

Bureau of Land Management
 Quarterly Report
 March 31, 2015

1. Route Monitoring and Compliance

a. Monitoring Compliance with Route Closures at a Statistically Significant Level – Update from December 2014 Quarterly Report

Pursuant to the Protocol Monitoring Plan, for Year 2 of the first 3-year monitoring cycle commencing August 2013, BLM completed field inspection and data recordation on 36 miles of field sample routes. Table 1 lists the routes field monitored during this reporting period.

Table 1. Routes Field Monitored Since December 2014					
Subregion	Routes Monitored				
El Mirage	EM4694				
El Paso	EP647				
Joshua Tree	JT1933	JT1957			
Middle Knob	MK1	MK94	MK110	MK121	MK121A
Needles South	NS6740	NS7813			

b. Summary of Monitoring/Enforcement Effort – Update from December 2014 Quarterly Report

BLM law enforcement (LE) Rangers conducted 408 compliance checks (e.g., wilderness, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural sites) and 316 enforcement contacts within the West Mojave planning area. Of these 316 enforcement contacts, 204 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 2 provides an overview of LE actions by patrol sector within the West Mojave planning area.

Table 2. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area Since December 2014 Quarterly Report

Patrol Sector	Compliance Checks	Federal Violation Notice	State/Local Citation	Written Warning	Written Report Filed
<i>Barstow</i>					
81	120	18	0	19	8
82	30	3	0	7	0
83	59	24	0	44	7
84	3	3	0	1	0
85	1	1	0	0	4
86	30	0	0	26	0
<i>Ridgecrest</i>					
1	2	0	0	0	3
2	0	0	0	0	0
3	9	4	3	1	1
4	16	0	0	0	10
5	16	2	2	5	10
6	58	9	3	30	31
7	55	1	1	1	33
<i>Needles</i>					
92	1	0	0	1	0
<i>Palm Springs</i>					
2	8	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	408	65	9	135	107

c. Maintenance and Restoration Actions – Update from December 2014 Quarterly Report

Within the Rademacher Hills Viewshed area of the Ridgecrest Subregion, BLM staff completed the delineation of parking areas that connect to non-motorized trails in area. Boulder barriers were also installed on non-designated routes and at trail intersections to protect vegetation along with delineating route edges.

BLM staff and members of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) Desert Restoration Corps conducted education and outreach during the Presidents’ Day weekend to inform the visiting public about the rules of conduct related to recreational use of public lands. Additionally, the SCA Desert Restoration Corps completed restoration actions within the Owens Peak, Kiavah, Coso Range, and Darwin Hills wilderness areas, as well as the Rands Subregion.



Before Restoration: Darwin Hills Wilderness



After Restoration: Darwin Hills Wilderness



Before Restoration: Coso Range Wilderness



After Restoration: Coso Range Wilderness

Within the Calico Mountain Subregion (Mule and Odessa Canyons), BLM personnel and the Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development repaired 300 feet of barrier fence, removed trash, installed 30 route signs, installed five Limited Use Area signs and restored (e.g., raked and placed vertical mulch over) numerous incursions within line-of sight from a designated route.

Route signs and Limited Use Area signs were replaced on numerous routes within the North Searles, El Paso, Mitchell Mountain, Johnson Valley, Wonder Valley and Ord Mountain Subregions. Additionally, wooden barriers were installed and fences were repaired in several locations in the Jawbone and Ord Mountain Subregions.



Route sign in El Paso Subregion



Wooden barrier in Jawbone Subregion

2. Kiosks – Update from December 2014 Quarterly Report

BLM continued to perform regular and ongoing maintenance of the information kiosks throughout the WEMO planning area during this last quarter. These efforts included the replacement of Subregion maps, posting of notices, painting, plexiglass replacement, and other structural repairs as needed.

An information kiosk, No Dumping Allowed sign, and Pack It In/Pack It Out sign were installed at Sunfair/Coyote Lake in the Wonder Valley Subregion.



