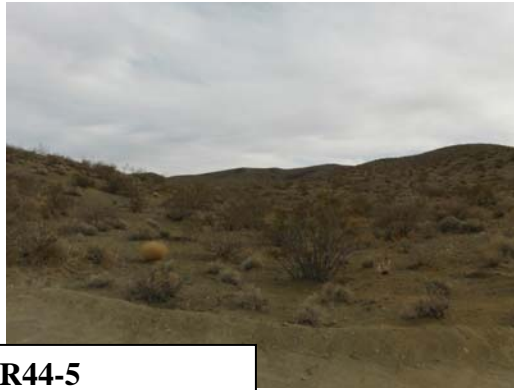
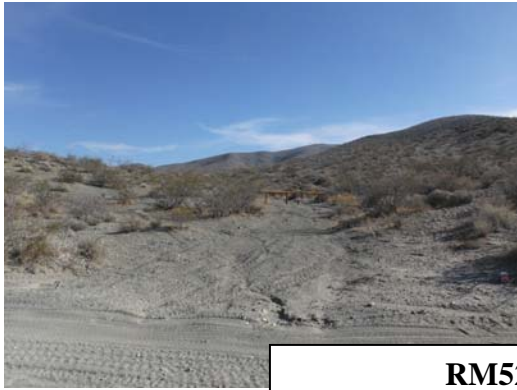
In the Jawbone-Butterbrecht Area of Critical Environmental Concern and the Rand Mountains, the Ridgecrest Field Office, with the assistance of an SCA crew, monitored 47 sites; restored (e.g., rake, seed, plant) 44 sites within line of sight (over 3 acres); constructed 58 feet of barrier; and installed signs.



**JB20-SC5-14
Before and After Restoration**



**JB20-SC5-4
Before and After Restoration**



**RM52-R44-5
Before and After Restoration**



**RM52-R30-5
Before and After Restoration**

2. Kiosks – Update from December 2013 Quarterly Report

BLM personnel continue to maintain the existing kiosks located throughout the West Mojave planning area. The work performed includes replacing Subregion maps, posting of notices, painting, and making structural repairs. Ridgecrest staff with the assistance of the SCA crews replaced six kiosks that were vandalized in the Ridgecrest Subregion.

The Ridgecrest Field Office constructed eight new kiosks that are anticipated to be installed at the priority kiosk locations on Barstow Field Office managed lands by June 2014.

3. Proper Functioning Condition – Seeps and Springs – Update from December 2013 Quarterly Report

Eight Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments were completed within the WEMO planning area in the first quarter of 2014. Table 3 shows the results of the PFC assessments.

Table 3. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessments Conducted Within the WEMO Planning Area in 2014				
WEMO Subregion	Unique Identifier and Name	Date	Finding	Notes
<i>Ridgecrest Field Office</i>				
Jawbone	SC28 North Kelso Spring	2014	PFC	No recent use. Old road to spring
North Searles	NS01 North Benko Spring	2014	PFC Static	Riparian area fenced
North Searles	NS02 South Benko Spring	2014	PFC Static	Riparian area fenced
North Searles	NS03 Ruth Spring	2014	PFC Static	Riparian area fenced
North Searles	NS04 Skull Spring	2014	PFC Static	Riparian area fenced
Sierra	SE08 Grapevine #1	2014	PFC Static	Grazing suspended
Sierra	SE17 South Fork Grapevine Canyon	2014	PFC Static	Grazing suspended
Sierra	SE18 Coyote Spring	2014	PFC Static	Grazing suspended

4. Status of Planning – Update from December 2013 Quarterly Report

The BLM Interdisciplinary Team is working with managers to develop the preferred alternative for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Ongoing activities include coordination with the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, which covers the entire West Mojave planning area, and development of the biological assessment and cultural resource analytical strategy.

5. Chronology of Management Actions – Update from December 2013 Quarterly Report

January 25, 2014: BLM conducted public outreach at Arrastre Canyon in the Juniper Flats Subregion to provide information about the BLM designated route network and land use ethics (e.g., Tread Lightly) to meet conservation needs.

February 11-12, 2014: Hearing in San Francisco, California to present testimony in support of BLM's response to ARR Plaintiff's Motions for Enforcement of Remedies Order.

February 15, 2014: BLM participated in a public outreach effort with the Transition Habitat Conservancy (THC) within the Fremont-Kramer Desert Wildlife Management Area to provide information about the route network on BLM and THC's lands, as well as land use ethics (e.g., Tread Lightly) to meet conservation needs.

February 15 and 16, 2014: BLM participated in a public outreach effort with the Student Conservation Association crew within the Rand Mountains Management Area (RMMA) to check for required permits and provide information about the BLM route network through the RMMA lands, as well as land use ethics (e.g., Tread Lightly) to meet conservation needs.

February 21, 2014: Tribal Outreach and coordination meeting in Ridgecrest to share information and address opportunities in the WEMO planning area.

February 23, 2014: Tribal Outreach and coordination meeting in Bishop to share information and address issues and opportunities in the WEMO planning area.

February 28, 2014: Tribal Outreach and coordination meeting in Barstow to share information and address issues and opportunities in the WEMO planning area.

March 3, 2014: Due date for submission of California State Parks Off-Highway Motorized Vehicle (OHMV) Recreation Grant applications. Since January 13, 2014, BLM coordinated and cooperated with Partner organizations (e.g., Friends of Juniper Flats, Friends of El Mirage, Transition Habitat Conservancy, Farmworker Institute for Education and Leadership Development) in the development of several restoration grant applications for work within the West Mojave planning area (e.g., Juniper Flats, El Mirage, Fremont Peak, Black Mountain, and Calico Mountains Subregions).

March 6, 2014: BLM attended a District 37 meeting to provide information about the BLM designated route network.

March 11, 2014: Interagency coordination meeting with the San Bernardino National Forest to discuss routes and potential restoration along the southern WEMO boundary that abuts the National Forest, as well as Threatened and Endangered species conservation.

March 15, 2014: Field work for surveys of springs and wells in the Black Mountain and Fremont-Kramer Desert Wildlife Management Area are completed and data being compiled.

March 15, 2014: BLM conducted public outreach in the Juniper Flats Subregion to provide information about the BLM designated route network and Rules of the Road to meet conservation needs.

March 17, 2014: BLM met with the Sheriff, County Commissioner, and District Attorney for Kern County, as well as California State Parks OHMV Division, to discuss strategy to address off route travel in the Jawbone, Pacific Crest Trail, Dove Springs and Kelso Valley areas on BLM managed lands.

March 25, 2014: BLM and USFS personnel to begin project planning for three miles of fencing north of Deep Creek and the Pacific Crest Trail along the USFS and BLM boundary.