

The Bureau of Land Management  
Desert Advisory Committee Meeting

APRIL 15, 2023  
Barstow, CA

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>> Good morning, everybody. And welcome to the April DAC meeting. We're glad to see so many folks here today. We'll call the meeting to order. And Kate will give a brief overview of Zoom and some in person protocol.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Okay, this is information for the public who wants to participate in the public comment period. It's at 1:45. You have the ability to address the DAC during this time only. And to allow the maximum number of people, we have a timer for 3 minutes. If there's additional time, you'll be able to do another 3 minutes. This meeting is being recorded on Zoom, and we also have a captioner recording everything that's going on in the conversation. All right, back to you, Shelly.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: We'll start with Bureau of Land Management introductions and then I'll hand it over to Randy and he can do a DAC introduction. I'm Shelly Lynch. I'm the California Desert Advisory Council manager. We'll start with Mike.

>> Mike Ahrens. BLM field manager.

>> [Away from mic]

>> Paul Gibbs.

>> District fire manager.

>> Is Greg online?

>> Good morning, everybody. Greg Miller. Associate district manager. Good to see everybody. Kate?

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Good morning I'm Kate Miyamoto, Public Affairs Specialist for the Desert District.

>> Did Carrie make it online?

>> Good morning, everyone. I'm Carrie Sahagun associate manager here at the El Centro field office and currently filling in as acting field manager right now.

>> Marc.

>> MARC STAMER: Marc Stamer field manager for the Barstow office.

>> Michelle Van Der Linden: Second public affairs officer.

>> Is there any BLM folks here? Some of you met Art.

>> [Away from mic] [Indistinct]

>> All right. Other BLM folks online that we may have missed?

>> Nope. That's it.

>> Okay.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: I'll hand it over to Randy for DAC instructions.

>> RANDY BANIS: Good morning, everybody. I'm sorry I can't make it there in person today. It's a great disappointment to me, but I'll be with you today virtually. And seeing how it works to chair the meeting from a far away location. Well, probably not so far away. But with that, I like to introduce my fellow DAC member. And let's start with Nathan Francis. I see you there as well. Good morning, Nathan.

>> NATHAN FRANCIS: Good morning. I'm Nathan Francis. I'm representing energy and mineral development. My day job is I'm an asset manager for (audio sounds muffled).

>> RANDY BANIS: Thank you. And I have Hans Haas. Hans, are you there?

>> HANS HAAS: Hi, Randy. I'm Hans Haas. I am here to represent the dispersed recreation interests and one of the new member on the board. And [Indistinct].

>> RANDY BANIS: And also in the second meeting is Jennifer Henning. Good morning.

>> JENNIFER HENNING: Hi, Randy. I'm Jennifer Henning. I represent disbursed recreation interest and I'm one of the newer members on DAC. So thank you.

>> RANDY BANIS: And my good friend, Dick holiday. How are you?

>> RICHARD HOLLIDAY: Good morning. Doing well.

>> RANDY BANIS: Go ahead and tell us about yourself. [Laughter] you can tell us about yourself, Dick.

>> RICHARD HOLLIDAY: Disbursed recreation and off-roader. So representing all people that are using the desert.

>> RANDY BANIS: I don't see Jayne Powell listed on the participants. But just checking if I have a glitch. Jayne, are you in person or online?

>> She won't be joining, Randy.

>> RANDY BANIS: Very good. Is Robert Robinson there? Hi, Bob.

>> ROBERT ROBINSON: Robert Robinson. Archaeological historical land interest and representing tribes and co-aboriginal resources and [Away from mic]. Really enjoy [Away from mic] also representative Jack Thompson?

>> He called in sick.

>> RANDY BANIS: That's a shame. With that, my name is Randy Banis. I'm chairing the Desert Advisory Council. I'm member of the public at-large. I live in Livonia valley in California on the California poppy country right now. And it's a pleasure to be with you all. I've been a DAC member for quite some time. And I'm going to start my report. I'm going to start a report before anybody else does and I'm going to do that with little bit of screen sharing, please. So I want to tell everybody about --

>> Yes.

>> Sorry to interrupt. But we have William Mitchell here in the room too.

>> RANDY BANIS: Hi, Billy. I'm sorry I missed you.

>> I thought you did that intentionally.

>> RANDY BANIS: Jump right in. Sorry about that. William Mitchell.

>> WILLIAM MITCHELL: William Mitchell. I represent four generations rancher. Founding family in Barstow. My grandpa had 6 [Away from mic].

>> RANDY BANIS: Thank you, Billy. My apologies. Now I can see through the owl much better. I've got a good screen here in front of me. Thanks, everybody. With that, I wanted to, talk briefly in my report about the Mojave Trails National Monument subgroup or MAC committee. I've had the pleasure of serving on and pointing a good number of DAC subgroups over the years.

And some of them have done really remarkable work. I did not think that it was possible to say, yet again, that I think we've assembled the best subgroup that the DAC has ever stood up in my time. I know I say that from time-to-time, but I think we just keep topping ourselves. This subgroup has come together with a diverse group of people with expertise in various areas. And their role as member of the subgroup are to advise the Desert Advisory Council committee in the eventual advice to BLM with respect to planning the Mojave trail National Monument. The monument planning process has had different phases in since done a good deal of consultation and with public and stakeholders. And now the Mojave trail should enter the scoping phase, which is a time in which the BLM will engage the public and its, what it sees as things it like to see or study in its upcoming planning process. Our Mojave Trail National Monument group met couple of times virtually. We met couple of times in person. And after looking at the map, by the way, thanks to the terrific help of Noelle Glines-Bovio and also Needles field manager Mike Ahrens, they've documented us up with lots of good maps and resources about the planning process.

And after looking at the documents and looking at the maps, the subgroup came to a very quick realization that, number one, it's a big monument. So very large monument. 1.6 million acres of very remarkable and diverse resources, and objects, and values. And we instantly realized that we're not going to be able to talk about this monument unless we put our boots on the ground.

And I want to thank Noelle and Mike for helping us organize and for hosting our subgroup field trips. We met four, we had four field trips in four months. And we got a very quick crash course on what the Mojave trail National Monument is about. I'm going start a quick screenshare of a presentation that I'm very grateful for our subgroup member, Steve Reyes, for putting this together. And taking on the reporting that subgroup will be doing. And this is just a quick progress report. These are the member. Our subgroup. These are folks that were appointed by the Desert Advisory Council back in 2022. We have Ashley Lee. Linda Castro. Monica. Marco Leal. Steve Reyes, Gregor Losson. Jim Badgley. Ed Stovin. And Dan Taylor. In order for the Desert Advisory Council to have a proper Nexus to the subgroup to make its work sort of dot the I's and cross the T's, it's important for Desert Advisory Council member to be present during these subgroup meetings. And I'm happy that Richard Holliday and Robert Robinson were up for the task. And it was great seeing them on the subgroup to help guide the subgroup member and understanding what it is they're actually doing.

The mission that we had was to advise us on the planning process. And help the Desert Advisory Council with its upcoming recommendations. As I said, we had couple of introductory meetings that helped us familiarize ourselves with our role, responsibilities, the tasks at hand, and as well as the virtual lay of the land through

maps and other important documents, including the presidential proclamation that designated the monument.

It's a big monument. You can see the map. It extends from the Cadie mountain in the West of the Mojave desert all the way to the Colorado River outside of the Needles. And the proclamation calls out a number of what is referred to as resources, objects, and values. These are items that the President and his proclamation specifically put in the proclamation as outstanding things that require the BLM to look at for protecting during this planning process. And you can see the different ways that the BLM was able to pullout and identify specific resources, objects and values, not only those directly in the proclamation, but others that are part of the complete thought in the proclamation, and also objects, resources, objects, and values that are measurable. The first field trip we went on was based in Barstow. Actually, let's see. We did 4 field trips. One based in Barstow. One was based out of the Goffs schoolhouse and Needles and lastly was Twentynine Palms. Our first trip out of Barstow had some really terrific destinations for us. You can see some of the pictures. We saw the Pisgah volcano lava flows. All these are items in the trips are resources, objects and values called out in the proclamation. In fact, there are 33 resources, objects, and values. And we were able to visit 27 of the 33 during our four field trips. So we really covered a lot of ground. We saw the Pisgah volcano and we saw the important broad well dry lake area. We did some rock collecting at the lavaic site. And you can see the loop in one of the pictures in the bottom left corner. We also saw Afton Canyon which was a truly remarkable day in the backcountry. That was as deep as we got. And it truly was quite a lonely and -- lonely but at the same time, amazing and remarkable experience for all of us. We also visited some of the traditional tribal land, tribal trails that are in the Cadies and this was a two-day field trip overnight. All the field trips were a two-day trip, so I have to commend our subgroup member for sticking with us at their own expense. Federal regulations do not allow BLM to reimburse subgroup member for their expenses. This is something that they're doing out of their own time, and out of their own pockets.

The second field trip, we visited the Mojave Indian trail. The Paiute valley and we got to see a very unusual assemblage of Ocotillo. And rocky and field trip we also got a lot of desert pinstripping that day. The Homer mountain, we explored and looked at the features there. We also crossed the wide award valley. We visited the Patton camps. You can see some of the amazing pictures there. The Patton Camps north of Needles. And we also visited and discussed the historic route 66, which bisects the monument from east to west. Our third trip, we looked at Bonanza springs which is a special wildlife viewing area outside of the monument. We also got to do more rock collecting in the Chambless rock. These are called out in the proclamation for protection, and at the same time, our traditional collecting areas enjoyed by generations of visitors to the Mojave vi desert. Our fourth field trip, we saw Patton Camps to the east, particularly,

Iron Mountain. We also visited the Cadiz Dunes, which is a long trip getting in there but it was worth it. We saw largest Creole sole bushes which I must say having taken this field trip, advocate our winter rains, I think we got to see the desert in a state of health that is rare, has been rarely seen with a drought we've been experiencing here in California.

We visited the Baghdad historic town site and we also visited the Amboy region and look at some of the Chubbuck Town site, which inside the National Monument, there are existing mining claims that could be potentially impacted by the management of the national monument. So it's important for us to look at some of those areas that still see mining as our mining representatives regularly tell us, you can't grow it, you have to mine it. And Chubbuck was important particularly for Gypsum in our industry.

We expect the BLM will be announcing in its Federal Register very shortly the start of public scoping. It's important for all of us to participate in this scoping process. If there are things that we wish the BLM to consider and look at in its planning, this is the place where we put that forward. If there are particular alternatives, or particular values that we wish to see studied, and placed in the analysis, this is the place and time that we'll do that.

The subgroup will continue to find a way to analyze as with the expertise that they had that they possess, as well as the expertise gained through the process. And I would hope that all of our Desert Advisory Council member, I would hope that they would consider the eventually recommendations that come out of this subgroup and consider them very strongly.

They're very, very smart people. And they are very committed to seeing the Mojave Trails National Monument to continue to enjoy all the marvelous, spectacular resources, objects, and values that are contained in the Mojave trail National Monument. The subgroup is working hard and what to look forward of this subgroup in the future. With that, are there any questions on the subgroups' work or process? With that, I'll conclude this presentation with a thanks to everybody for bearing with me as I work through the details. And it was a pleasure seeing DAC member, I should say BLM desert district field office managers participating, and I really look forward to the neck setting meetings and the eventual recommendations. So thank you. And with that, I'll turn the meeting back over to the first item of business for the day. Is that right? Are we ready to rock-and-roll on the first presentation? That would be from Barstow field office manager, Marc Stamer. Good morning, Marc. And he will make the business plan. Turning the floor over to you, Marc. Thanks.

>> MARC STAMER: Thank you, Randy. So --

>> Real quick. I just want to make sure Kate gets the screenshare to the Zoom.

>> MARC STAMER: Thank you.

>> Perfect. Looks good.

>> MARC STAMER: Okay. Now we're good to go. So this is, well, good morning, again. Marc Stamer. I started January 1, brand new to BLM. So I am fairly new. But I've been with the federal agency, Federal Government for over 25 years. So we're talking about, this is a conversation I think that this group certainly has had before. Our draft as planned continue to work forward and getting this into a version that is open to be reviewed that we need to have it reviewed by the DAC. And then hoping to progress it and move it to get finalized. So we're going to go over the crux of this document right now that we're going to talk about today is, again, conversation is something you heard before, but it's about the proposed fee change both adding fees and also looking at these changes. But those who went through this yesterday, I want to say thank you upfront for your robust conversation. This is the kind of interaction we need to have. We need to hear your thought. And I want to say thank you. Next slide.

I do try to capture the conversations at the end of the presentation last night. The fear is we have on this Barstow field unit consists of far north coming down the Frazier. And then we have star valley, which is where we were yesterday for part of the day. El Mirage out to the West. And if you go south, and we have Johnson Valley. I skipped over the campground Southeast of the valley, and those are the five areas. Am I missing anything? Those are the 5 areas we have. And other two, Al canyon and [Away from mic] [Indistinct] and those are the areas we're going to talk about right now.

So one of the things we talked about and provide some clarity on is for the camp grounds, the 3 campgrounds. Owl, Afton, and sawtooth. We have to meet 5 of the nine requirements. And so what is shown here is the breakdown between Owl, Afton, and Sawtooth. And so they all have tent or trailer spaces. Yesterday, we were looking across, there were tent [Indistinct] and that was not a real camping site. That was not part of the Sawtooth. They have picnic tables, none of them have [Indistinct]. Access roads, they all have access roads. Two of them currently have collection. One of them, one we're talking about adding we saw in Sawtooth. Reasonable visitor protection. Refuse containers. Refuse containers, and currently at Sawtooth community, we had a bit of a conversation about how do you manage trash? And Sawtooth, there's 3 different [Indistinct] and I can't remember the other two sites. After that, we have two and -- yeah.

>> [Away from mic]

>> Four.

>> MARC STAMER: And two at Owl. Thank you. Designated campfire and all those designated places. And all these sites have different requirements. [Indistinct] thank you.

>> [Away from mic]

>> MARC STAMER: Okay. So next slide. So the current fee situation we have at El Mirage is, again, daily \$15, weekly \$30, and annually \$90. That's the pass to be at El Mirage site. And Afton \$6 a night. And then Dumont dunes \$30 weekly on a holiday comes up to \$40. Annual for non-holidays, so if it's an annual pass, and you don't go on the holiday, you exclude the holidays, you're looking at \$90, if it's annual, basically no blackout days. And on the weekends and any time you want, it's \$120. Best current fee structure for the sites we have. And Sawtooth doesn't have any of these associated with it.

>> On your \$120, is that all year? The other due is April or October of April?

>> MARC STAMER: I thought it was year-round.

>> Our central is April.

>> MARC STAMER: So peak season.

>> It's April 15. After that, you don't have to have that permit.

>> MARC STAMER: I don't have that. I don't know. Sorry. Mine was a bold 365.  
So.

>> [Away from mic]

>> MARC STAMER: Yeah.