Kiosk and signs installed at Sunfair/Coyote Lake

3. Proper Functioning Condition – Seeps and Springs – Update from December 2014 Quarterly Report

Eleven Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments were completed within the WEMO planning area since the December 2014 Quarterly Report. Table 3 shows the results of the PFC assessments.

Table 3. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessments Conducted Within the WEMO Planning Area Since December 2014 Quarterly Report				
WEMO Subregion	Unique Identifier and/or Name	Date	Finding	Notes
Juniper Flats	Andes Trail Seeps	2014	PFC	
Juniper Flats	Lower Arrastre Creek	2014	PFC	
Juniper Flats	Coxey Road North Spring	2014	PFC	
Juniper Flats	Vine Spring	2014	PFC	
Juniper Flats	Cottonwood Creek	2014	PFC	
Juniper Flats	Unnamed Spring	2014	PFC	Spring located 0.5 mile above Cottonwood Spring
Juniper Flats	Pamir Trail Seeps	2015	PFC	
Juniper Flats	Elderberry Canyon Spring	2015	PFC	

Table 3. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessments Conducted Within the WEMO Planning Area Since December 2014 Quarterly Report				
WEMO Subregion	Unique Identifier and/or Name	Date	Finding	Notes
Juniper Flats	Cascade Trail Seeps	2015	PFC	
Wonder Valley	Mesquite Spring	2015	Functioning At Risk - Downward	Drought
Needles South	Bagdad Chase Mine Spring	2015	Non-Functioning	Drought; No riparian vegetation

4. Status of Planning – Update from December 2014 Quarterly Report

BLM is continuing to work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) on the development of the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA). Between January and March 2015, BLM hosted three consulting party meetings.

BLM has received the initial results from the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Project for the Archaeological Sensitivity Model, and is working through the ranking of variables and final results. BLM hired six archaeological interns through the American Conservation Experience, Emerging Professionals Internship Corps, to conduct cultural resource inventories along randomly selected routes throughout the planning area. To date, the crew has surveyed 3,805 acres of previously unsurveyed routes and identified 325 occurrences of cultural resources, including 201 archaeological sites and 124 isolated artifacts. Results of the inventory will test the validity of the GIS model, and further inform the route designation process.

On February 27, 2015, BLM posted the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on the California Desert District BLM website. The Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on March 6, 2015. Written comments on the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/ SEIS must be received by June 4, 2015.

Four public meetings on the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS will be held at the dates, locations and times listed below:

Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Kerr-McGee Building
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Thursday, April 2, 2015, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Hilton Garden Inn
12603 Mariposa Road
Victorville, CA 92395

Tuesday, April 7, 2015, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Lone Pine Community Center, Stratham Hall
138 Jackson Street
Lone Pine, CA 93545

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Yucca Valley Community Center Complex, Yucca Room
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, BLM is continuing work on the development of a Biological Assessment.

5. Chronology of Management Actions – Update from December 2014 Quarterly Report

January 13, 14, and 15, 2015: Three initial meetings were held in Barstow, Ridgecrest and Bishop to present information concerning the development of a Programmatic Agreement for the West Mojave Route Network Project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

February 1, 2015: Seasonal closure to reduce human disturbance of nesting raptors at Robbers Roost within the Jawbone Subregion was implemented. The seasonal closure is from February 1 to July 1, 2015.

February 18, 2015: Consulting party meeting held in Ridgecrest to compose a first working draft of the Programmatic Agreement pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

February 26, 2015: DVDs of the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS were mailed for overnight delivery to the Plaintiffs.

March 5, 2015: BLM met with SHPO and ACHP to discuss development of the Programmatic Agreement.

March 6, 2015: Federal Register Notice of the release of the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS. The date and location of four public meetings were posted on the BLM website.

March 13, 2015: BLM briefed the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission on the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS.

March 24, 2015: Consulting party meeting held in Barstow to review a second working draft of the Programmatic Agreement.