

## December 10: Desert Advisory Council Meeting Notes

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Meeting starts at 9 a.m. PST.

Shelly Lynch: Welcome, everybody! It takes a few minutes for everything to load.

>> Matthew: Starting the Webinar now.

Shelly: So before we start the official meeting, I'm going to take advantage of the group here and I would like to recognize Kate for ten years of public service! (Applause).

>> Thank you! Congratulations! Thank you for your service.

>> Can I get a quick picture?

>> Yes. Nice, thank you!

Shelly: It's great to put faces and names and see everyone who connected. Thank you for those who attended in person. We had a great field trip yesterday as well so great to have that opportunity to connect and meet folks. So I would like to introduce our two new staff members. Hans and Jennifer. There's Hans and Jennifer so welcome! We're so excited to have you guys with us and super glad you could attend in person so thanks for that. Kate is going to give a brief overview of Zoom and the protocols for the meeting.

>> Kate: Okay, welcome everyone! This is for members of the public on the Zoom so for the 2:45 public comment period, members of the public will have the ability to address the deck during the public comment period only to allow for the maximum number of individuals, you have 3 minutes. If you have time in the end, you'll have another 3 minutes of time to address the council and the meeting is being recorded. We also have a captioner recording notes so just a note for that. Back to you, Shelly.

>> Shelly: Okay, so officially calling the meeting to order. We'll go around and introduce the Bureau of Land Management staff. Mike, you're on the list first.

>> Mike: Sure, Mike Ahrens, Field Manager for Needles.

>> Is Jeff with us today?

>> Jeff: Yes, I'm the associate director manager for Barstow.

>> Paul, district fire management officer.

>> Tim, manager for the palm springs-south coast field office.

>> Hi Erin McConnell, the district manager for resources.

>> Great!

>> Hi, good morning, everybody, Greg Miller, the associate manager for the desert district.

>> Hi, everyone. I'm Kate Miyamoto, one of the public affairs specialist in the desert district office.

>> Rose?

>> Hi, I'm Rose, the – Needles field office geologist.

>> Carry: Good morning, I'm the associate field manager for El Centro and currently acting field manager.

>> Carl?

>> My name is Carl Symons and I'm the field manager in the Ridgecrest field office.

>> Michelle?

>> Good everyone, Michelle, second public affairs person for the California desert district.

>> And I'm Shelly, the California district desert manager.

Randy Banis: Good morning, everybody! It's my pleasure to introduce my fellow desert advisory council

members. Just give us a little bit about you, where you're from, where your interest is and serving and any other things that you have been up to in the last, since our last meeting we would love to hear about it. So first, I'm going to go alphabetical. Nathan, you're first off.

>> My name is Nathan Francis. I work for (inaudible) U.S. -- is where I'm originally from but transferring and I like the area that I work in for the last decade, I have oversaw U.S. -- legacy sites that are scattered across the Mojave area, the Death Valley area.

>> Thanks for coming in person and nice to see you again. I have the pleasure to introduce Hans, one of our new desert advisory council members. Tell us about yourself, Hans, congratulations and welcome!

>> Hans: Thank you! It's a pleasure to be here and it's been a great experience so far. I live in southern California, orange county San Diego with my wife and kids. I'm an aerospace technician and previously a small business owner but specific to that, I'm here because we love camping and exploring, and I want to make sure the public plans are there for all of us to use.

>> Good to have you here.

>> Thank you.

>> I get the pleasure of also introducing our second new member, Jennifer. Good morning, Jennifer. Nice to see you here.

>> Jennifer: Good morning, thank you. I'm Jennifer Henning and I live in the Morongo basin area of the district. By trade, I work with the city of Palm Springs so a government employee in some way and I'm a new member. I'm here to also represent the public, be a voice and public lands.

>> Welcome aboard. Next, my friend and colleague.

>> Good morning. My name is Dick Holiday and I'm the -- recreation person on the board now. I have been on the DAC several years. And -- other things so that's why I'm on here. I'm also on the subgroup if we ever get it going again for (Imperial Sand) dunes.

>> Thank you. We're going to turn to some of our members that have joined us through our Zoom connection. I would like to introduce Paul Martin. Good morning! I can give you a heads up, you can find the unmute button and the floor is yours for introductions. Hi, Paul!

>> Paul: Thank you! Hi, my name is Paul Martin and I'm a DAC member for almost five years now. I'm with the public at large. I'm a retired mining engineer with about 44 years of experience. I still do a little bit of consulting in southern California. And I am really looking forward to this meeting today. I'm so glad to see everyone in person now and I am sorry I missed the field trip yesterday. Any rate, I'm looking forward to our meeting so thank you! Good to see you again.

>> Thank you, Paul! Also joining us on Zoom today is Billy Mitchell. Good morning and good to see you in the corner. How are you?

>> Billy Mitchell: Hanging in there. I'm a fourth generation rancher in the desert and chaired the -- bar for the ranchers. Also, rockhound, in some cycle groups in the Johnson valley area. Contact me, I also set the 223rd mirror on the first solar planet and made it the biggest one in the world. That was years ago when I was obviously not having gray hair. And that's about it. Mostly, just some ranching issues that I'm responsible for. Six ranchers. So that's about it. Nice to see you again, Randy.

>> Good to see you, Billy. This is great that we can all be together, if not in person, but to be together through in hybrid meeting. We have another person joining us remotely which is Jane. Good morning, how are you?

>> Jayne: Good morning, I'm good. I represent the energy and development interest and I retired from granite construction about a year and a half ago. I had a consulting business back to the aggregate industry and I recently relocated to Arizona, but my term will end in an another year or so. I look forward to continuing to be on the DAC and I'm sorry I'm not there in person but I got the big C word COVID, so I didn't want to expose you guys to anything bad.

>> I hope you feel better soon and maybe in the next meeting we can see you in person but either way, this is again, really neat to see all of us together using this cyber technology. The next introduction is Bob Robinson. You have the floor.

>> Bob Robinson: Hi, I'm chairman for the preservation officer and work in agricultural resources. # -- the project and out on the Navy base and with that, the -- projects and every so often, we work on cell towers. And so also commenting on projects that are pretty much everyday occurrence getting those projects so everything from State Parks, U.S. parks. The forest service and BLM. I would like to take this opportunity

to -- some of these issues before -- BLM issues.

>> Good to see you, glad you could make it. Fun talking to you on the field trip yesterday. I have one other DAC member to introduce. Joining us via Zoom Jack Thompson. Good morning!

>> Jack Thompson: Good morning, great to see you all. I'm representing conservation. I grew up in the high desert in the pikes canyon with the water land conservancy for the past few years and recently just joined the board at Big Morongo canyon reserve. Good to see you all and sorry I couldn't see you in person.

>> Thank you, Jack! My name is Randy and I live in the -- valley which is on the very edge of the California desert conservation district. I have a digital services firm named Mohave gold. I would like to shout out, yesterday was the -- anniversary of the passing of my -- I can see them in the gallery here, wearing the orange and jacket and in memory of him. And -- superpowers as it was granted everyday. It's great to be back in person. This is a terrific achievement for the bureau and desert advisory council. We have been fortunate to be able to keep the ball rolling with our virtual meetings and get some work done. I think this is going to help us get more work done and will help us reconnect with the people that go to the DAC meetings and enjoy participating and providing their advice to not only the counsel but also the BLM.

I think in person meetings are really the heart and soul what the desert advisory council does and part of that is the field trips. Speaking of field trips, I had a great time with our field trip yesterday and it's unusual that we have to put it in four-wheel drive for our field trips. Most of the time we take easy service roads for our SUVs so we can get everybody to the destination but here, seeing all of the great back country dispersion recreation that this resource area has to offer is really great to get out in the lonely back country of the mountains yesterday. I want to segue that to, thank my parents and his team and the needles field office for hosting this in person meeting in several years. It's a lot of work all together and thanks for arranging that tour yesterday and for bringing up your staff with you. It's great meeting them and hearing from them. There's a lot of fun out there yesterday. I think we all had a good time. I want to touch on an issue of core for the desert advisory council. It's a little complicated. I have been -- this isn't the first time I brought this up at a DAC meeting but I just wanted to restate that beginning a few years ago, the desert advisory council is split up among three categories of membership per federal regulations.

And in order for the advisory council to issue what we call official advice, the action must be approved by the majority of the members of the each of the three categories. Quorum is further defined as having at least two members in each category. At this time, our category three has one member and that's not going to be possible for us to issue full recommendations but that's the way frankly it has been for the last few years so don't be surprised. Don't be upset. We have been working without a formal quorum for issuing advice for some time. We have still been able to get some work done. We have been able to stand up our subgroups and we have also been able to take care of our internal business where we have been receiving some great presentations for the last few meetings virtually that are setting up future actions that would want to way in on in the appropriate time.

The DAC advice is best received, I believe, when it's timing and when it's -- within the period of comments from the public and comments from the stakeholders are most effective in helping to influence the direction of the decision or policy. So if we don't issue any official advice today, it may just be that we don't have anything on the paper that is up for decision in the immediate period in front of us. But there's a lot of actions being prepared and briefed on and I hope that we will have it soon to get that formal advice. I know there are a number of applications in the pipeline. A little bird told me and I think we're going to be seeing more appointments coming from Washington DC from the interior department very soon. It takes time. There's a lot of vetting and it's a process. But it's the process that has gotten all of the staff members here and that process will bring us new DAC members as well. So we do have quorum today to be able to conduct business. We can take actions and votes. I'm guessing we're going to be working on our future schedule and we'll be able to chime in and make decisions on the schedule.

Our internal matters, we're able to take care of with a group we have here because we have more than half of our DAC members present, here in person or on the screen. So fear not the council. I just want everybody to know that everything that is said at the DAC meetings is heard. Whether it comes from the desert advisory council or member of the public. It is heard.

Members of the public, especially remain hopeful because your comments are also recorded. This session is being recorded and there's times we had a court reporter taking the notes and the transcripts. So when you

tell us what you say as a member of public and the desert advisory members will go down in history and you are being heard so please don't allow this little thing of missing a member here or a member there from expressing your opinions and expressing your thoughts on the management of our amazing fantastic best public lands in the world. That's California desert district.

The last couple of months we have been busy standing up our, not just standing up our Mohave trail group which we abbreviate as MAC, sharing the same letters but it's shorter, essentially, a monument advisory committee -- council. We have had three meetings so far of our group and we had meetings scheduled throughout the spring. We'll be having in person meetings and field trips. We have gotten to the point where our subgroup looked at maps, looked at documents, confirmation, and now it's time to look at the ground and visit these places. These resources, objects and values that have been called out as being so special, called out in the presidential proclamation. So that subgroup is really moving forward, and I think us being here in Needles is showing how the DAC and the subgroup is moving right along quickly and efficiently in our charge to help the bureau develop its management plan for that beautiful 1.6-million-acre Mojave trails national monument. That's occupied as much of my free time in the last couple of months and I want to thank the members of the MAC who are here at this meeting and who are at our field trip yesterday. They're taking advantage of every opportunity to learn and also to share everything they know and love on the ground.

With that, that concludes my report. I think it would be best if we start launching into something meaty. First thing on the agenda that has some meat in it, probably some rocks in it. That's what I'm guessing. This is Castle project presentation by Needles field office geologist Rose. Welcome, Rose. Nice to see you at the desert advisory council meeting.

>> Thank you. I appreciate it. Do you all want me to stand? How do you want to go about this best?

>> Rose, can you come closer to the mic?

>> Rose: Okay. I don't foresee many issues hearing me. I was told recently by one of our more senior operators, he enjoys speaking with me because he never has to wear his hearing aids but if for any reason you do have issues hearing me or you want me to slow down or repeat something, please just let me know. I will start off with, I'm Rose Pettiete, the geologist here in the eastern Mohave desert. Today, I'm going to present on the Castle Mountain mine project. This is an expansion of an existing operation. Actually, the second expansion that this operation has gone through. So I'm trying to keep it short and sweet. Just give you kind of a general overview and try to not get too technical with it but mostly serve, to give you a scope of the area and the actions that are being proposed here. Slide. Perfect! This is a general overview of the Castle Mountain mine location. It's kind of difficult to see but in the lower corner, there's a little star indicating where we are today. So Castle mountain mine is about 30 miles to the Northwestern direction as the crow flies and it is an interesting area. You have a couple of different special designations on the Mohave national preserve is surrounding it, the Castle mountains national monument, both of those areas are managed by the National Park Service and there's a barrier of BLM land left out of the preserve and the monument which serves the Castle Mountain mine footprint. The proposed monument on the Nevada end, this operation is interesting and it's over the state line. There's about ten miles of access road that is on the Nevada BLM side. And just to note, this boundary of the proposed monument has changed a bit but for the purposes of our area we're talking about, this would still apply. Slide.

A little bit about the Castle Mountain mine history. It has a very rich history dating back to the early 1900s and has gone through several boom and bust periods of gold mining. There's queries that were pretty active from the 1920s to 1986, they left a little bit of a footprint and weren't good at cleaning after themselves. The current operator reclaimed the clay pits which offers a beautiful advantage of the Castle mountains which didn't exist before. And a fun fact I learned while procrastinating in making this presentation is about HF who was a CLAN miner out there, related to the founder of Coors, they kept the Coors. I highly encourage you to go out there. On the modern day pit mine that Castle now operates was established in 1984. It is gone through 3 environmental impact studies so that was in 1989, approved in 1990 is the first one. And the second expansion approved in 1997. There's been about a dozen EAs that have been done since then with various modifications. It does have quite a few project stipulations, over 100 and at one point it owned the walking box ranch which some of you may be familiar with on the Nevada side. So the mine bought that as part of the

tortoise desert habitat mitigation issues and it's now own by BLM and curated as part of all of the transactions, they established a very large desert habitat conservation area that was the mine working with a nature conservancy group. And in 2020, the mine actually resumed operations. So they went through a 20 year hiatus that, a significant amount of reclamation occurred. I have some photos in here in which the mine actually exceeded the federal requirements and the county requirements for reclamation and they continued to do that today with significant amounts of plant salvaging and re seeding and large greenhouse operations. So we'll get into a bit of that. Next slide, please.

Okay, so present day and I know this is a bit hard to see but just to give you a little bit of a background on the timeline and the legislation that applies to this area. So again, the existing NEPA analysis done for the Castle Mountain project beginning from 1987 to the most recent EA in 2020. Resuming operations and in 2016, the Castle Mountain national monument was proclaimed and also in 2016 is the conservation plan which is BLM's management plan for the area and it recognizes the Castle mountain mine as a high priority and high potential mineral area. Next slide, please.

This table got a lot of numbers on it. I know it's a bit complex and not how I typically like to present a PowerPoint but it's important to convey to you, there have been two EIS done in the past and due to the 20-year hiatus, there was actually a significant amount of approved operations that did not get a chance to be completed. So in looking at this 2020 project extension, you have to kind of subtract out what has been approved and proposed. So this is showing the totalling. The actual footprint of the mine, the approved mine boundary of 3,910 acres will not change. They will stay in that existing one and it will stay in the approved mine boundary that we'll see the changes. Next slide, please.

This is just a breakdown of the land disturbance sites as proposed and I don't want to focus too much on the numbers but it gives you an overview of what is the existing and approved operation disturbance versus what is being proposed now. So for the mine pits looking at 54 acres of public land. The biggest area is the over burden site and these will post the majority of the over burden but there will be a significant OMT of back fill which I have some numbers on in a bit. Next slide, please.

Okay, I didn't know if the video was going to work. It's a little bit slow but we'll work with it. This is an exempt from a video that the mine has created that is great! At later point, I hope to show all of it but just to give you an idea of what the 3 D view of what the expansion looks like. So deepening of the pits. And the building up of the heap area and the expansion of the two over burden sites. I think there should be a slide.

>> That was the whole first clip.