>> You continue your, okay, continue your presentation. [Laughter]

>> MARC STAMER: Let's see. So currently next slide. So we talked little bit about, you know, how much do these sites generate? What do the funds look like? And I was able to catch one of my folks that does some of our budget work. So we spent time last night trying to get a better way of looking at this. So we're really talking about the fees associated to these Rec sites. This is what it's representing. This doesn't show appropriate dollars. It doesn't show any other funding that comes in to support our recreation programs. So just from the fee program itself, and this is just for fiscal year 2022., and we're going to continue to dive into this a little bit more after this discussion as we develop business plans and really make sure we can articulate the numbers we're seeing.



So for total salary cost for doing business at our sites, this includes our park rangers, everybody top-down. Anybody charge our fee program, they charge and got to be \$630,000. \$632,000 basically. For operational supplies and contracts, buying paper, paint, cleaning toilets, signage, minimal things, this doesn't include 2022 any big ticket items, replacing a sand rail or things like that. This is just normal maintenance, if you will, operation supplies. Our cost was \$794,000.

>> Question. We talked about lighting at the one we were at yesterday. There was storm damage with that. Would that include that or is that something separate?

>> MARC STAMER: In 2022, I have to dive in to see if that included road gravel and annually, lighting goes out and hit each of the sites. It changes on last season it was seasonal storm. And some places got hit more. It's more than a blade and required more work. So if it's just a quick run of the blade, I think that happens annually.

>> Okay, thank you.

>> MARC STAMER: And that would also occur in equipment rental, right? So that total cost to do business for 2022 --

>> I think the roads look like they're [Away from mic] gas companies. They're gas line. That road was made by the gas company that comes in there?

>> MARC STAMER: No, I think we're the ones that road in and go around the campground.

>> [Away from mic] (Overlapping speakers).

>> MARC STAMER: On the east side of the street, right? Yeah. If you go east, right. But going to Sawtooth, we have [Away from mic].

>> [Away from mic] [Indistinct].

>> Can you put that up for bid?

>> MARC STAMER: We're going to get into the weeds for this one, I don't know. But I'll say for general work, maintenance rows, we have an operator that has the skill set to run the equipment. And most of the time it's done in-house. Probably does depend on the extensive how bad the roads are.

>> And we also do job sharing between the offices oftentimes our crew out of Palm Springs will come up the Barstow office.

>> MARC STAMER: And two of my employees right now are up north helping out with some of the water damage from the storms. So Sequoia, so we do send folks to other places as well.

>> I have a question. On this rate, does that include any LEO (law enforcement officer) time?

>> MARC STAMER: Anyone that touched the job codes or fund codes in response to this.

>> You're comparing the fees for how much your cost were down this line?

>> MARC STAMER: No -- yes, I am. The fees we brought in were basically a million dollars. At four of the five sites.

>> Where are you using the California Off-highway Vehicle Grants?

> MARC STAMER: So we do get California Off-highway Vehicle grants. And for those, we have funds out of law enforcement we get annually. For 22, it was 300 something thousand. And we also get to grounds ops for 700, close or minus. But remember, those fees also hit the rest of the unit. Right? Including places that have a lot of work we do which is managing designated trail and routes on the unit. And into the wilderness. And those are state grants and what we have seen in the past, or actually the trend has been for our law enforcement grants, those are on a deep line and [Indistinct].

>> Those grants are near [Away from mic] where you have a lot of off-road vehicle.

>> MARC STAMER: Yeah, Johnson Valley. Right. Right.

>> Where I'm at, Red Cross, there's a park line road that totally destroyed and [Away from mic]. Going down rain and what have you. How do you get your people up there to run a blade? You call the office?

>> MARC STAMER: So our folks, our rangers are out in the field and patrolling the units and checking the areas and checking the road conditions. If there's a road out there on BLM that is something we need to look at and maintain, we need that feedback. And we will have folks look at it and see if it's appropriate for us to look at it and go from there.

>> [Away from mic] [Indistinct].

>> There's a lot of roads out there that need additional maintenance. I've seen some areas, well, anyway, let's leave it at that. But, yeah, definitely, if you have specific

sites, send me an email. Send us something so we can have the conversation. Not able to guarantee we'll get to it tomorrow.

>> Whatever you're spending, you have to spend some of those off-road grants at Dumont and El Mirage.

>> MARC STAMER: Right now, I'm just looking at red fees associate to do 5 sites. There's certainly more what it takes to manage the sites [Indistinct] and that's part of what we will detail out. I appreciate your patience.

>> And developing business plans, the fees that we collect and how we spend those fees is very, there's criteria that we need to stay within for those 1232 funds and so the business plan only covers 1232. So it's a business plan for those fees. So in the business plan, we don't include the other budget, because we have to develop a business plan for those collective fees to kind of document how we're spending those collective fees.

>> MARC STAMER: Thank you for correcting me. Big budget.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Big budget when we look at funding our enforcement and positions, we look at all the funds that come in, the OHB grants. 1232 fees and other places we get funding. But for business plans, it's strictly focused on what are you doing, how are you spending those collected fees? So it focuses only on those fees. Just keep that in mind.

>> MARC STAMER: Thank you for that. So you can see what I did with our, again, just the program how we're not, again, we're sitting at about a negative, a little over 365,000 in need.

So that's kind of, this was the easiest and quickest way I can pull the datas. On the Rec fee funds that we receive at the sites we currently have. And some of those funds have been used [Indistinct]. Okay. So that gets us into what we were talking about yesterday little bit more. Proposed new fee site for Sawtooth, again, aka New Jack city. And so we've talked yesterday about \$10 and 5 propose for a day. That was the conversation yesterday. You'll see in a different piece where some other sites, the day fee is a little different. We will clean that up and consider why day use fee is considered. I'm not sure if that \$5, or \$10 is the exact spat when we want to be. I'm questioning when you look at comparisons and some of this data was a little bit over, we might be undershooting what we need in there. This is just a ballpark and proposal. This is not a set decision just so you're aware. To keep up with our cost increased population growth, this is the site that is visited more frequently and need to maintain, et cetera.

>> Who collects out there?

>> MARC STAMER: Nobody collects fees at Sawtooth. [Indistinct]. And then at Dumont, there's a machine there where you can get a pass.

>> It looks like actual specific location for Sawtooth? Other camp grounds, they have designated locations for day use fee?

>> MARC STAMER: They all have designated fees. Yes, absolutely. Fee change. So here's the other change. Afton, after-hours, we're proposing increasing to \$10. So going from \$6 to \$10. And, again, to help with that increase invitation when we get there to help us manage that. You know, we have to pump the toilets more frequently and all those things that we need to do.

And then Dumont Dunes, this is one we talked about. Right now, we're proposing to implement that day use fee. And it's valid until 12:00 p.m. until the next day. That's 15 per day. The non-holiday pass, which is \$30. Modify the weekly pass to just one cost. So weekly, \$35. It was 40 before. Remove the non-holiday pass from \$90 and have one annual pass for \$120.

So that's the proposal for change on due.

>> [Away from mic] (Overlapping speakers).

>> MARC STAMER: Absolutely. And at Dumont, you can actually, so Dumont, you can purchase your pass ahead of time. So you don't have to --

>> You have a contractor. [Away from mic]

>> MARC STAMER: Machines.

>> And printing the passes.

>> MARC STAMER: Yes, printout.

>> Yeah, angry you have contractor that does that. BLM doesn't do that. They have a contractor for managing that fee. You said 12:00 p.m. noon or next day? Is that what you're saying?

>> MARC STAMER: So if you buy it on Monday, it's good for Tuesday the next day. This is where I need to go back. For me, that's a one-day camping pass. So, anyway, I need to get clarity on what that really is thinking about. I apologize I didn't have time -- yeah, it's a one night. How that needs to be organized. But anyway, we'll clear that up. So yesterday, we had some great conversations. And we talked about, if we're going to add facilities, what other types do we want to see? Some people prefer -- [Indistinct]. So consider adding sites, add sites and add more primitive site there as well as the developed sites. There's a big question about how does implementing a fee

really help manage that user-experience? How does adding a fee collection add to the experience? The more I thought about this last night, the thing for me was, so I described it as people having to wait in line and getting on a mono, and there's more experiences that are associated with this. It's the added amount of trash that comes to the site. Added amount of people wasting that comes to the site. Action trails increase in use, all those occur when you add the site. And those all become and become part of user experience. So that's part of the discussion we should be having with that.

Reservation system. We talked about different ways to collect fees. I think we also heard about ways to set up a Wi-Fi or get connectivity so you can get the fee. Adding trash receptacles. Technically that's considered an expansion, so that could be part of what we consider adding trash facilities there. We really want to take a look at what or how that would work. Better understanding of current fees and operational costs. So we're going to continue to work on that. We're going to continue to, hopefully, be able to help everybody understand what we're up against.

Keep some sites as first-come-first-serve basis, right? We heard that we put on our reservation system, at least allow ample percentage, 3 or 15 or whatever so folks have an opportunity to have first-come, first-served. And magazine that user conflict from reservation system. If somebody shows up and they're not used to the system and they say, hey, I have a reservation. How do they pull that out of the sandbox literally? How do we manage that? Are there any key topics from the conversation yesterday that you think I didn't capture?

>> Camp posts.

>> Different ways we can staff and help manage that site a little more effectively because of the use that occurs there. We recognize camp posts have not been manned for a while. And having someone there as a camp post for 7-day a week. Thank you.

>> If we have a camp post, is BLM going to provide some kind of wire source for them so they can travel? Are there going to be there long-term?

>> [Away from mic]

>> MARC STAMER: Well, I don't --

>> It's hard to get someone that far away that is from --

>> MARC STAMER: I don't know. I don't know the details. I don't even know if we're going to add them.

>> They couldn't get people. They wanted to put in systems [Away from mic]. And then have wire.

>> MARC STAMER: My experience with any kind of camp post, sometimes it's just simple as not having connectivity and there's a lot of different things that come along with camp post and what they need to be successful. A lot of times it's the people you get that want to be camp posts as well to be honest with you and their expectations.

>> But there's better opportunities.

>> MARC STAMER: Yeah, it definitely has to be looked at what service they need to have in place.

>> [Away from mic]

>> So it seems like your standardizing the fee structure. With I don't believe there's a host site in the canyon and I'm not sure about.

>> MARC STAMER: Not in Owl either.

>> But they're trying to standardize the 3 to make it more efficient for campers. Maybe it's something to consider, trying to implement it at Sawtooth, something that can be added to since the other two sites are compatible with it. And presence there just comes from regular staff [Indistinct]. [Away from mic].

>> MARC STAMER: And part of that is by need. I think the days need to be out of Sawtooth that's different than Afton. Yeah, the concentrated use at the site. Afton, my sense is the two main user groups doing that in terms of the year, they also get out and explore the areas. You can certainly take off and go. Decatur is another area. So different type of concentration use if you will. Owl, they open the canyon itself. Look at the tour and geology, and looking at that geology but it's still nothing like that. So differences in the climate and experiences. So what's the need? And that's something we should be looking at.

>> [Away from mic] when you go off to -- put our camp post right next to the restroom and it's right there. [Indistinct] [Away from mic]

>> MARC STAMER: Appreciate that.

>> I got one comment to make. I've been out in the canyon and I've only seen tickets to camp sites one time there. Of all the time I've been there. You guys missed out [Indistinct]. People don't want to [Indistinct]. I'm sure it's very important part of the day.

>> MARC STAMER: Appreciate that. We talked about that yesterday too.

>> [Away from mic] [Indistinct] Marc mark so that goes back to that tarring point.

>> It was there twice.

>> MARC STAMER: So that conversation about how we collect fees is part of what we need to chase down and dial out. And that's along the line, you couldn't hear from some of the concerns, not having envelopes in place. People taking the envelope and all those different nuance that comes with it. And one of the things I said yesterday and I want to reiterate for everyone this is, in my mind, this isn't a one-and-done. There's opportunity for us to change how we do business, review it, and change our monitor and see how it's affected and look for additional benefits that can occur in the future? What else do we need adjusted? If you go with recreation.gov, for some reason, it's not work. We don't have to continue down that path. So in my mind, is being involved with Ia and it's critical for that reiterative, here's what we set place in 5 years going on and now this is how it works. Those are conversations, if I understand it correctly, what this thing is about.

>> Marc, real question. If we can keep in mind the presentation is for the DAC and we appreciate the public to be here and question is from the DAC.

>> MARC STAMER: Thank you. Sorry. Thank you for that reminder. So next steps. Really, what we're asking and what we're going need is when we get a plan that's ready, we want to give you to look at if give us comments and feedback. Again, I expect to have comments and feedback. I want to have that conversation. We also need the opportunity to, here's back to what you said, here's why we're responding to those comments and add the final plan to future DAC for final approval to take it forward or make recommendations.

We still have to review and get some change in. That's part of the next steps. And there's also a certain public notification process that we're going to have to go through for any of these fee change. So it will go out to the public and I believe there's also a federal registration notice?

>> Yeah, we also have internal review. So there's a lot of process that has to happen.

>> MARC STAMER: In internal review.

>> [Away from mic]

>> MARC STAMER: We had good numbers on that. Things have to happen not in chronological order necessarily. So absolutely. So from DAC, any other questions? Comments or clarity?

>> The list of certain points that came up yesterday, I remember one of the discussions was around what is the comparative mark in? And if that number lets us

know of any sites, make them known. [Away from mic] let staff know what those are so you can make sure that's included in your park analysis.

>> MARC STAMER: So Randy, we're assigning DAC some homework. Help us assign some sites for comparable fees. And there are, this is my understanding, it will continue to articulate what we're using in Barstow, there's a KOA. And difference between the KOA and facilities and how to make adjustments. Joshua Tree, all other source State Park and whole list of other sites we looked at. But, certainly, if you all have an idea what you think we should include, send me a message.

>> Just my own thing [Away from mic] [Indistinct]

>> MARC STAMER: That wasn't mine, that was staff just so you know. I'm just carrying this forward. Any other from DAC? Randy, any thoughts?

>> RANDY BANIS: The DAC was able to get an introductory presentation on this from Jeff Childers 2 or 3 meetings ago. So, hopefully, this isn't a surprise to us. And the impacts of Rec.gov, I'm glad you discussed those and mentioned those. Especially, with respect to, not so much with the OHB areas, but respect to the campgrounds. With the OHB area, you can buy your Rec.gov pass in advance and you can buy it on the way up or down to your recreation site and have it for when you go through the entrance. But for a campground, if there's no reservation system in place, it will be inviting trouble to let people buy their camp site pass online without any knowledge or of whether or not those camp sites are going to be full. So I think that's something that should be considered, particularly for the camp site more than so the OHB areas. For Rec.gov, OHB works fine.

>> Randy, we discussed that yesterday. But there could be some conflicts there.

>> RANDY BANIS: Yep.

