

Bureau of Land Management  
Quarterly Report  
September 30, 2014

**1. Route Monitoring and Compliance**

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

Pursuant to the Protocol Monitoring Plan, for Year 1 of the first 3-year monitoring cycle commencing August 2013, BLM completed field inspection and data recordation on 114 miles of field sample routes, and 55 miles of aerial photo sample routes. Table 1 lists the routes field monitored and Table 2 lists the routes aerially monitored during in this reporting period.

<b>Table 1. Routes Field Monitored Since June 2014</b>					
<b>Subregion</b>	<b>Routes Monitored</b>				
Rands	R47	R20			
Red Mountain	RM0241	RM0216	RM0329	RM0029	RM0076

<b>Table 2. Routes Aerial Photo Monitored Since June 2014</b>			
<b>Subregion</b>	<b>Routes Monitored</b>		
Afton	AC7815		
El Mirage	EM4693	EM2720	
Middle Knob	MK75		
Mitchell Mountain	MM7124	MM7120	MM7165A
Needles South	NS7811		
Newberry/ Rodman	NR3042C		
Rattlesnake Canyon	RC2245		
South Searles	RM2168		

A monitoring status memorandum for Year 1 of the first 3-year monitoring cycle is attached to this quarterly report (Attachment 1, Year 1 Monitoring Status Memo and Attachment 2, Year 1 Protocol Monitoring Map). The memo identifies which routes were monitored in the field and which routes were monitored via aerial photos, and includes a map of the routes that were monitored (color coded for field versus aerial photo monitoring). The memo states when monitoring occurred, identifies issues encountered, and states that no deviation and/or changes in the protocol or variables were required. In accordance with Section 4.1 of the Protocol Monitoring Plan, no statistical or other analyses were conducted for the Year 1 of the first 3-year monitoring cycle.

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

BLM law enforcement (LE) Rangers conducted 234 compliance checks (e.g., wilderness, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural sites) and 55 enforcement contacts within the West Mojave planning area. Of these 55 enforcement contacts, 23 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)) and 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.

<b>Table 3. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area Since June 2014 Quarterly Report</b>					
<b>Patrol Sector</b>	<b>Compliance Checks</b>	<b>Federal Violation Notice</b>	<b>State/Local Citation</b>	<b>Written Warning</b>	<b>Written Report Filed</b>
<i><b>Barstow</b></i>					
81	40	1	0	0	5
82	0	0	0	0	3
83	46	0	0	4	4
84	0	8	0	0	0
85	1	0	0	0	0
86	0	1	0	1	0
<i><b>Ridgecrest</b></i>					
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	2	0	0	0	0
3	10	0	0	1	2
4	45	1	0	0	7
5	12	0	0	0	3
6	40	0	0	0	4
7	21	0	0	0	9
<i><b>Needles</b></i>					
92	1	0	0	0	0
<i><b>Palm Springs</b></i>					
2	16	0	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	234	11	0	6	38

Focused LE patrols for off-route violations and fire severity mitigation were conducted in the Juniper Flats Subregion over three weekends from July 25-August 11, 2014. These patrols generated information on various resource related issues such as location of incursions, trespass issues, and vandalism. The operation also provided for the testing of a geodatabase and video camera equipment, as well as logistical information for additional focused patrols scheduled in fiscal year 2015.

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

BLM personnel installed Limited Use Area signs within the El Paso, South Searles, and North Searles Subregions. These signs were placed near the junctions of designated routes with paved roads. These signs inform public land visitors entering these areas that vehicle travel is limited to designated routes only.

BLM personnel installed three Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area signs and several Limited Use Area signs within the Johnson Valley Subregion.

BLM personnel fabricated and installed three trailhead signs for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail within the Jawbone and Middle Knob Subregions.

Using a trail dozer, BLM personnel performed route maintenance on the Indian Wells Canyon road within the Sierra Subregion. Additionally, staff performed maintenance on the parking areas at the Downs, Cholla, and Sunland Trailheads for the Rademacher trail system within the Ridgecrest Subregion.

In the Jawbone and Rand Subregions, barrier fences and gates were repaired.

Route signs were replaced on 38 routes within the Broadwell Lake, Harper Lake, Cronese Lake, Fremont Peak, Kramer Hills, and Coolgardie Subregions.

**2. Kiosks – Update from June 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.

Two kiosks were installed in the Wonder Valley Subregion during this reporting period.

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

Ten Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments were completed within the WEMO planning area in the third quarter of 2014. Table 4 shows the results of the PFC assessments.