>> Okay, we can go to the next slide. So bullet points, this is kind of the summary of the two tables that were presented before but just to again, emphasize. There's no changes to the Castle mountain mine plan boundary or the mining processes that are taking place currently. There will be an additional disturbance of 425 acres of public land and some of the bigger key points here. There will be an increase in the annual mining rate so based on what is already improved, there's a 36 million ton, with a maximum up to 58 million tons per year. Looking at averages, versus the maximum and that's what we'll use in the analysis of the project. And an increase in ground water use by 1,625 acre feet per year. I would have gone into more depth on this and I will go into more in future presentations but I wanted to point out here that 1,625 acre feet will come from two different basins. So part of it comes from the existing field to the south of the mine site and a second one will actually be from a well field on private lands in California and will be transported via pipeline to the mine site. The purpose of that is explored in previous EIS but determined to not be economically feasible. This way we're hoping to, you know, split the strain on the Aquaphor and hopefully create less of a servant's footprint in that way and minimize the withdrawal in that area.

And then the construction of the supporting facilities so as I just mentioned the pipeline that is conveying the water from nipton. A powerline in existence since 1991. One conducted by the Las Vegas and needle field office will be reestablished and a small road alignment, there's a portion of the road about a 1,000 feet that currently overlaps with Park Service land so we're trying to minimize the operations on Park Service land and keep it under one management agency to make it easy for everyone.

There's an additional 200 to 300 employees so it's great for that area. If you haven't visited it, it's pretty small town field. Not a whole lot of job opportunities so I think it will just do some great things for the economics of this area and it will expand the mountain Castle life by 23 years including reclamation. Next slide, please.

Okay. I promise one last video clip. So this actually looks like the same one but we'll just see where it goes. So giving you more context on the mine and the expansion of the pad and heap latch pad and then, again, 400 million tons of the produced overburden will go towards -- this is the one I was thinking of.

So if we can play this one, yep! So this will give you an idea of what the area will look like once back filled and there will be a significant amount of reclamation under way by the south overburden site.

So this is -- it doesn't quite show to the full extent but it will be a wildlife drinker because there's an amount of big horns in the area. So just a big overview of what is authorized and proposed. I know it's hard to read the yellow lines and I hope to have better graphics in the future but the yellow lines in both photos are showing the approved disturbance and what is going to be expanded out from what is the existing authorized areas. And next slide, please. I think this is the final one. Okay, so we're seeing internal scoping and there are resources that have come back and been able to document that there will be significant -- which is the same area as the previous EIS and doing a bit of an analysis on cultural resources. There are some special plans that were once identified in the area, later confirmed to not exist and that will be updated and the Nevada side is desert tourist habitat. And we are conducting joint meetings at this point in time, kind of as a preliminary to be conducive with NEPA and CEQA coordination. So we're working with the San Bernardino county in the hopes of making this an efficient process and in the future, we'll be including the cooperating agencies and a significant amount of public scoping and public involvement but this is just to give you a bit of a taster as to what is in store. And with that, the next and final slide, if there are any questions? The floor is open.

>> Billy: I have one. Is this part of the -- what's that?

>> Go ahead, Billy.

>> Billy: You can hear me? Okay. Is this a part of the old YKL ranch?

>> On the Nevada side, yes. This is the YKL walking box ranch was purchased by Mr. --

>> Yes, I knew him.

>> So yes.

>> So what's the -- was that the original house on there that they purchased? I used to have dinner with him and his wife there. There was a swimming pool. Is that all restored or what happen today that?

>> It's gone through restoration so the mine actually invested 750,000 into the restoration of the ranch before selling it. And it changed hands several times but it's now in the hands of BLM Nevada and it's managed by the Red Rock office.

>> Are they still riding cattle where they are not riding?

>> They are no longer running cattle.

>> So Dave is gone then? Okay.

>> Yes, that area, is kind of set aside for the desert tourist conservation habitat. So the allotment at some point was I believe, retired but don't quote me on that. At this point in time, there's no active ranching taking place.

>> Yea, I just remember, it was active in the San Bernardino county and I knew Carl. I didn't realize they retired the grazing on it. For some reason, it slipped my mind but they're going to keep the house restored, right?

>> Yes, absolutely! At this point, 2009 it was designated as part of the national historic area. The mine helped the nation conservancy get it towards that and yes, so it hasn't within the lease, arrangements that, that the house itself will not be ever used for any sort of large scale developments. It's going to remain as is and be a preserved area and a historic site for people to visit and they are hoping to open it back up and offer public tours.

>> Billy: Okay, that's what I was getting at. If they're going to keep it restored. That family has been there for a long time. That's good! I would hate to see that house, there's a lot of memories there for me when I was younger but any way --

>> Yes, there's a rich history.

>> Where the people can go and see what he did, what Carl did.

>> Yes, and one of my main reasons for pointing out the ranch is when the mine sold the ranch back, they did retain some of the easements over the property which will be utilized to support this upcoming expansion.

>> Yes, he was -- by Mike. I don't know Mike remembers -- oh, he was just -- he wasn't even the bureau manager, just acting. So he came up with the, all of the fencing for rotational grazing. When they first came out with it, Carl was one of the first ones that put that in to effect there. I think on the Nevada side. I'm not too sure.

>> No, his name is throughout the documents. I would love to talk to you more about it later.

>> Yes, he was a pretty good person. Thank you, ma'am.

>> Yep.

>> Thank you, Billy. I have two hands that are up. First, (inaudible) and then Jayne Powell.

>> Just a quick question, you said there's 23 years left to work the mine. When do they start rehabilitating? At the end of that period of time?

>> The rehab would start in 2048 if the expansion was approved. And reclamation would be expected to take place, to end in 2058 so a ten-year reclamation. The mine, during the last 20-year suspension, they proved to be able to meet and exceed the reclamation standards in about five years but that ten years is just, you know, kind of a safe barrier and estimate of what it would take.

>> Correct!

>> We have a big mine in -- valley -- with laid out there. So is that a standard with BLM?

>> Part of it depends on the operations and the processes taking place so a portion of that is the rinsing of the heat bleach pad. It takes time because it needs to meet the water and quality standards. Following that, if they're doing recurrent reclamation like this mine, they will start on the south extension pit by doing that, they will back fill the other two pits. They have it laid out nicely to sort of get in and get out if you will. And they have also had sort of a trial run with the first round of reclamation so they have existing greenhouses and they're expanding those facilities and they have a lot of research on site that have actually conducted these styles and see what the most effective measures are. The desert vegetation as many of you know can be kind of tricky. It doesn't like a lot of fertilized rich soil. It prefers the tougher stuff so, yes, that's pretty successful in all of the salvaging and revegetation.

>> There's some areas that have been there a long time, like, the mines -- there's a lot of overburdened power. And -- but you didn't have those kind of EAs back then. So does the BLM ever look at going back and trying to rehabilitate that?

>> All of the time! Uh- huh. That is another part of my position at this field office and in the desert is going to the abandoned mine. This is why we call them, and that is anything prior to 1980, 1981 that wouldn't have to be accountable for the reclamation standards we have today. And for those areas, it's been a high priority of the BLM. And in other agencies to address those areas and in physical openings, some of which are in the Castle Mound area. We have a few holes in the ground and in any way, it could be mobilized so any environmental measures so that's a great part of it and there's a lot of money and time and energy put in that, of course.

>> Okay, thank you!

>> Jane: Thank you. The first one is in terms of the water basin, the ground water basin that this mine will take the 16,025 acre a year from. Do you know if either one of these basins are in over draft condition now?

>> The land ford valley basin is not currently in over draft. A large part of that is just due to the fact there's not a whole lot of populations out there that is withdrawing from the basins. And there's been a significant amount of modeling and data collected from the drilling of the wells currently in place that support it as well as some of the surrounding areas in which they conducted pump tests on one well in the land ford as well as the Ivan Paul basin which is given a good idea of what the hydraulic parameters are and how that withdraw is going to look. Based upon that, there wouldn't be a significant amount of impact to those aquifers. They will be able to come back to the existing conditions within 30 to 50 years post project.

>> Okay. And I saw a question that deals with the recycling opportunities of water that is using. Do you know what they have intended there?

>> Yes, they definitely maximized recycling of the water so once the water is used in the heat bleaching process, it then gets, goes through the carbon column recycling and then undergoes several amounts of rinsing and purification to be reused in the mine cycle so as much as possible, the water will be recycled.

>> I do have to, Castle mountains employees here, who have been very helpful for me during this process and we will continue to be working hand in hand but I just wanted to point out, they're here today and we really appreciate your time and your in person participation.

>> Thanks, for pointing it out. It's really helpful with the project proposal and occasionally give us an opportunity to introduce ourselves and ask questions there. So thank you! Thank you for coming to the desert advisory council.

>> Yes, I encourage you all to introduce yourselves to Aaron and Doug. They're great resources and they both have been in the area for a while and have a wealth of knowledge. With that, I'm going to pass it off to you, Randy? Not done yet? Still in the hot seat?

>> Yes, so first what is the relationship of the mine in the future of the mine and the Castle mountains monument? The future of the monument? Wasn't there a tie in with some regard to that proclamation about what would happen in the future?

>> Yes! My understanding of that, at that point in time, before the mine, before the price of gold increased and we are where we're sitting today, that the mine area was going to eventually be under the jurisdiction of the Park Service and whether it would be observed into the Castle mountain national monument or the preserve, probably the monument and that will have to be revisited once we get to that point. And there will be a lot of conversations in the future with the Park Service. For now, the relevancy with the current authorizations, the portable water supply is on monument land. It went through very extensive and long fluid like process and at this point in time, now that the claims were proven valid, as long as the supporting pipeline which runs through the mine site, the Park Service is processing the mine's plan to continue to use it as their portable water source.

>> One observation in this area is the -- is extraordinarily diversely dense. I was very surprised at just how much beautiful, different kinds of plant species and all very, just great and healthy. You really can't just go walking off into the -- off the sides of the roads and the trails all that easily. You have to be careful with the -- a lot of the other -- I don't know the names of the other plants there but I just remember during my time there, I was blown away. It was probably one of the -- there are very few places that stand out in my mind in my visits at the Mohave. That is dense and marvelous plant communities there. It's really quite spectacular. It must be evidence of their ability to find water in that area.

The other thing I found interesting, and for those who are interested in visiting, you have to go through Nevada to get to California, to get to that mine. It's the easiest way and there aren't many ways to do that. That's fun and you do get to see the branch on the way in which is great. I encourage everyone to take a trip out there. It's very different. Very different. It's a unique place in the Mohave desert. It's so rich, the history and so many books written on it. And I'm sure you'll find them at the schoolhouse in the library. I'm sure you'll find neat unique books about it and those who used to live in the height of the original mining boom there. That's really neat! Other than that, that's my questions and comments.

>> You must have read my mind. I would suggest that we consider in our next year's agenda to have a visit to the Castle Mountain mine as part of our activities for a field trip.

>> Thank you, Jane for offering it up. Aaron loves giving tours and they're open and want people to come and visit the site. And I would love to set it up with DAC in the near future. That's great!

>> Thank you. The floor is open. Questions and comments for the DAC.

>> I have just a quick one. With the new regulations with California ground water requirements and stuff, are any of the basins adjudicated and is the system allowing them to basically transport water from one basin to another? Because usually there's some restrictions to do that. Kind of a thing.

>> Right, so the transport of the water, because the water is sourced in California, part of the transport is on the Nevada side but in terms of the overall jurisdiction on that.

So we kind of default to the water board. They have much stricter regulations on that and a much more stringent permitting process. Of course, we're going to do the analysis and analyze the impacts but in terms of how the legalities of that go down, we will make sure that the process is correct and they have the existing permits in place but I can assure you that they are -- you know, looking at that in- depth. It's much beyond my pay grade but it will certainly do the due diligence in making sure it's done correctly. Yes, that's a big one and a good point.

>> So they're adding 1600, that's a lot!

>> Agreed, agreed! It really, the pulling from the two different basins that are fairly far apart, which you



know, there's complications in a lot of overhead infrastructure expenses with that, but the mine is willing to undergo that in order to reduce impact the in one area so kind of spreading it out more and hopefully make it a bit more of a sustainable process.

>> I have just one more follow up question. In the rehabilitation of pre vegetation, in my experience, it usually takes a lot longer to get desert vegetation to establish than what you typically would do in other mining areas.

>> Agreed! The parameters that I gave in most scenarios seem like, a little bit too optimistic. And part of that, is based on the fact that the mine already did that. So they actually did reclaim the area and to the point in which they had vegetation growing in densities that it had in over 100 years just based on the Ariels.

I gave them like ten presentations. One of them included the rehab pictures I was hoping to have in here. Because it is extraordinary! And it sounds like, I'm not doing it justice from my description of it but I can show you some of them after because it is very impressive how quickly they were able to get that area to revegetation. Part of that, is also going to rely upon our, you know, rain fall. So if we get some good precipitation in the area but as long as that stands, they're able to do that. Those miners have a green thumb. I don't know what it is, but they're doing a good job and they have figured out what doesn't work and maximize what does work.

>> And would it be basically to required to save the growth in so as they make the make the pit -- they're stockpiling?

>> Yes, I can tell you have a background in mining. This expansion, they will have, I think, it's 8 different growth media piles that will be utilized.

>> Okay, thank you, Nathan. Paul, you have your hands up?

>> Paul: Thank you, Randy! Rose great presentation. I just want to compliment you on this and the company on their reclamation strategies especially for the open pits. It's amazing to see two of the three opened pits are completely back filled which enhancing revegetation because you no longer have the over steepened high walls to contend with which usually do not revegetation as well. So definitely a first class job, I think, in sequencing the back fill to accomplish reclamation goals. Thank you!

>> Thank you, Paul! I was glad to see you on.

>> Thank you!

>> Any other comments for our DAC members? The floor is open. For those joining us online or in person? Three, two, one, go. Thank you for coming to the field trip yesterday as well.

>> That was a good time.

>> Thank you. Friends, with that, it is 10:04. We are a little ahead of our schedule today. I think we're inclined to take an early break. Let's make it a 20 minute break rather than start Mike's presentation and then have to have him stop in the middle. So let's take a 20 minute break at this time to get us back closer to the schedule. That will be 10:25, please. 10:25, we'll reconvene. Thank you folks! And with us, we'll be back shortly.

>> Rejoining us after the break, we're going to press on with the agenda and move on to the next item. First, I would like to remind our visitors we have a sign in sheet on the back of the room. We would be very grateful to have you sign in and let us know you're here for the record. That being said, I'm going to turn the floor to Mike, the field manager of the needles field office who will give us a presentation on crater future trail work and visitor impacts. Welcome back.

>> Thank you very much. A fun topic here for the first part. This will be quick -- let me ask for some forgiveness, my computer Thursday had a traumatic event and we tried to recess Tate it and it has gone to the office for emergency treatment and we hope to be reunited. So what that means is I haven't seen my PowerPoint in two weeks. As you all know, and I think we visited a couple of times at our Amboy Crater trail network. We have one from the park area up to the Crater and back is about three-mile round trip loop as I recall. And there's a big picture there. We had some people who gone off the trail in the heat and we had some fatalities but we're trying to show the trail rout with the rocks on the side and sweeping the trail itself and make it lighter so people can walk side by side, you know, enhance that experience a little bit. And last year, we did a project you might remember to reroute the trail up the crater. It had some places that were like, 25 or 30% slope. So we got them down to a more manageable 12. That was last year's work.

We continue to experience a much higher volume of visitors am Amboy, throughout the pandemic and it seems to continue now. So we have been contemplating two things here that we'll talk about. One is

expanded trail networks. We found some new opportunities that we think will add recreational areas and there's some folks who make mistakes about where they park and where they can't and what have you so we're talking about barriers and some control measures to help us make better decisions there. So next slide, please.

So yea, we're adding trail opportunities and doing restoration to some trails, improving signing. As we said, we had some heat related deaths and near misses so we have been looking at other jurisdictions that have taken it out and there's some pretty good work out there and improving the barriers around the parking lot and what have you. Next slide.