>> MARC STAMER: And Randy, one other thing we talked about that was tied to that was importance of that public outreach and public notification on the change of process. Recognizing that we're not going to be -- so progress not perfection, we're not expecting 100% compliance to be honest with you. That's not the goal. I'll say that would be great if that happens, but we recognize reality is there's going to be folks at Angeles site and will never know the difference. And people will do the right thing and reinvest the funds. That's the goal. So, yeah, I hear a lot of things on that. And that's why we need to pursue what's the cleanest and easiest ways. Rangers come with a different hazard and sending folks out to collect once. Assuming ranger [Indistinct] has not been stolen. So, anyway, lots of different things we have to look at and risk benefits.



>> RANDY BANIS: Also, not all the OHV areas are equal with respect to the nature and focus of the visitors. The OHV areas closer to the urban areas such as El Mirage enjoys a lot of single day users. Whereas, OHV areas more of a journey to get to, for example, Dumont Dunes, they see fewer day users and probably mostly weekend or even weekly users.

So each OHV area has its own set of core recreation. And also the core recreation needs are based on the terrain and the type of off highway vehicle recreation that's available. So for place like Dumont Dunes, which is obviously sand dunes, you're going to get a different kind of vehicle enthusiast than you will get let's say at El Mirage where the crown feature is the dry lake bed and the need for speed. So you have different focus for the different participants and supporting those different kinds of uses and activities. That's something always to keep in mind when planning for each individual sites.

>> [Away from mic] [Indistinct].

>> So week daily, annual...

>> [Away from mic]

>> MARC STAMER: Not part of this discussion.

>> Or after this discussion?

>> MARC STAMER: Next topic is going to be we're going to talk about the desert Civic Center. And [Away from mic].

>> RANDY BANIS: Also, one other thing for all of us as DAC member to keep in mind is business plan is not a management plan. So having a business plan is not going to authorize certain uses. For example, there's only so many OHV areas eligible for competitive OHV events. Some of the OHV areas in the Barstow field office don't have management in place that permit their ability to allow special recreation permits for special events. So I know that Razor area is on the table, and a focus of the BLM Barstow field office for management plan that might expand opportunities to the desert for competitive events. There's the office can only handle so many competitive permitted events at one time. Because sometimes it's a limitation on staff, and other times, it's simply because the area, the small number of areas that support competitive events are already booked. They may have two events going on in one area at some time so, being able to offer other alternatives for competitive events to occur in new locations could help take the pressure off some of the existing areas that enjoy special recreated permitted events.

>> MARC STAMER: Yeah, one key-point for that, Randy, and I appreciate you bringing that up. We did touch on that a little bit yesterday at Stoddard. But one of the really fundamentally, regardless of how many different sites we have that allow that to occur, or add on, it still becomes fundamentally capacity. Like the amount Barstow is able to monitor in place. We're talking specifically for the SRPs.

>> RANDY BANIS: And if I may, more observation is with respect to the campgrounds, they are also unique in some ways with the types of visitors that you get. One thing that comes to mind for example, is the Afton Canyon campground is currently the only place in the Afton ACEC that allows overnight stay in order to protect resources in that ACEC, all camping is limbed just to that campground. But for example, at Sawtooth, a lot of the land surrounding the Sawtooth campground disbursed recreational camping, backcountry camping is still very much allowed. So some people like to have a shade Ramada, a comfortable place to stay for their day or evening. And others prefer backcountry and others prefer to be in the boonies with their shovel. So Afton, you have to be in the campground, but Sawtooth or Owl, it's an option.

>> Thank you for that.

>> RANDY BANIS: Other questions? Continue to receive questions or comments. Thank you. With that, thanks, Marc. That was nice of you to make that first presentation this morning early on. I'm sorry I miss that had field trip yesterday. It sounded like a really great day to be out with everybody. We really do love the field trips.

>> MARC STAMER: We miss you as well.

>> RANDY BANIS: Thank you. Thank you. With that, it looks like we reached our time for a morning break. Marc?

>> If I can jump in real quick.

>> RANDY BANIS: Please do. We're early.

>>HANS HAAS: We're ahead of schedule, then we can jump back to the second part Desert Advisory Council member reports. We had a fantastic report from the Mojave trail and then jumped right in. I just have two things I want to talk about from my small member report in terms of correct recreation interest. And this is timely from the Mojave trails upon us that I wanted everyone to appreciate and see that I believe we have a few rock panels here with pending -- [Away from mic] [Indistinct]. And I think that's a real important thing to acknowledge, especially, the Barstow field office. These are our frequent users of the land. And especially, place like Afton campground, I can tell you there's a lot of OHV and [Indistinct]. And this is a long-standing tradition with a

lot of people. And it's an important thing for Barstow and hills around here of course legendary for recreation rock climbing. But it's important to acknowledge what it is, I think people need to make sure they understand what rock counting isn't. And it's not for example, commercial mining. So when you are using back hose or power tools, and there's a much more collection of common rocks, and other thing that is not is paleontology. Trying to dig up a dinosaur bone and start their own Jurassic Park. So that's one I appreciate.

The second item I wanted to bring up and this is good news, I know at the beginning of March, the announcement that the BLM will not be reviewing the desert renewable energy conservation plan. When asked [Indistinct] [Away from mic]. I think that is really good news for recreation. The DRECP, for those who don't know, not only does it intake where it would be best for solar, it also sets aside a lot of areas where it should not be. And it protects wildland. Specifically, at the very southern end of the desert district, the area south of I10. That whole area, the mountains to hills all the sea to Palos Verdes and Colorado River is all zoned recreation zone and so that area is protected from boulders and solar powers. Those protections are really important. And for that area, I think it works quite well. No one has been there, then it's definitely time to see not only the Chuckwalla and mountain and bench and [Indistinct]. It's just a lovely area. And protection is Sandy and do you know point. And I want to acknowledge DRECP once again has proven to protect recreation. Yeah. And that's only two things I wanted to bring up in my report. And I appreciate your time.

>> RANDY BANIS: We still have some time allotted before the next break. Any DAC member reports? Forgive plea for having gloss over rest of the gang, but if there's other reports or thoughts you've been working on since the last meeting, happy to open that floor up. DAC member?

>>RICHARD HOLLIDAY: Yeah, I like to address [Away from mic] BLM is doing like a huge percentage [Indistinct]. And I would like to talk about it when we talk more about what we're going to do next, but I would like BLM have presentations on what the criteria is. [Indistinct] independent system operator runs out of the California -- right now, they're interrupting solar plans. And in March, they interrupted [Indistinct]. 600,000-watt hour for equivalent to [Indistinct]. Not too much in the world or country. But 3.4% of energy generated [Indistinct] 2022 with solar. But California has too much solar and right now, they're interrupting huge amounts of solar and wind power every day. Every day, power. Lasting [Indistinct]. Megawatt hour of energy. I like to have the [Indistinct]. [Away from mic] following up any plan or using up our lands out there, I think is really -- they're really not doing their job of taking care of our land. [Indistinct] [Away from mic] and the reason for that is, (audio sounds muffled).

Using the criteria. And up with is field lead. And not having [Indistinct]. One thing I read, they are trying to figure out how to use solar plant for control purposes. Problem is how do you compensate the -- buzz in the bill for and modifying itself during the day. And that means they're not getting the whole full potential of that plan. Anyway, that's one of the things I like to see in our next meeting.

>> RANDY BANIS: Thank you. Very good. The floor is still open.

>> One of the issues in the structure bill doing that came out from the site and calls for more renewable energy in California deserts. And how will the BLM be reacting to that? At this point, it's just proposed but it has to be dealt with and cannot be, like that cannot be in a structure system that could be expanded, electricity in California and -- distribution system and production part of it? I don't know. Looking at what is a smart way to take advantage of what we already have and what you're talking about. And a lot of the sources in the battery system and they're producing it 24 hours a day.

>> The problem with battery plants, [Indistinct]. This has to be charged up and -- then plant can do that in an hour and stay on for an hour and put 400-watt hour in there and it's full.

>> During the daytime, when our electricity is used.

>> Again, a battery can put out so much. It's not going to put out 24 hours.

>> But they're making electricity available 24 hours a day. So they need to have a market for the electricity to remove the power [Indistinct] where there's a market.

>> System operator and see how they're going to control the full batteries and what kind of battery capacity is available.

>> [Away from mic] [Indistinct].

>> [Indistinct] ran thanks, Billie and Dick. Bob, does Jennifer or Billy have anything else to add as far as the report goes? We still have about 10 minutes before our break. Sorry I skipped you before.

>> None here. Thank you.

>> RANDY BANIS: Very good. Thank you again, DAC member. And Marc, thanks for your presentation. You have another presentation to get ready for. So why don't we take our break now. We do a 10-minute break. So should we convene in 10 minutes? Or should we wait until our 10:40 time and make it a 20-minute break? 20-minute break? Very good. That way we'll stay on the schedule so folks will know when we're coming in and out of various topics. Very good. Let's break for our morning. And we'll get back here at 10:40. 10:40 a.m. Thanks, everybody.

(Break)

>> Sorry about that. You're all back.

>> RANDY BANIS: Well, it looks like everybody is assembled. I think we've got people coming in and grabbing the last seat. And I want to make sure everybody is ready for the next part. Marc, you're on the hook again, it looks like. We have a presentation coming up on the desert discovery center. I saw it on your field trip for yesterday. So looking forward to very much hearing this one. If everybody is ready and set, let's roll with the next presentation. Marc, the floor is yours.

>> MARC STAMER: Thank you, Randy. So, again, this is something we did have yesterday as far as in the field, desert field tour. Not the first time this DAC heard this conversation.

>> Marc. Sorry to interrupt you. Kate, on the PowerPoint, we're seeing the presenter view, not the full screen view. You can do display setting at the top. And do a swap displays should be one of the options.

>> MARC STAMER: Is Owl unmuted?

>> Yeah, we can hear you. That looks better. I think you're seeing presenter view in the room. That's strange. That's weird, because it worked perfectly earlier.

>> Maybe I have too many things open.

>> MARC STAMER: What do we do about technology. [Laughter].

>> You may have to launch it, Kate, I don't know if you have it on the desktop as a second monitor? You may have to launch it from the other monitor?

>> We're seeing, right now, we're seeing it just as an app with the thumbnails on the side. We're not seeing it in full screen mode.

>> I can also jump in and share if that would help.

>> Is that better?

>> Looks great. Thank you. Sorry about that, guys.

>> MARC STAMER: Thank you for stopping us. So, we're all seeing the same thing and we're all hear us, right? Everything is good? Okay. So desert discovery center. We did a bit of a walk-through this. This is not the first conversation but there have been change and things we wanted to do moving forward. So as you all know, the desert discovery center was -- this space is not working with the slide. The mission right now, mission back in 2016 for the desert discovery center is to really look at to develop

and implement a comprehensive visitor and education center with facilities and programs that focused on natural, cultural and historic resources. This is just times of the sign and where we were, there isn't really much of a recreation, mission of recreation in this mission, this statement. So not saying it's good for bad. Just saying that is something a big opportunity on our field work. Right now, it's important to have that discussion.

So the history of this center was from the '70s. It was our BLM field office. And I'll say, it's had in its heyday when it was running prior to the onset of COVID, it really did rely a lot of community residence, education, and opportunities for people to get all types of things that were done. Next.

Back in 2016, so kind of give you history of what I can find from our files, that we sought outreach to 4,000 students a year. We've been [Indistinct] for a while, it was yesterday afternoon saying almost 20,000 per year? That was peak. 16,000 visitors per year. Lots of different types of activities. Right? That was done there. And one of the things I did change up and bring up the conversation is the idea that when you start young in that stewardship and outreach part of the environmental education, it's not just teaching doctors or young adults about resources in the Mojave desert. It's about ownership and stewardship and investing in what's out there. Knowing what's in their backyard, right? These lead to folks that grow up and actually want to become, employee in that business, whether they're working for a federal agency, or a non-profit, or cop that does conservation work. And I talked about four of my current employees, so our tier intentionally, part of what I asked them to be here yesterday, he's been front and center teaching in the education field in the past. Four of my employees actually remembered in grade school going to one of our programs. And account those programs and what he provided them, not just the education and experience, why they landed now working for BLM. As far as to say, instead of not going down the right path and end up in trouble. So there's a lot of, in my mind, part of the goal for me is how we can, at young age, develop interest and get into [Indistinct]. So in the past, these were our partnerships. And probably I'll just say lots of opportunities for improvement on that as well. And some of the different programs that I think we're focused on in 2016 and [Away from mic], obviously, the Route 66. What was displayed. Again, Barstow because of this location, because of location of Barstow, is right at the hub of Route 66. And all these [Indistinct]. They go there and they stop and look for information and look for what's next and continue on. But it's a great place to reach a lot of people.

Old Spanish Trail. Again, another historical trail of significance. And, again, one of the key messaging of things that were going on at the discovery center.

And of course, Mojave Trails National Monument. And where that's gone back from 2016 to where it is now, right? Moving towards that. But certainly, something that

would need to be and should be assessed under the discovery under the [Away from mic].

Obviously, there's a lot of presentation and programs. And it's easy to talk about the cute and cuddle critters and species that occupy the desert and plants. These are great conversations to have to really start that interest at a young age and carry it forward to keep that interest going on. What's going on with our [Indistinct]. What is actually out there and a lot of significance. Again, great messages, great ways to instill that interest.

And also now that recreation opportunities. What can you do on public lands for those opportunities to be available to the public? And the variety of types of activities. So discovery center also is a lot of wear, appropriate use of wear, and understanding why something is set up the way it is. And very good at articulating different uses of [Indistinct] and why they're set up that way. Why the land is being managed that way with certain restrictions in place. [Indistinct]. So there I started to talk about where I saw a need for us to hit up. I want to kind of jump ahead a little bit real quick. I got back last night and started thinking about today's discussion and I was looking through some emails and looking through different things to final lies because I was supposed to give this to my boss. She's patient with me. But one of the things I found was I had received an email Thursday night with an actual plan that had been developed. And some voter information about how the facility had been managed. And again, that for me is [Indistinct]. But I think this still stands true that, again, facility was shutdown from the onset of COVID. And it's been stagnant since. There is a plan and we need to start with that plan, see what's put together, it was a huge effort just reading through it last night. Who was able to put it together. Amazing amount of reputation by different government agencies different partners, et cetera that put a lot of thought in that.

I also want to make sure we're thinking about it as we move into the future. And it's also going to be relevant 5, 10, 20 years from now, those messages. How can we stay relevant by having flexibility in what we interpret? For me, it starts with big key things. The reason Mojave exists the way it does. Geography, rain patterns, moisture and all things set up by the geography, right? Talk about that, you talk about water, you talk about the different types of uses. Right? From indigenous people to modern-day solar programs and everything in between. There's a reason why uses occur there are occurring. Why it's still happening. It's really based on fundamentally the landscape, hydrology of the system, those types of big pictured-themes. How can we focus on seasonal messages? Public engaging and needs to be about what's coming next and flexible about how we educate the public and interactive. If I can't engage with those, and I have a really hard time, I doubt we'll have that interaction. And I think for most people, having an interactive session, or look at and have that interaction. That interaction is critical in program messages. We also have to adapt. My kids are much

better at using these things. So how do we keep them interested by using updated or morning technology? It's different than what some of us are used to.

