

Bureau of Land Management
Quarterly Report
March 30, 2017

1. Route Monitoring and Compliance

a. Monitoring Compliance with Route Closures at a Statistically Significant Level – Update from December 2016 Quarterly Report

In accordance with the 2013 West Mojave (WEMO) Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Monitoring Protocol, BLM filed an Addendum to the Year Three Monitoring Results Report (Doc. 419-1). The January 19, 2017 Addendum clarified the recommendations in Section 6 of the Year Three Monitoring Results Report (Doc. 415-1) and modified Section 4.0 of the WEMO OHV Monitoring Protocol (Doc. 332-3).

b. Summary of Monitoring/Enforcement Effort – Update from December 2016 Quarterly Report

BLM law enforcement (LE) Rangers conducted 241 compliance checks (*e.g.*, wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural sites) and 216 enforcement contacts within the WEMO planning area. Of these 216 enforcement contacts, 57 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)), or 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 1 provides an overview of LE actions by patrol sector within the WEMO planning area.

Table 1. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area Since December 2016 Quarterly Report					
Patrol Sector	Compliance Checks	Federal Violation Notice	State/Local Citation	Written Warning	Written Report Filed
<i>Barstow</i>					
81	15	20	0	7	0
82	9	0	0	0	0
83	10	46	0	44	3
84	0	2	0	16	3
85	15	1	0	7	6
86	16	0	0	3	5
<i>Ridgecrest</i>					
1	0	0	0	0	1
2	2	0	0	0	0
3	37	2	0	9	0
4	26	0	0	0	1

Table 1. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area Since December 2016 Quarterly Report					
Patrol Sector	Compliance Checks	Federal Violation Notice	State/Local Citation	Written Warning	Written Report Filed
5	21	0	0	5	4
6	58	0	1	11	17
7	21	0	0	2	0
<i>Needles</i>					
92	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Palm Springs</i>					
2	11	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	241	71	1	104	40

c. Maintenance and Restoration Actions – Update from December 2016 Quarterly Report

Over this past quarter, BLM staff: repaired management area fencing within the Juniper Flats and Rattlesnake Canyon Subregions; installed route signs in the Ridgecrest, South Scarles, Sierra, Broadwell Lake, Newberry/Rodman, Coolgardie, Ord Mountain, Fremont Peak and Rattlesnake Canyon Subregions; installed red route closed signs in the Coolgardie, Ord Mountain, Fremont Peak, Rattlesnake Canyon and Juniper Flats Subregions; and installed Limited Use Area signs in the Broadwell Lake Subregion.

This past quarter, two American Conservation Experience (ACE) desert restoration crews completed restoration projects within the Rand Mountains and Red Mountain Subregions. The crews treated 50 incursions, restoring 26,000 square meters of land. Additionally, over the President's Day weekend these crews, along with BLM staff, conducted public outreach within the El Paso, Rand Mountains and Red Mountain Subregions, providing designated route information to off-highway vehicle enthusiasts.

BLM staff, along with partner groups (Forest Service, Transition Habitat Conservancy, Victor Valley College and Friends of Juniper Flats), hosted a restoration workshop on January 28, 2017 in the Juniper Flats Subregion. Participants were instructed on desert restoration practices and restored 834 square meters of land.

On February 25-26, 2017, BLM partnered with Transition Habitat Conservancy (THC) and hosted a public outreach event in the Fremont Peak Subregion, providing recreation maps and regional information to improve compliance with the designated route network in the area.

BLM staff, along with THC, installed OHV barrier fencing in the Fremont Peak Subregion. Additionally, 29 miles of incursions and six acres of staging/camping areas were restored.

On March 4, 2017, BLM partnered with Conservation Lands Foundation and Mojave Desert Land Trust on an outreach event in Black Lava Buttes located within the Sand to Snow National

Monument (Rattlesnake Canyon Subregion) to educate the public on the biological, historical and cultural features of the site. Vertical mulching restoration and a live wildlife presentation also took place during the event.

In late February through mid-March, BLM in conjunction with Conservation Lands Foundation through a grant from Southern California Edison, hosted a California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew for three weeks of restoration work (*e.g.*, vertical mulching of seven incursions and clean-up of trash dumps) in the Black Lava Buttes area. The two sets of photographs below depict examples of the before- and after-vertical mulching restoration. The red route closure signs in the post-restoration photographs are for orientation and were subsequently removed.



Before



After



Before



After

The Friends of Jawbone staff continued to perform daily monitoring and rehabilitation of unauthorized routes on BLM-managed lands within the Jawbone Subregion, as well as ground

operation and maintenance work, including signing, grading roads, and repairing structures that have been vandalized within the El Paso, Red Mountain, Rand Mountain, Jawbone, and Middle Knob Subregions.

2. Kiosks – Update from December 2016 Quarterly Report

BLM continued to perform regular and ongoing maintenance of the information kiosks in the Red Mountain, Rand Mountains, El Paso, Jawbone, Harper Lake, Ord Mountain, Rattlesnake Canyon, and Juniper Flats Subregions. These efforts included the replacement of Subregion maps, posting of notices, painting, plexi-glass replacement, and placement of “You Are Here” stickers on the Subregion maps.