So that's not going to show up great on the map there but we'll go through the four different trail, proposed trails we'll look at and environmental assessment here very soon. First is the cinder cone shadow loop which is going there on the crater there. It adds two miles of extra hiking opportunities and it just kind of extends the opportunities there with the lava field loop. There's another mile and a half. That's even in the red there. Taking it out, even farther down to the south with the crater and pressure ridge trail, I probably won't see it -- that's actually the green -- oh, yes, that's a little in and back out loop. That would take the outer way to the east and maybe a little bit back into the lava field loop trail. And then the slots trail, we saw some slot canyons that are interesting and it would add another mile and a half right there. Next slide, please. These are some representative examples of heat warning signs done at other jurisdictions. There's a couple of them that are from phoenix and I'm not sure all of the other origins but the goal is to set the idea, it's hot out there. It's a black lava field so it can be a dangerous situation in a short period of time and we want to make sure we get the message over. We also don't want to scare people as well so make sure you bring a lot of water and turn around when you have completed half of your water. Staying on the trails here so you don't get disoriented and lost. Those kinds of messages. So yes, we had folks who have been pulling off of the main road with -- this whole area is closed to that. So we're proposing to do some barriers where we had a pull off.

We actually wanted to build another gate up by the south side of the group parking lot there. So really, so if we need to close it either because there's a heat emergency that we're trying to address or we need room for rescue folks or, you know, other reasons. We just think we ought to have that ability in the future. The intent is to be locked open unless it needed to be closed for some reason. So next slide. As I said, we have been working to restore the social trailing. In this, you can see the very steep trail, very slippery. Dangerous and all of that. The picture of this is the original trail. You can see the picture on the right is the same photo essentially except after they did the restoration work. So you can really see it well. Oh, yes, we're done. So that's a project that we have taken on this year. We started a month or so ago. We have done the field survey work and what have you. Now, this is just to put together this check. I think the checklist is done. We're going to put together an environmental assessment and should, we hope to be ready to actually utilize some of the fire crews and other work crews and what have you that you can usually tap into over the winter.

That's kind of what we had there. I'm open to questions.

>> You have your hand up? Billy, you're on mute. Still on mute. Looks good now.

>> Billy: Did I get it? Well, you answered one of them. Are all of the people you use on it, do you bring outside people in like kids going to school or just strictly BLM people?

>> We do. Last year we had all female fire crew that does trail work for us in the off season, they actually did that trail alignment for us, trail realignment for us and the restoration of the social trails and what have you. We have our finger on the pulse of a few of the crews right now. It's a timing issue to get the environmental compliance done and enough time to schedule things in. There's a couple of different crews that still have a little bit of time left over. I think, over the winter we hope to get the trails prepared.

>> Yes, and how are we coming? When is the -- when are we getting those there? What's left to do to restore all of that stuff? Is it just a pump issue now?

>> I'm sorry, Billy?

>> What do we have left to do on -- the allotment to restore the corrals we're taking out?

>> So that allotment there, we have -- we're still working with Ron now. Ron as you know, has been working with RNCF to help design the water system once he gets the final design for how he would like to work the water system. We can incorporate it in the final assessment and we'll be pretty much ready to go. We have all of the survey work as well.

>> Is that, are the steel corrals, are you going to have somebody -- is Ron going to do it do you know? Or is the BLM going to put somebody there and rebuild them all?

>> We don't have it all nailed down. I think it's a joint project with ourself and Ron and his folks that come together.

>> Yes, that goes back probably 15 years now, or at least 10. At least 10. But you have to -- I heard, it might be later on and I shouldn't talk right now but maybe I heard some real good things about Mike, when Mike took over the Needles office. I don't remember if you remember Randy or not, but it was in shambles and we had to straighten out the Blair ranch. It was messed up. Those two guys are gone now, but it was quite the project. And also, I heard some really good stuff about ridge crest through the lower cycle people that are having trouble getting stuff scheduled in Barstow and was talking about how Ridge Crest is standing on top of it and keeping the events going. So I need to give you an at a boy while I hear them instead of bad stuff.

>> We went up to the fester springs area with the trap -- we missed you, it would have been something you contributed to. We're on the -- there a little bit.

>> Great! I have one more, well, I had a bad concussion and that's why and I got lost for 7 years and they finally found me with my two horses and a trailer and I don't know how or where I was going but I'm getting over that now so maybe the next one I can go on.

>> Okay, questions or comments for the DAC?

>> So it sounds like the increase in piping access was directly in response to additional traps from COVID, correct? This is you guys addressing that. I think that's great! In your district, was there any increase in vehicle access to accommodate the increase in the public coming out to the lands?

>> So what we have been doing, we have talked a little bit yesterday about the trail and the fact that the Mohave heritage association very timely had wanted to resurrect that trail and make it more public. We saw it as an opportunity to give more recreational property. The field office is just first use and you know, camping and back country use and what have you. So that fit right into our -- wake if you will, our wheel house and so we're super excited to have your opportunity to see it and we see it already. They're used to be taken from Mohave road and a lot more is focused more on the heritage trail that is just starting to grow now.

>> There's probably a couple of other things contributing to the increase going way back. The development of the site is now a big beautiful sign and has a nice parking area, the restrooms, the picnic tables so it's really become a prime stop for just about anybody who is going to be on route 66. I can't imagine anyone not turning in there and spending some time unless you're just commuting but that's really helped a lot. It use today be sort of wild and another is, it's absorption into the national monument. That has, you know, increased exposure to a lot more people now and also, some what the center piece of the monument.

>> And also, it made two different top ten hiking lists in LA Times and I forget the other publication.

>> And those improvements came at your time during Needles. They were initiated. Some of the improvements came, all of the other ones and what have you.

>> Thanks for keeping them going. I had just an observation. First, if you want to see chuckwallas you'll see him there just about every time. I don't think I have gone there and not seen it and is a cool, cool lizard! Big! Also of interest is, adherence to the trail system is something inherent in certain people. It doesn't matter whether you're on a motorcycle or a full wheel drive or on foot managing traffic of people is always going to be there. People, it's not just off roaders who don't stay on the trail. People will do their -- make their own paths and it's interesting, like the turn social trails. We have also heard in the past volunteer trails.

Remember in the off-road days they called them illegal trails. I think they rounded them up and took them to jail and then it became linear disturbances so going back to social trail, I think it sounds a lot better out of all of them. And also, just to question to leave you with. The area does butt up against the military base. Is that area the military base fenced in case someone did get disoriented and wandered south instead of north back to the parking lot? It's fenced so they don't wander into the bombing range or anything, right?

>> I don't think it's completely fenced but it's signed pretty well and it's probably consideration that we start bringing them down further south to make sure we're doing a good job of letting people know there's a boundary there that changes the use behavior significantly. That's a good point to bring up. Thank you!

>> When I came out there and went that way, I was surprised to see how the nice restrooms and everything else is in there. Oh, yes. It's a lot different from what I remember. It's well timed.

>> I remember we had a desert advisory council lunch stop there. They chickened from downtown to feed us all.

>> Yes, the owner of that owns the town of Amboy. It's a great partner to work with.

>> Ron: I'm just curious, is there a dedicated full-time staff or person or persons there at the monument you?  
>> Noel who is there is our project manager. She's dedicated full time to the national monument and we put on a natural resource specialist who is Jacqueline and so we're building staff and focusing on building it and getting it under our feet.

>> Yes, full time -- yes.

>> And then we have the plans to bring on a park ranger soon as well so we have more of a presence there in the monument. Amboy. There's an intern that Noel managed to line up. She's in the 29 palms area or Joshua tree, maybe. And she's going to be -- she'll move on a little bit from one of her primary office place is the new phoenix visitor center at the Park Service, at Joshua tree Park. So it will be good to have -- Park Service is eager to have someone from BLM involved in that, the messaging giving out there at that visitor center because you know, they don't hold any qualms about it there. They're actively trueing to bring visitors to us and we have a very different recreational program. We don't have the same infrastructure that Joshua tree has so we can handle more visitors but they need to be prepared to sustain themselves. So we're looking forward to having somebody down there locally at the visitor center to help provide that message.

>> The floor is open to staff members.

>> One thing about that place, if the sun is shining, no matter what time of the year it is, it's hot! The lava fields are like that. If you go there on a cold day, but if the sun is shining, it's hot there. You warm up quick which is why chuck Wallace likes it so much. Any questions or comments? Great! Thank you Mike! We look forward to hearing more about that.

>> Friends, let's continue moving down the agenda. What is neat about the next section of our agenda is that it's broken up into several bites. So speaking of bites as we approach the lunch, the designated lunchtime, we can just stop where we are in the reports that we're about to hear and have lunch and then we can reconvene with the reports where we left off. If that sounds okay with everybody, let's move forward and turn the floor over to Shelly and we'll talk about the desert district reports and the floor is yours.

>> Shelly: Well, thank you, Randy. So just a few things at the district and state director's level. As Randy mentioned, we're still working diligently to try to build the DAC vacancies. Right now, BLM headquarters is reviewing applications we submitted back in May as part of that call for nominations so we're hoping to get the additional DAC members relatively soon as it goes through the process.

Randy mentioned to you, we'll have a conversation more towards the end of the meeting about what our meetings look like in frequency and virtual versus in person or a combination. So we'll have more conversations about that. But these, as we have all mentioned and experienced these in person meetings, they are really a great way to meet and connect and have conversations. We do have a new field manager in Barstow January 1st of next year. We are excited to bring him on, Mark, who coming from us from the forest service. Very familiar with the area there and has worked with the Barstow field office and is from there. He's bringing contacts as well as experience in that area. So we're excited to have Mark come on board in January. We're working on hiring a field manager for (inaudible). For those who don't know, Mr. Carl Simons is retiring at the end of this calendar year. That's a big loss for us in CDD and he'll be very missed. So we have an announcement out for detailer behind Carl and also in El Centro. That announcement closes on December 12th so we're hoping to get a good pool of candidates with that announcement.

I may have mentioned this last time but not sure. In 2022, they received additional funding for bipartisan infrastructure law projects and the state's offering budget is 244 million for 2023. We are also going through putting in for the additional round of build projects. So some of the project the like I mentioned, will be with the next round of solicitations for the build projects so always working with the field offices to solicit those kinds of restoration projects.

We continue to experience high visitation in open OHV areas in the district. Statewide about 6.3 million visitors participated in the OHV recreation this year.

The numbers continue to astound me. If you have never been to the sand dunes during a holiday week, it's a site to be hold, campers as well as users, it's crazy! And then we have a record number of visitors too. We have seen them and maybe Jeff can talk more about that. And we continue to have various races as well especially in Barstow so a lot of OHV use.

As was mentioned by Mike, the district is working on the national monument plans both for Mohave trails and also for the -- national monument planning efforts so we have some big planning efforts under way.

That's all I had from the state director's report as of the California desert district before I move to the field offices. I can see there's a question.

>> Go ahead, Billy.

>> Billy: I lost, are you through the Barstow resource ma'am?

>> I'm Shelly, the California desert district manager. Thank you for the reminder.

>> Billy: See, I've got, you know, this all sounds very good about everything for OHV and the hammers and everything but we have an issue that has been going on for 15 years with the round mountain lease, Johnston family and we were supposed to have it resolved at end of the year. Jack, is he present today? He was supposed to be working on it. Kelly, is he there? The new range specialist in Barstow?

>> No. Billy.

>> Not here, today. In this act, even the calendar meeting and again, this is the only one that showed up. The meeting is at bar stow and you guys are mandated to have those people there and there's no area manager or acting area manager there. Nor was there a range specialist or acting range specialist. So I'm really concerned about the way things have been going on in Barstow, you know? I'm probably the oldest one around and outlive almost all of these BLM people. Not out live but new jobs, and what are we going to do about this?

I'm running a ranch right now, rattlesnake canyon as a proposed AMP for 25 years. Now, in the 25 years, we have the king of the hammers and all kinds of racing and all of these other issues but with the ranching, there's nothing. Nobody is doing one thing for these ranchers. Right now, rattlesnake canyon, I maintain that 4 miles of dirt road. Over 100 vehicles at one time Jeeps, went up through the middle of the ranch right there. No permits whatsoever. The last law man that was there, Mark, he did a real good job. Now, it doesn't look like anybody is out there doing anything. So I'm really concerned about what we're going to do about the round mountain allotment because supposedly, again, I was guaranteed every year that it's going to be this year. Now, if you go back to the CDCA that was an allotment year around. It gives you all of the information about it. The reason it was turned into Park Service, because harry, you probably don't know that family, he wanted to work with the service about flash fuel which is why they went into a rotation like Carl did in Nevada. There was a problem with the stone family, I guess, and the forest service so it should have reverted back to a year around allotment but it didn't. There's not been one person in that bar stow resource area for 15 years that has taken the bull by the horns and solved this problem but every other problem has been solved for every other group. Let's put it that way. I don't want to point fingers. It's a little ridiculous. I have a call in with the Senator and I need to get the bill passed that changed the tailored grazing act about these lands being taken from the ranchers, it was AR112, I think. I want to know what -- what we're going to do at the local and state level. I want to know, what are we going to do with these two issues?

>> Maybe we can address it with the bar stow manager when they come online.

>> Yes, that's a good opportunity when the new bar stow manager comes online after the first of the year. We can follow up and work with the new field manager on it.

>> Oh my God! So when he retires, the next year, another one comes in and I get the same excuse. Come on guys, this is getting a little bit ridiculous and if you don't think it is, go back to the minutes. I have asked for it every year. I have asked for it on the agenda for these ranchers to be kept up. Like what Mike is doing. To tell where these people are. It's just like nobody cares about them no more because there's only six left in the Mohave desert but, we can put races on. We can damn sure take care of king of the hamers every year, shut off 180,000 acres but can you do one thing for me? With a 25-year proposed AMP and one thing for this family that has been trying to get year around for at least 15 years I have been working on it as a care man from San Bernardino county. Are you telling me this is the first thing on that person's agenda?

>> No, I can't but it will certainly be on their radar.

>> And what -- you know, define that for me then: What the \*\*\*\* is on their radar?

>> Well, we'll certainly --

>> Excuse my language.

>> I will bring it up when I meet with the new field manager as a topic to follow up on. Look into and follow up on.

>> All right. Thank you.

>> Holiday: In the same vein of what Billy was talking about. I had a gentleman who called me and they were having some issues with traffic on the Burns canyon road that runs. When you go up through his property

and you get there and head over to pioneer town, they're having a lot of problems with it. Part of it is a BLM road, I believe. They're having a lot of problems driving it on with the side by sides and things like that in a dangerous manner so this gentleman is asking about, I guess, some plans or the people who live up there have been trying to get it closed and it's a public road and part of the BLM road so again, that would be something that we need to have. I think that Barstow area there, so maybe Billy can answer it. I think we need to, one the flu people get on there, take a look at it through.

>> Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can comment too.

>> Yes, sure thing, Billy.

>> Billy: I know those people, their moms and dads before most of them there, I think I'm the oldest one on that mountain there too but any way, you asked Debbie, they're trying to do something, the reason the county doesn't maintain the road is because it's that the property owners didn't give an easement. So it goes to one side or the other. What the BLM has done, and I don't know how to put it. They didn't know. Let's put it this way. When you designate the road as you designate them, you might have one section, 640 acres of BLM land that goes to private land and because that one piece of that road is open, they assume the whole dang thing is opened and in is the problem they're having. They are tearing up the roads. The 100 Jeeps I talked about, they have to go by my house to get to the top of Burns canyon and then go on down. That's, that's definitely a problem. And there's all kinds of people upset about it. Very much so.

>> Other questions?

>> I just want to ask Greg, do you have anything else to report out before we move to the field offices?

>> All right, if there's no more questions, let's go to the field office starting with Barstow. Jeff?