So as we continue to look at next steps and what we want to do, I think that game plan is right now we have to get it back up. For my staff, who has \$10,000 cost, and [Indistinct] here's a place where we can get everything arranged and take advantage of what's already there and open the doors. \$10,000 doesn't include the time to have someone sitting there, the staff. So that's something still have to be addressed and figured out. How do we manage it once we open and manage that partnerships. Make sure we have those partnerships in place and all that correctly.

And we need to take that energy from opening it up to the community and turning that into really looking at the existing plan. Figuring out what parts are still relevant? Are there parts that are missing or a guess? And do we want to incorporate it in? And also post some workshops to get feedback from the public on a what that looks like. What's still important to you? Are we still hitting the topics? Those types of things that are important. So that's one of the things that are going to be critical is designing workshops. Update. Maybe you look at it [Indistinct]. Move forward. You have a plan. But we still have to develop an interpretive plan, because the current plan [Indistinct].

I'm going to jump around a bit. So right now, it's a concept plan that was provided on Thursday night. That's in place. That's it been done. The idea applies to the same next steps, including the niche to develop that interpreter, as document of next steps. There's also that five-year plan that's put together that is out there. And once again, we're 3 years old? 13 years old. Basic math. So how does that still work? So, again, a lot of efforts into that plan. And then as I said yesterday, really investing some money and working with professionals that develop interpretive plans that are dynamic for me [Indistinct]. That comes with a price tag. And it varies by what their ask is and how much interpretive plan you want them to do for you. But most recent ones has been around \$50,000 for interpretive plan from start to finish.

But once we have that plan, maybe we can go into implementation. And now you have a tool from that interpretive plan that allows you to work with different partners on different parts of different phases. Right? How can we have Phase 1, this is most important thing we want to do first. How can we get funds if that develops and narrow it down? Those are key steps. And sometimes when you look at the big picture, you see the big elephant. And big part of this for me, so here's the current list. At the top of the partners early on. Just in the 3 months I've been here and me just thinking around the area, right? If I left anyone off, please don't be offended. Some of this has come up recently in how we can help fund some or parts of this. And so the wildlife conservation board is a group out of State Park, Fish and Wildlife Service, they have funding for restoration work and education in the Mojave desert. So great people there. And we can



go down all these lists. And one of the things I explained yesterday is, my experience already has been a lot of agencies, public land agencies. We are all department on partners. Partnerships are critical for our success. Not just having a partnership with [Indistinct]. But having a partnership that in a group of partners that are connected in helping each other help us. So that collaborative, collaboration among partners to deficit and to help us be better land stewards. That to me is the place where we need to be. So how can I draw line between judges and habitats, I'm just going to throw it out there, works with King of the Hammers to help to [Indistinct] two groups that may not always see eye to eye. So, again, we all have a common goal and we all want to display and talk about ditch topics, that education piece we want to come together on and collaborate and get group of partnerships to work together on that same effort and vision. So Rose was a former employee and I've been messaging each other more frequently and it's been great to get connected with her. One of the things, this is what she was able to share more recently. And I continue to kind of get more of the history and what's been done and where we're at, my intention is to take that and move forward. Certainly, we're not going to throw it out. We're going to take it, see what's relevant and tweak it and move forward. All with communication. So kind of cool stuff. More opportunities. You know, I'm excited. Everyone that was there yesterday and folks at the DAC in the past really see the value that facility brings based on where it's at, and what can be done. Like I said, it's not only to help the community in Barstow, I'll say the community beyond Barstow and really just to help us in the narrative of the landscape. That's my \$2 pitch, if you will.

>> When you go back [Indistinct]

>> MARC STAMER: Absolutely. So specks of that Johns Creek, it's been open for --

>> [Away from mic] I want to point out and realize the pointer of that place. [Away from mic] [Indistinct]

I've been willing to work with you to facilitate that little more and existing partner. Good contact with everybody, and organizations with potential. I work closely with other executive directors facilitating that [Indistinct]. Barstow is part of the area for us working with partners and communities for national reserve. So I would like to see [Indistinct] I'm 100% onboard with that.

>> MARC STAMER: Thank you for that. Any other feedback? Yesterday, I think it was a question I asked when DAC was there before we left. Do you remember? Where do you DAC involvement in this process? What do you think is the right [Indistinct]. Additional feedback questions or comments? What is that?

>> [Away from mic] [Indistinct]

>> MARC STAMER: Appreciate. Programs looking at what seems relevant and ties everything together if you have the right picture.

>> We brought in people with all different [Indistinct]. It was an educating process.

>> MARC STAMER: Appreciate that. DAC, any other thoughts?

>> So one thing that might be an asset for you guys in the early stages of reopening it, we talked about a lot of cool ideas, especially for the outdoor area that kind of have seen a lot of impact. All of that takes money and time. And finding garden of native species and best resources of the desert that's underappreciated is the night sky and astronomy. And when you're camping out of nowhere, it's nice to get to see the stars. I will leave my porch and [Indistinct] trails and like to look at it with my kids. So here in Barstow, the high desert astronomy association is someone you might look to programming and reach out to Barstow Community College with the Department. And all of that stuff is really easy to implement the programs that is great for [Indistinct] and can get enrolled pretty darn quick and help center back the community.

>> MARC STAMER: Yeah, appreciate that.

>> I think that's a good thing. It ties into the education piece like you were talking about in the beginning about the desert is not just empty vast sandy sandbox. Right. Because if you spend any time in the desert, the nighttime comes alive. I have spent research in my bio days in the desert, oh, my goodness, there's so much stuff going on at night. And it's super hot. And there's a key component for all the way up the chain. Nighttime is an important part of the desert.

>>MICHELLE VAN DER LINDEN: I'm sorry, we welcome you to be here. Unfortunately, public comment is limited to 1:45 this opportunity. So I have to stop you. Hold that thought. We welcome it at 1:45. Thank you.

>> MARC STAMER: Anyone else from the DAC. Randy.

>> RANDY BANIS: Anything else that's important of any interpretive program is people behind the program. And people have to have not only knowledge, of course, and the skill and technique, and being able to present sometimes very complex issues or complex natural resource processes. They have to be able to explain that in ways that the audience can understand. Whether the audience is a collection of, let's say educated rock hounds like Hans and his community. Or schoolchildren who might be a first introduction to these kinds of education. And one of those wonderful personnel people that you have there, Marc, is Art who is really a desert treasure. I first -- Art, he's one of my oldest acquaintances from the California desert. When I began exploring the

desert in the mid-1970s, for some reason in one year, I had an opportunity to bump into him multiple times in that first year. [Audio fading in and out] not behind the desk, but I bumped into him out in the desert. And as a fan of self-discovery, I truly enjoy self-discovery. I won't turn down somebody who points me in the right direction for something that might be around the corner, or the second corner, or third corner and Art was one of those key wonderful BLM staff member that, Art has a way with people in engaging and drawing you into the desert and the finer things, the mysterious things, just what the desert has to offer. And Art has a wonderful perspective from the standpoint of not only for people to get out and see the desert and enjoy the desert, but he also understands without the precious resources, the natural resources, cultural resource that are there, really, there would be no reason to go out and see the desert and be part of it. So Art has a great way of connecting people to the desert. I don't know if Art is there today, but I saw his picture on the slide and regret especially now not being there. Art is truly, truly wonderful man that I came to know over these many years. And I hope you had an opportunity to meet him.

>> MARC STAMER: Art is actually here. He joined us yesterday as well.

>> RANDY BANIS: Good.

>> ART BASULTO: [Away from mic] I ran from Afton Canyon and Razor and back. And I see this guy come and he's only one I see going down the Mojave trail. And I'm running and this guy is hauling his stuff, and [Indistinct]. And we talked, and talked, and talked. And he said I'm coming from Razor and I'm coming back. And then we just sat around talking. He has a huge past and we shared our past. And then he didn't realize I was a park ranger. And he said, no way. And I said yeah. That's our story. This was like 20 years ago, right? He's always been my friend because of his passion.

>> RANDY BANIS: My Land Rover was brand new at that point if you remember.

>> [Away from mic]

>> MARC STAMER: At some point, you might have to say that again.

>> RANDY BANIS: You know, I was known for exploring the desert in my own Land Rover, but one of the things Art taught me is, if you see seldom used dirt road, that isn't necessarily a loop. It goes somewhere. And there's a reason that it's there. And one of the best parts about exploring the desert is not just doing so from the seat and steering wheel of your vehicle, but when you get to put your vehicle in park and put on your boots and backpack, and look at those places at the end of the dirt road, and explore, and see what it is, the reason for that being there, and to learn from it, and experience it.

So thanks, Art, for introducing me to the joys of walking and hiking in the desert just as much it is a joy to travel in a vehicle.

>> Thank you!

>> MARC STAMER: Anything else from DAC? Thoughts?

>> RANDY BANIS: Desert discovery center, it's not just inside the interpretive opportunities, but the grounds itself, the hiking path and the interpretive opportunities that y'all have made good use of is also something that's really wonderful when the weather allows it to get the people outside to follow that discovery trail, that walking trail. And to see all the native wildlife and plants. That's a really nice part of the discovery center too, the outdoors as well as the inside.

>> MARC STAMER: Yeah, I agree. And we were able to show that off yesterday as part of the walk. Yeah. I agree 100%.

>> JENNIFER HENNING: Yesterday we had an opportunity to have lunch outside at one of your structures. And concept about the night sky, that whole area there has so much vegetation. And including wall garden showcasing some of the plants and cactus. And you can find out here. Perhaps we would want to look at partnering with the gardening group and historical land society and going up and cleaning up to like some of the landscaping and get started with the construction.

>> Short days when it reopens. [Away from mic] maintain the grounds and better status. Provide that information again. Great.

>> Going back to what Shelly mentioned earlier, so many people think desert is just sand and wasteland and nothing is out in those areas. But there's so much life out there. It could be a great opportunity.

>> MARC STAMER: Appreciate that.

>> [Away from mic] [Indistinct]

>> Talking about garden groups. And preparing exactly where it's related to that. [Indistinct]. [Away from mic] and a lot of people around this area would like to have a genetically native plant garden, you know? And [Indistinct]. That's the way to get people invested in the center in other ways.

>> MARC STAMER: Yeah.

>> RANDY BANIS: Wow. You did a great job. Your goldfish was right size for the bowl here. [Laughter]

>> MARC STAMER: Before I finish, one of the things I wanted to just, I did ask that question of DAC. What is your involvement and what does this look like? Each of you have your IC, as I understand it, different types of connections within the community that you're representing. I came here along and for me, kind of answer I want to hear so I want to tell you what the answer is. And, again, this is part of what -- [Indistinct] you know all these other people, groups that we need to connect the dots with. What does that big web look like for folks who can help us? And I think it's critical for DAC, if you will, if it's appropriate for me to assign this to think about what that level insight is like what we can bring to the table at the right table, not all at once around but at the right time to help us move this piece. So I just wanted to put that out there as an ask, if you will.

Because, again, I know I can't do it by myself and we don't have the capacity, so we need your help to be successful. That's my sales pitch there, Randy. Thank you.

>> RANDY BANIS: Thank you, Marc. Appreciate you're taking time on this and more importantly, being the center of our morning focus. I know you knew it in the Barstow field office, but you're certainly not new at your job. And it's good to have you there at parse. With that, folks, we have reached our time on the agenda, appropriate time to adjourn for lunch. So lunch is schedule to conclude at 12:30, which is when we'll resume our meeting. So let's make it 12:30. Enjoy your lunch and we'll see you then.

(Lunch break).

>> Okay, make sure to unmute the Zoom when you're ready.

>> Okay. We're back.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Welcome back, everybody. Welcome back from lunch. Okay, so on the next on the agenda, we're going to hear from our district field office and priority overviews. Since our last DAC meeting, you guys met Marc and welcomed him in January. We've got three-month calendar and we welcome Marc to the Barstow field office as new manager there. We're still working on hiring in El Centro and Ridgecrest. But we're happy to have Carrie and Tom acting in those roles. So that they will continue to their work and looking forward with those. Is many of you heard about the public lands rule. There's some fact sheet we can share the link with folks. There's information and news readout. In late March, Department of the Interior publicized a proposal for guidance of management for lands and future generations and focuses on restoration of lands, Waters, and provide for balance of responsible development and healthy landscapes. Response to the growing need to better manage lands, wildlife, and face of wildfires historic routes, severe storms, and deep work of states, tribes, and responsibility of critical development and energy and other resources. On the proposal doesn't change the BLM's multiple use mission. It doesn't in any way under mind

existing rights or require the use of conservation leasing and impede on public land and change the existing land management planning process. So, basically, the proposal will start conversations with our partners and stakeholders. And BLM is seeking public interest from the headquarter level input. It's open for 7 5-day open comment period and ends June 20. The BLM headquarter will publish forms to discuss the details of the rules. And I'm not sure if they've established those dates yet or not. So stay tuned for those dates when we do have those public forums. I did want to briefly mention the western solar planning efforts. We were also pleased that the RECP was not included in that. It originally was and thanks to folks like all, as well as internally, they heard the message and included the DRECP and we feel the DRECP has gone through that effort. That was tremendous effort and it was before my time as a manager but amount of work, and partnership, and discussions, and everything that went into DRCP, we felt at this time, really wasn't -- we didn't need to reopen it. We're still operating under that very well. So just highlights for your background information. Alternatives are in development. Headquarter is reviewing field office resource management plan for consideration of amendment. The tribal coordination has started early verbal tribal meeting virtual, sorry, virtual tribal meetings, informational, and Q&A only. It's not really scoping at this point, but opportunity an engagement. It looks like May 10 and mid-June notification will be sent to tribes. And some of the major milestones, looks like public scoping close on March 1. The draft EIS this summer, 2023, the final PEIS will be 2024 and arrive summer 2024. So that's the tentative schedule right now. I think that's all I have. Yeah, I think that's all I have, are there any questions? Yeah.

>> [Away from mic] [Indistinct] meeting in Palm Springs or Palm Desert regarding complications with price [Indistinct]

>> SHELLY LYNCH: On which? The programmatic improvement?

>> [Away from mic]

>> SHELLY LYNCH: I guess I'm not understanding.

>> ROBERT ROBINSON: They're talking about the -- their park coming up with a formula to allow BLM valuable resource that is [Indistinct]. And close to working with BLM advisory group and that never happened. And so now they're starting to come back and do that. [Indistinct].

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Not the programmatic improvement. So what Bob is referring to is the DRECP programmatic improvement resources. And that agreement is a streamlined cultural resource process. We still have two appendices to develop there's Appendix C and G to develop. One is mitigation effects, mitigation fee formula for cumulative cultural impact from water energy program. And another Appendix F is, umm, --

>> Sensitivity analysis.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: What's that?