<b>Table 4. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessments Conducted Within the WEMO Planning Area in the Third Quarter of 2014</b>				
<b>WEMO Subregion</b>	<b>Unique Identifier and/or Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Finding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Ridgecrest Field Office</i>				
Jawbone	195-Alphie Spring	2014	PFC	Mostly private

<b>Table 4. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessments Conducted Within the WEMO Planning Area in the Third Quarter of 2014</b>				
<b>WEMO Subregion</b>	<b>Unique Identifier and/or Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Finding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Jawbone	211-Lower Butterbreedt Canyon	2014	PFC	
Jawbone	212-Mohawk Buddy Mine Spring	2014	PFC	
Jawbone	213-Butterbreedt Spring	2014	PFC	Mostly private, in Wildlife Sanctuary, supplies water outside of sanctuary
<i>Barstow Field Office</i>				
Ord Mountain	BAR14-11	2014	PFC	Upper Sweetwater West
Ord Mountain	BAR14-12	2014	Functioning At Risk (FAR) – Not Apparent	Upper Sweetwater East
Rattlesnake Canyon	BAR14-13	2014	PFC	One Hole Spring. Riparian area protected by an enclosure fence with water piped to a trough.
Rattlesnake Canyon	BAR14-14	2014	PFC	Hidden Springs east of Rock Corral Spring. Very rocky terrain.
Rattlesnake Canyon	BAR14-15	2014	FAR – Downward Trend	Lower Rattle Spring. Recommend fencing. Grazing permittee wants to develop and pipe water to trough. Exposed to vehicle encroachment and cattle grazing.
Rattlesnake Canyon	BAR14-16	2014	FAR - Stable	A four seep complex adjacent to One Hole Spring, collectively known as the Bighorn Seeps.

#### **4. Status of Planning – Update from June 2014 Quarterly Report**

The BLM is requesting the Court to modify its March 31, 2014 Order extending the time for BLM to complete the WEMO Plan revisions, including the issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) and Implementation Plans, by further extending that deadline to September 30, 2015. The reasons BLM requires this further extension are explained in the Declaration of Teresa Raml accompanying BLM's request to the Court. BLM's request for this additional extension is based on the following projected schedule:

Publication of Notice of Availability of DEIS	February 2015
End of Comment Period on DEIS	May 2015
Publication of Notice of Availability of FEIS	July 2015
End of Protest Period	August 2015
Issuance of ROD and Implementation Plans	September 30, 2015

The BLM is continuing to work with the State Historic Preservation Office on the development of a Programmatic Agreement. Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, BLM has initiated

consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and is continuing work on the development of a Biological Assessment.

## **5. Chronology of Management Actions – Update from June 2014 Quarterly Report**

**July 8, 2014:** Ridgecrest Field Office (RFO) personnel held a field meeting with California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division Grant Administrators to show them some of the work performed by the RFO under the OHMVR grants, and to explain the issues BLM encounters in the overall management of the public lands.

**July 9, 2014:** BLM attended the monthly Friends of El Mirage meeting and encouraged public participation in the WEMO planning process.

**July 9, 2014:** BLM attended the California City Collaborative meeting to discuss route designation and to encourage public participation in the WEMO planning process.

**July 22, 2014:** BLM met with the Transition Habitat Conservancy to discuss coordination of additional signing and restoration activities for Lane Mountain Milkvetch and adjacent desert tortoise habitat in the Fremont Peak, Black Mountain and Coolgardie Subregions.

**August 14, 2014:** BLM met with a representative from the Friends of El Mirage to discuss coordination of additional signing and restoration activities in the El Mirage and Fremont Peak Subregions. On-site work is anticipated to begin in October 2014.

**August 20, 2014:** BLM attended the monthly Friends of Jawbone meeting and encouraged public participation in the WEMO planning process.

**August 27, 2014:** A *Federal Register* notice was published announcing a proposal to withdraw approximately 10,000 acres in San Bernardino County from new mining claims to help protect the Lane Mountain Milkvetch, a plant federally-listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. A public meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2014, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at the BLM Barstow Field Office.

**August 28, 2014:** BLM held a field meeting with a representative of plaintiff group, Center for Biological Diversity, to review route rehabilitation sites from 2007-2010 in the Ord Mountain Subregion.

**September 11, 2014:** BLM met with representatives from the Farmworkers Institute of Leadership and Educational Development to discuss coordination of additional signing and restoration activities in the Calico Mountain Subregion. On-site work is anticipated to begin the week of October 13, 2014.

**September 16, 2014:** BLM met with representatives from the Farmworkers Institute of Leadership and Educational Development to discuss coordination of additional signing and restoration activities in the South Searles Subregion. On-site work is anticipated to begin October 2014.