>> Good! So I think most of the stuff going on is in my DAC report. I wanted to point out on a couple of things that transpired in the interim. We have completed the dune road paving project all except the water crossing. We're having an issue with the water that was -- as the water goes in there, there's some sensitive species that lives in the water so we're trying to work with the agency on that to get the low water crossing done. Otherwise, that is really looking good. They did a fantastic job on the fees and so forth so we're happy about that. The calico side, that's the question on the last meeting or someone had a question about that. We are close to opening it back up to the public. One of the bigger issues is the doors for the CXT are very very expensive and there's a massive backlog for them. So we're trying to find another solution for the door at that bathroom and to put it in rotation for cleaning but we do believe we can get the facility back and open to the public by the end of the year. We're hoping. There's still a few safety issues we have to deal with.

We are working on the staffing for New Years and for the holidays coming up in January as well as providing staff to cover for this. So I think that's just about it from Barstow.

>> Billy: I thought you were working with Jack, what the EA or the status on that?

>> We had to work through response to comments on that. We're missing to get to the review of the DR so hopefully we can get the DR signed and posted next week. That's my goal.

>> Okay, great! I didn't know that. Thank you.

>> So just to jump in on Billy's comments. We usually talk about the effects of the king of the hammers on Billy's allotment area after the king of the hammers happened.

Here's an opportunity for us to bring it up and make sure the agency and the managers know, this has been a repeat topic at our council meetings but the topic is just as I said. We usually get the news afterwards and then you need to wait a whole year to look at the issue fresh. And sometimes we forget it and it falls off the plate. So I'm glad it's being brought up here in December, so as conversations evolve around this year's king of the hammers, that can be a part of the conversation.

>> I don't see why. We have safety for animals and safety and safety for my family riding the horses. Those people go in there 90 miles an hour. I don't see why they can't shut it down along with the other stuff? When they get tired, they have it all shut down at the king of the hammers, they just run through my place and there's two sections of state land from 247 to the BLM, the cattle guard, I just had to dig it out. No one does it for me. No one maintains the road like they do Boone road or gets it set up. So it's getting to be a main issue. It's just not, you know, it's not like what it was when it first started, 30,000 people would come out there in one day and the BLM is getting paid but all that happens to Billy Mitchell, his cows get -- and the cattle guard is full and then it's like, how are you doing? So I want to see why can't they shut the road down? Had I guess the question is for Jeff. Or anybody can answer it please.

>> I guess, nobody can answer it. Islet me build it out, at least. One of the benefits of the west Mohave decision is the breaking up of the network into travel management areas. That will allow us to do fine tuning the changes in the network more easily than doing a full blown management plan. So perhaps, we can take a look at that area and look at some of the areas of disturbances identified in the planning purpose and see if there's an ability to create the public reroute or the public go around to help minimize some of the traffic that as it gets closer to Billy's house. I have done a little bit of satellite traveling in that area and I think there's an option. I think there's an opportunity to look at the linear disturbances and evaluate them and see if they can be put into place in that network to do a go around. So I just want to put it on the table as something I'm happy to help with and look at. I really am pleased with the flexibility that the plan brings us through this travel management process. So hopefully there's a place we can exercise that.

>> Members of DAC and Mr. Chairman and folks to the public area, I want to give a shout out to Mr. Childers. We lost Katrina Symons in December of last year. December 31st and since then, we haven't had a full-time permanent field manager in that position in Barstow. He did a detail for four months early in the 2022 and since then, he's been acting in this position as the field manager without leadership below him. He has no other assistant field managers to help him out in the field office. I just want to say, he's been doing an excellent job holding that off together and keeping things running as much as possible just by himself. So a big shout out to you and the DAC members, Jeff has done a wonderful job and I appreciate his time in not making mistakes but it's tough to fill the field management positions in the desert and we're finding it on a regular basis. Thank you for your time.

>> I want to chime in on that as well. I have the -- pleasure of working with Jeff through this. The planners moved on. The direct lead moved on and Jeff has an acting manager is running the whole recreation department as well so it's not just the fact there's no field manager there. It's this, even the support underneath them. So when you see it and understand it, we're just putting our goals a little further out. We will have the conversations we want to have with the capacity to do it. It's not like an atomic bomb dropped on the place. Jeff was able to help us do a two-year problem of marijuana growing inside of the OHE area, the congressionally designated area. It took a lot of effort to put it on the list, for the county sheriff to prioritize it. And Jeff has helped us work with the law enforcement agency there as well to bring back issues up to the forefront. It's a very small grow so it's hard to get the attention of the sheriff's department because there's bigger ones in the neighborhood. So elevating those concerns. You know, it's -- I want to say props to Jeff as well. It's holding the whole team together and I think, things will change. There's always going to be -- there will be positions still and you know, this happens to field offices from time to time. I have been doing it for a while. You know, one office is going to have a staffing crunch and another one is going to have one another time. Sometimes, the Barstow field office was down to two law enforcement rangers at one point and now they had a full, or had a full house which is great! But then, look at the other departments. That's what is going to happen. There's always going to be somewhere, as people move and as the chairs get rearranged, new opportunities for employees to grow and go to new destinations and take on new jobs. That's the turn on what we have. Sometimes it happens as a perfect storm and it hits in one place and it just seems it hit in Barstow and I'm happy to do whatever I can to sit tight and be ready when the capacity is there with us. Then we can bring the issues up and we'll talk and talk on resolving them but for right now, you know, there's some big things going on. There's some big projects being built. There's big events, annual events that have to be managed. And so I'm taking my position in the list and there will be a time where Jeff and I will be working back together again and you know, checking off the boxes like we always do. So thank you for bringing it up, Greg! I do appreciate all of the help that Jeff has been able to provide to us during this time. Just having him here is very beneficial so thank you Jeff as well.

>> Thank you, thank you.

>> And one more thing, Mr. Chairman. My intent -- he's done an excellent job. I have been through so many area managers, believe me. He was dropped a bomb on him, strictly a bomb. And the rest of them just seem to go with it. But yes, he has definitely, definitely done a good job. And he is -- he is the area manager now or is he still assistant? Is he the area manager here?

>> Jeff is the acting now, the new one will come on board in January.

>> I tell you what, he'll have his hands full just doing what Jeff had to put up with over the last two years, believe me. Anyway, thanks, Jeff. I really appreciate what you have done. Thank you!

>> Thank you! Back to you.

>> Okay, any other questions for Jeff for Barstow? If not, we'll move to Carrie.

>> Good morning, you hear me okay? All right, great! Yes, I just have a few updates. A couple of new items and then a few updates from our DAC report.

First off for recreation, we are continuing to develop a partnership that we started last year with tread lightly and working with Brandon Alvarez who is the San Diego tread lightly representative. We have already conducted several clean ups in coordination with our OHV groups and are working on an OHV trail ride to visit the one -- national Stark trail this spring. So really looking forward to that. Stay tuned. Excuse me, I'm getting over a cold.

For other recreation news, I wanted to let folks know that Neil who has been our long-time recreational branch chief has accepted a new position in our office. He is now the assistant field manager for support services. And he'll be overseeing engineering facilities maintenance and administration. Let's see, for the updates for two of our projects in the DAC report, just real quick. For the imperial USA explorational project, I wanted to let folks know, we issued two decisions on November 30th. Those decisions deemed that the plans, the plan that was submitted for the imperial high duke area was complete. And it contained all of the necessary information. However, we hold off moving forward on that plan until the BLM can complete the validity exam.

And that's because the plan does contain load claims located in the Indian pass withdrawal area. For the SMP gold core exploration project, the update I have for that is we have published the EA. That was published mid-November. We're currently in the comment period that ends December 16th. Lastly, for renewable energy, I wanted to mention that the geothermal exploration project also in the DAC report, the leaseholder has mobilized with their contractors and are currently grading the two well pads on BLM and they intend to begin drilling in early January on the well pads. Those are the updates I have unless there's some questions.

>> That's some interesting -- I have a couple of questions. They don't go against any of these things you have said so I don't know. I have three things. One, I want to look at the status of the Cahuilla ranger station.

>> Yes, so good question. We're currently working with our state engineering lead as well as the national center of developing the scope of work, the independent estimate for construction so we're diligently working through that. I think the timeline is that we would -- we're hoping to get the request for quotes out in 2023. And awarding the contract in 2024. That's the current timeline at this moment.

What's the -- on the left side of the canal down there, there's a bunch of trails that they have and the signs on those is the trail signing that you can't read, very few of the signs you can read. I'm wondering if there's any plans on updating the signs to they're legible?

>> Can you be more specific Dick on where you're talking about on the west side?

>> Say it again?

>> Can you be more specific on where on the west side that you are concerned about?

>> From the duning on the west side, it's called the east mesa. They are used quite a bit from the people from the (inaudible) areas and the signage is deteriorated significantly.

>> I'm not aware of any active signing that we're planning out there but I will certainly bring it to the attention of the park rangers and the recreation branch chief so they can check it out and do what upgrades are needed.

>> So we started implementing, you know, our ghost camping, operation ghost camping, whatever you want to call it last yore. And it's been really successful so far. We continue it this year and word has definitely gotten out so yes, we're, you know, targeting ghost camping. If we see it, all of our rangers and park rangers are actively looking for that, especially in preparation as we move closer to the big weekends. So they, it's definitely on the radar and we're not easing up on that.

>> Well, one last question for you on your thing and your note we have is a thing on the -- gun range. I'm surprised that the military has to ask you for permission to enter their gunnery range?

>> Yes, I mean, if they're going to plan to do more than just a single use out there of the access roads, so long term access with multiple vehicles, maintenance on those roads to keep them usable and passable by all of the numerous vehicles that would be, you know, going back and forth. And they do need a right of way so we have been working with them for the past year or two on that and we're getting closer. We'll have the NEPA ready to go soon and get it out on the street and then, make a decision soon. But for the amount of use they want to do out there, they definitely need a right of way and those roads do need to be maintained. They get



pretty washed out after a lot of the winter rains. So it's important they maintain that access.

>> Is BLM maintaining the roads, are they?

>> No.

>> It seems like one of those, yeah, I'm from the government and I'm here to help you deals where the military has to ask the BLM if they're okay to take care of their roads. Just -- just seems like a waste of money. Any way. Just my opinion.

>> Okay, so any other questions?

>> Thank you again, Shelly and Mr. Chairman. I can address a little bit on the ranger station. We have the estimate we had prior to pandemic, we could have handled on the budget side of things but after the pandemic went through, the cost of materials increased a bit so we're looking at 50% over the estimate what the budget will be. So throughout the state, both of these are looking at helping the district out by redirecting some of the deferred maintenance projects they have had to the ranger stations so we can get it funded and put together. That's what we're working through right now. Hopefully we'll be able to get the budget covered really soon but we're working through that real quickly and hopefully it will be taken care of. I want to do another shout out to Carrie as a wonderful job of acting as a field manager with quite a bit of turnover in the field office. I think right now they're at 50% vacancy which is crazy for a field office and her and Neil have all done a fantastic job keeping that office operational and running through the Imperial Sand Dunes projects and keeping the events up and running all of the time and at the same time, answering questions about the geothermal projects and the energy projects and everything else. I want to shout out to Kari about it. Thank you!

>> Hi, Carrie. Not so much of a question but I want to give a heads up to the council members and particularly our new members, Jennifer and Hans. If they're interested in mineral collecting. I would like to point your attention to the special management area report that is in this -- this is only a report of an iteration of long term climbing that is going to occur but the impotence of the special management area was a bill that started nearly a decade ago by Senator and then representative Cooke that had the Mohave, Castle mountains, 50HV areas and about the same number of wilderness study areas plus some changes in land status in the Park Service in Death Valley and Joshua tree. And over the course of the ten years of the bill moving through Washington, moving and stalling and moving and stalling, and eventually the monument components were broken out of the bill because the President at the time had the authority to designate the monuments under proclamation. So the monuments will hold out but the rest of the bill went forward including this special management area. Because of the importance to rockhounds, general mineral collectors and some of the local residents camp, Walter's camp, the Colorado River. They were very active in wanting to see enhanced recreational opportunities there. I just encourage you to keep an eye on the planning process. This was a very, you know, a very important part of the bill but when you have a bill that has so many pieces, and then it's passed and broken up to different management plans, you know, the monument is basically, you know, the 800 pound gorilla in getting the majority of the attention for planning on that but please don't ignore the special wash area. It's a very special special place. And a very special opportunity for rockhounds. So keep your eye on that process. This is an important part of the bill that we worked very hard on pulling it all together so thank you Kari for keeping us up to date on the report and we will get to see over time, the different iterations. It's heartwarming and wonderful to see at the cultural survey and consultation process during this planning and I'm just looking forward to seeing this move forward as it does and it says, it's going to continue going 2023 and who knows it could go even further. So I would just ask the rock hounds to keep an eye on that with me. Thank you!

>> Thank you!

>> All right, any other questions for the field office? We're at the lunch hour based on our agenda.

>> I think that's a great idea. So whoever is up next, gets a reprieve briefly. They get to come right after lunch. Congratulations! You drew the straw but this will help us keep our meetings moving. So it's 11:30 at our lunch break. We're scheduled to reconvene at 12:45. If there's no objections from the team, I'll adjourn temporarily and we'll reconvene at 12:45. Thank you! See you then. See you online shortly.

>> All right, we're going to reconvene for this afternoon's session at 12:45 p.m. Where we left off, Shelly, you were working with your team to deliver field office reports. Do you remember where you left off?

>> Yes, sir.

>> Great!

>> We're moving to Needles with Mr. Mike.

>> Mike: Thank you very much! So I thought maybe I would start by kind of recounting our day yesterday a little bit for those who were able to attend the field trip. So we all met up at the Mohave desert cultural association there to really see a unique site and be able to verse yourself and a little bit of a heavy background here with Mohave and then we loaded up in our vehicles and headed out on the trail going up through the mountains and stopped at a facility that we -- a temporary facility where we had been collecting excess (inaudible) in that area. Had a conversation about rural management and allotment in the same location. The location within that area. And to talk about the water available in the desert and managing those waters and what have you. And then we continued to go forward through this there on the trail. I wanted to ensure that all of you had an opportunity to have a full over lay experience so we made sure we got lost, broke things, fixed stuff with zip ties and finally gave up the safety of the hotel lounge before it got dark. So you know, I just want to recognize all of you who were able to attend are now seasoned overlanders and now appreciate the accompaniment. So so let's see. One of the things we talked about earlier is we recently did an agreement with Mojave desert heritage cultural association to provide us with monitoring and some signing, breaking out, off routing and making, you know, doing minor repairs and hand kind of repairs. -- the trail action held up well. Remembering that the expectation is -- recreational -- which you all got to experience yesterday. And then it's going to be turned out to be a pretty good tool. So let's see. We kind of saw from yesterday, a little bit. Our office sponsored the national public lands day event and in the second weekend of October, in the mountain wilderness. We have been doing the partnership with local boy scout troop in the valley and for the last three years, we have done projects with them. Great kids, great parents as well and super helpful. So we have done projects with them in the mountain wilderness area making barriers and restoration and what have you as well. So those have been very successful projects and I'm happy to do that.

I want to talk a little bit about the Mojave trail planning. And we'll talk a little bit about yesterday and we're in a new fiscal year and we're starting to initiate the planning contracts. There's some with a cultural survey, some for just some planning consultants to help us deal with putting the document together. Also, one to help us with the scoping sessions and facilitate the public outreach side of that planning efforts. That's all under way.

We have drafted the NOI and federal register package and the review and you know, we hope to see all of that get published early next year. And yes, so I guess yes, so the other thing going on, the monument.

The Needles chamber of commerce has started an annual route 66 celebration in early February, and it coincides with the designation of the Mohave trails monument so we're doing one of those celebrations together and that will be working now on the planning for that. As I said coming up, and we have kind of looked at this as here. So I believe this is second weekend in February. So there's more information on that. I guess another thing I had, just shared with me this morning is the control project which is a project that actually our office Barstow and ridge crest are all working together. We have a district project manager to upgrade SEE system, transition line to bring them up into standards and initiating the scoping sections on that.