>> Cultural sensitivity analysis.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: That's right. Cultural sensitivity analysis, database upfront that may have cultural sensitive resources so the projects can potentially avoid them in the beginning and early on in the process. So you're correct. We established a committee that does include tribal tribes on that committee. So we have the committee, and then we have -- what are they called? They're called --

>> GREG MILLER: Consulting parties.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Thank you. I'm having a lunch coma here. [Laughter] consulting parties. So we have a consulting party group that's a larger group and then we have the committee which is made of industry, BLM, and the tribes, trying to think of who else? There's a lot of partners in both the committee and the consulting parties. And so we're meeting at least once a month. We just had one at the beginning of April last week, I think? Last Tuesday, we had one. And so we're taking that. We made some proposals based on what the past efforts were, like you mentioned that had started but stopped. And we took that input and the three proposals we brought to the group. Didn't like any of them, so we took that input and moving forward with a new proposal for that mitigation phase. So, yeah, we're working through that process. But we're optimistic and we're hoping to get the local appendices done by end of the calendar year. So that's our goal. Yeah, we're working on it. Any other questions before I move to the field office?

>> RANDY BANIS: Hi, Shelly. So the western states solar PEIS record decision was summer? Considering DRECP, it was a 10-million-acre plan, and it took probably six years to pull that together for a recorded decision. I can appreciate the optimistic deadlines. But I hope they're able to go through, the other states, not California, of course, and I hope they're able to engage the stakeholders strongly as DRECP did. I just like to know occasionally that I'm not aware of any other 10-million-acre federal plan that didn't face a lawsuit after signing. That says something about the stakeholder outreach, and the collaboration between stakeholders for their input that in project. So I remember that process. I got to say overall fondly, because it was a terrific learning opportunity. And get people from other stakeholder groups. But, you know, we always -- we don't always welcome change in California desert or other desert lands. Sometimes we just like it the way it is, but we do understand every day is a new day, and that's the way life is going to be. But I hope they engage in a good process like California did with the DRECP. I do just want to also say, I greatly appreciate you bringing up the public lands rule.

I don't really understand all of its ramifications yet or frankly, I haven't had the time to put in the time. But I'm glad you put that upfront and forward. DAC member take note of that first item reported on that proposed rule. I think it should underscore its importance as DAC member to spend time with that proposed rule. And make your own decision as to how you see it, potentially affecting your communities and the people that you work with, and interact with. So thank you, Shelly, for making that front and foremost.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Absolutely. And just to share for transparency purposes, we're still learning what that's going to -- how that's going to affect us on our side as well. So more to come.

>> RANDY BANIS: Good. Happy to hear. We can compare notes at some point.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Right. Exactly. Okay. All right. If there's no further questions, we'll move to Barstow. Marc.

>> MARC STAMER: Good afternoon. Updates from the Barstow field office. Personnel-wise, just folks having realization, couple of months or so ago, I've asked my staff how many have been here less than a year? And more than half of the folks there are new to our office. And then within that, we have couple of key vacancies. So our supervisory recreation and research position, those two programs are currently vacant. There's been just, I'll say there's challenges for us, I should say with all areas. And [Audio sounds muffled]. And we're going to continue to work towards [Audio sounds muffled] handful that's [Audio sounds muffled] so just want to share that with you in case you don't get the response. [Audio sounds muffled] we are currently working on the California DA and expecting that draft to be out for review soon and that is, again, to address [Audio sounds muffled]. [Indistinct]. Also processing we're still in the season of having races or weekends and SRP and those are occurring, and we are still seeing a process in request for events, not just races but other types of recreation and activities as well. So that does, we do get a lot of those requests.

Our office did submit new funding grant for the OHV grant cycle in the grant cycle with state. Just so you know, they're currently in the cycle right now they're available for public comment until May 1. So that's a state process in place. Please take a look at those. Look at the comments. Give us some comments. Those will help us out as we move forward with the DAC process as well.

We talked about the other of other key events. So I'll close it out there.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Any questions for Marc on the DAC team?



>> WILLIAM MITCHELL: Yeah, Marc, do you happen to know what or how many vehicles [Audio sounds muffled] 48 or 45?

>> MARC STAMER: I'm not sure about the number. Also type n [Indistinct]. But I don't know, [Audio sounds muffled]. Carrie, you still on? Did you hear that question?

>> I did. And you're right. It really depends on what the activity is in addition to number of vehicles. It's a case-by-case kind of decision-making process.

>> There's a remit issue where we're supposed to notify rancher -- [Audio sounds muffled] I've been on couple of these and be --

>> MARC STAMER: Something that would have been issued out of our office? Last time we talked, it was in a district that was -- [Indistinct]. Right. Impulse finding. So I've got [Indistinct]. [Audio sounds muffled]

>> MARC STAMER: Still, again, permits, there are a lot of activities like jeep clubs and just do a run. That doesn't actually trigger a permit.

>> WILLIAM MITCHELL: They run down state canyon [Indistinct]. Public safety too. So I should be notified. [Audio sounds muffled]

>> MARC STAMER: What we're trying to figure out is permanent intent activity out in the events and versus weekend user group during a deep run or an activity, so I [Audio sounds muffled]. What those differences are -- [Indistinct].

>> WILLIAM MITCHELL: They stop by my water and walking up by the water [Indistinct]. [Audio sounds muffled] [Away from mic] cross like the King of the Hammers, they shutdown all that area and they should -- when they shut down that, where are people going to go? If they don't want to pay the money there, [Indistinct]. We need to start addressing that. [Indistinct]. Maintaining that road for 45 years and people coming up and down. [Away from mic].

>> MARC STAMER: Let me look into that.

>> I'm not saying they're all bad. Don't get me wrong. But there's also people using [Indistinct].

>> RANDY BANIS: May I jump in for a moment? William, I'm glad to hear there's a process to receive notification on the special event permits that are issued. I didn't know that. [Audio fading in and out] I want to underscore that the number of vehicles is not a singular test for moving use for permit use. With that said, with the signing of record of decision of WEMO in 2019, it's an opportunity to be able to make change to the route network management area [Audio fading in and out] through an entire desert plan process. And I've done my homework on the aerials, although what you see on

Google earth doesn't really translate exactly to the ground. There may be an opportunity for a re-route at the foot of the canyon and get them out and around. I like to see at some point when the recreation is totally ramped up, because it's suffered some losses when the Rec staff gets ramped up and has a stomach for it, I would be happy to work with them to talk about roping some things necessary in that travel management area.

>> MARC STAMER: One other quick update I have I think, just something we're looking at, I've asked Kelly to look into, as a pilot programming, opportunities for virtual fencing for our allotments. So it's been in done in Colorado and other places successfully and allows for other management of cattle allotment. And we'll talk more about it at the meeting next week, but it's actually a way to manage and shift cattle across different parts of allotments. And because of [Indistinct]. So more opportunity to kind of improve how we manage cattle and still take care of, continue to take care of resources at the same time. And just something we are currently looking into. So more to come.

>> Appreciate it.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Any more questions for Marc? All right. El Centro, Carrie.

>> CARRIE SAHAGUN: All right. Thank you. So first, I just wanted to say thanks to Marc for his great presentation on the desert discovery center. When I was an archeologist working at of forth airway, I actually helped many times and volunteered out there at the center over the years doing school activities with the kids and summer programs for archaeology. So it's nice to see that, and I'm sorry I didn't get to go on the field trip yesterday. I'm a little under the weather. So I would have really liked to have seen it again. Anyways, my updates for the El Centro field office, I can echo what Marc said about some key vacancies in addition to the field manager, we also are still trying to fill our recreation branch chief and resources supervisor. So we're holding it together out here, but it's a little challenging these days.

So anyways, I wanted to highlight couple of recreation items that were not mentioned in our DAC report. One, this past January, we held the second annual Howser geo bed public outreach event. And we currently have an MOU with the California Federation of mineralogical societies for that area. It's kind of a little known area with the imperial county it seems like, and we've been trying to get more attention to that special location there. And so that's why we started holding these public outreach events.

And this year, we had about 40 participants come from all over, all ages, some folks who are experienced rock hounders, some who aren't. And last year, we had about 30. So it's increasing a little bit. But it was really great to see folks get out there, learn a little bit of the history of the area. We loaned them some picks and shuffles and

gave them a tutorage on how to look for geo and they got to go to town. So that was exciting and fun. So we'll be continuing that. Also, let's see, in March, we were given the opportunity to host some visitors from the national off highway vehicle conservation council.

And they came to El Centro as part of a tour of Southern California and the Desert District field offices. And this was in preparation for some listening sessions that are being held later this month for the public.

And we had some great discussions about our OHV areas. We toured them around, showed them, of course, well, they saw the sand dunes and we took them to the Superstition Mountain in plaster city and up to McCain Valley in the Lark Canyon in San Diego County that we managed. Went really great and we're going to participate in the listening sessions at the end of the month and looking forward to some input from the public, which I guess this information will be used as part of creating a California Statewide OHV action plan, which can be used by BLM for future planning in our OHV area. So we're looking forward to that. And then lastly, I have an update on the truck haven geothermal exploration project that is mentioned in the DAC report. So they had some delays on the construction of the well pads. We actually permitted two wells. And this was a well leased by ORMAT and it's located on BLM lands within the checkerboard area of the Ocotillo wells. And they had a few delays, but they're finished with constructing the well pads. And geothermal drilling is scheduled to start in early May. And we also held a pre-app meeting with them to discuss a utilization they plan to submit with geothermal development in this area. So we anticipate getting that in early May, and starting the review process on that.

So just want to do bring that up as another update that didn't make it into the DAC report before we had to turn it in. With that, that's it for El Centro. Are there any questions?

>> [Away from mic]

>> DARA GLASS:

>> CARRIE SAHAGUN: I heard the last part of it. That was a prolithic scatter prehistoric archaeological site. Several plates, and I think couple of cores and that was the extent of the find.

>> [Away from mic]

>> Chips [Indistinct]. Stuff that falls off.

>> I was wondering about that when I saw that.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Any other questions for Carrie?

>> CARRIE SAHAGUN: Thanks for interpreting, Shelly. [Laughter]

>> SHELLY LYNCH: No problem.

>> CARRIE SAHAGUN: I forget not everybody is an archeologist.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Okay, we're back to Needles, Mike.

>> MIKE AHRENS: Thank you. Update few things that changed since then. Projects reported in that we need to work on the [Indistinct]. Our work as far as [Audio sounds muffled] FAR section 104. [Audio sounds muffled] [Away from mic] collaboration between California Fish and Wildlife Service and establish wildlife processes, pre-wildlife processes across the lakes towards mitigation and government wildlife [Audio sounds muffled] thank you, Shelly for getting us together and starting that dialogue. So looking forward to that. [Audio sounds muffled] [Away from mic] water power line and electrical line is going to run both in our jurisdiction and Las Vegas, Nevada and also started that coordination couple of weeks ago as well. Started a dialogue about how all these plannings are going to evolve and backlog [Audio sounds muffled] [Away from mic] four months and -- we continue to work on contracting and we did get bids on Class I contract, and Noelle and [Indistinct] are working and making the selection. So that's holding up. And planning contracts forbids and we'll wait and see what we get on that. Greatest service of goods [Indistinct]. We've done two rounds of tribal interest letters to effected tribes and reaching out and had a pre-consultation. How you want to be involved and what are your interests looking like. And we also set out cooperating agency letters looking for other federal, state, local, [Indistinct]. And then hopefully, [Audio sounds muffled] consultation letters. And it's been alluded couple of times today that we should soon have a register notice and notice of intent (for the Mojave Trails National Monument planning). And that's going to happen within couple of weeks. So we're getting ready for that. And then of course, [Audio sounds muffled] each at the Gateway and Barstow and another virtual meeting as well. We'll be hearing about that hopefully and try to get all the logistics put together so [Audio sounds muffled]. We'll see if we can actually do better. Yeah. See how that goes. And just wanted to brag a little bit on Noelle, monument manager. Noelle before she came to work with us has been participating in [Audio sounds muffled]

>> Where is that? [Audio sounds muffled]

>> I think it's north.

>> MIKE AHRENS: [Audio sounds muffled]

>> [Away from mic]

>> MIKE AHRENS: [Audio sounds muffled] reserves.

>> I didn't know what MLA was.

>> MIKE AHRENS: Mineral Releasing Act. So it is piece of pipeline from El Paso natural gas. And Death Valley to [Indistinct]. So it's a big buy-in. [Indistinct] [Audio sounds muffled] goal is to convert that [Indistinct]. [Audio sounds muffled] Bakersfield to Texas. Broken up with pieces.

>> California, Southern California [Indistinct] natural gas.

>> MIKE AHRENS: Natural gas and power plants and MLA [Indistinct].

>> [Audio sounds muffled]

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Any questions for Mike?

>> RANDY BANIS: This is Randy. I have my video off so my, hopefully, my audio quality will be better. My Wi-Fi is getting compromised. But I want to thank Mike. He took, get this, 4 weekends out of 11 during the most beautiful springs we've ever had in the service of FAR. Lobbying national trail subgroup so we could fight our way into the beautiful places in the monument and get ourselves back out as well. So thanks for that strong commitment. I appreciate it. You could have been with your family, but, hey, we were your family for 4 weekends.

>> MIKE AHRENS: Thank you, Randy. It was the best part of the job.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Any comments or questions for Mike? Okay, then Dara.

>> DARA GLASS: I'm the associate manager for Palm Springs. I just want to give you a short bio of myself, like Marc, I'm a recent hire and I've been permanently been in this position since January although I've been here since October on a detail. And I come here after 15 years in Alaska. And everybody is like, that's a cultural shock. Yes, it is, kind of. But I'm familiar with the desert and I'm from eastern Oregon originally. My background is many years of going back and forth between the legal field and land use planning and now I've been with the BLM for 8 years. So here I am. And I know I don't look like Tim. I'm not as tall as Tim but I'm going to try to fill in for him today. I'm not going to regurgitate what is in the report. But I do want to point some things out. And one is that we received this week notice of an IDLA appeal on our Whitewater River groundwater placement facility, and notice of appeal, and so we'll be working through that with our solicitors and if you would like any information on that, let me know and I will answer it best as I can if I have the information for you.

I had a question earlier about the comp site in Morongo. And what I can tell you, what I know for sure is that we are beginning the NEPA process. And the

interdisciplinary team has just met. And we are just getting that process and determining what we need to focus on and those steps to go over that entire process.

The other thing that I really want to point out is the what is referred to as the north lake pilot demonstration project, and we refer to it as the North Shore project internally and that is on the Sultan sea. And we are finishing up the NEPA process, but we are going into the tribal consultation. And so we're right at that point, and I'll be providing a timeline to [Indistinct] for the next few days and all that. But just an exploratory project, and there's a lot of interest on it at the international level and commercial delegation has a large interest in it, as well as the White House, and our headquarters, and the Secretary of the Interior as well. So we have a lot of attention on this exploration project.

>> [Away from mic]

>> DARA GLASS: In your report it's called north plain pilot demonstration project. And it is geotechnical testing to complete, well, to determine whether or not it's a good location. And Greg, you have to help me on this. Because there's a lot of things happening on the North Shore. Is this the lithium?

