

Bureau of Land Management
Quarterly Report
December 29, 2017

1. Route Monitoring and Compliance

a. Summary of Monitoring/Enforcement Effort – Update from September 2017 Quarterly Report

BLM law enforcement (LE) Rangers conducted 357 compliance checks (*e.g.*, wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural sites) and made 232 enforcement contacts within the WEMO planning area. Of these 232 enforcement contacts, 95 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 (*e.g.*, operating OHV without a helmet, unregistered vehicle, operating vehicle without seatbelts). 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 September 2017 Quarterly Report					
Patrol Sector	Compliance Checks	Federal Violation Notice	State/Local Citation	Written Warning	Written Report Filed
<i>Barstow</i>					
81	69	4	0	7	1
82	60	11	0	38	1
83	29	2	0	15	1
84	19	6	0	13	0
85	11	0	0	3	0
86	14	3	0	11	3
<i>Ridgecrest</i>					
1	1	0	0	0	0
2	8	0	0	0	0
3	24	0	0	12	2
4	19	0	0	1	8
5	23	0	0	0	2
6	59	13	8	45	9
7	11	1	0	3	6
<i>Needles</i>					
92	2	0	0	0	3
<i>Palm Springs</i>					
2	8	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	357	40	8	148	36

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

Over this past quarter, BLM staff repaired management area fencing within the Rand, Rattlesnake Canyon, Johnson Valley, and Juniper Flats Subregions; installed route signs in the Ridgecrest, Iron Mountain, Fremont Peak, Mitchell Mountains, Stoddard Valley and Juniper Flats Subregions; installed closed (red route) signs in the Stoddard Valley Subregion; installed Limited Use Area signs in the Stoddard Valley, Juniper Flats and Rattlesnake Canyon Subregions; and installed No Camping signs near springs in the Rattlesnake Canyon Subregion.

Mechanical route maintenance was performed using a road grader and water truck on the access road to the Dirt Diggers Staging and Camp area within the Spangler Hills Open Area of the Ridgecrest 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.

Two American Conservation Experience (ACE) Restoration Teams consisting of six members each arrived in Ridgecrest for their eight month work assignment. Over the past quarter, the teams focused their restoration and repair of barrier fencing efforts on the Red Mountain Subregion, the Bright Star Wilderness boundary, and the corridor route within the Jawbone Subregion.

2. Kiosks – Update from September 2017 Quarterly Report

BLM continued to perform regular and ongoing maintenance of the information kiosks in the Jawbone, Red Mountain, El Paso, Fremont Peak, Iron Mountain, 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. A replacement kiosk was also installed at the entrance to the Olancho Dunes Open Area.

3. Status of Planning – Update from September 2017 Quarterly Report

For Fiscal Year 2017, over 5,000 acres of Class III cultural resource surveys of randomly selected route segments (sample inventory of 149 miles; 92 route segments) throughout the West Mojave planning areas were completed. A total of 171 newly-identified archaeological sites and isolated cultural resources (isolates) were recorded. Another 36 previously-recorded sites were

revisited and additional observations were documented for each site.

Over the past quarter, BLM prepared a Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report to Consulting Parties that summarized implementation activities performed during Fiscal Year 2017 pursuant to the 2015 Programmatic Agreement (PA). In addition to the cultural resource surveys, BLM made progress on several other sets of tasks and work products identified in the PA and Historic Properties Management Plan, including the updated records search, the Evaluation Plan, and the Historic Trails Context Study. All three products are in-development. Drafts of each document will be provided to the Consulting Parties for review as they become available.

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 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 allow the concentration of resources necessary 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 September 2017 Quarterly Report

In the past quarter, the Barstow Field Manager issued one grazing lease (*i.e.*, Round Mountain Allotment) and the Ridgecrest Field Manager issued two grazing leases (*i.e.*, Deep Spring Valley Allotment and South Oasis-Eureka Valley Allotments) under the authority of Section 402(c)(2) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), as amended.¹ 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 Project 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

¹ 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.

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 September 2017 Quarterly Report

November 16 and December 14, 2017: BLM met with representatives from the Transition Habitat Conservancy to coordinate route management and restoration activities within the Fremont Peak and Black Mountain Subregions.

November 29, 2017: Pursuant to the Programmatic Agreement, BLM transmitted the Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report to the Consulting Parties and other interested parties. BLM also invited these parties to the first of three Consulting Parties meetings for Fiscal Year 2018 scheduled for January 25, 2018 at the Ridgecrest Field Office from 10:00 am to Noon.

December 7, 2017: BLM attended the Fremont Peak-Kramer Hills Working Group meeting to discuss restoration activities within the Fremont Peak and Kramer Hills Subregions, and effectiveness monitoring for desert tortoise recovery.