So I have some information with that. I think it's probably on the web page as you guys know. I'm guessing there's information on it. Just people are interested in that project and getting involved in this. Other than that, I think that's all I have. I'm available for questions.

>> Okay, any questions for Mike?

>> I have one. Can you talk a little bit about the high-speed rail?

>> Oh, yes, so the rail itself is being authorized through FRA and federal highways. Our role is bringing power to the rail. So there's two substation converting stations. One in Barstow, one in -- our office. And the one in our office is a new location and it's a new location within an ACEC. It has some sensitive issues with -- movement and what have you there so we adapted to do an environmental assessment on it rather than doing the DNA based off of FRA's previous evaluation. So we have done that. The DA is mostly complete. What we're waiting on is the section 106, the cultural resources clearance which FRA is the lead on that. We have to wait for them to finish their section 106 work which is, they're doing a program management agreement on that. And once they get that complete, we can fold that section into an REA and move forward with that. And then that will be used with this. The substation and -- station. And Barstow is pretty much the same here. They're doing the DNA.

>> Hey, any other questions? All right.

>> Thank you!

Tim Gilloon: Good afternoon, everyone! So I will cover a few things. Either accomplishments and or things that are currently ongoing and some various program areas. The big one of course is the major line of effort and task for my field office is renewable energy and that dominates the first segment of my report. What you will see there is the crimson -- task projects that we worked on and got to the decision earlier this year. So that was good for accomplishments. We will have more information once the additional projects are ready for, you know, sort of giving information out to the public as we have over a dozen applications in various forms like being worked on and processed and reviewed.

So with that, what it means is essentially the -- I can't recall, but this was addressed earlier but the DRACP desert or development focused areas are starting to get essentially gobbled up and we're going to see more.

We are seeing more applications that are outside of that. And so that's a long time down the road still but it is just something that, you know, it's a big heavy workload for the majority of our office so once we get projects that are, you know, get past the certain stage, we can definitely start providing more information on these steps and projects.

Another major effort that we're doing and sort of, about a half of a step or a step behind where Mike is at with the Mojave Trails National Monument. We have mentioned this. This is in the Sand to Snow monument. Again, we're going to start in the spring. After the first of the year where we go with the same group that Mike has to do community conversations and public sessions and primarily focused on virtual but we're going to try to work to get an in person visit or at least a hyper meeting that one. The objects and resources and value will give you some information somewhat different and being closer to the coastal areas, with a multitude of ecosystems within that monument, it's going to be pretty diverse monument plan. So looking forward to moving that along as well. We should see a draft plan be able to get one out by the end of the fiscal year for FY23.

On the resources front, we have just had a really great burn with one of our partners and this is the first time in a while that the BLM has worked with partnering and the non-federal partners to do fuels treatment. We have worked at the -- doing treatment. They did some removal and then burning fuels reduction to get that invasive species out there and improve habitat for some of the species in that area. So that was good work that we're doing and we'll continue to work with our partners at that location. Other resources I mentioned on the trip but for those of you there, is the ship creek guzzler in the wilderness area with the chuck Wallace, we were able to get that decision through and working with the fish and wildlife partners for CFU for getting it prepared to provide a resource for this. So we will continue to work as those come up.

We are -- it's not just in our area but throughout the district but we're going to be working on a lot of the marijuana grow sites. The district is going to be leading up a restoration partnering with California to do some restoration work on those sites so looking forward to see what we can do for restoration projects.

Switching over to just really quick, the Whitewater facility. It's at the headquarters level and going through the review process. Once it's finalized, we will look at the first time of the year to issue that decision or project. Another project related to water replenish area is the Santa Anna area congregational mandated and we're working through starting next week, cleaning efforts and coordination to our partners to address clean up and the homelessness areas they have in that area. It slowed down the process a bit but we're working on it as well to support the ground water recharge within that basin area.

Switching over to the recreational concerns. I know recreation and access. One thing you haven't noticed, the DoD just put out a press announcement and we're trying to make sure it's also a BLM that just came out recently. Part of the prior decision is they're going to be closing a portion potentially closing the portion of the Brad Shaw trail as they do environmental remediation or ordnance in that area. So there's nothing confirmed yet but just be aware for, I know some of the OHV users are interested but that's out in the inner web.

We also put out public scoping for the -- area as some improvements to increase the recreational facilities in that area. That process is ongoing. It's not high in the priority list but we do want to make sure we don't lose sight of that. We're working on the Santa Rosa national monument and working with local mountain bike communities and the forest -- user routes both on and off within the monument there so we have had initial conversations in getting out validating information and making sure we're addressing that use and potential resource impacts there. Something to be aware of is in the palm springs area, in the Coachella Valley is, I

think, between the flu and COVID, a lot of our volunteers are being impacted by that and so we're having some challenges with staffing the visitor center to maintain its traditional 5 days a week opening so we continue to work through that challenge and just trying to keep it open for at least a minimum of three days a week because it's the high visiting season.

And law enforcement continues to be engaged with the OHV community doing saturation controls and we'll continue it as an ongoing effort for education and outreach and making sure they're staying on the routes and safety and enforcement of that nature. That the children are wearing helmets and a lot of great interaction they have had. And our long-term visitor sites, the camp hosts are in place. It's always nice to have that element of the public in there and able to help us with management of the recreational areas.

We also just recently approved the Coachella Valley link EA which is helping transit within the valley for pedestrian, biking and slow, lower speed electric vehicles, golf carts and transit throughout that area. So that's pretty much all of the things I wanted to cover in detail that weren't mentioned in the report. So welcome to any comments or questions.

>> Any questions for Tim?

Dick Holliday: I have a few questions. A quick one. Why would the Bradshaw trail be closed?

>> There's an old ordnance and potentially hazard material so this is an old decision made a while ago which is just a number of sites. I think, well over a dozen or so odd sites over the years, they have been going through and trying to remediate and make sure the route is safe and clean so they will be going out and doing sampling, core sampling and soil sampling and scanning the area and making sure there's no additional risk or hazards and they'll conduct the clean up activity as long as necessary.

>> How long will it take?

>> I believe it's from the first part of January. I don't have the exact date through April.

>> One of the other things, you mentioned a lot in your write ups on facilities that have battery function and you know, you'll say 400 megawatt battery. Well, how many megawatt hours are those batteries putting out? Batteries put out a voltage and it really doesn't mean anything at all. You can have a little 12 volt battery for your car or a big 12 volt battery for your car. You have to know how long it's going to last, is it 400 megawatts for ten hours, twenty hour?

>> I don't have that information offhand.

>> The reason I ask is because people grab it, oh, that's big as a generating station but the generating station goes for 24 hours. In has a whole bunch of megawatt hours. If this battery isn't going to -- and the battery, then you put it in. You know, you didn't do this, but you put in how many -- it will serve. You know, well, 400 megawatts, if it only runs for a few hours, it's not going to serve a lot. If it has more like for 24 hours, it's maybe worthwhile but what I'm concerned about is, we're putting batteries out there and the numbers we give out there for people are not really an accurate representation of what they're getting. I can include the duration of how many.

>> And I don't know -- back in the day, we used to figure about 5 kilowatts a house. So when with put in transformers and stuff. It would be -- I have been retired for a long time but they probably use a different value now. So if you look at how many hours, I would just like to know how long these batteries are going to last.

>> And Jayne?

Jayne Powell: So my question relates to the remediation work that you're doing for the marijuana sites. I was curious how you're doing that and determining the methods for remediation and the success of that.

Tim: I will defer to Shelly because as I mentioned, it's a district led initiative and it's going to be spanning across the district but we do have a significant portion of the sites within the field office. Right now, we're just at the infancy of just trying to get the information to essentially classify which ones are in the critical areas for habitat. That's a district led effort and Shelly, you may have a little bit more information on that?

>> Shelly: So right now like Tim said, we're in the infancy. We had just a coordination meeting with the California department of fish and wildlife. They have restoration grants specific for growth sites, so we just met with them to get more information. We have some homework to do in terms of like Tim mentioned, taking a look at the list of those sites, where they're at and the types of criteria so like, proximity to, you know, communities. Are they all in one watershed? There's a number of factors we are going to be looking at and using which we haven't decided on. We're still pulling that list of criteria together to determine kind of a

priority list of where we would want to do those restoration projects. And then once we have that list, we will reengage with California department of fish and wildlife and identify those priority areas so that we can start submitting programs to clean up those areas.

So is the intent to return them to their original native condition?

>> That's correct!

>> Do you feel that these sites are continuing to -- or do you think you're getting a grasp on controlling the illegal growth sites?

>> That would be a law enforcement question. I don't know, it's difficult to say. I know the state is expanding their operation to locate some of these and we will certainly continue to partner with this state and find sites on public lands. But yes, it's really difficult to get a handle on whether they're constant. I don't have those numbers so I can't tell you if it's doubled in the past year. I don't have that information or data.

>> Okay, thank you!

>> Just to follow up. So -- a degree of smarts by the illegal growers they're occupying virtually exclusive private property. And most of our cases, our problems are patch work, checkbook or in the instance of, for example, the -- off highway vehicle area, that was, we still have 143 private property parcels within the OHV area that is targeted for purchase. Fortunately the county of San Bernardino has more than 2 million dollars in the bank for the funds to purchase this private property but like eating a bowl of spaghetti, it gets more difficult when you get to the bottom of the bowl. It seems like the landowners, when they're not reachable, they think their land is worth a lot more than the land is and that's all the county can pay, is the approved appraised value with -- the county purchases these private parcels and then they work to transfer ownership to the BLM with an overall goal of 1 day having a continuous BLM management with just BLM lands. The problems we have had in the OHV area with the growers has been on the private parcels. And I can speak to the importance of remediation. It took, as I explained earlier, a couple of years to get, to see the interagency task force take down the growth we have had and I was very grateful for it. I was all smiles that day. That I announce it had to our group. But it didn't last long because the first comment back is, who is going to clean up all of the junk left behind. So you know, I don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water. It was a victory that the growth was no longer in operation and it was, not just incompatible activity but a downright threatening and dangerous activity within the OHV area. But I and justify to the amount of junk that is left behind on these sites. And this stuff isn't the kind of stuff that you just call in a volunteer clean up group on. I mean, some of this stuff is hazards pesticide base, fuels. There's bad materials there that you just can't have a group of people coming in and cleaning up and our organization to clean. Not just the private parcel is private property but the stuff left behind, even though it's just junk. This is private property as well and we can't just take that so there has to be a process, a governmental process to evaluate and to declare these materials as now on the list for being removed. I very much support this and I hope that similar programs that can affect private parcels that might have a direct Nexus to federal lands or a federally managed area such as, for example, that area. Even though it is a private parcel, it's the agency's BLM is the one managing that, that land.

Just taking it into consideration, there's a lot to pick up and clean up so thanks for letting me comment on that. I appreciate it.

>> Just one clarification. I don't -- I'm not aware that CFW may have grant funds available for private parties. I don't know that. We didn't have that conversation. So I am not sure, you know, if those are available or not. All we talked about is program money available for this. So just good to clarify that. That may be available.

>> It might be worth a phone call. Thank you! I agree. Go ahead.

>> I actually applied for grants to clean up marijuana areas but -- on private land and it was SOCAL recycle and they save 100% of the cost but you had to have a sponsor, either the county, a city, RCD, mutual conservation district or recognized Indian tribe and I could not get any to sponsor it even though they paid for their cost and everything, they wouldn't do it. I couldn't find it. I had the drafts completely written and the various maps and the helicopter company to come and haul stuff out because these are 10,000 plants plantations, like a mile and a half and the private property. And I had all of the written information from everybody and the Park Service gave me an EA on all of them and everything was ready to go but I could not get anyone to follow up. The money was right there.

>> Thanks for the warning.

>> Yes, Billy?

>> Billy: Yes, well, over in the Johnson valley area, I worked with the San Bernardino county sheriffs and we had a bunch of those hoop houses out in a further ranch and not only was there a bad clean up mess with it but they turned the people, the people that left, left their dogs and what happened is I lost 20 head of cow to the dogs that killed my cattle. One horse, and it was a nightmare. It took over 6 months to clear it up. Lost a whole year of calf crop. Nobody -- we had no idea that was going to happen either when they took, you know, when they took the people away from them. Whoever was watching them, I have no idea. But the people they employed. Do you know what I mean? But they did leave their dogs and it wasn't the sheriff's problem but we had no idea it was going to happen so it was a major expense to my family, one whole year of calf crops plus the 20 and I have the skulls too to prove it. But yes, it was terrible! Very bad. Thank you!

>> Well, that's a dimension I never thought of or even envisioned would happen. I want to congratulate your participation. A million bucks is just great. Just a heads up for those who participated in the OHV grant program next year's FY, the next year's G23 cycle will be reduced from 30 million, 36 million to 30 million availability. The fund is being challenged because since the pandemic driving has decreased. Even though we have a lot of off highway vehicle use and a lot more people visiting the back country from the day-to-day perspective from people on the freeways and the highways and the long hauls, more work is being done and a lot more fuel. I can say when I moved my office a mile away from my office, I cut down an awful amount of fuel use. Less people are paying into the fund. The off-highway vehicle is paid by fuel taxes. A certain percent of the fuel tax money collected goes with the program. So with that program, if the fuel tax reductions, we can start to see them passed on to the grant program. The similar tie in is the use of electric vehicles. This is a bigger issue we're hearing across the state is how to recoup money for highway maintenance, bridges, and other infrastructure if people aren't paying into the fund.

So that's something that is being talked about obviously at different levels. But it impact our grant program as well. And lastly just to tie into it because Tim is bringing up about the solar projects, I'm surprised, yet not surprised that the DFA's development focus areas are starting to fill up. I have that time to come but when you put that in combination with the state of California's actions that could be taken this week, at the state level to downward adjust the net metering moneys that rooftop sell owners are being paid to generate electricity, it's all on the table. It's been going on for a year or two. Just a similar metaphor with people generating their own electricity. There's not as much money going in to take care of the power line, the transition lines and all of the infrastructure needed to bring you the power and so, an adjustment by reducing the amount of money that the home generators received may help provide more funds for utilities to keep their interest structure in place. Negative effect of that is people who are on the cusp of wanting to install solar at their homes, are now looking at it upward doubling to recover the investment back. For some people, that may change their mind and they decide to put their resources elsewhere instead of home solar. So if we see a reduction in home rooftops solar and we still see our state and federal government, wanting higher percentage coming from renewables, it's not coming from rooftops, it may have to come from our public lands.

We have seen to some extent, people were surprised by the amount of private land, like the valley where I am right now is all private land and there's a tremendous of renewable being built there that hadn't been built there. This is limited as well. So keep an eye out as council members for this conversation to come back. There's renewable energy goals as a country, as a state, as an issue society that may end up putting pressure on public lands when they see it come down the line sometime in the not too distant future. Thank you! So thanks for letting me at least spout off if not ask the direct question.

>> Okay, anymore questions for Tim?

Hans Haas: I have a question. So you brought up mountains in that area. It's actually an area that my family and friends loved to have fun in, the sea to mountains to the Bradshaw area which is called the (inaudible) and it's just lovely. There's a lot of history there too. There was a -- that run through there. It's a great area. It was brought to my attention yesterday that there is an effort under way to possibly create another national monument that would encompass some of that area. And being under your office, I wanted to know if you could share with us any information you might have about those efforts to try to make another monument out of that area.

Tim: It's, we're aware of the effort but as part of the executive branch, we can't get involved in educating in one way or the other for that. If there's an information request that go down, then we provide information as to

whatever potential resources are there but just like any other proclamations or even going with Congress, we'll just have a monument or something that we may have to deal with and we will go through that process just like we're doing right now with the trails.

Hans: I understand you can't weigh in one way or another but information has been requested by groups in order to create the monument?

>> No, no information has been requested. It's just --

>> We know as much as you do.

>> Gotcha.

