

Bureau of Land Management  
Quarterly Report  
September 28, 2017

**1. Route Monitoring and Compliance**

**a. Monitoring Compliance with Route Closures at a Statistically Significant Level – Update from June 2017 Quarterly Report**

Pursuant to the 2013 WEMO OHV Monitoring Protocol (Doc. 332-3) as revised by the Addendum to the Year Three Monitoring Results Report (Doc 419-1), for Year 1 of the Second 3-year monitoring cycle, commencing August 2016 (Year 4), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completed field inspection and data recordation on 118 miles of field sample routes, and 51 miles of aerial photo sample routes.

A monitoring status memorandum and map for Year 1 of the second 3-year monitoring cycle are attached to this quarterly report (Attachment 1 -- Status Memo, Year 1 Monitoring of the Second 3-Year Monitoring Cycle; Attachment 2 – Map, Year 1 Protocol Monitoring of the Second 3-Year Monitoring Cycle). The Status Memo identifies the routes that were monitored in the field and the routes that were monitored via aerial photos; the Map of the routes shows the routes that were monitored (color-coded for field versus aerial photo monitoring). No issues were encountered during monitoring and no deviations or changes in the protocol or variables were determined to be necessary.

**b. Summary of Monitoring/Enforcement Effort – Update from June 2017 Quarterly Report**

BLM law enforcement (LE) Rangers conducted 264 compliance checks (*e.g.*, wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural sites) and made 265 enforcement contacts within the WEMO planning area. Of these 265 enforcement contacts, 60 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.

<b>Table 1. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West</b>					
<b>Patrol Sector</b>	<b>Compliance Checks</b>	<b>Federal Violation Notice</b>	<b>State/Local Citation</b>	<b>Written Warning</b>	<b>Written Report Filed</b>
<i>Barstow</i>					
81	35	3	0	5	0
82	74	42	0	93	0

<b>Table 1. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area Since June 2017 Quarterly Report</b>					
<b>Patrol Sector</b>	<b>Compliance Checks</b>	<b>Federal Violation Notice</b>	<b>State/Local Citation</b>	<b>Written Warning</b>	<b>Written Report Filed</b>
83	4	5	1	3	1
84	20	16	0	45	0
85	8	4	0	5	2
86	12	0	0	3	2
<b><i>Ridgecrest</i></b>					
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0
3	30	1	0	1	0
4	21	0	1	3	0
5	18	6	0	5	0
6	25	0	2	9	3
7	7	1	0	2	1
<b><i>Needles</i></b>					
92	2	0	0	0	0
<b><i>Palm Springs</i></b>					
2	8	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	264	78	4	174	9

**c. Maintenance and Restoration Actions – Update from June 2017 Quarterly Report**

Over this past quarter, BLM staff repaired management area fencing within the Rattlesnake Canyon and Juniper Flats Subregions; installed route signs in the Sierra, Red Mountain, Harper Lake, Broadwell Lake, Rattlesnake Canyon, Ord Mountains, Newberry/Rodman, and Juniper Flats Subregions; installed closed (red route) signs in the Ord Mountains, and Juniper Flats Subregions; and installed Limited Use Area signs in the Ridgecrest, Stoddard Valley, Ord Mountains, Juniper Flats and Rattlesnake Canyon Subregions.

Mechanical route maintenance was performed using a trail dozer on the designated route network within the Indian Wells Canyon area of the Sierra Subregion.

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.

From August 21 to September 8, 2017, the Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development (FIELD) restoration crew completed restoration (e.g., vertical and horizontal mulching, seed pits, raking) of nine sites (totaling 2.8 acres) within the Juniper Flats Subregion. Refer to photos below for a sample of the restoration work completed.



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After

On September 30, 2017, BLM will host a National Public Lands Day (NPLD) event in the Juniper Flats Subregion. This NPLD volunteer event will start at 8:00 AM and include various activities such as trash clean-up, barrier fence repair, installation of interpretive signs, interactive live wildlife exhibit, and an educational hike.