>> Yeah, how to extract lithium.

>> DARA GLASS: What's the geo technical -- I haven't seen that actual project. Is Greg on?

>> GREG MILLER: I'm here. I'm uncertain on this one, Dara. I don't know exactly what they're looking for.

>> I think this project is not for lithium, it's some sort of restoration.

>> [Away from mic]

>> DARA GLASS: Yeah, that's part of it.

>> So this is one of the project identified in their 10-year plan. But correct me if I'm wrong, but all we want from BLM is access across BLM to look at this area where they want to do the restoration work. So our piece is only allowing access to the [Indistinct].

>> [Away from mic]

>> DARA GLASS: That's a good question. I'm going to have to look into that. Because quite honestly, I don't really know. But I will find out.

>> [Away from mic] one side dry out. Freshwater lake.

>> DARA GLASS: We have split this project out with El Centro. And we're doing a portion.

>> There's that terminology, [Indistinct]. [Audio sounds muffled]

>> [Audio sounds muffled]

>> DARA GLASS: Run that question by me again, please?

>> [Audio sounds muffled]

>> [Away from mic] [Audio sounds muffled]

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Carrie, can you speak to the partners all involved in the Salton Sea? El Centro office, and Carrie has been involved both with the state partners and federal partners, much more than Paul. So go ahead. Carrie.

>> CARRIE SAHAGUN: So lead federal agency is the Army Corps of Engineers, and they're the ones leading the current environmental analysis looking at the 10-year plan, which is made up of several plans, several individual projects that will help ameliorate the Lakeshore area and the -- sorry, receding shoreline. Other state agency we're working with right now is Department of Water Resources. California natural resource agency as well. And Bureau of Indian Affairs. We have Bureau of Reclamation. And U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So it's a very multiagency environmental analysis that's being done right now. The EA was replaced last year or late last year, and right now, they're finishing up reviewing comments and working on final sailings of that EA. And I know they were shooting it out in a decision in, I think the May timeframe. But it may be pushed out a bit. It's a very robust plan. It's a programmatic environmental analysis that's being done. And the question, Bob, about the California EPA, they're actually are not one of our cooperating agencies right now, but I'm sure they're being consulted.

>> Thank you for the clarity.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: [Multiple people speaking over each other.]

>> DARA GLASS: The northern part and the Palm Springs resource area, even though the majority [Indistinct] and where we're working in this park, so, yeah, it's challenging.

>> CARRIE SAHAGUN: Yeah, the other thing is those are individual projects. What Dara is talking about is just one of many that will be -- that are being analyzed and will be future forward and implemented if they're approved to, it's going to take several projects, not just one. And so I think the geo tech is to really make sure the foundations

they want to create will hold up, because the soil, understanding what's under the sea is really key for how, you know, long-term some of these projects will be.

>> DARA GLASS: Thank you. Any more questions on that before I move to the last one?

>> [Away from mic]

>> DARA GLASS: Last idea is, I really appreciate knowing and learning that there's a subgroup involved with the Mojave Trail National Monument. Which has a Palm Springs field office. So there's another monument that is beginning its planning process that we would really appreciate your participation in. And that is the Sand to Snow National Monument and to be able to participate in that help us in the planning and we are at the point where tribal information letters went out this week requesting their choice if they want to participate in and what is being refer to as community conversation work and they would like to have consultation. And so we're starting that process with them. And we're also scheduling what is being called community conversations. And being a trained planner, what is a community conversation? Oh, okay. I get it. It's just a term as it's more throughout the years. So that's where we're at. And it would be really beneficial to have your involvement in this process. And I know that [Indistinct] really appreciate you being involved as well. That's my [Indistinct] participating in the [Indistinct].

>> I just have one question for you. What is your status in locale [Indistinct]. Did they get them all out? [Audio sounds muffled]

>> DARA GLASS: I'm not sure how to answer that question.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: We're working on it. Yeah, we're having conversations with the Forest Service and other folks. So we're working on that issue.

>> DARA GLASS: That's how the DAC will get involved with the Sand to Snow planning.

>> [Away from mic]

>> Okay. This is one of the projects I'm not very familiar with, because it has been in process for a long, long time.

>> [Away from mic]

>> DARA GLASS: I don't know if we do those [Indistinct]. And so --

>> I don't know what that is how that reflects on -- [Indistinct] [Audio sounds muffled]



>> DARA GLASS: Yeah, they do their economic feasibility study.

>> They come back, if you do come back and presentation on how you got that and what the criteria is. And part of that is -- [Audio sounds muffled]

>> DARA GLASS: I have a huge suggestion for you. Get involved in the planning process. [Laughter] I appreciate that. And we'll have our final and make notes on that one. So hopefully, we can get that.

>> You mentioned to us -- [Indistinct].

>> DARA GLASS: Thank you. Go ahead. [Indistinct]

>> [Audio sounds muffled] do you have any timeline on when community conversations will happen?

>> DARA GLASS: We're hoping to schedule those in the next couple of months. What they look like, I don't know. We have consultants she is working with. And so they're planning all of that. [Indistinct]. We sent out almost 16 letters [Indistinct]. To start that process.

>> DARA GLASS: [Indistinct]

>> Five years, \$1 million [Indistinct].

>> DARA GLASS: So this is a good segue to what I want [Indistinct] and that is we have just hired a new assistant field manager for recreation and operations. And he started a month ago, and he will be in office in the Palm Springs office beginning May 1. And so the travel plans will become a higher priority for us because we'll actually have somebody in place to drive that process. And then right behind him, we are hiring two recreation planner so [Indistinct] and that will be park rangers as well so, we'll have a whole staff and we'll be able to develop that.

>> [Away from mic]

>> DARA GLASS: Yeah. I mean, we've been using the money in, you know, maintaining trail for other things. So it's just getting that plan placed there has been challenging. And because of our vacancy, it's been hard if not harder than other field offices. And so along with the assistant field manager and myself, we also recently hired an administrative officer who we have a whole [Indistinct] amazing for us because that's the only department that's fully staffed. And along with that, we hired a bunch of analysts. So we have two new people, but they are strong people with [Indistinct] on our admin team so, we're excited about that. In addition to process of hiring two realty specialists. One is a promotion from internal production and up with is coming to us from another federal agency and then [Indistinct] hiring landmark examiners. On top of

all that, when interns are available, we hope to have 8 to 10 interns in place, but we'll be excited for 5 at this point. So we're going to be busy in the summer temps. That's all I have for now.

>> We have two more people to get through, so let's move to Ridgecrest. Tom.

>> TOM BICKAUKAS: Hi, everybody. I worked at Ridgecrest for four years. So [Indistinct] retired, and person you'll talk to, I've worked for the program for 22 years. First 10 years, I worked for Forest Service enterprise team and I've always worked with BLM during that time. First 15 years of my career is [Indistinct] especially around Phoenix. [Indistinct] four different truck managing plans earlier in my career. I moved to Alaska where I was also preparation program lead. And I moved to Ridgecrest. And I've also worked in Nevada. So I now I'm here and available if you guys need me. Some things that transpired since DAC report, we completed two additions. One is [Indistinct] CRP. And so it's [Indistinct]. Northeast here in field office -- it's on the California side of [Indistinct]. Other decision is a final grazing decision. We haven't fully processed [Indistinct]. And what's important about this particular allotment, it's right on the border with fidelity office and we have Bakersfield and we did an environment assessment for lot meant also on their side and one the reasons we decided to take this particular allotment at this time because of the relinquishment of [Indistinct]. We have sheep grains in full swing right now. Pulled naturally authorized and full-time which began March 1. By 13 bands and [Indistinct]. So hills are low white clouds everywhere. Some of our areas, half of thousand acres per forge. something neat to understand is the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power heads, two pipelines that have been bypassed county of Ridgecrest and start up near -- we have so much water but they've been releasing water spread all the way down to corridor because reservoir is down south and there's been a flow or damage if they don't release water so, that's been an interesting thing for us. Because washes that usually don't have water for now, creeks and side of tracks [Indistinct]. Also to the native roads, so we're monitoring about 30 miles lane of sand washes. So kind of interesting thing. This happened 6 years ago as well, first time they needed to be done, this releasing water. Back then, cumulative amount of water in L.A. release was 1,980 acres which is a lot. I don't know how to describe it other than an acre a foot is amount of water one foot deep covering an acre. So I'd figure, yeah. Just try to figure that reference. Other things that have been completed, Desert tortoise resource natural area's 50th anniversary. Back in 1970s, set aside the first pitch square mile of land northwest of California City researching [Indistinct]. And there was about dozen speakers come out and bird committee and celebration represented from -- had a great speech about common goals. Appreciate that, Randy and we got to meet a lot of people and we had about 30 people there. Also that same day down in Temecula was wild horse and burrow adoption event. And we adopted out 10 burros. They were bid on and later we had little bit of higher numbers

report there. But anyhow, now we're done with the lockdown, we're able to get out more. We're back open. You can come and make an appointment and come in during the week and look around. And Carrie in El Centro mentioned OHV BLM listening session that are going to be happening for Southern California. May 3 it is going to be in Ridgecrest and I'll be on that call as well. We'll meet -- anyone interested in that what that Ridgecrest center does, I'm happy to tell you more about it. But we've been involved with it there. With the group for about 25 years. That's my report.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: And we have about 4 minutes. Paul, can you squeeze it in 4 minutes before public comment?

>> PAUL GIBBS: I can. I have good news and I have better news. There's no update for the DAC report. Better news, I have no assignment for the DAC. That's it.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: We've got a few minutes for any questions or comments or any others? Okay. Randy, over to you.

>> RANDY BANIS: Good. Thank you. I'm going to stay -- I'm going to keep my video off. I hope I can be heard okay. With that, we're going to introduce the next presentation. And let's see, running out of juice here. Here we go. Actually, before the presentation, that's right, we have public comment right now. That's my favorite part of the meeting. And I hope we have number of member of the public who are ready to comment. Kate, do you want to go over the protocols for a moment?

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Yes. So thank you, everyone, for coming in person to give a public comment. To allow the maximum number of individuals, we're going to have 3 minutes. It will be on the screen. So please keep to 3 minutes. We have several people who like to comment in the room and on the phone. We're going to start in the room according to when you gave your slip to Michelle. I'll start with Debbie in the room. And then once your 3 minutes are up, we're going to move to questions on the phone to try to get to everyone. If there are comments not addressed in your 3 minute time, you're always free to email me. I'll put my email in the chat. And that will get to the DAC also. So if you do not get to get through your full comments, feel free to email and we'll get that to the DAC. So with that, we're going to start with Debbie Gonzalez. You're up first. If you can stand in this area so they can see you and hear you on the phone.

(Public comment period).

>> My name is Debbie Gonzalez and I'm actually here on behalf of the residents and landowners in the burns canyon area. And I'm here because we're having some major issues, primarily with traffic. I'm going to go over what I should ask for first and then I'll kind of go over why. We are requesting that the BLM roads in the bridge canyon area recess to highway license vehicles only. It's a small area that is part OHV and they

end up on private land in the wilderness, and as well as on BLM land. We also are going to request that Jeep groups be limit to do 15 vehicles in the burns canyon area and lastly, we would like the bridge canyon area close to the public from dusk to Dawn. There's evidence of drinking and driving. Shooting all hours of the day and night. And campfires. Problem is there's no camp differentiation between public land and private land in this area. And when you have campfires, there's only one way in and out of Bryce Canyon. It's a single lane dirt road we as residents maintain. And when we have these large Jeep groups, we can't get into our homes. We can't get out of our homes. We can't get emergency personnel up there. And we had several really, really close encounters where fires, especially, in the summertime when it's a very, very extreme fire risk and we are totally vulnerable. We can't get medical people up there, fire people up there, and, yet, we have 200 Jeeps coming in at 10 o'clock at night that will run from pioneer town up to Big Bear in, and it completely blocks our access. OHV traffic that is in, actually, you mentioned it. In the canyon area that councilmember up. We've got an entire beautiful Grove. Oh gosh. Grove of Joshua Trees there. Probably the largest Grove of trees in the entire nation. It's spectacular, 400-year-old Joshua Trees are in there. And our lands that have been pristine are starting to look like Johnson Valley. They are destroying all of our wildlife, flowers, trees, everything. Okay. I guess I'm done. Anyway, those are the 3 things that for the safety of your lands, my land. I've been a steward of this land for over 50 years. In and the last 5, it has deteriorated so much. And it's being destroyed. And we want to preserve it and also preserve our safety as land owners in that area. Thank you.

>> Okay. Thank you, Debbie. Next we have Margaret Hogarth.

>> Thank you. If you can stand little bit closer right here so I guess there's a little blind spot. One step closer. One bite.

>> My name is Margaret Hogarth. And I'm the member of the researchers gem and mineral society. I've been a member for over 10 years, and I've been a chair for five years. Our show is coming up end of this month on the 29th and 30th, and I invite you all to come. It's great and educational, and we have a lot of fun and low-cost activities for children, children or grandchildren. My husband is co-field trip leader this year. And I just wanted to say is that field trips are major part of our club. And it's really important not only do we enjoy it, but it's important for growing our club. We invite visitors to come with us and including other club member. And we emphasize safety. We try to be good neighbors. We try to be good citizens. We follow the rules. We drive on established roads and trails. And I just wanted to say how much rock county means to me personally and our club. It's almost a spiritual thing to go out and explore and take photographs of things, each if I don't pick up any rocks, I just want to thank everyone for making it available to all the rock counts in the area.

>> Thank you. Okay. Next we have Josh candle lit.

>> Thank you. Josh Candelalia. And thank you for sheer contributions, your time and really focusing on the efforts within California. I'll look forward to working with the council and building relationships. [Indistinct]. One opportunity we're looking at partnering with the council and implementation and tries to both plans. So I'll leave a letter here. And [Indistinct] thank you so much.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Okay. Next up is Andy.

>> ANDREW SILVA: Howdy. I like coming to these meetings longer than anybody it turns out. My first meeting was in, like, I'm not saying in a dorm. I stayed in the [Indistinct] motel. Anyway, just little news for my name because I have no life and I'm a nerd [Indistinct] and they approved a new 30-year operating permit for the Baghdad chase gold mine. And that is going back in operations [Indistinct]. That's it. Just little news.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Thanks, Andy and then we have Ruth.

>> Okay. I'm Ruth Hildago And I represent [Indistinct] county. First I like to thank DAC for getting back in-person meetings. And I have several comments in Zoom meeting. That's how important it is to see people in person. So that's awesome. It means to me more and [Indistinct] weekends, so I appreciate that. I have a comment since there's one comment now at this time and all the great information that was given in the report, but I'll comment so bear with me. The subgroup. Really, I have a question for you. You indicated that the subgroup will make the recommendation to the BLM. Yeah?

>> RANDY BANIS: No. Subgroup will compile recommendations for the Desert Advisory Council in formal advice to the bureau.