>> Really. Yea, yea.

>> Okay, thank you!

>> And I fully support the efforts that made our major trails safer, with -- especially, but just on the side, the Brad Shaw trail is one of the limited number of unique opportunities I call expedition levels. There's not a lot of point to point, multi-day opportunities any longer in California. Brad Shaw is best two days, one night. Maybe you can squeeze the second night. Ma Mohave road, you have the .... which is still, a couple of nights to get across. And other than that, we have the --- to better offer another opportunity which is the railroad which could be a multiday expedition to the Nevada border with -- if there's ever resources available to mitigate the fact that as you're going across the trail, all of the sudden the bridge isn't there anymore. To take care of those safety impacts but the TNT trail is a really great fourth edition. We're the only door south trail in that way. And that's always on my radar. Any thoughts about that? Moving forward with it among certain partners in promoting that great opportunity.

>> Any time I can drive through the desert and not have things blowing up on the side of road, I would have it here instead of Afghanistan. If they find something, I'm glad they find it. Let's put it that way.

>> To now think there's a huge problem there seems rather strange to me.

>> They were saying about the TNT?

>> That's a company road. That's something I have not had the chance to do is ride that trail. Let's see, what is there and what needs to be done. And there may be some opportunities.

>> That's terrific. There may be ties on the ground in the area and made a note, if you have ever been to Scotty's Castle, the little canyon is called Tie canyon. It's because it has thousands and thousands of railroad ties bought by scotty from when the TNT rails were pulled up for the war effort with the iron and Scotty acquired all of those ties with a grand idea to build something that is never in fruition which is very much like Scotty.

>> To your point because it's very old and it hasn't disturbed, there's still potential and especially since the pandemic and we have continued population growth, increased recreational use. We know people have -- Mike calls them social trails or going off where they are not supposed to. Where we have more and more using public lands, we want to encourage it but in a safe manner, anything that is an old impact zone, you never know what you might come across.

>> I will tell you right now, there's trailing out there and on the east side or the west side of the dunes there that are marked EL C ENT RO traces and there's live rounds that I have found. And I have drawers full of them. So there's stuff all over the place. I see stakes where I know they came through and swept it before they turned it back. They can't find everything.

>> There should be consequences for off road travel but not blowing people up, right? We used to say, remember, you can't shoot them.

>> Any other questions?

>> Carl, your last meeting? Ridge crest.

>> One comment on the coordination. One thing we didn't add in there as we are working and trying to expand the area of potential effect for cultural resources due to some needs on 395 whether they're bringing in trucks or turn lanes and it wasn't included in a couple of roads so we're also working on that project. Some of the things we're trying to get done by the end of the month. We're trying to get the MOU signed this past week with the Navy which expands -- open up the area to the north side of the watch road or people call it the Navy road and we only had two spots where people could legally cross that road in the whole open area. So we have been working with the Navy and we're going to have six crossing so it could be used for competitive events and casual use and that's roughly one crossing every two miles along the way so at any point, you obviously have to

travel a mile in any direction. Trying to get people to travel four miles or five miles to get to a crossing, they're just going to cross and go there. So we're trying to control the traffic. It will also give more opportunities for competitive events and things like that because it opens up a lot more space and a lot of new routes. For anybody who has been involved in off road competitive events knows, they don't want to do the same route all of the time. So there's new areas and new opportunities. It's a bonus for them to be able to have new experiences and new routes the first time doing that. Also, to get in the -- area. It used to be like the durability agreement signed by Karen and that was done a while back. Vicky, the state office is helping me to get the cooperative management agreement signed for that area. So hopefully it should all be done by the 30th. And then we're also working with the valley to get a rate reduction a while back after the earthquake. They sustained quite a bit of damage. Somewhere like 60 or 70 million dollars or more to fix what was there. They asked for a temporary reduction and that, I'll be forwarding the documents for Shelly to look at and make decisions going forward on that. We also have a gather for President's Day on China lake. So they will shut down for the weekend and try to go in there and gather up horses that suffered from lack of water. Which took out a lot of the vegetation. (Inaudible) as we can throughout there. And also, we had a meeting with one of our wind operators. They want to put in storage that is over there by Mohave. So they will be right next to the wind farms and turbines and tied and next to the substation. We also tried to coordinate with the Navy for the restoration of the craft site next to corona. It's taking longer by the fact it did crash. -- taking care and doing the restoration. Just going through the rest of the -- and the Navy is taking the lead on that. We're all doing deep springs right now and I reported it before, we have the range improvement. We're looking at purchasing the materials for a range of improvements that were -- stuff like that. And working with the ranch as far as getting it put in. We will, rather extend to -- metal material so we will do it in phase. Also, the ground water authority, the valley is in over draft and so they're trying to figure out what to do with it. They hired contractors looking at pipelines in order to bring the water in. Well, all of them will go through at least some point of BLM. One of them, I hadn't heard they're going to announce this past week but I wasn't able to make it to the meeting and I wasn't able to get the briefing. One of them is through the jawbone area. The area there will be BLM land and it will go through.

Part of our OHV grants, we did talk about our restoration and our round house grant. So -- by the end of the month, we hope to have a proposed grazing decision out -- I will open it up to questions.

>> Great, any questions for Carl?

>> You're talking about the water. I know when they did the project back in Tulsa valley, we did a little bit of research. They sold the property but they -- ground water. I was always wondering why. They have had, that's an -- system. During the time they built that wind farm, the ranch there, they always had a pond that went up ground level and it was five years, after they would pump water out of their -- because they couldn't pump water on the property because of the resource to the water rights so they pumped it out of the wells there and bought it from (inaudible) and it took five years before the water table came back up enough to be where it was before they put the wind park in. They were not using very much water. And I think there needs to be some kind of evaluation of what the long-range effects of something like that.

>> Well, yes but they're not looking, the pipeline is going to come from down, like Cal city. They're just going to glance at the job. It's not coming over from there.

>> (Inaudible).

>> Yes, it's more of the freeway. Over to 395 and up to -- Johannesburg.

>> It seems like the reason -- water.

>> They went ahead and (inaudible).

>> Okay, any other questions for Carl?

>> Maybe not so much of a question. I would like an opportunity to say as Carl before he maybe retires, this could be his last DAC meeting. I just want to take this opportunity to express not just my thanks but my strong admiration for his work in what he has done in ridge Crest. He is -- removed himself as a lion tamer in addition to being a land manager. We have a group there called the Ridge crest public lands roundtable that used to thrive on Accramony and volume of comment of being loud. And now, after Carl being the monkey in the middle of this group, we talked to each other. We don't talk over each other. We -- Carl has a way of explaining things and that lets everyone know that these things are complicated and they're good people working as hard as they can to get the best results as possible for the public. And Carl is one of those can do



managers. It's, he's -- I'm not going to say eager and happy to take new stuff but he doesn't shy away from it. I first met him at a desert advisory council meeting that was hosted by palm springs south coast when we went to look at the offshore national monument. And it was Carl's first staff meeting and at that time, the field offices had provided drivers, usually maintenance staff or line staff to drive the vehicle and I jumped in the SUV with Carl and he had his black hoodie and I figured he was a maintenance worker for the palm spring office and he said, I'm the new office field manager at ridge crest and I asked him, where did you come from? And he said, I came from Oregon. And I said, do you have bridges in Oregon and he says, yeah, we come from the land of many bridges. We fixed the bridge in the south park loop. The bridge was ready and on the list to be condemned. And whether than create a closure on a -- to this day, I think, it's the most remarkable loop trail there is of a 14 mile loop trail to create a closure or a hole in the middle of this. He found only the time, he found the money through grants and other opportunities and he found the will and he also found the perfect solution. It was a 22-foot gap. Anything over 20 feet is a bridge and it causes ramifications for inspections and maintenance and upkeep but Carl found that gap to being filled with a retaining wall and materials and not only is the route open still in one of the most amazing adventures that anyone could have on the edge of Death Valley, it is safer to everybody. We had a series of accidents that happened on that route before it happened and now it's been -- we haven't had any so there's just one example of how great it is to work with him and how great it is to partner with anyone in the public. Conservation, renewable, recreation, mining. He's like I said, a can do manager and I really appreciate having him there for the time that we have had him. We're going to miss him terribly and I wish the district the best of luck in sending the next round of trainees, the Ridge Crest roundtable is eager and hungry to help train them. But to tell them, thank you Carl and may I speak for all of our desert advisory council members who had the pleasure of working with Carl and sitting on this board that we should take with him our best wishes, our fondest regards and best of luck as you hunt down the most obscure vitally -- ballparks in America. So my love to you and Katrina for your new year ahead.

>> Appreciate it.

>> All right! On that note, we'll move over to fire and fuel. Paul.

>> Paul Gibbs: Yes, so as some of you talked about a little bit at lunch. Things slowed down quite a bit for us so that's good in the fire shop this fall. Since the update really, we haven't had any major fires, just small stuff we have responded to. And then on the hiring fair, so I think I put in the report, we had an upcoming hiring fair in northwest from 19th of October to November. Very successful. We had a little bit over 200 people apply online and then we had 240 people show up to our hiring event so quite a few folks in the two days and so basically at the hiring event, they can bring the resume, turn it into our human resource staff and get that resume reviewed and qualified. They can also get set up for an interview and so we're conducting interviews there. And then if they provide reference checks, we have a group of people who were sending out e-mails and making phone calls to supervisors and going through the rapid check so a pretty efficient operation. A lot of them are entry level positions. And that is what we were targeting for those type of events.

We were able to hire all of the engine captains and assistants. The folks who run the overhead for each engine with the exception at ridge crest so that one, we were not able to fill. The other ones helicopter overhead personnel in it. So we're still processing and continuing to go through and make offers for the lower level positions. We have made offers at the engine captain level, they have been accepted so we're looking for those people to show up. So very good two-day event. A lot of work and a lot of prep that goes into it but it really pays off so that's good. And thing the other thing that Tim mentioned, we have folks as we scaled down our staffing, we still staff year-round but to a lower level and they were out doing the prescribed burn that Tim mentioned there. And then they are shifting over -- probably shifted it to the canyon doing some work there. This is something very flammable and then from the resource standpoint they set a lot of ground water there. You know, there's a lot of trees that are exotics that pull the water out of the soil so we will continue to work on that. As far as our fuels program goes, we do have 30,000 acres of fuel projects in the books ready to go. Just to put it to scale, that's about 20 million dollars worth of work. And so it's roughly about 700 dollars an acre. A lot of that we do with contractors and some with other folks and that represents about ten years worth of recurrent funding level. We have planned it out and hope to see additional funding come from Congress to move those projects forward. You know, another thing that we're working on right now is the LA county fair so that is the very large outreach for us every year and it's the largest one I know of. Of any of the federal fire

agencies have to reach the public as far as sheer number of people we interact with fire prevention. So it usually runs for three weeks and move it to the main one this year and the next year. And we usually reach between 20 to 25,000 people that we, our fire program comes in contact with. So it's a really good outreach for us. But you know, it's a lot of work so the first planning meetings are going on now. We continue to work on that and work with the information shop, the recreational shop, the bureaus are out there and you know, it's all logged and you can have smokey bear. We also pay for a magician that does it for the kids. LA county brings the fifth graders through so there's a good opportunity for that. We're working on that. Our dispatch center, they don't get to break year around because we keep them busy during the summertime with the fires and now they're very heavily impacted by the law enforcement programs because now, the recreational season kicks up and they usually do 20 to 25,000 calls every year. It runs 7 days a week, 20 hours -- they're working year round and doing a great job. That's all I have and is there any questions for me?

>> Any questions for Paul?

>> The last thing you talked about, the -- you run the call center?

>> Yes, so we do an interagency so there's the BLM and the forest service are the two leads. We each have about 20 or so personnel that work down there. We also dispatch for the bureau of Indian and National Park Service. We do a few of the California fire law enforcement for San Bernardino county and get involved with some. Most of what we support with is the fire prevention program. They have a pretty big prevention program to stop illegal fireworks coming across state lines.

>> We're here to talk about the San Bernardino center so I didn't realize BLM runs that.

>> We have about 20 BLM employees and one for the forest service, about 20 forest service employees combined.

>> Yes, that's pretty amazing.

>> Yes, I think we have 53 frequencies we manage on the Department of Interior stuff. We do it through the entire state of California, our center there.

>> Thank you!

>> All right, any other questions?

>> I'm a little reticent to say this, hoping I don't jinx anything, but this is a tough year, a drought year. There were doomsday predictions about how fires were going to impact California in the last. There still were fires. There was 86 fires but things turned out differently. I think your degree of readiness and your fuel reduction programs are paying off huge dividends and I need to complement you and the team and the partner agencies. Even the utility companies, watching them flying the drones and coming by each telephone pole in the rural areas and clearing it out and you know, because of the brush pile I had next to a pole. Things just remarkably stepped up in terms of readiness and fuel reduction and I have to compliment as I say, you, your partners and everyone who works so hard. We had fires. They weren't anything like what we had seen in the year prior or recent years.

And drought, we don't know how long it's going to last. How much drier things are going to get so your position becomes that much more important and we wish you all the best in that and thanks for the hard work.

>> Yes, thank you! And it's definitely an interagency partnership effort.

>> Well, it was good having you a part of this team. This wasn't something, I think, Andrew was the first district manager to bring you in to the field office, field managers to report and update us regularly. So we really appreciate that. It is important!

>> I don't see any more hands so let's hand it back over to you.

>> Thank you! This is really nice and thanks to your team and the managers and sort of the updates and our reports. Time to start making notes for the next DAC meeting report to see if we can be similarly impressed. How was that? We are -- hey, guess what? We're on schedule. Maybe even a little behind. That's great! So we're going to move on now to a presentation by Erin who is the California desert assistant district manager for resources. They have a presentation on the resource programs and heads up everybody, look at the screen and the floor is yours.

>> So I have to go twice as fast?

>> Not at all. Not at all.

Erin McConnell: I am going to stand up because it's after lunch and the energy level is waning although it's cold enough I'm not sure anyone is sleeping. So I'm going to talking about the resource center but before with we go there, I want to give an overview of our organizational structure briefly because it's large and a little built

unwieldly at times and we have a lot of managers and what does it all mean and where do they all fit in? I had that question asked of me since we have been together for the last few days. So you're what? An assistant manager? What does it mean? So if I could have the next slide, please. We'll start with a very simple graphic. So we have district manager Shelly and then the associate district manager which is Greg Miller and then there are three assistant district managers under him. What is not on that graphic is some other stuff that work either directly for the district manager or directly for the associate. They are not part of one of the three divisions underneath. So for example, we have Sterling, you heard from with the last DAC meeting and gave a presentation about the management shooting rang project. So he's our hazmat guy and Ben works under the district management division. You need done outside of the field office because it's huge and the field office doesn't have the capacity to take on something like that. So outside of that, we have these three, assistant district managers. We have one for project support which is Brandon Anderson and you probably have heard from him. As Tim mentioned, they have 12 actions coming in and a whole bunch of projects going on right now and he certainly doesn't have the capacity in his staff to handle all that so we have a whole division at the district level that is project support. It has a variety of different specialists including project managers to help move the projects along and provide the guidance and support to the field offices in which those projects reside.

We also have an assistant DM over GIS. And person that supervises them and then also the staff related with project for SOCAL. And then there's me for resources. So where I grew up, it was the catch all group for everything else. So outside of specifically those renewable energy projects and outside of the GIS and SE stuff. So going on from here, I'm going to introduce my staff and prepare you for the cool projects in the resource division.

So this is my division. I have a variety of specialists who work with me at the district level. Basically, their role is to support the field offices and provide that guidance like interpretation of policy and stuff like that and to mentor and train these specialists in the field offices so it's basically our primary role. And then as we also heard about today, everyone is talking about vacancies and every field office has a lot of vacancies. The district level has a lot of vacancies and we have them all of the time so we shift and help each other out and what my staff does is fill in for those vacancies in the field offices. Next please.