BLM installed seven single panel steel kiosks, two double panel steel kiosks, and relocated one wooden single panel kiosk in the Juniper Flats Subregion.

3. Status of Planning – Update from December 2016 Quarterly Report

On January 26, 2017, the Court issued an order enlarging the time for completion of the WEMO plan amendment. The revised planning schedule is as follows:

- The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, together with the Draft Travel Management Plans (TMP), will be published by January 2018;
- The NOA of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, together with the Proposed TMPs, will be published by April 2019; and
- The WEMO land use plan amendment Record of Decision (ROD) and the TMP RODs will be issued by October 2019.

BLM continues Phase I analysis (aerial map GIS review) for establishment of the ground-disturbance baseline for the WEMO planning area as described in the ROD for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, issued on September 14, 2016. To date, 2,607,782 acres have been completed in Phase I (92% of the WEMO planning area). Phase I for the WEMO planning area is anticipated to be completed by June 2017. BLM continues Phase II analysis (field verification) for establishment of the ground-disturbance baseline. The Phase II contract expires in June 2017.

BLM continues field-testing of the Archaeological Predictive Model using field crews to gather on-the-ground inventory data to cycle back into the model. In Fiscal Year 2017, cultural resource inventory crews have surveyed 791 acres (28.31 linear miles) of previously unsurveyed routes and identified 31 occurrences of cultural resources, including 24 archaeological sites and 7 isolated artifacts. Additionally, work continues on finalizing the site records from the cultural resource inventory for Fiscal Year 2016, including completion of an eligibility determination pursuant to the National Register of Historic Places.

BLM will be hosting two public open-house format meetings to gather public input on a proposal to temporarily restrict use to street legal vehicles on 148 miles of routes located on public lands within San Bernardino County that are maintained by the County of San Bernardino Public Works Department. Segments of these routes under County maintenance are managed as limited to street legal only vehicles. This proposal to temporarily limit the use of the route segments on public lands will allow BLM to analyze and determine if consistent management of these routes across the two jurisdictions is in the public interest. These public meetings are scheduled for:

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 (5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)
Yucca Valley Community Center (Yucca Conference Room)
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

Thursday, April 20, 2017 (5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)
Barstow Field Office (Main Conference Room)
2601 Barstow Rd, Barstow, CA 92311

4. Chronology of Management Actions – Update from December 2016 Quarterly Report

January 19, 2017: BLM filed an Addendum to the 2016 West Mojave Monitoring Report, Year Three Monitoring Results Report (2013-2016), filed December 6, 2016 (Doc. 415-1). This Addendum clarifies BLM's recommendations in Section 6 of the Year Three Monitoring Results Report, and modifies Section 4.0 of the WEMO OHV Monitoring Protocol filed July 1, 2013 (Doc. 332-3).

January 19, 2017: BLM and Plaintiffs (Center for Biological Diversity and Alliance for Responsible Recreation) filed a Stipulation (Doc. 420) providing for the following: (1) the enlargement of time for completing the WEMO land use plan amendment and TMPs; (2) implementation of BLM's recommendations set forth in the Addendum to the 2016 West Mojave Monitoring Report; and (3) initiation of a process to determine whether a temporary public land restriction order should be issued to temporarily restrict routes, currently maintained by the County of San Bernardino Public Works Department, to street legal only vehicles.

January 25, 2017: BLM and representatives from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians visited several cultural resource sites that were recorded during Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016. Upon field review, BLM agreed to subsurface testing of one of the sites to determine if subsurface deposits were present. This testing was completed by BLM in early March and the site record will be updated accordingly based on those findings.

January 26, 2017: BLM hosted the first of three annual WEMO consulting parties meetings pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. Topics included a planning status update on the WEMO planning process, a summary of the 2016 implementation activities, an update on planned implementation activities for 2017, and an overview of the archaeological predictive model.

January 26, 2017: The Court issued an order enlarging the time for completing the WEMO land use plan amendment and TMPs.

January 28, 2017: BLM staff, along with representatives from the Forest Service, Transition Habitat Conservancy, Victor Valley College and Friends of Juniper Flats, hosted a restoration workshop in the Juniper Flats Subregion.

February 18-20, 2017: BLM staff, along with ACE restoration crews, conducted public outreach within the El Paso, Rand Mountains and Red Mountain Subregions, providing designated route information to off-highway vehicle enthusiasts.

February 25-26, 2017: BLM partnered with THC and hosted a public outreach event in the Fremont Peak Subregion, providing recreation maps and regional information to improve compliance with the designated route network in the area.

March 4, 2017: BLM staff, along with representatives of Conservation Lands Foundation and Mojave Desert Land Trust, conducted an outreach event in Black Lava Buttes located within the Sand to Snow National Monument (Rattlesnake Canyon Subregion) to educate the public on the biological, historical and cultural features of the site. Vertical mulching restoration and a live wildlife presentation also took place during the event.