>> That's what I thought. Somebody got the slides wrong I guess.

>> RANDY BANIS: You did not misread the slide. It's poor editing on my part.

>> RUTH HIDALGO: So with that said, DAC member that were part of the subgroup in the subgroup has spent a long time out there in the desert. I don't know how to convey or even begin to make it clear how important the lands that are in National Monument are [Indistinct]. There's dozen of sites in what Randy says it's huge. 1.6 million acres. And dozens of sites, the whole thing [Indistinct] people have gone out there for more than 70 years. Campfires and memories are made. So when you make recommendations, I urge you that BLM [Indistinct]. And I'm going to give up now. Thank you.

>> RANDY BANIS: May I just -- I want to say that the rockhounds could not be any luckier than to have representation from Gregor Lawson on our subgroup and I also want to thank, Ruth, your rock hounding club for supporting his mission. It's a hard job he has because around every corner is a generational traditional rock collecting location. He's educated us greatly and without the support of your club and other clubs, he may not have been able to do so. So thank you for working with us to further everybody's understanding of rock hounding and on each and every one of our four field trips, we visited rock hounding sites.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Thank you, Ruth and next we have James Lynn.

>> JAMES LYNN: Hey, Randy. How are you doing, buddy? Haven't seen you in a while. First of all, thanks for coming. Thanks for showing an interest. Thanks for being here. That goes to all the DAC and BLM and everybody here. It's really important. I'm going to get right into it. I know public schedule is afterwards and it was pretty long discussion and one thing, Marc, I agree with you completely. Younger you start with these kids, the better. It's just very important. Also, your fees. Yes, I believe I saw everything. [Indistinct]. This is super low compared to other sites in the area. Here we are, man. It's been a long time but everybody knows how long it's been and thank you for Marc stepping up to the plate and he's obviously a hitter and a doer and not a talker. In my opinion, absolutely priceless to the Barstow area for several reasons. One, just for the implication of animal and everything like that. And everything. All the people that have gone there and been through that facility has been absolutely phenomenal. One of the things Marc talked about earlier setting the stage for the children, next generation, people that are going to take over the earth from us. Just for example, are my daughter, who is teaching you all the animals in the desert? [Laughter] it's Art.

>> ART BASULTO: I helped her when she was born.

>> JAMES LYNN: Yeah, she's been a junior ranger since she's been in diapers. Anyway, long story short, I want to thank everybody coming here and showing interest in our desert. Not saying you don't do it now already, for example, I would like to complete, I mean, continue on with the special needs. Special needs people. It's A.D.A. compliant. You track down below and they not look like it, but it's A.D.A. compliant. Special needs is a little overlooked in all programs. So I'm out of time. But I would like to see the committee continue its work in areas of special needs students and disability. One last thing and I'm out of here. We've got a real cowboy here. What he's talking about is real issue out there. Program small part of it is dedicated to what people are supposed to do when they interact with cows, deers, and wild animals and respecting private property. Everybody here is important. I'm done.

>> Thank you.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Thank you. All right, next. We have Justin Morgan.

>> JUSTIN MORGAN: Hello, everyone. I'm Justin Morgan and I'm a rockhound. I spend all my free time any time I have rock hounding. Born and raised in this desert. I sleep under the stars. It's very therapeutic for us to have this. It's very emotional to us speaking about it. And I urge you to keep it open to us that would be very important to me and my family and my friends. It's a huge community of us that live this lifestyle and it's very important to us. Thank you for your time.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Thank you. Okay. Next we have Luke.

>> Luke Skywalker?

>> Sorry, I was just trying to get my contents.

>> LUKE BASULTO: Hello, again. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and being here. Forgive me for reading because of the time limit. Again, my name is Luke Basulto. And I'm part of the California national [Indistinct] and for those who don't know me, I grew up in Barstow and I know as a kid, I would walk there several times to look for desert tortoise and volunteer to be on staff and how to make a learning out of the passion I had. It was essentially my only resource for insight into the desert and it means a great deal. To see the disturbance -- facilitate the same and for all it did for me and young people and underrepresented community and low-income communities surrounding it. One thing I want to mention, be sure to mention today in my comments is the potential for this place? Of and the idea born into it that it would be exciting and [Indistinct] one ask for the people here today who plan on being involved with this, during this development process, all parties truly consider and learn about the communities. I tell you first happened lived experience in -- not afford dirt bike or hike or [Indistinct]. Access to our transportation, be the first place or privilege of not having to worry about where the next meal comes from for that matter. I think the intention is good, but these communities do not have access to the area in the same way these people in the room do. So we must remain mindful of that and careful of placing these things in front of them as options and unattainable. Keep in mind before the COVID pandemic, this was a place never bustling with visitors. Community of Barstow is still with families. And let alone explore and enjoy it. They don't have the privilege. I know there's so much to discuss with this, but I hope to be part of this discussion. At least -- as I mentioned I can help with garnering more partnership and see the involvement with tortoise council and local Barstow and equity and diversity and another important matter to keep in mind with this undertaking. Please consider your research at your disposal and allow me to help this make this important change. Thank you.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: That you know, Luke and last in the room is Gregor.

>> Hi, my name is Gregor Losson. I've been collecting [Indistinct]. And I met most in here and I've been involved [Indistinct] entire California desert monument. And I warrant to state Noelle, [Indistinct]. Anybody hasn't met Ruth, she's been our leader since all the way back all the way through 13 years [Indistinct]. I came to see how the process work. And understanding what you guys will [Indistinct]. Thank you.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Thank you, Gregor.

>> Excuse me, Kate. Can I say something quick? I haven't signed in.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Yeah.

>> TONY HENSON: My name is Tony Henson. I don't get around too well. I'm A.D.A. As you can see, I'm a fan of this group called Led Zeppelin. I'll be frank. I had couple of work injury accidents. Is one involved my leg and one involved getting hit in the head. I have a persistent cognitive cognition and there's limited things I can do. But one thing I do love is being involved with the Southern California chapter of the gem and rock club with the Bakersfield chapter. I had the pleasure of going out yesterday with the feign folks from the BLM. It was very nice meeting you guys. All of you are folks that came out. Some other guys from the rockhounds, fellow rockhounds. Is rockhounds. You guys made great speeches up here. And I don't know if any of you see it, but it was a blessing to be here just to meet some of you guys. And I hope that I do see you guys out in the field or whatever. Let's get that Barstow station open, the discovery center. I have no agenda. I'm not here to push anything. But if I could be a part of something special with you guys, that would be awesome. That's it. Thank you for having me.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: At this time, if you like to make a public comment on your phone, please raid your hand and I'll call you according to your hand raised. Okay. It looks like Anitra Kass. You have the floor.

>> Okay. Can you hear me? Hopefully.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Yes.

>> ANITRA KASS: So my name is Anitra Kass and I'm a Southern California regional rep and also the acting Sierra regional rep. First off, I want to thank you for making this available online as well so those of us who can't attend in person can still participate. Also, I would like to give a big welcome to Marc in his new position. I'm, of course, sad to lose him as one of my Forest Service partners, but excited for him, excited for BLM to benefit from his efforts, his energy, and collaborative thoughtful solutions-based approach to his work. So BLM, California Desert District and Barstow are really lucky to have him. Also really appreciate the updates on things like DRECP, highlighting opportunities for the public to comment on things like the proposed public



land rules and sand to know monument planning. Thank you for getting the word out to the public on those opportunities. Update that might be beneficial to everybody here is north bound PCT hiker season. It is in full swing. It is a wacky year to say the least with the weather, the water, the snow. Long-distance use permits are issued from March 1 through May 31. And safe to say it was pretty slow in March with like 20 or so people a day on average starting out from the California border outside of Campo, but now we're up to 40 plus people starting per day. The maximum number of permits issued per day is 50. So our friends in Palm Springs, El Centro and Ridgecrest know that the hikers are coming. So be on the lookout for those folks. Last update I have is just some trail work update. So we have our either student conservation association or American conservation experience crews out working in Southern California and southern part of southern Sierra region. Earlier, we worked with the Palm Springs' office and friends at Whitewater preserve and got some good work done in the Whitewater canyon area. We have more trail work coming up in the next few weeks in the mission creek area. And working with Ridgecrest staff to have our ACE, American conservation experience crew and in the Ridgecrest area. We had crews out last week and thank you so much. Happy trails.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Thank you. Next is John Lindquist.

>> JOHN LINDQUIST: Sorry, it took me a minute to unmute. Can everybody hear me now? Would it be possible to share two maps on my screen during my comments?

>> Unfortunately, no. The way we're set up.

>> JOHN LINDQUIST: Oh, okay. Then I will still try to make a comment that's helpful. I'm a professional geologist in California but I'm also a weekend rockhound. And I recognize that there's a lot of motion in the subject and a lot of good reasons, especially, the rockhounds are concerned about potential loss of access to some important sites. And it's not just Mojave trails and National Monument, I've got good maps to illustrate how few areas are with the right rocks and talking mostly miocene Miolite that host nearly all the Jasper and agate and in the Mojave desert near Miley well. And they have pretty much is similar geology. And military bases and limiting areas access and now with the new potential foreclosure in the National Monument, virtually all those Maya seen rocks be except for small amounts are close to collecting or they already have been or limited in collecting status because you can't get access. So I guess what I hope to do today is introduce the subject for more of the geologic standpoint and maybe I hope to see this on an agenda where we can talk about how limited the areas for rock hounding, potential area for rock hounding are. If we close a good part of the area, especially north Cadies, places like classic sites that have been hounded for years. There's couple of problems arise. One is that I think there's going to

be unintended consequences with a lot of pressure on other sites such as the Wiley wells district that's going to get hammered by people. And another one is what we've really seen is resurgence or rock hounding and it's no longer suburban White people that used to be in the 50s, or 60s, and 70s and we get a lot of interest from diverse folks from all kinds of folks and backgrounds and people of color in cities, folks that haven't traditionally rock hounding and finding out on web and getting out there. I'm not talking about overwhelming the desert with people. When I go out, I'm lucky to see one or two rock hounding people out there. This is how we get geologists boomers retired and we get kids started with rock collections and getting their hands dirt in the desert. So I hope, like I said, we can talk about this. Maybe I can present some maps I've got in the future. Thank you.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: Thanks, John. That's all the hands I see raised. We're right at our end of public comment. So, Randy, I'll turn it back to you.

>> RANDY BANIS: Thank you. I think today's public comment is a perfect example why this part of the agenda is my favorite part of the meeting. Thanks to the public comments and letting us know your feelings. At this time, I'm going to introduce the assistant field manager of the Ridgecrest field manager Dana Stephenson who is going to make a presentation to us on the King of the Hammers that recently occurred. Dana, the floor is yours.

>> DANA STEPHENSON: Great. Can everybody hear me good? Awesome. Thanks everybody for having me. Sorry I can't be there in person. I had a softball game today so I'm going to take my coach hat off and put assistant field manager hat on. I'm going to share my screen here with the presentation notice. All right.

Like Randy said, I'm Dana Stephenson. Assistant manager for the Ridgecrest field office. I was from the California Desert District and I am also or was the Internet Commander for the King of the Hammers vehicle event located in the Barstow field office in the Johnson Valley OHV area. So I'm going to go ahead and run through the slides and answer any questions at the end.

So what is King of the Hammers? King of the Hammers is a large off highway vehicle event that occurs, like I said in Johnson Valley. It's a racing and rock crawling event. It usually occurs in January, February of every year on Means Dry Lake and on the share use area and on the public lands. It's about a week race. And it includes King of the motos, motorcycle race, can AM, balancing trucks and every man challenge which is all types of vehicles, unlimited trucking trucks and main event is King of the Hammers. So here's the start to finish on the screen here. Competitors start side-by-side in 30 seconds intervals and they do about 165-mile laps. Teams pass through checkpoints. They have to stay 100 feet from the -- 100 feet of the center line of the

course. It's a no team, no chase team race and repairs can only be done by the racers or in pit areas. So you can't have any outside assistance. And there's usually between 35 to 50 teams, sometimes more. Sometimes we get up to 100 to 200 teams as well. And you can see here just an overview. This is the start/finish where they take off right here. Little history. It was part of Jeff Knoll and David Cole and started as a trial run conducted with 12 teams. They were nicknamed the OG13. First race was in 2008 where I was working that event as an FTO in law enforcement, and I can tell you it's not big as it was now with about 50 drivers. And the race team starts 30 seconds intervals. But race course was just about 50 to 60. So it was much smaller and not as many spectator and normal race like SNOR out in the field. Here's aspects of different events. This is rock crawling up and some of the more technical terrain. And this is more unlimited stuff. Right here number 13, that's actually Bailey Cole, Dave Cole who is a racer. So this is kind of the main race course right here, this whole thing. The red boundary is the share use area. So everything right here is marine-based. So no inspectors are allowed there. And everything here is shared use area. This is called desert loop up here. This is called a rock, more technical stuff down here. What will happen usually, they will ride all this desert loop and they will usually do one to two laps down here. This is hammer town in this section start/finish. This is where all of our race offs happen and whatnot. Very large. You'll have both BLM monitors out there. KOH monitors out there and law enforcement out there. And then we do have a closure order which I'll go into little bit more in the next couple of slides. So you can see just the large amount of land we're trying to cover. Our biggest priority out there, every syllable year is the safety of our staff, the public, the racers. We just want to make sure everybody gets home safe. So that's our biggest agenda out there.

So 2023 King of the Hammers breakdown. There was about 24,000 spectators. VIP was about 528. Pit crew, close to 5,000. Competitors, close to 2,000. Partners and vendors out there was about 1800. Service staff, so that would be people that are pumping the trailers and making sure the roads are getting watered and everything are about 100. And then just the KOH staff is about 528 and then some. And you can see this photo is of the chocolate thunder. That's a big spectator area. You can't see it in this photo, but there's a bicycle fence all along this that keeps people on that side. And we have monitor rut running keeping people out. And this is how Hammertown is set up. And this is all the pit crews and everything. This is big name pit crews right here. You this is where we sit. Race offs, and media, and this is where we set all of our law enforcement and medical staff. There's a line of us running. We're all communicating, we're all talking. So it's real well-oiled machine and it's come a long way. But we're all talking. I also wanted to show you real quick. All right. This is KOH website. When you do purchase a ticket, the governing body and insurance company USAC took over the spectator.

>> I think you're sharing the wrong one.

>> DANA STEPHENSON: Hold on. Sorry about that. So this is the Hammers town or King of the Hammers website right here. When people purchase the tickets, there's a whole link they have to go through following rules and regs and all of our C.F.R. and all the stipulations that David Cole has to sign with us. And this goes over activities and off-roading and everything that we require. Like I said, helmets are required so, if you're coming out of the state, hopefully, you've read this. You do have to sign a waiver and takes your picture as well. Saying that you read this. And that we're going to follow all the rules in this area. So it also tells you to stay 150 feet from the race course. Don't go outside of turns. Downhill and all the nitty gritty of know before you go information. Most of the time when you go on vacation, you want to find out all the rules and regs. So that's kind of this website right here and I wanted to share a quick video of the event. Stand by for me. [Video Clip]

Can everybody see it? Okay.