So we'll start with Kim who is our district biologist. She as I said, supports the field offices. Native plant conservation and invasive plant management. You know, her role is really to guide the other for consultation on listed plants and to help interpret the law and policy and provide district wide guidance where necessary. She is actually in the process, this position of transitioning kind of away from renewable energy projects, support and more into focusing on district needs. But she has been working hard with the fish and wildlife services on proving mitigation packages for solar projects and part of that is because of the capacity issue and the field offices and also on Brandon's staff, he didn't have any biologists for a while so she was really helping to support that. So now she's mentoring people. And being involved in renewable energy.

Part of that transition is developing a rare plant field guide for the CDD. We have not been giving rare plants the attention they deserve in recent years so in the course of trying to improve that, she's doing this guide and we have also brought on a couple of interns that are going to be starting in February to have a survey of rare plants starting with the baseline data we already know about and where we think we have rare plants and going out there and seeing if they're still there, are they threatened by something like encroaching basic plants or development and trying to redefine and refine our rare plants data base in the course of doing that.

And we were mentioned earlier about Paul and all of Tamara's work that has been doing in the fuels program and what we want to try to do coordinate with the fuels program to try to expand that program with the BLM focus on this. We're still going to focus on it because there's a huge deal but there's other weeds that are gaining a little bit. And we're finding more and more as the climate is changing and more and more people are in recreation. Another cool thing is the -- conservation strategy. This is a sensitive plant that is endemic to Mohave and is only in four populations, one of which is in California is in the crater ACEC so she's working there. So then there's that you can see in the photo there. Next please.

Mark is my biologist. He's been around quite a while for palm springs area for many many years. Before he joined the district staff. Again, the field office and is our go- to guy for consultation with fish and wildlife service and how to do that. And the requirements are. He is also really involved in research projects with a bunch of different entities. Particularly, acoustic monitoring for bats and birds. We have sites he sets up the acoustic equipment in the fall and takes readings for a few days on the different bat calls and has an analysis

program that he runs that data through. We have tortoise long term study plots. Two are over 40 years still being visited regularly and then we're setting up three new ones in the general area. He's involved in the desert carnivore monitoring project which is looking at the effects of the solar development on carnivores of particularly, coyotes, bob cats and cougars. And the prong horn reintroduction which is something that can't happen until the fish and wildlife service aligns all of theirs in headquarters and who knows how long it will take but Mark is laying groundwork for BLM to do. Next, please. Archaeology. I have two archaeologists. There are three at the district level. Two are under my staff, one under Brandon's staff and they are all pretty new. The cool thing about being new is that you all start from square one and figure out how to work the program and how to work together and the three of them have done an awesome job on working and figuring it out. We have cultural resources that are a big deal and they continue to get to have more recognition and become part of what we do every day. And so the three archaeologists are super busy. Arlene Garcia, she joined us in June. She is our lead archaeologist for consultation efforts on this which is a job all by itself.

With this PA says -- appendix -- mitigation structure or renewable energy products and also a cultural sensitive analysis model so we can try to predict when we get these applications where we think our cultural hot spots might be. She is also our lead archaeologist on the project. Next, please. Hannah Robinson is brand new who joined us in August. She came to us from Utah BLM. Her title is district archaeologist but as I mentioned earlier, she and Arlene and the archaeologist that work with Brandon work closely together as a team. And she's got cool projects in the pipeline to engage if tribal youth both for training and natural resource management and also looking at the site California archaeologist site program. She's working with Arlene on that to get some interest in getting those sites trained up. She is on the national --- so she teaches multiple agencies Park Service and what archaeologists do on fires and how to protect our cultural resources out there when a fire burns through and what do we need to look at and how do we mitigate or do all of that in the heating moment when the fire is coming and others step in the way.

We did a ceramic study that was going on a few years ago. It finally got finished and Hannah is working on trying to get it published so that we can have the role for people to see. And she's been identified to work on the state team to help develop tropical management for California. And as we have heard in the news is coming online now and everybody is talking about it but nobody quite knows how to do it or what is involved in how to do it and so, these teams are being informed and so she's going to be working on that too. In spite of her regular day to day stuff. Next slide, please.

Moving on to realty, I have a couple of realty specialists who work only on acquisitions. And only on acquiring lands in special areas under the lands and waters conservation fund at the national level which allows us to work on acquisitions in conservation areas like private, wilderness areas or national monuments and in fact, we have 13 parcels right now within the Mohave trails that should be ours within the next quarter, we hope. We're really close on those and that's really great because you know, it blocks up the BLM holdings so we don't have the kind of issues with access and trespassing on the private lands that you have when you have a checker board.

Deb works on that exclusively. We also have an avenue for which we can acquire lands for habitat connectivity. So court orders between one parcel BLM to another chunk of BLM or private land in between that is critical and we have a seller, then we have -- acquiring that as well. And then occasionally, we have the opportunity to get lands donated to us and if it happens, conservation type areas, then we would process those as well. Next slide, please.

So all of the stuff I just said about Deb applies to this person who we have selected and is actually going to report January 15th. So that LDCF acquisition team is a team of two, the lead which is the vacant position right now and then Deb that I just talked about. They're going to work together to do the acquisitions for us. If anybody has brought property, it's a long involved process. If it's the government trying to buy party from a third-party NGO, from a private willing seller, it's way more complicated and takes a really long time so we need two people to work on that. Next please.

>> I also have an outdoor recreational planner who focuses on wilderness and conservation area. This position is currently vacant but the announcement closes on December 21st. Direct climber positions depend to be competitive and we are confident we'll get a good list who can hit the ground ready. As our chair mentioned this morning, we have, I wrote it down, the best conservation lands in the world. And this position is key in helping coordinate all of those conservation areas and what is happening with some consistency and guidance to

the field offices and support in filling out like I have mentioned before. And they focus on wilderness because we have 77 of them in the CDD which is an incredible amount to think about. They range anywhere from a place in the middle of nowhere that is a pile of rocks that doesn't get much or any visitation to places like mecca hills and the palm springs south field office, that if somebody didn't tell you it's wilderness, you wouldn't know you were in one. So a big spectrum of uses and issues and things to think about in planning with those. And they work closely with the national monuments and also other conservation type of jurisdictions like national trails and a little bit of the Pacific crest trail that runs through our district they coordinate with as well. Next, please.

This position is also vacant. We have a district level planner. We're going to advertise this in 2023 right away, I hope. This position is design today be planning lead for the district so somebody, we're hoping to attract that has a lot of experience of planning and can help with the national monument planning as well as projects that will span more than one field office which we have several of and there's some more that might be coming down the pipeline that we're going to need this person to work on and then it will probably be involved in the lines stuff and then supporting Brandon's team who is supporting the projects happening in the field offices and like I mentioned, we all work to help others and to go where the need is. We're pretty fluid in this division. And that's all I have. Was that fast enough? Any questions? You all just want a break right?

>> Speaking of the trails on the previous slide, reminded me of the national recreation trails. And you have some new recreation trails -- trails?

>> We haven't proposed any yet. It's the public land caveat.

>> Right.

>> It's challenging.

>> We have Ridgecrest field office 18 more miles than they do, designated as a national recreation trail and that's probably 6 or 8 years there. It's great! I.

>> One thing we have been doing is we have been having quarterly meetings with the Park Service. And with China lake. And we requested in the past to have quarterly meetings with the BLM field offices in our areas and there's a time when field offices can do basically what you're doing here, inform them on what is going on and what the plans are in the future so tribes have a bit of a heads up about what is happening before it actually happens.

>> Yes! We should be there and I will work with you to make sure we get on your schedule and show up.

>> One of the things we're doing at the district level is to identify tribal -- we're going to develop and that's another thing on Hannah's plate is to develop a tribal engagement strategy so we're going to be talking about the frequency of the field office level engagement as well as district level engagement and even invite our state director down for some of those district meetings as well.

So the state is also working on that kind of an engagement strategy so we're recognizing the need for that so I appreciate the suggestion and I certainly will take it back and have that discussion with my field managers if they're not already engaging with tribes on that frequency but we'll have that discussion so thank you!

>> The forest service guide has a tradition that is quite the liaison -- reaches out to tribes. If it's a project, a fire, whatever, they get together the tribes and go out and do a field visit to talk about mitigation measures or whatever. They are there all of the time to do those things and they seem to be pretty busy. And when they started it, quite a few years ago and it has spread across the country now.

>> We have a tribal liaison at the state level. They're in the state office. And we have had some discussions about possibly getting one at the district level but that's to be determined but yea, we have that.

>> Yes, there's a lot of tribes in the southern half of California.

>> Yes, absolutely! Yes, absolutely. Thank you.

>> Any questions online? Council members, comments or questions? Well, thanks, Eric, thank you very much. Good luck filling your team.

>> Thanks, me and everybody else who has holes in their teams. I think the next item on the agenda, we'll have to pull our calendars out for, don't you think? Do you have any dates to suggest?

>> We're thinking April in Barstow, August in Ridgecrest and December in Palm Springs. So that's kind of the suggestion. April Barstow, August Ridgecrest and then December, Palm Springs. One of the things I would like to have a discussion and throw it out there, it was brought to my attention, I think, four of our ten, is that right, DAC members attended virtually this time. Which is almost 50%. So maybe generate, throw out a

question and generate some discussion on do we want to continue having in person? Do we want to make it every other one virtual? Do we want to continue a combination? Also, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Kate and Michelle. These in person meetings takes a tremendous amount of logistics energy and coordination. And literally when, this meeting ends, she plans the next one. So in terms of thinking that. I know in the last meeting we had this conversation and people were enthusiastic about showing up in person but with almost half of DAC not being here and attending virtually, I want to generate that discussion and see what the thoughts are on virtual versus in person or like I said, alter rating in the next one that is virtual and then two of the three in person and one is virtual for the rest of the year or whatever folks are thinking about that. Yea?

>> Personally, I try to do Zoom and Teams and it spends the whole meeting loading because I have a satellite dish. I just miss the whole meeting.

>> Oh, okay.

>> I also --

>> And my problem since 2016.

>> It also, by having virtual meetings, we probably won't have a tour. That is one of the things that helps us know a little bit more about other areas within the CDD. I know one area really well but it would help me to go to some of these tours to see other areas and the less we can, you know, propagate some way to have a tour, associated with a virtual meeting, it just doesn't seem like that would work real well to me.

>> I agree with that. That's something that, you know, things that are maybe not being associated with or anything and you see these tours and you just get the wider perspective on what is going on out there.

>> Not to mean anything negative about it but the -- office is usually the longest one for participants in the desert and for these meetings. I think if I think back, we have had some big meetings in Needles. We have had generally the terrific participation from tribal representatives at our Needles meetings but I think Barstow generally tends to have the biggest audience. It's centrally located.

>> Yes, people signed up to be on the DAC and didn't sign up to be on the phone.

>> I'm kind of wondering if we make the decision on one meeting, maybe we look at the Barstow meeting and see what we're able to draw, how many people we are able to draw not only from the DAC but members of the public. Again, that would be very centrally located. Sometimes it's also tough getting people to El Centro unless there's some major change in the imperial sand dunes, fees or changes in the amount of area available. That will bring out the crowds. At El Centro but minus the issue that is hot like that, Barstow and ridge crest does well and Palm Springs.

>> What was the second day in April?

>> August was ridge crest and December was Palm Springs.

>> Do we have a lot of members of the public participating online?

>> No, we didn't. We had three.

>> If you want, I can see about offering up the visitor center in Barstow. I've been to ridge crest boundary but it's 45 minutes west of Barstow. We can see an open -- from the meeting site.

>> Usually have a new field manager and give it the next meeting. And then you're going to -- the second newest one with the second.

>> Exactly! You guys are really mean.

>> You're not present, you're volunteer- told.

>> You know, also I recall agendas, previous agendas when we were an immediate person having good turn outs but there's more opportunities for the public to comment and since the pandemic, we sort of moved all of the public comments to the end of the day but I remember we used to have comment after the reports to allow the public to ask questions about the field manager reports and interact with the field managers. We did, we didn't limit public comment to action items. We just gave the public the opportunity to have a discussion on the items. That provides, returning some of those opportunities for public comment, might be the impotence that the members of the public are looking for to begin to return to our meetings.

>> If I can speak to it really quickly, I know during the public comment period, the public is encouraged to speak to either items on or off.

>> Exactly! Exactly!

>> So even if we -- even if it's just one public comment period, they can speak to things we have already

discussed and things we have not discussed on the agenda.

>> Yes, I think stacking the public comment period in the morning is more effective than the last time in the day.

>> Yes.

>> Yea, some of them are not even here.

>> Yes, that might be more conducive to participation. Any thought?

>> Like I said, some of the presenters from this morning are not even here. If they were waiting to make a comment about that, they couldn't get the question answered because those presenters aren't even here.

>> Yes, we have the comments after presentations and so forth.

>> I thought that it's the way we used to do it years ago, the first time I was on the DAC. Or am I wrong?

>> No, we actually did. I just think, some of the changes occurred during the pandemic where we went all online and also, we need quorums. So the public comment was consolidated into the afternoon period. We might want to move it to the morning period.

>> Or have two of them, one in the afternoon and one in the morning.

>> Yes, that sounds good.

>> I'm not sure if you're looking for a vote or a decision or raising hands? I'm just looking for input to bounce around for a future decision.

>> Do we need to do a motion in.

>> Yes, it just can't be official advice but just planning.

>> I was just wondering.

>> I think what the bureau is looking for to hear from each of us, these are our perspectives and take it into consideration. I don't think they're waiting for a vote. If anyone has any idea about April, August or December, this is the time to speak up.

>> Did you want to confirm specific dates? The first two weekends may be problematic because of Easter and Easter break. People who have kids at home and that. So perhaps, if we look at 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd, 28th, 29th. I don't know if anyone has conflicts at this time for any of these dates.

>> This is Jeff, I would ask we don't do the 21st which is the Moore event which takes our staff and abilities but the 14/15, 28/29 would work fine as far as events go.

>> None of those are on a Thursday, right?

>> These are all Friday Saturday dates.

>> Any 28th, 29th?

>> Does anyone have issues with the 14th and 15th? Anybody online with 14th and 15th concerns?

>> No concerns.

>> I'm good with those dates.

>> And then August? August at Ridgecrest. If I can propose the 11th and 12th which would be a Friday Saturday or the 25th and 26th, if I can be so bold to present those two options?

>> That works for me.

>> Would the 25th, 26th work for everybody in this group and online?

>> Yes.

>> 25th, 26th for August? And then December, we should look at the 1st and 2nd or the 8th and 9th or else we get in the holidays. First and second to keep it early in the month? Any concerns with the first and second?

>> No.

>> No.

>> I may or may not be there for the fiscal year 2024.

>> What was the April date?

>> April is 14th 15th. So in the week ahead, Kate will send out save dates for everything and get it on the calendars and move it forward, if folks can plan around the dates so we can have good working meetings would be a good goal.

>> The only thing I would say for the first and second of December, that's the weekend -- following the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. With all of that, it may be just a little bit more logistical.

>> I think we have one member who can't do the 11th and 12th.

>> Those are Monday.

>> Sorry, December.

>> 8th and 9th.

>> Is there anybody with concerns about the 8th and 9th so we can have information in preparation of the meeting as were mentioned earlier, there's a lot of last minute details that come up with locations and to trying to do it around Thanksgiving can be difficult with schedules. 8th and 9th? Any concerns online with 8th and 9th?

>> No concerns.

>> I'm good.

>> How about that? We have a schedule. Congratulations! Great. With that, let's take our afternoon break. Let's see, we have public comment at 3:45. Let's do a ten-minute break. Is that okay? At 2:45, let's do a 10-minute break. Is that okay? 10 minutes. We'll be back here at 2:45.

>> I'm thinking rather than stand alone, broader set of presentations. Does that make sense?

>> Yes --

>> And we will always be having monument --

>> Right!

>> There will always be monument updates.

