

WEST MOJAVE PLAN AMENDMENT (WEMO)
QUARTERLY REPORT - JUNE 30, 2011

The Court Order Re: Remedy requires that BLM provide the Court and the parties quarterly reports indicating the BLM's progress in WEMO implementation requirements 1-6, as required by the Order. The requirements are listed below. BLM posted the plans required by the Court three months after the January 28, 2011 date of the Order. This Quarterly Report has been prepared to coincide with the end of the second quarter of the Calendar Year. Future Quarterly Reports will be prepared by September 30, December 31 and March 31 of each year. Items 1-6 below reflect the six categories of remedy actions enumerated by the Order.

The progress made to comply with other requirements of the order, e.g., route designation and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) will be included in subsequent Quarterly Reports.

WEMO Implementation Requirements from Court Order

(1) Within 60 days of this order, the BLM should provide the Court with a detailed implementation plan for signing all open routes in the WEMO. The signing should be completed within 180 days of the date of this order.

The Signing Plan was completed and is posted on the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) web site. Signing in all subregions will be completed by July 27, 2011.

Sub Region	Signing Status	Monitoring Status	Maintenance Status	Enforcement Status
Afton Canyon	Complete	4/4,4/7	4/4,4/7	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Joshua Tree	Complete	4/5	4/5	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Calico Mountain	Complete	3/28	3/28	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Cronese Lake	Complete	5/5	5/5	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Ord Mountain	Complete	5/5,5/6	5/5,5/6	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Newberry/Rodman	Complete	4/26	4/26	Ongoing Initiate 7/28

Black Mountain	Complete	6/14	6/14	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Coolgardie	Complete	6/15,6/17	6/15,6/17	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Pisgah Crater	Complete	6/14	6/14	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Rattlesnake	Complete	6/20	6/20	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Juniper Flats	Complete			Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Broadwell Lake	Complete	6/14	6/14	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Harper Lake	Complete	6/17,6/20	6/17,6/20	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Fremont Peak	Complete			Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Wonder Valley	Complete			Ongoing Initiate 7/28
El Mirage	Complete	3/30,4/7	3/30,4/7	Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Johnson Valley	Complete			Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Kramer Hills	Complete			Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Stoddard Valley	Complete			Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Mitchell Mountain	Complete			Ongoing Initiate 7/28
Iron Mountain	Complete			Ongoing Initiate 7/28
South Searles	Complete	2/26, 3/09, 6/27	6/27	Ongoing 04/28
North Searles	Complete	4/3, 5/8	6/27	Ongoing 04/28
Sierras	Complete	03/12, 6/17, 6/29	6/29	Ongoing 04/28
Red Mountain	95% complete	4/15, 6/28	4/15, 6/28	Ongoing 04/28
Rands	Complete	2/19, 4/23, 5/30	5/30	Ongoing 04/28
Jawbone	Complete	2/19, 4/23, 5/30	5/30	Ongoing 04/28
El Paso	50% complete	4/15, 5/30, 6/28	6/28	Ongoing 04/28
Ridgecrest	Complete	3/26, 4/15, 5/30, 6/28	4/15	Ongoing 04/28

Darwin	Complete	3/08, 6/21		Ongoing 04/28
Middle Knob	To be Completed by July 27			Ongoing 04/28
Morong Valley	To be Completed By July 27			

(2) Within 210 days of the Court’s order, the BLM shall update all BLM-produced and available maps to include accurate and updated route information and, as necessary, include a notice in the form below, in at least 20 point type, on all maps, pamphlets, kiosks, and other literature regarding WEMO OHV routes distributed by the BLM.

NOTICE

MOTORIZED USE IS PERMITTED ONLY ON ROUTES SIGNED “OPEN.” ANY ROUTE THAT DOES NOT HAVE AN “OPEN” SIGN IS NOT LEGAL FOR MOTORIZED USE. MOTORIZED USE OF ANY CLOSED ROUTE WILL RESULT IN A FINE OR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

In Progress – Expected Completion by August 26, 2011

(3) Within 90 days of the Court’s order, the BLM shall provide the Court with a monitoring plan to determine (a) compliance with route closures and (b) whether new illegal routes are being created. The monitoring plan should demonstrate that the effort will be adequate to determine compliance at a statistically significant level.

The Monitoring Plan was completed and is posted on the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) web site

(4) The BLM shall carry out additional information gathering and monitoring regarding (a) air quality in and around open areas through air quality monitoring, (b) status of the Mojave fringe-toed lizard and its habitat, and (c) riparian areas and UPAs, including new “proper functioning condition” (“PFC”) assessments for all of the springs and seeps in the West Mojave planning.

Additional information required by the Order is being gathered. Updates will be provided as they become available. As additional information becomes available it will be used in the route designation process and analyzed as part of the environmental analysis process to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

(5) Within 90 days of the Court's order, provide the Court and the parties with a plan for maintenance of the open route network and installation of informational kiosks at all major OHV access points.

The Maintenance Plan was completed and is posted on the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) web site

(6) Within 90 days of the Court's order, provide the Court and the parties with a plan for providing additional enforcement capability for the route network in the WEMO.

The Plan for providing law enforcement was completed and is posted on the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) web site

Other WEMO Plan Implementation

The Sawtooth Campground was closed to illegal OHV use

The recently upgraded Sawtooth Campground had continued to be used as an illegal staging area for off-loading and driving green sticker vehicles directly from the campground to the nearby Stoddard OHV open area. Routes utilized from the campground included private lands. A news release (below) was issued on May 6, 2011 announcing the closure of the campground to OHV use.

BLM Focuses on Illegal OHV Use in Sawtooth Campground

The Bureau of Land Management today issued a two-year emergency closure to access by off-highway vehicles (OHV) to the Sawtooth Canyon Campground and surrounding public lands due to increasing non-compliance issues with green sticker vehicles. This emergency closure is effective immediately and is governed by 43 CFR 8341.2. Anyone violating the closure may be fined up to \$1,000, receive up to one year in jail, or both. A notice in the Federal Register will be published.

The closure applies to all green sticker (California permitted OHV) uses on the remaining access route to Sawtooth Canyon (SV6440) and off-loading or use on the trails and lands within and surrounding Sawtooth Canyon Campground. Included is closure of route SV315 (approximately 1.5 miles) to all vehicles from State Highway 247 and closure of route SV6440 (approximately 1.5 miles) to OHVs from State Highway 247. Additional closures apply to the route network within the campground area.

A map of the emergency closure area and the closure order can be viewed at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow.html>

According to Roxie Trost, BLM Barstow Field Office manager, some motorists have been using the recently upgraded Sawtooth Campground as an illegal staging area, off-loading and driving

their green sticker vehicles directly from the Sawtooth Campground locally or north across private lands to access the Stoddard OHV Area.

“Riders may have dated maps or disregard the signs and maps indicating the limitations of the current route network. This issue must be addressed to assure compliance with the West Mojave Plan interim route network, pending issuance of the updated West Mojave Plan and route network,” said Trost.

Sawtooth Canyon Campground, located approximately 15 miles from Barstow, is popular with public land users interested in rock climbing, wildlife (bighorn sheep, birds, and small reptile) viewing, hiking and licensed-vehicle touring.

For more information regarding the closure, contact Larry Blaine, Barstow Field Office, at (760) 252-6040.