

**Bureau of Land Management
Quarterly Report
June 30, 2016**

1. Route Monitoring and Compliance

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

Pursuant to the Protocol Monitoring Plan, for the third quarter of Year 3 of the first 3-year monitoring cycle commencing August 2013, BLM completed field inspection and data recordation on 71 miles of field sample routes (Table 1), and 53 miles of aerial photo sample routes (Table 2).

Table 1. Routes Field Monitored Since March 2016							
Subregion	Routes Monitored						
Coolgardie	CG7242						
El Paso	EP9	EP82	EP106	EP111	EP149	EP156	EP166
	EP198	EP236	EP237	EP251	EP454	EP454A	EP646
	EP649	EP690	EP6231	EP7262	EP8255		
Fremont Peak	FP5170	FP5400					
Joshua Tree	JT1923						
Mitchel Mountains	MM7140						
North Searles	P10	P17A	P33				
Rands	R49	R77					
Red Mountain	RM0007	RM0100	RM199	RM6171			
Ridgecrest	RC23	RC63	RC68				

Table 2. Routes Monitored Via Aerial Photo Since March 2016			
Subregion	Routes Monitored		
Calico Mountains	CM7622	CM7629	CM7645
Coolgardie	CG8056		
Cronese Lake	CL8344		
El Paso	EP101	EP234	
Fremont Peak	FP5323	FP5345	

Table 2. Routes Monitored Via Aerial Photo Since March 2016			
Subregion	Routes Monitored		
Iron Mountain	IM6447		
Middle Knob	MK22		
Mitchel Mountains	MM7193		
Newberry/Rodman	NR8543	NR8543A	
Ord Mountain	OM6635		
Pisgah Crater	PC7743		
Rattlesnake Canyon	RC21	RC3337	
Red Mountain	RM0030		
Stoddard Valley	SV2616		

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

BLM law enforcement (LE) Rangers conducted 249 compliance checks (e.g., wilderness, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural sites) and 64 enforcement contacts within the West Mojave planning area. Of these 64 enforcement contacts, 49 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 3 provides an overview of LE actions by patrol sector within the West Mojave planning area.

Table 3. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area Since March 2016 Quarterly Report					
Patrol Sector	Compliance Checks	Federal Violation Notice	State/Local Citation	Written Warning	Written Report Filed
<i>Barstow</i>					
81	0	0	0	0	0
82	19	0	0	0	0
83	4	2	0	3	0
84	13	0	0	0	0
85	10	0	0	0	0
86	16	0	0	0	0
<i>Ridgecrest</i>					
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	2	0	0	0	0
3	44	1	0	15	4

Table 3. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area Since March 2016 Quarterly Report

Patrol Sector	Compliance Checks	Federal Violation Notice	State/Local Citation	Written Warning	Written Report Filed
4	11	1	0	2	2
5	36	1	0	2	3
6	47	1	2	16	4
7	32	0	1	3	1
<i>Needles</i>					
92	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Palm Springs</i>					
2	15	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	249	6	3	41	14

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

During this last quarter, heavy equipment route maintenance was completed on Boone Road within the Johnson Valley Subregion. Parking and trailhead improvements were completed at the X-15, Cholla and Brown Road trailheads.

BLM staff installed management area identification signs at the entrance to the Indian Wells Canyon within the Sierra Subregion; repaired management area fence within the Rand and Coolgardie Subregions; installed route signs in the Ridgecrest, Rand, Red Mountain, Wonder Valley, Rattlesnake Canyon, Afton Canyon, Broadwell Lake, Ord Mountains, Coolgardie, Harper Lake and Mitchel Mountains Subregions; and installed Limited Use Area signs in the Ridgecrest, South Searles, Rattlesnake Canyon and Wonder Valley Subregions.

Cultural resource inventories were completed in the Jawbone and Juniper Flats Subregions at proposed restoration sites.

The California Conservation Corps and Wild Corps crews installed wilderness boundary signs and restored (e.g., rake, vertical mulch, rock barrier) 20 incursion sites within line of sight at the Bighorn Mountain and Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness Areas.

During this last quarter, a volunteer subgroup of the Juniper Flats Working Group (JFWG) held six work-days. The work completed included installation of route signs, barrier fence repair, informational sign maintenance, and trash cleanup within the Juniper Flats 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.

The Friends of Jawbone also sponsored the 20th annual Moose Anderson Day cleanup. This year’s volunteer clean-up day focused on the removal of trigger trash in the Middle Knob Subregion with approximately 75 volunteers participating in the clean-up.

Seven abandoned mine land (AML) features within the Rand Subregion were remediated by removing trash and backfilling. Below are three photos depicting the remediation work at one of the AML sites.



2. Kiosks – Update from March 2016 Quarterly Report

BLM continued to perform regular and ongoing maintenance of the information kiosks in the Ridgecrest, Rand, Rattlesnake Canyon, Wonder Valley, Ord Mountain and Juniper Flats Subregions during this last quarter. These efforts included the replacement of Subregion maps, posting of notices, painting, plexiglass replacement, and placement of “You Are Here” stickers on the Subregion maps. BLM also installed a new kiosk in the Newberry/Rodman Subregion.

3. Proper Functioning Condition – Seeps and Springs – Update from March 2016 Quarterly Report

Three Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments were completed within the WEMO planning area since the March 2016 Quarterly Report. Table 4 shows the results of the PFC assessments.

Table 4. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessments Conducted Within the WEMO Planning Area Since March 2016 Quarterly Report				
WEMO Subregion	Unique Identifier and/or Name	Date	Finding	Notes
Juniper Flats	BAR16-04 Grapevine Canyon Spring	2016	Proper Functioning Condition	Flow at 1-2 gallons per minute; extensive riparian area
Morongo Valley	BAR16-02 Royal Spring	2016	Proper Functioning Condition	Minimal surface water; riparian vegetation present

WEMO Subregion	Unique Identifier and/or Name	Date	Finding	Notes
Morongo Valley	BAR16-03 Little Morongo Canyon Spring	2016	Proper Functioning Condition	Flow at 1-5 gallons per minute; extensive riparian area

4. Status of Planning – Update from March 2016 Quarterly Report

On April 29, 2016, BLM and Plaintiffs filed a Joint Status Report and Motion Concerning Schedule for Completing WEMO Plan Amendment. The status report advised the Court that BLM cannot meet current deadlines for publication of the FSEIS or ROD, and has initiated discussion with Plaintiffs on a revised schedule. A Status Conference was held on June 7, 2016, and the Court provided the Parties additional time to meet and confer on the schedule and potential interim resource protection measures. The next Status Conference is set for August 18, 2016.

BLM continues Phase I (aerial map GIS review) for establishment of the ground-disturbance baseline for the WEMO planning area as described in the Final Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Environmental Impact Statement. BLM began developing this baseline in November 2015 and recently contracted with a consulting firm to assist BLM in completing the baseline. Under that contract, Phase I must be completed by May 2017. Phase II (field verification) for establishment of the ground-disturbance baseline is anticipated to begin in August 2016.

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) that was signed in September 2015, BLM held the second of three annual WEMO consulting parties meetings on May 27, 2016. BLM also hosted Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) working group meetings on April 21, 2016 and June 29, 2016 with the California State Historic Preservation Office, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, tribal entities, and other signatories and interested parties to the PA.

BLM continues field-testing of the archaeological resources Sensitivity Model using field crews to gather on-the-ground inventory data to cycle back into the model. Since March 2016, cultural resource inventory crews have surveyed an additional 1,105 acres, bringing the total field-testing in fiscal year 2016 to 3,571 acres.

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

April 12, 2016: BLM hosted a meeting with Transition Habitat Conservancy (THC) to discuss field results from ongoing restoration and education activities in the Fremont Peak Subregion.

April 21, 2016: BLM hosted a second National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement working group meeting in Ridgecrest, CA. The purpose of the meeting was to continue work on the development of the Historic Properties Management Plan.

April 29, 2016: BLM and Plaintiffs filed a Joint Status Report and Motion Concerning Schedule for Completing WEMO Plan Amendment. The status report advised the Court that: (1) BLM cannot meet the current deadlines for publishing the Notice of Availability of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the WEMO Plan Amendment and of the proposed Travel Management Plans (TMP), and for publishing the Record of Decision (ROD) for the WEMO Plan Amendment and the TMP RODs; (2) the Parties have initiated discussions on a revised schedule for completing the WEMO Plan Amendment and TMPs and would like to be afforded the opportunity to continue to meet and confer on the schedule and such interim measures as the Parties may agree are appropriate before filing a motion for modification of the schedule.

May 11, 2016: BLM contracted Phase I (aerial map GIS review) of the establishment of the ground-disturbance baseline for the WEMO planning area as described in the Final Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Environmental Impact Statement. By contract, Phase I must be completed by May 2017.

May 27, 2016: BLM hosted the second of three annual WEMO consulting parties meetings pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) that was signed in September 2015. Topics included a planning status update of the WEMO Project, a status update of the Historic Properties Management Plan, and a summary of the 2015 archaeological surveys and National Register of Historic Places eligibility determinations.

June 7, 2016: In response to the April 29, 2016 Joint Status Report and Motion Concerning Schedule for Completing WEMO Plan Amendment, a Status Conference was held before Magistrate Judge Nandor J. Vadas with Attorneys for BLM, Plaintiffs and Intervenors present.

June 8, 2016: The Court issued a Minute Entry concerning the proceedings held on June 7 and set a Status Conference for August 18, 2016, providing the Parties additional time to meet and confer on the schedule and potential interim resource protection measures.

June 10, 2016: The United States Forest Service (USFS), San Bernardino National Forest, hosted a meeting with BLM to continue coordination of restoration work in the vicinity of the USFS/BLM boundary in the Juniper Flats Subregion and discuss other cross-jurisdictional matters within the WEMO planning area.

June 20, 2016: A 15-person crew from Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development started eight weeks of contracted signing and restoration work within the Juniper Flats Subregion.

June 29, 2016: BLM hosted a third National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement working group meeting in Barstow, CA. The purpose of the meeting was to continue work on the development of the Historic Properties Management Plan.

June 29, 2016: BLM hosted a public meeting at Apple Valley, CA to update the public on the ongoing work within the Juniper Flats Subregion.