>> So when is the notice?

>> We hope early winter, by February perhaps.

>> So we had a notice out?

>> It might actually be April.

>> That might work well there. Continue. You have the floor.

>> So whatever I need to do to help make it happen, let me know. It would be a concise and full presented.

The other item I think would apply to the national monument and the broader area when it comes to protecting public resources, one of the reasons why I enjoy going to the desert mountain is for amateur astronomy. You don't have to necessarily even bring a telescope with you to appreciate the night sky and what you can see out there. It's a resource and a resource that is being impacted by light pollution so I just kind of wanted to put on the table at the next meeting, maybe a discussion of is there any kind of device we can give in order to protect that and in such, an astronomer friend of mine, a member of the international dark sky association, will give a talk about night pollution, and how it's easy to mitigate it and it's just the matter of deciding to.

With these large energy installations and things sprinkled throughout the presentation. It's very powerful industrial lighting and if you're camping nearby or a resident nearby, your night sky is impacted. That's something that I think the public cares about when they go to the desert.

>> Does that ring a bell off the top of your head about monument?

>> It is in one of our -- I don't know if it's actually specifically mentioned in the proclamation but it is one that we're interested in. We actually had some light measurements done around the monument by a group so it could be one we're interested in and can update on.

>> Yes, it's kind of -- city but it makes it all more important when you get out in the rural areas. Just a little bit of forethought and light management can go a long way.

>> We just went to the Grand Canyon here over Thanksgiving and it is a big deal at the Grand Canyon. A big deal in the campgrounds. They don't want lights on or anything.

>> It's such a funny thing when you any about it too. You have 100 watt light bulb with no cover, half of the light goes in the sky. If you have the right fixture, you can obtain 50 watts and -- hopeless in the city but maybe in places where the night sky is still happening, we can help with that.

>> Carl, you had your hand up?

>> Yes, if you wanted to do something like that, like Barstow monument, we have the spot right outside of the Ridgecrest the astronomical society has been using since the late 1970s. If you want to do that, it could give them their assistance and set something up and do a night evening trip there and be able to take a look at it.

>> Yea, yea.

>> It could be a possible. Right across it. Oh, yes.

>> This is just on the other side there. There's a spot they have been using since -- when they were meeting out there. And you know, part of the roundtable. We might be able to get them to set it up that can show off what they do.



>> It's so sad that the pandemic took the roundtable dark sky from us. Very sad. Other issues? Other ideas for agendas and discussions coming up? Nathan volunteered his shop at (inaudible).

>> Another one interesting to the group as far as cultural heritage is like understanding the different tribes that may be in our area. And how we can better connect with the tribes as we look at monuments and make the considerations and have ways to increase our engagement.

>> Yes, we spent a lot of time since we had a cultural centric meeting or presentation. I think the last time was a long time in needles. And I remember it was fantastic! We had really terrific participation by a number of tribal leaders that came to our meeting that day. Folks call on our member for cultural affairs, Bob can probably provide guidance on that. Other ideas? Checking online.

>> Are we on the agenda?

>> We're just about to go into public comment but we're talking about potential agenda items for 2023.

Billy Mitchell: Yes, can I leave the round mountain allotment on there, the situation or how it's progressing? It would be through the Barstow resource?

>> Yea, I always like to try to dove tail or fit things together and do a package. Trying to think where that one might best lie. I mean, if Barstow is just getting its new field office manager, I don't know that things are going to be right for our conversation in April. I'm not sure you will have had an opportunity to get together on that. Perhaps in August or December. It wouldn't been a field trip but a discussion item or presentation.

>> Either that or we can provide a status update and make sure that the field office covers that in the report out.

>> Yea, yea, our special -- special attention. Our special attention item from the field manager on that.

>> I think it would be interesting to have a discussion about the various ground water basins within our area. And a comparison in the ones that are in over draft versus not and the amount of demand on the water from the BLM jurisdiction and the amount of ground water demand. And how they are being managed properly.

>> I know it would certainly be helpful to see a GIS map that represents the different ground water basins within the CDE.

>> We got that last time.

>> Is that the -- is that all, the ground water basins or is that specific to well, I don't think it identifies all of the ground water basins in the CDD. It speaks specifically to the recharge of the Colorado River, that map does.

>> So the ground water basin, coupled or possibly any way --

>> Give an update on where they're going with this program that you wrote. She gave us the whole deal on the water well --

>> Yes, we have state hydrologist that can assist us. We want to see the new state hydrologist but it's probably three years now. They were new. Other concepts?

>> I think we need to move to the public comment period because we do have people on the Zoom that would like to stick on schedule.

>> We can revisit and pick that back up when folks are ready with additional ideas. Very good! At this time, let's move to the public comment. The first up is Terry. Terry, good morning, good afternoon!

>> Terry: Good afternoon. My name is Terry and I'm vice president of California off road vehicle association for the education -- mainly in that I -- not like how most people think of education. I'm trying to get education out to the membership of the public on how to be safe, what you should be doing on the trails and how you should use our areas and like that. I feel it's something in the forefront right now because with the pandemic people bought a whole bunch of side by sides and they have no training and don't know what to do and they're tearing our lands up. So the first thing that came to mind is a statewide safety measure. I know the state of California has talked about it. And their talks haven't been going well in my opinion. Things have been scheduled to drop off the schedule and I would like to see it picked up again. Our environment and recreation, much more enjoyable not only for us who do it but those who come off like that. They are people racing around with reckless abandonment or no training or not knowing why they're doing what they're doing. The other thing, I enjoyed the information from Mike about the monument and that's one place that I -- all the way through. I made it through the day trip that was supposed to be a two-day trip. So I would like to hear more about that. And since I know it's really cold in here, sum up with the -- I can throw my two cents in because I enjoy it. So usually I only hear from Ed, who I ride with in his Prius or something like that. But I think we should have more face-to-face meetings. I have done a lot of Zoom meetings corporate organizations and the Arizona BLM and you lose the face to face, something on the screen. When it goes back to me, they

walk away. There's so many ways you can just hear things, there, you get the chance for in and a drink of water and I get to do this and my wife says this. Face to face is the way to go. Especially from meeting people. I know, they have the big big company meetings and put it together. You put a face of who you're talking to. I was in IT. You see the face but the best way I should put it quickly is, it doesn't really sink in. When I see the face, the body, everything all together, it puts more into it. So I recommend us to do more of the face to face. Occasionally Zoom is good but face to face. I would like to see more information get out quicker so the groups could get it out to the representatives. I knew about it two weeks ago. But some people in our organization, didn't know or didn't pass it on. So it was just a few years ago. I would like to see that marked communication so the public like me will know because I attend more often. That's about it. Thank you for your time. Thank you for letting me be here and thanks for the public being here.

>> I am glad you made it, Terry. Thank you! With that, is there anyone who is online that would like to express their public comment? You can raise your hand and you'll be seen by the administrator.

>> Yes, please keep to the three minutes. There's a timer up. If there's more time in the end, you can come back.

>> If my eyes -- is that it? Very sorry. You're first to go on our online public comment. You have three minutes and the floor is yours.

ANITRA Kass: I'm a southern California representative for Pacific crest trail association. Hopefully you can all hear me. I want to thank you for this hybrid approach so those who can't make it can still participate. And also, I want to use my time to celebrate Carl for all of his work over the years. Some on this call may not know but Carl won the 2015 PCTA agency partner award and the inscription on that award said for being an exceptional champion of the Pacific Crest national scenic trail. You have acted in the best interest of the trail and made great strides to protect, preserve and promote it as a national treasure. Your leadership in maintaining and improving the PCT enhanced the trail experience for hikers and equestrians on the Pacific trail for countless years to come. I just wanted to say a big thank you. Congratulations and happy trails to Carl!

Also, I wanted to thank Randy for taking time to remember our friend Ed. I would like to think he is with us in spirit. He and I didn't view things through the same lens and it's because of that, that I really appreciated and enjoyed collaborating with him on ways to set both jawbone canyon users and PCT users up for success in their recreation use. Additionally my counterpart staff member who works and over sees the area took another job. I don't know when we might have a new staff member in that position but in the meantime, I just wanted to let everybody know, I'm the temporary contact for the PCT from the southern term to Kennedy meadows so that used to be my job. Then it was shrunk a little bit and now it's back up. So please reach out to me for questions and opportunities. For the whole of the Pacific crest trail in the whole California district. So thank you again! That's all I have. Wow I talked really fast. I'm just going to celebrate that as well. Thank you!

>> Thank you, that's very kind of you. I appreciate you coming to our meeting today. Are there other members of the public who would like to raise their hand and comment on today's meeting? Andy, I'll let you have the floor for three minutes. Andrew silver.

>> Andrew: I come from San Bernardino. Ed and I said this a million times in the newspaper days. I would be working on a story about the desert and I would call Ed for the quote and say, oh, those \*\*\*\*\* are taking our -- (inaudible). But also, I just wanted to -- who recently passed. I forgot when but it was an amazing institution and desert. He was like a CDD director so talking about institutional knowledge.

>> Andy, can you speak up or move closer? They can't hear you.

>> Is this better?

>> Yes.

>> So in memory of Jerry who was an amazing desert person who is a great rock out here and probably knew just as much and he was the consultant for the county for years so once again, I ran into him for the newspaper life -- also established a group called the quad state local governments authority to be able to -- desert issues and California, Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. So that is great. Last time, it was right before we retired and expressed these meetings, are kind of Christmas and the fourth of July for me. So much appreciate being here. And seeing old friends and making new ones. So I guess I'm face to face is always better if we have the opportunity. So any way, thanks for the opportunity. Thanks for all you do and I'm glad to see this dynamic even as it changes a little bit. Anyway, thanks!

>> As people may know, Andy served on the dunes group for the advisory council for several years on behalf

of San Bernardino County. He's always been a friend of the DAC and a friend of our mission so I appreciate seeing you again and never know who you're going to see at these DAC meetings. That's what is really wonderful about them. Last call for public comments for my friends? Participants? That said. There's no objections. I will close the public comment for today and move into the last agenda item which is sort of a wrap up and closing remarks. If something comes to mind for you as to future agenda items, you're welcome to add that as well but council members, any reflections on today's meeting?

>> I think it's very important, if you it, it's helpful to have if somebody can't get here. The meetings and the tours we take are more important. I think the tour is more important than the meeting just from the standpoint of learning about other areas. I go to a lot of different places but there's places I haven't been.

>> Here, here.

>> Council members, final words for today? Thoughts?

>> Okay. Thanks, Randy. You know, I have been thinking a little bit. Hearing about the possible new monument and the DRECP and you know, that was developed basically to streamline renewable energy. But it's always seeming to me like it's at the price of non-renewable energy in the form of unpatented or patented mining claims within the DAC boundary. So I was wondering if there was any thought on maybe forming a group to take a look at how the unpatented mining claims are affected BLM claims on public lands that are affected by these monuments and then subsequently, possibly, an extension to the DRECP. So just a thought.

>> I know so little about that connection and am fascinated and would like to hear more about that myself.

>> You know, the DRECP is set up to streamline renewable energy. However, all of these ACEC conditions were imposed, and a lot of land was selected for renewable energy. But it was really, I think, at the expense of the non-renewable energy resources because they were hit with all of these ACEC critical habitat areas and if you have an unpatented mining claim, basically in a monument, it's gone. You know, you can't do anything more with it. So I don't know if there's any way of, you know, if there's any extension or expansion of the DRECP that we can form a group to try and, you know, save the unpatented mining claims that basically get thrown out. And for example, a lot of companies have unpatented mining claims and in fact, have several EIRs conducted on them, EIRs were not implemented or they were on hold but once the land is converted like that, all of these mineral rights are basically taken away within these areas and just something, something to talk about or think about. It may be too complex and it may not involve the DAC or the, well, I think it would involve the BLM because it's mining claims so that is my thought.

>> I think it would be interesting to see a map with the unpatented mining claims and the DRECP transposed to each other. As a first step.

>> Yes, Jane, that was something suggested and I don't think, it's difficult to do but it was never done and I would suggest it in one of the DAC meetings. But you know, that would be a great step, Jane, if that could be done because you would see the amount of influence.

>> Is that possible to create the map that shouldn't be that difficult.

>> Well, in just envisioning what I think would be helpful on that map, by in large, I may be wrong here going out on a limb but I think by in large with respect to DRACP, the limitations based on the mining would come under the concept of ground disturbance or under limits, under the ground disturbance and perhaps under the designations. I may be wrong but I think it was the ground disturbance limits that probably would be affording potential --

>> That is exactly right, Randy.

>> The ACE disturbance limits, disturbance caps so if there was an over lay of ACECs, if it was a way to perhaps color code them by the percentage of disturbance cap, or another thing is I'm not sure how many of the ACECs have gone through a calculation of -- what the actual disturbance is, again, I may be going out on a limb and wrong here but I don't believe that the DRECP is meant to measure the level of disturbances directly but would rather place that future task on the proponent that came into that DRECP first to want to propose something. I think it is a project component that is responsible for this, for the study, I think, I don't know what cooperation with the agency on that but I would be curious being viewed now given that it's been several years since the concept. And it seemed like a plan with respect to how disturbance caps will work and it's been a few years -- that might be.

>> When Paul is talking, I was envisioning a map and then all of the claims just bots on that map and then an over lay of the DRECP as the first step. And then maybe as the second step, you could click on the dot and

have it pop up saying, you know, this is X number of acres here, whatever with the description. That might be, it might be a multi- step process to get to the percent disturbance.

>> Well, I guess, what I'm stuck on is the phrase over lay the DRECP. Sorry, I'm rattling off recreational soup here, extensive recreation management areas, it could be a multilayered map. It would be the different blobs on that map. So that is what I'm trying to see in my head. Is if we were to just say over lay DRECP on top of the map, the DRECP essentially covers the whole desert district and more. Carl?

>> This is just a suggestion. Only because I have run into mining activities, to bring in something like a state office because there's been considerations of what is our planning documents and an oppose to the mining law with respect to 3809 or 3600 so that everybody will understand that there's different types of mining and different laws that stand up. I will give you an example as a CMA. On other projects, it prevents set backs but because you can't prevent the mining because it has to be a -- species. It changes and when you're talking about the 3809, having a map, I think it would be helpful to have an expert on that to address these situations and talk about it. Our planning documents versus the law and how they interact would be my suggestion. Specifically in that past so there's a lot of what is being discussed there, like, Carl said. It's very technical and very special.

>> I think what we can do is maybe have -- that goes to the question that was asked to Michael Smith and he would be able to kind of parse it out and figure out what map will answer that question. So I think that's what, something we can take a look at and work with the state office and Michael to kind of generate that. Because he would have a better understanding of what information and what maps to generate to answer that question.

>> Yes, I agree. So we have it on our list as well? Let's see what it gets us. You can look at, at, if we want to create a group that studies it further. That could be the first foot in the door.

>> Very good!

>> Thanks, Paul!

>> You're welcome.

>> After that, you're a veteran and then we look forward to a hearing -- hearing your viewpoints on our upcoming topics. With that folks, I would just like to say thank you to Michael.

>> I would like to say, it's an honor to have DAC in our office. I know I have to share but you guys are always welcome there.

>> That too. Great segway because I was about to say thank you to all of your efforts, your teams efforts in hosting us and having us here. This is an enjoyable time. It's great to see my old friends, make some new friends and it was great meeting you in person, Shelly. And it was great working with you and thanks to the external affairs team. Kate, Michelle are helping keep all of the threads, all of the threads together. Making sure nothing came unraveled. And thanks to our technical assistance from the BLM. I know you're listening. I know you're there in the background. Thanks for helping get us going and putting this first hybrid meeting together. And all of your team did a great job today. Thank you, everyone! Thank you to the little owl in the room for letting us connect all of us connect together today. So if there's no objections, no further comments, should we adjourn?

>> Yes, meeting adjourn.

>> Thank you!

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

X

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Randy Banis  
Chair, Desert Advisory Council