

Bureau of Land Management
Quarterly Report
December 29, 2015

1. Route Monitoring and Compliance

a. Summary of Monitoring/Enforcement Effort – Update from September 2015 Quarterly Report

BLM law enforcement (LE) Rangers conducted 356 compliance checks (*e.g.*, wilderness, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural sites) and 201 enforcement contacts within the West Mojave planning area. Of these 201 enforcement contacts, 185 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 West Mojave planning area.

Table 1. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area Since September 2015 Quarterly Report					
Patrol Sector	Compliance Checks	Federal Violation Notice	State/Local Citation	Written Warning	Written Report Filed
<i>Barstow</i>					
81	17	1	0	4	18
82	22	9	0	37	0
83	111	8	0	10	14
84	3	13	0	8	0
85	4	0	0	0	0
86	6	1	0	1	0
<i>Ridgecrest</i>					
1	1	0	0	0	0
2	4	0	0	0	0
3	44	1	0	17	6
4	29	0	0	1	1
5	33	0	0	2	0
6	53	0	6	28	10
7	14	0	0	3	1
<i>Needles</i>					
92	2	0	0	1	0
<i>Palm Springs</i>					
2	13	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	356	33	6	112	50

b. Maintenance and Restoration Actions – Update from September 2015 Quarterly Report

During this last quarter, heavy equipment route maintenance and trailhead parking area repair was performed in the Rademacher Hills area of the Ridgecrest Subregion.

On November 5, the Ridgecrest Field Office welcomed back two Student Conservation Association (SCA) Restoration crews that will be working with BLM for the next six months. These crews will focus their efforts on carrying out work along the wilderness boundaries to prevent vehicle trespass into these areas and restore the natural habitat.

BLM staffed informational booths at the 2nd annual Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival on November 7-8, 2015, to provide information related to BLM's programs and mission. On November 27, 2015, BLM staffed an informational booth within the community of Randsburg to provide designated route information to off-highway vehicle enthusiasts. BLM staff also carried out focused patrols over the Halloween and Thanksgiving holidays within the Calico Mountains, Juniper Flats, Stoddard Valley, and Johnson Valley Subregions in order to educate the recreating public regarding the designated route system and Leave No Trace land use ethic.

BLM hosted five meetings of the Juniper Flats Working Group (JFWG). This working group is comprised of volunteers that at times total up to 60 members. The JFWG is comprised of three sub-groups: Education, Restoration, and Volunteers/Events. The JFWG Volunteer sub-group held two work-days, October 17 and November 14. The work completed over these two days included installation of four kiosks and route closure signs, as well as collection of trash that filled a 20-yard dumpster. The Restoration sub-group is in the process of identifying additional locations for informational kiosks within the Juniper Flats Subregion. Additionally, BLM purchased five Samsung tablets for use by the JFWG and a BLM Restoration Intern to gather route data including documentation of incursions. Training of volunteers on the use of the tablets to gather data is scheduled for January 2016.

2. Kiosks – Update from September 2015 Quarterly Report

BLM continued to perform regular and ongoing maintenance of the information kiosks in the Ridgecrest, Red Mountain, El Paso, Fremont Peak, 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.

3. Proper Functioning Condition – Seeps and Springs – Update from September 2015 Quarterly Report

Five Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments were completed within the WEMO planning area since the September 2015 Quarterly Report. Table 2 shows the results of the PFC assessments.

Table 2. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessments Conducted Within the WEMO Planning Area Since September 2015 Quarterly Report				
WEMO Subregion	Unique Identifier and/or Name	Date	Finding	Notes
Calico Mountains	BAR15-08 Coyote Spring	2015	PFC	No surface water; near an abandoned well; riparian habitat is present
Jawbone	William Spring	2015	PFC	
Jawbone	Hoffman Well	2015	PFC	
Jawbone	Lower Dove Wash	2015	PFC	
Jawbone	Rock Spring	2015	PFC	

4. Status of Planning – Update from September 2015 Quarterly Report

The public comment period for the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft Land Use Plan Amendment/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (LUPA/SEIS) was reopened on September 25, 2015 for an additional 120-day period (80 FR 57862, Friday, September 25, 2015). Written comments must be received by the BLM on or before January 25, 2016.

On September 30, 2015, the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the West Mojave Route Network Project was executed in Sacramento, California. The PA is the result of many months of consultation between BLM, the California Office of Historic Preservation, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and 64 additional consulting parties representing federally and non-federally recognized tribes, local, state, and federal government entities, rock art, trail, and historical societies, recreation interest groups, and individuals with demonstrated interest in the project. The PA was formalized by signature of the BLM California State Director, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. An additional 24 Consulting Parties have elected to sign as Concurring Parties to the PA. BLM will continue its consultation and coordination efforts throughout the 20 year life of the PA, which will expire in 2035. The group will meet in the first quarter of 2016 to begin drafting the Historic Properties Management Plan, a key step in successful implementation of the PA.

5. Chronology of Management Actions – Update from September 2015 Quarterly Report

September 30, 2015: BLM signed the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement.

October 2, 2015: In coordination with the United States Forest Service, BLM staff attended a field demonstration by the San Bernardino National Forest of monitoring tools in use and under development to implement route designations and track rehabilitation activities.

October 9, 2015: In coordination with the Transition Habitat Conservancy (THC), BLM approved the Environmental Assessment for the Fremont Project to sign, restore, and monitor routes within specified areas of the Desert Wildlife Management Area northwest of Barstow, CA, located in the WEMO planning area.

November 2, 2015: Law Enforcement Ranger reported to duty for the Ridgecrest Field Office.

November 18, 2015: BLM attended a partner meeting with THC meeting for the Fremont Project.

November 24 2015: BLM attended a Fremont Project field trip with Transition Habitat Conservancy and a representative from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motorized Vehicle Recreation Division.

December 5, 2015: BLM briefed the California Desert Advisory Council on the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS and its relationship to the proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

December 14, 2015: BLM held a Question & Answer session with community members from Wonder Valley and Joshua Tree concerning the status of and issues related to travel management planning in their area.

December 15, 2015: BLM hosted an Open House in Victorville, CA, to provide information, respond to questions, and receive public comments on the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS.

December 17, 2015: BLM hosted an Open House in Ridgecrest, CA, to provide information, respond to questions, and receive public comments on the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS.