

**Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee (MAC)
June 30, 2011, meeting notes**

Attendees:

MAC: Ellen Cypher, Jim Patterson, Michael Khus-Zarate, Dale Kuhnle.

BLM: Johna Hurl, Tim Smith, Ryan Cooper, David Christy, John Kelley, Peter DeWitt.

Public: Eric Greening, Leon Killion, Craig Deutsche, David Hardt, Steph Wald, Dennis Fox, Phil Compton, Cal French, Rene Dam, Andrew Hobin,

Presentations were made by BLM on Travel Management and implementation of the Resource Management Plan

Tim Smith, Bakersfield Field Office manager, said Jim Kenna is the new BLM State Director and Angie Lara is Associate State Director. Este Stifel is the CenCal District Manager.

The Bakersfield Proposed Resource Management Plan will be released later this summer.

The MAC meeting is a scoping meeting to start the public process to develop a travel management plan for Carrizo. BLM will review public comments and develop a proposed action in an Environmental Assessment, which will be followed by a Record of Decision.

Some roads were closed through the RMP based on the wilderness characteristics of the area. Others were closed but could be reopened.

Craig Deutsche said he is concerned about private inholdings because they are hard to manage and items like abandoned trailers can be an eyesore. There should be a push to purchase inholdings.

There needs to be public education because there aren't enough law enforcement rangers to enforce regulations. Four main groups visit the Carrizo: wildflower enthusiasts, hunters, photographers and general tourists. Information should be targeted at those groups on where to go and what to do. There should be more information kiosks and BLM should consider campground hosts. The Carrizo is different from a national park and people aren't knowledgeable about the regulations.

Stephan Wald said there is a settlement process for compliance issues with solar plants outside the monument's north boundary. Los Padres Forest Watch, the Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds and the Sierra Club are involved.

Dennis Fox said there should be an annual inventory of weed movement to see where and how weeds like star thistle are moving.

BLM should contact Lincoln Smith at the research station in Albany. He has found insects that eat tumbleweeds. One tumbleweed is a vector for a virus that damages crops.

Off-highway vehicle use on the temblors could be a health concern. Visitors from out of the area might get valley fever and their doctor wouldn't know the cause of the disease

Phil Compton said he is a longtime visitor who has camped around the Carrizo. Access roads should be maintained for people to see historic oil drilling infrastructure. He is concerned about access to Painted Rock. People aren't aware of the permit system and if the ed center is closed they will leave unhappy. The monument needs to provide access to attractions to gather supporters.

Cal French said MAC meetings should include presentations by the Managing Partners. It is hard to tell from maps where the boundaries are for public and private lands. There needs to be better signage. Forest Supervisors can approve the use of mechanized equipment to fight fire in wilderness areas. The Los Padres has done that.

Eric Greening said the monument is out of compliance with air quality standards and the travel management plan needs to take that into account. Acquiring inholdings is a good idea, but there needs to be agreement on who will manage them for what purpose. There needs to be a holistic approach to managing dispersed species with solar development outside the monument.

There is Monterey shale under part of the monument and the oil and gas industry is interested in that resource. Oxy plans to spend \$6.3 billion over the next four years on Monterey shale. BLM needs to prepare for what might be coming.

Jim Patterson asked if BLM asks the Managing Partners for input and if BLM is involved in the state Fish and Game planning process for land by the monument.

Tim Smith said a number of people in both BLM and the Managing Partners are involved in the DFG process. BLM meets with the partners monthly and communicates between meetings. The Nature Conservancy and DFG both are affected by declining budgets. The TNC representative now is in the Bay Area.

Michael Khus-Zarate said there was a lot of effort by many people on the Painted Rock access issue. The permit system was seen as the best way to balance access with resource protection considering the resources BLM has available.

The Native American community is concerned that the resource be preserved and agreed to access as a way to educate the public and help protect Painted Rock. The permit system is working better as people become aware of the requirements. Public comments during the planning process called for more protection and limited access.

Dale Kuhnle asked if mitigation lands within the monument boundary are managed like monument lands. Tim Smith said some non-governmental organizations have purchased lands inside the monument boundary for habitat mitigation. BLM management doesn't change.

Dale Kuhnle asked if BLM had a law enforcement ranger for the Carrizo. Johna Hurl said BLM has one ranger. BLM rangers focus on resource protection. The California Highway Patrol handles traffic related to the solar projects.

Tim Smith said Bakersfield has four rangers for 640,000 acres. Brian Chartier focuses on the Carrizo and a new ranger will focus east of the Temblors, but can respond to other areas as needed. The rangers are based in Taft and have a good relationship with DFG law enforcement. BLM has a Memorandum of Understanding with the sheriffs in Kern and San Luis Obispo counties.

Dale Kuhnle said he has had inquiries from flying clubs interested in fly ins to the monument. The Forest Service has camps that are only accessible by air.

The following are the handouts from the meeting and are included below:

Travel Management Handout

Research Handout

CPNM Pasture Use Summary, FY2012

Carrizo Plain Archaeological District National Historic Landmark

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT HANDOUT

Minimization criteria

~Routes and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.

~ Routes and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.

~ Routes and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.

~ Routes and trails shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Areas and trails shall be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.

In the Carrizo Plain RMP we made the following decisions that will help us start our Route designations. These decisions will be brought forward as a part of that planning process.

Objective REC-6: Provide opportunities for exploration of remote areas and allow for activities (mechanized and motorized on-road travel) not available within the Primitive zone. The Backcountry zone would also provide visitors with access points to the Primitive zone.

Action TRV-4: Identify and close unneeded or redundant travelways.

Action TRV-10: All existing routes within the Primitive zone would be managed for wilderness characteristics and designated as closed to public use. These roads will be converted into trails or rehabilitated back to their natural state. Certain specific routes that are necessary for administrative access would be available for this use based on a minimum requirements assessment (that is, an assessment that determines vehicle access as a necessity with no reasonable alternatives for access, for example, to carry heavy materials for fence repair or to remove and haul out derelict structures).

Allowable Use TRV-3: Only street-licensed vehicles would be allowed in the Backcountry zone. No green or red sticker vehicles registered under the state OHV program would be allowed. Non-street licensed vehicles (ATVs, motorcycles) would be permitted on a portion of the Temblor Ridge Road from T31S, R21E, Section 23 to T11N, R24W, Section 7 allowing connectivity to the eastern slopes of the Temblors. Staging for activities and trailing of non-street licensed vehicles would be prohibited along Temblor Ridge Road.

Allowable Use TRV-4: Only street-licensed vehicles would be allowed in the Frontcountry zone. No green or red sticker vehicles registered under the state OHV program will be allowed.

The following definitions were used in the Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP and will be brought forward for use in the Travel and Transportation planning process.

Motorized:

Vehicles that are motorized including but not limited to cars, trucks, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) powered by combustion engines or other means. Further restrictions may apply including type and size of vehicle, seasonal use, and license type or permit.

Non-motorized:

All modes of transport propelled by means other than combustion or electric motor. This includes bicycles, equestrian, pedestrian, and other livestock-based modes of transportation. Further restrictions may apply including type and nature of transport, size of vehicle, and seasonal use.

Non-mechanized:

Modes of transport consisting of no machined parts. This includes pedestrian travel and travel by livestock.

Motorized Authorized use:

Modes of transport authorized by the authorizing agency.

Closed:

Closed to all motorized and mechanized vehicles. Pedestrian and equestrian use is permitted unless otherwise closed (for example, seasonal wildlife closures or unsafe conditions).

Public Involvement and Process

- 1) Starting today the public will have 30 days to provide comments. Public comment period will end close of business July 30, 2012.
- 2) We will develop the proposed action with alternatives analysis and fonsi.
- 3) The public will have a 30 day comment period on the proposed action.
- 4) We will issue a decision which maybe modified based on comments received.

How to submit written comments

Mail

Carrizo Plain National Monument
Travel Management Comments
C/O Johna Hurl
3801 Pegasus Dr
Bakersfield CA, 93308

E-Mail

BLM_CA_Bakersfield_Public_Comment@blm.gov

General Questions

John Kelley
661-391-6088

Research Handout

Provided support for the following research projects:

- Carrizo Plain Ecosystem Project through U.C. Berkeley
 - A long-term study designed to aid in our understanding of the relationships between the giant kangaroo rat, (a keystone species), plant dynamics and livestock grazing to inform our management of listed and other plant and animal species. In addition, it looks at how both giant kangaroo rats and cattle may be affecting other species in the system such as rodents, birds, insects and predators.
- Giant Kangaroo Rat Distribution Monitoring and Modeling – Tim Bean
 - This project uses satellite imagery as a non-invasive method to model giant kangaroo rat distribution and comparing it to other methods to determine the most effective for which is most accurate, efficient and cost effective. 2011 was spent ground-truthing locations identified by remote sensing techniques through trapping. Completion of the project is expected in 2012 where more habitat suitability and distribution models will be created and compared.
- CPNM Vegetation Classification and Mapping Project – CDFG and California Native Plant Society
 - In the spring of 2010, BLM funded an immense project involving California Dept. of Fish and Game and the California Native Plant Society to conduct vegetation sampling and mapping throughout the Monument. Long-term monitoring plots were set up in many areas, data is being analyzed and the entire project is expected to be completed by end of 2012. The result will be more accurate mapping of the Monument's plant communities and their locations.
- Kern Primrose Sphinx Moth Research
 - Research continues on the moth, its life cycle, habitat requirements and its closest relatives found in nearby geographic locations. Headed by the Urban Wildlands Group, data is collected annually. No moths were seen in the spring of 2012 but work is being done to create a habitat suitability model and there are other ongoing studies using captive-reared moths.
- Le Conte's Thrasher Surveys through PRBO Conservation Science
 - A second year of surveys was completed early in 2012 and testing of a habitat model completed. A method for surveying using citizen scientists was created. A final report is due the end of 2012 and a workshop planned for 2013.
- Small-scale Restoration Study – Chris Gurney
 - A study on how the seed harvesting done by giant kangaroo rats affects plant restoration projects.

Additional Surveys and Monitoring

- Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard Surveys
 - Surveys just completed on over 16 square miles by eight surveyors with over 200 blunt-nosed leopard lizard documented
- Annual Wintering Mountain Plover and Long-billed Curlew Survey
- Wintering Raptor and Sensitive Species Surveys
- Christmas Bird Count
- Fairy Shrimp and Vernal Pool Monitoring
- *Caulanthus californicus* and *Monolopia congdonii*
- Nesting Raptor Monitoring

Restoration

- Continue to work with a commercial grower to provide us with native perennial grass seed for restoration
- Currently have two botany interns from the Chicago Botanical Garden collecting native seed
- Monitoring of previous restoration site has shown success

CPNM Pasture Use Summary FY2012 Handout

Pastures Assessed	Target Resource(s)	Summary of Assessment Results
Calf Shed, Temblor-Caliente, #53	Fairy shrimp KPSM LETH	2011 assessment; grazing doesn't seem to affect these fairy shrimp pools, no treatment necessary.
Center Well, KCL Ranch, #29	MOPL core	August – September assessments; Adequate amount of suitable habitat for MOPL, no treatment needed.
	BNLL core	January assessment; variables to meet BNLL objectives within desired range, no treatment needed.
	GKR core	March assessment; variables to meet BNLL objectives within desired range, no treatment needed.
East Cochora, Temblor-Caliente, #53	BNLL core GKR core LETH	March assessment; variables to meet BNLL objectives within desired range, no treatment needed.
East Cousins, KCL Ranch, #29	MOPL core	August – September assessments; Adequate amount of suitable habitat for MOPL, no treatment needed.
Holding, Carrizo Ranch, #70	GKR core	March assessment; variables to meet GKR objectives within desired range, no treatment needed.
Hostetter, Temblor-Caliente, #53	Fairy shrimp Spadefoot toads	March assessment; variables to meet Fariyshrimp objectives within desired range, no treatment needed.

Kinney-Hahl, KCL Ranch, #29,	MOPL core	August – September assessments; Adequate amount of suitable habitat for MOPL, no treatment needed.
	BNLL core	
	GKR core	March assessment; variables to meet BNLL objectives within desired range, no treatment needed.
Old Adobe, KCL Ranch, #29	GKR core	March assessment; variables to meet GKR objectives within desired range, no treatment needed.
Old Corral North, KCL Ranch, #29	MOPL core	August – September assessments; Adequate amount of suitable habitat for MOPL, no treatment needed.
	BNLL core	
	GKR core	January assessment; variables to meet BNLL objectives within desired range, no treatment needed.
		March assessment; variables to meet BNLL objectives within desired range, no treatment needed.
Shipping, KCL Ranch, #29	GKR core	Use not required to support treatments in other pastures.
West Cochora, Temblor-Caliente, #53	BNLL core	March-May assessment; variables to meet BNLL objectives within desired range, no treatment needed.
	GKR core	
	LETH	
West Well, KCL Ranch, #29	GKR core	GKR core is small portion of pasture and at edge of core area. No treatment needed.
	LEJA	

BNLL = Blunt-nosed leopard lizard

GKR = Giant kangaroo rat

KPSM = Kern primrose sphinx moth

LEJA = Jarrod’s peppergrass

LETH = LeConte’s thrasher

MOPL = Mountain plover

Carrizo Plain Archaeological District

National Historic Landmark



The Carrizo Plain contains one of the most significant assemblages of Indigenous American heritage sites in North America. In recognition of this, an area within the Carrizo Plain National Monument has been designated as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior. The CPAD NHL consists of 100 sites, including the 29 within the previously National Register of Historic Places listed *Carrizo Plain Discontiguous Rock Art District*. The NHL listing received the support of local and state government, the academic community and several Native American tribes as well as the Carrizo Plain Native American Advisory Committee. For additional information about NHLs you can visit the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov.

What does this mean for the management of this area?

Due to their elevated status, National Historic Landmarks receive special attention when it comes to management. An important element of the CPAD NHL is that the landscape was identified as an important contributing value. This means that potential impacts must be assessed in terms of the landscape level rather than for the individual sites. The location of this NHL within the CPNM where landscape values have been already identified as important makes this much easier.

Reporting

An important requirement for the management of the NHL is annual reporting to the National Park Service and the BLM Washington Office Cultural Resources Program. This report details the current condition of the NHL and describes management actions that have occurred there. In the event that there could be an adverse effect to the NHL or any of its contributing features, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as well as the California State Historic Preservation Officer, must be notified and consulted. The Native American community will continue to be consulted regarding any proposed actions occurring within the CPNM, including the NHL.

Confidentiality

There have been concerns that the elevated profile of the NHL may threaten the sites within it due to disclosure. The CPAD NHL is among several NHLs in the nation identified for heritage site values. The exact location of these sites is protected and required by law to be maintained as confidential information. Federal regulations prohibit the release of this information to the public and it is exempt from Freedom of Information Act requests. The BLM will continue to manage these sites for their protection and preservation. Several measures for protecting sites within the CPNM are specified in the RMP— these include regular site monitoring, potential area or route closures to protect sites and site stabilization.