## **2. Kiosks – Update from June 2017 Quarterly Report**

BLM continued to perform regular and ongoing maintenance of the information kiosks in the Red Mountain, Rattlesnake Canyon, Broadwell Lake, Stoddard Valley, Ord Mountains, 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.

## **3. Status of Planning – Update from June 2017 Quarterly Report**

BLM continues to ground-truth the Archaeological Predictive Model. The current inventory effort consists of gathering on-the-ground archaeological data to cycle back into the model which was updated this last quarter and is scheduled for peer review in Fiscal Year 2018. As of September 19, 2017, for Fiscal Year 2017, the cultural resource inventory crews have surveyed 5,033 acres of previously unsurveyed routes, recorded 124 new sites and monitored 28 previously recorded sites.

The BLM interdisciplinary team (IDT) continues work on the development of the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS), including draft transportation management plans (TMPs), which will be released for public review in January 2018.

The BLM IDT team work on the environmental assessment for the proposal to temporarily restrict use to street legal vehicles on 148 miles of routes within San Bernardino County that are maintained by the County of San Bernardino Public Works Department, has been suspended until the first quarter of 2018 in order to complete the West Mojave Route Network Project DSEIS and TMPs by the January 2018 deadline.

## **4. Continuation of Terms and Conditions of Expiring Grazing Leases under New Leases – Update from June 2017 Quarterly Report**

In the past quarter, the Barstow Field Manager issued four grazing leases (i.e., Ord Mountain Allotment, Valley Well Allotment, Rattlesnake Canyon Allotment, and Shadow Mountain Allotment) under the authority of Section 402(c)(2) of the Federal Land Policy and Management

Act (FLPMA), as amended.<sup>1</sup> The terms and conditions of these new leases are identical to those in the previously issued grazing leases, and the new leases may be canceled, suspended, or modified, in whole or in part, when BLM complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutory requirements. The terms and conditions of the new leases will be reconsidered within six months of issuance of the West Mojave (WEMO) Route Network Record of Decision (ROD) (under pertinent provisions of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan as amended—including the WEMO and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan amendments to the CDCA Plan) regardless of whether BLM has completed the NEPA analysis and documentation for the new leases. This action is consistent with Section 402(c)(2) of FLPMA and the 2011 WEMO Remedy Order that allowed “the current grazing decisions to remain in effect pending revisions of the FEIS and ROD during remand,” and ordered “that the grazing decisions be reconsidered within six months after the revised FEIS and ROD are adopted by the BLM.”

## **5. Chronology of Management Actions – Update from June 2017 Quarterly Report**

**July 18, 2017:** Six members of the Friends of Juniper Flats (FOJF) met with BLM to discuss their request for designated hiking trails in the Juniper Flats Subregion. FOJF presented BLM a “Petition for Hiking Trails” signed by 592 individuals.

**August 23, 2017:** Pursuant to the Programmatic Agreement (PA), BLM transmitted a summary of PA activities to date and notified the Consulting Parties and other interested parties of the September 28, 2017 Consulting Parties meeting.

**August 24, 2017:** BLM received concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on the determination that all forty-nine (49) isolated artifacts, eighty-two (82) newly identified archaeological sites, and six (6) re-recorded archaeological sites identified during Fiscal Year 2016 survey are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Additionally, SHPO concurred with the determination that seven (7) sites were eligible for listing in the NRHP. SHPO did not concur with the eligibility determination for listing of four (4) sites.

**September 7, 2017:** Six members of the FOJF met with BLM to discuss and review a map of their proposed hiking trails in the Juniper Flats Subregion.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Section 402(c)(2) of FLPMA, the terms and conditions in a grazing lease that has expired shall be continued under a new lease until the date on which the BLM completes any environmental analysis and documentation for the lease required under the NEPA and other applicable laws. Leases issued in accordance with Section 402(c)(2) are nondiscretionary and are not protestable or appealable.

**September 28, 2017:** BLM hosted the third 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 2017 implementation activities, and an overview of the Fiscal Year 2016 sample survey and proposed eligibility determinations.