>> We're not getting any sound. Is that okay? You'll want to reshare? Just check the box in Zoom that says share sound. It's a little check box at the bottom left of that share button.

>> Okay, all right. Stand by. Thank you.

>>DANA STEPHENSON: It's very loud now. You may want to turn it down a bit. Sorry about that. So that kind of gives you an idea. It's only 45 seconds. Okay. So I kind of ran through what KOH is and kind of what happens out there. Now I want to kind of go into BLM's role for King of the Hammers. So how it kind of starts is KOH will submit an SRP to the ORP or whoever may be running the special recreation permits out of the California desert districts. They will submit their 2039 dash form and we'll review it and consider the race operations, and whether it's going to go into cost or recovery, type of NEPA that we have to do. So we just go through the process. Once we approve it, we do start the NEPA process. And NEPA is tiered towards the closure order. And this year, we did do a EA in conjunction with the Marine-based. It is a 5-year EA for the closure order and for the length of the 5-year permit for this event. This is a cost recovery event that pays for all the staff to be out there, law enforcement, non-law enforcement, comms and all that stuff. Like I said, this is a brand new 5-year permit. Last five years expired and we did way more research on this. I feel like, for NEPA, we did a full EA. It was great working with the Marines. So we're working very closely to make sure we're doing all of our due diligence out there. Making sure the race is not only protected but also the environment around the race is protected. So permits have been issued to the proponent. And the stimulations are kind of his rules and regs that he has to follow in the duration of the permit. That includes staying 150 feet from the

course. Having tarps on the ground for fuel. Just everything you can possibly think of. It's about a 3- to 4-page stipulation. He signs it. That goes into his permanent intent package as well and once he pays his cost and recovery fee, then we can issue him an actual permit. He also gets a film permit since he does a lot of filming out there. So we give him a land use permit that covers the filming. Insurance and what it's going to insure. My IAP. So, once we issue the permit, the planning, behind-the-scene stuff starts happening. Nothing wants to work great with me today. So I'm just going to do everything hard.

Why he's my IAP not coming up? This is not good. So this is kind of planning that just goes blank. (Chuckles softly).

Let me see if I can pull it up. I really want to show you guys this. Well, I had it on the PowerPoint but it was too small to read. My apologies. I'm not sure why it's not showing up on my computer right now.

>> Dana, what is IAP?

>> DANA STEPHENSON: This is an incident action plan. We run King of the Hammers close to an incident. We tie this more to an outdoor recreation than an actual permit. So part of this incident action plan is we have incident Commander which I play. And then it tiers off. We have a compliance lead and also a monitor lead who has the biggest job out there. They're the ones who compile all the staff to assist. And they work directly with B and KOH staff and making sure they're in UTV, what their location is going to be, and whatnot. And then you have our law enforcement chief who's going out and recruiting all the law enforcement that's going to assist, in addition to partnering up with all the outside sources that are helping us out as well. We got our comms' lead and making sure everybody has radio and they're working and communication is working with dispatch and we have dispatch lead who is making sure all the dispatch are aware. So the IAP is kind of the Bible for us, really, out there, for all the staff.

So it's about 47 pages long. And it has every information you can possibly think of. If you pull up 204 form, it's going to tell you exactly where staff is between which mile marker, the time they're going to be there. If you run through it, it does the same with law enforcement. And person you contact and up the chain-of-command. It's got location of hospitals. If you come upon a medical, how do you handle that situation? It breaks down to exactly what you would say. It has a LZ landing zone if we need medical incident occur. It's got how law enforcement is set up on the ground for LZ. Like I said, it holds all the information.

So it's kind of built that if an outsider comes in, say, Marc, this was his first year. I can give him that. He knows the schedule event and he knows who to contact and everything. And we do have a Command Center out there that's posted that. Like I said,

we set up with sheriffs and Marines and state parks and we do in briefs every morning and debrief every night. So we're constantly sharing information and giving it all to me and if there's anticipating I need to bring back to the proponent. We're in constant communication making sure everyone is taken care of. So this is the incident command team I was talking about. We have incident rep who signs our SRP which is Shelly. Safety officer. Liaison officer and field manager of the office. Comms, we have multiple meetings before the event to make sure we're all on the same page giving the same information and before we have the event, this IAP gets sent out to every single person working the event and have a large briefing. So anybody can ask questions and making sure everybody is getting the same information. Finance, dispatch, biggest workload and we have a day and night law enforcement. We partner. We cannot do this as a sole agency. So we work with San Bernardino deputy, Marines, CHP and State Park comes out. There's no State Park but they're always coming out. They do not charge the component. They get on their dirt bike and assist us and they're amazing out there. They can get to places faster and they're talking to us. And inside race-ons, start to finish, they're in there. And we're all talking there. You have San Bernardino and race director and Marines. Me. So we have all huge map and all talking. If my monitor lead calls me and says we need more KOH staff, then I can send more staff over immediately and make sure they tie-in with BLM staff and we're working very closely together. So law enforcement this year made about more than 2,000 public contacts. And BLM had about 20 monitors throughout the race course and assisted KOH. Like I said, keeping spectators and media staff. With that, media staff, they have a trailer right next to us as well. All media has to come in and register with that they get a numbered vest. And that numbered vest, they have to wear. And so if anything occurs, with media or reporting or BLM reporting it, I go directly to the media leader and say, hey, I got number 204, they're approaching the race course. Can you have them move back? If not, we have to have them exit the area. So that's a huge help, because you know, they want to get the great folks, you know, it's money to be made or they're working with one of the big racers. But at the end of the day, it's safety, safety, safety. That is our prime goal. Just a quick breakdown. This includes spectators and competitors and everything out there. 2023 was higher last year. 2021, 2,502,020 was about 28,000. So this is everybody out there that is within coming through the welcome gate and paying. With that, I'll open it up for questions. Thank you for letting me speak and let me if you have questions.

>>WILLIAM MITCHELL: About safety, safety, safety. On the other side when they have ramp [Indistinct] and they come riding on my side and my animals and my grandkids and horses are doing their job, what is safety on my side of the road?

>> I don't know exactly where your property is, sir. So I'm not sure.

>> WILLIAM MITCHELL: Right across from the mountain. Next question is on cost for recovery, you are not paying and maintaining my road after they leave and other people's road in Johnson Valley? After people run all over the roads half acre. Excuse me language.

>> DANA STEPHENSON: I understand that. Like I said, I've seen the folks that stay outside of the welcome gate. It is, we are talking about it. You know, Marc and I were talking about it and stuff and how we kind of control all those visitors that are not coming through that welcome gate and staying and all those folks camping outside. So I understand your frustration and I'll keep working with Marc to try and fix that. Like I said, I don't know exactly where your private property is. But I understand.

>> WILLIAM MITCHELL: [Away from mic] if you shut down all the 108,000 acres, why don't you shut down my canyon so we're safe? For my grandkids and cattle to be safe.

>> DANA STEPHENSON: I can work with Shelly and Marc and have a meeting and come up with a game plan.

>> WILLIAM MITCHELL: If they're also safe on that side of the road, they need to be safe on my side. Thank you.

>> DANA STEPHENSON: Thank you, sir. Any other questions? All right. I see none. Thank you, all, for your time. I hope you have a great meeting out there. Yeah. Thank you, guys.

>> Thank you.

>> RANDY BANIS: Thanks, Dana. Thank you for joining us again today. We're just a few minutes ahead of schedule. But let's go ahead and take our afternoon break. We'll meet back here at 3:00 p.m. And we'll hit the homestretch right after that. So if that's okay, if there are any objections? Here we go. We'll break until 3:00 p.m. Thank you.

>> KATE MIYAMOTO: All right. I think we're all ready.

>> RANDY BANIS: Good. Thanks, everybody. What a good meeting we had today. Some great topics. We're going to wrap-up, start up the wrap-up by asking member to participate to help us provide items for the agenda for our next meeting. So I'm going to turn the floor over to the Desert Advisory Council member and see if they have suggestions and things they like to see discussed in the upcoming meetings. And also Shelly may have reminder about her vision for some of these future meetings as well. So I'm willing to turn the floor over.

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Thanks. Thoughts for the next meeting?

>> ROBERT ROBINSON: [Away from mic] [Audio sounds muffled] Discuss starting a subgroup for the Sand to Snow National Monument planning.

>> RANDY BANIS: Good. Keep going.

>> WILLIAM MITCHELL: [Away from mic] how they find generators [Indistinct] evaluate [Indistinct] just update on the animals. [Audio sounds muffled]

>> RANDY BANIS: You know, Billy, I like to collaborate with you also on our December meeting to have an early discussion on King of the Hammers. Something prevented you from joining us in December, and I did the best I could to pick up your fight and get some of the issues you bring up every spring to see if those issues can make it on to the discussion table prior to the event this time. But let's work together and talk in December and see if we can get this on the radar so that maybe in spring 2024, we have a positive report for you by the weekend instead of what we've been used to in the past few years.

>> [Away from mic] I don't think I was invited. But I think, yeah, each year, it gets bigger and bigger and bigger. And after they leave, they --

>> RANDY BANIS: Right now, they have the race. But let's take this up in December when the cows are back in the barn and see if we can help them release the cows in a different way next year. Mojave Trails National Monument notice preparation which comes out, like we all expect to hear about some of the plans and some of the surrounding issues of the planning. For example, EA versus full-blown EIS whether travel management will be part of the discussion or not. Activity level planning versus resource protection. All of these things are starting to solidify and might help answer questions we've been hearing particularly during the public comment today. Just a premature to jump into some of this, because, really, nothing is being proposed yet. But once the notice of preparation comes out, I think at least that starts the race. And I don't know if it will be the next meeting, or the one after that will be best timed for our conversation. But that would be my ask for an agenda item going forward.

>> Thanks, Randy.

>> So just this came up during the break, I said we're going to go [Indistinct] purpose of that is to receive feedback from the public about the plan, plan issues and opportunities. Very specific [Audio sounds muffled]. So, certainly, great to be how this might be in jeopardy or how we might use it to manage it.

>> RANDY BANIS: Great. Our next meeting is August 25 and 26. Is that right, Shelly?



>> SHELLY LYNCH: Yes, in Ridgecrest.

>> RANDY BANIS: That should be, I think a lot more will be clearer with respect to what the public has said during scope, what the Agency is thinking.

>> RICHARD HOLLIDAY: I like to do, I don't know if Marc can do it. But canyon road and several people contacted me, and I tried to do some county role that BLM can [Indistinct]. But [Indistinct]. Do some research on it or something. And contact -- [Audio sounds muffled]

>> RANDY BANIS: So issues like Burns Canyon have a lot of side boards to them. And it's good to know what side boards are what Dick is asking. It's Forest Service and it's BLM. Is there a private and county? There's sheet shooting versus hunting. There's casual use versus other uses. So to know what those side boards are would be good, because a lot of spaghetti was thrown against the wall today, and I think it would be good to, you know, see what's do-able and what's possible to see where our discussions can best be focused.

>> Sounds good.

>> RANDY BANIS: Well, thank you. With that, I'm going to bring up the last item of business. This is our council spring meeting. And by-laws call for election of officers at our first meeting of each year. The officers for the Desert Advisory Council are Chairman and Vice Chair. We're in an unusual situation at this time. We have 10 seated member of the Desert Advisory Council but only 3 will be -- will still be councilmembers when next spring meeting comes around. We have 7 of our 10 members whose terms will expire in January of next year. Nathan, Billy, Jayne, Bob, Dick, Paul, and myself. I know [Audio fading in and out] that BLM end at that time to make point of impact and fill the seats. But given that 7 of us won't be member through the full term of the Chairmanship, I recommend that we focus on our new DAC member and those who will still be DAC member during the first meeting, at least that first meeting of next year. And so with that, [Audio fading in and out] first I'm going to call for nominations for chair and second, I'm going to take the Chairman's prerogative to speak first. And I'm going to nominate Hans Haas to be our next Chairman.

Hans, you accept?

>> HANS HAAS: I do accept.

>> RANDY BANIS: Are there other nominations for the chair for DAC? Floor is open. Hearing and seeing none, I'll close nominations for chair. All in favor of Hans Haas, being the chair of Desert Advisory Council for this upcoming year, please say aye.

>>ALL DAC MEMBERS: Aye.

>> RANDY BANIS: Any oppose? Thank you very much. Congratulations, Hans. We look forward to new leadership for the Desert Advisory Council. At this time, I like to open up nominations for Vice Chair. And with that, I like to take the prerogative to nominate Jennifer Henning as the Vice Chair. The duty of the Vice Chair is to fill in for the Chairman if the Chairman can't make a meeting. The Vice Chair would run the meeting and conduct the proceedings. Do you accept, Jennifer?

>> JENNIFER HENNING: I accept.

>> RANDY BANIS: Thank you, kindly. Are there other nominations for Vice Chair? Hearing and seeing none, I'll close nominations for Vice Chair. All those in favor Jennifer for Desert Advisory Council for next year, please say aye.

>> ALL DAC MEMBERS: Aye.

>> RANDY BANIS: Are there any oppose? Thank you, Jennifer, for offering to serve. Hans and Jennifer. Thank you. We have a lot of [Audio fading in and out] we'll do all we can do to help and support you and we look forward to your leadership in the coming year. At this time, I like to turn the floor over to Shelly for some closing comments for this great meeting we had today. Shelly, is that okay? Would you like the floor?

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Sure. Just couple of things before I close with closing remarks. Next meeting is August 26 in Ridgecrest and following is December 19 in Palm Springs. Get those dates on your calendar. As Randy mentioned, after the first of the year, 7 positions become vacant. It's not that we have been failed to put nominations forward, because we have. We're struggling with our headquarter's taking long time get back to us on those nominations. Some of which have been there for over a year. So it's taking extraordinarily long time for us to get that feedback on the nominations. I have raised the issue to our state director so she can kind of nudge headquarters to hopefully get some of those nominations. But we may have to look at maybe at our December meeting, again, to look at what that, if we haven't gotten any nominations, discuss how we're going to do that. We may move to either all virtual if there's only 3 DAC member or we may not hold meetings all. We'll just have to have those discussions as we heard today, there's a lot of stuff going on that we would like to continue to engage with the public on and make folks aware of.

So we'll just be prepared for that, probably that December meeting, what that will look like moving forward if we haven't gotten any accommodations approved by then. I, too, want to say, this was a really fabulous meeting. I had so much fun yesterday. It was a great field visit. We had perfect weather. Input was valuable. It's great to get that

public input everything from camp sites to the discovery center. So really, really appreciate you guys coming out. It does take a lot of work and effort and coordination on Kate and Michelle's part. So thank you, Kate and Michelle, for putting this together. It's truly invaluable to meet people face-to-face, and have those discussions, and like I said, hear that input. So that's all I have. Randy, back to you.

>> [Away from mic]

>> We have all the position that we have in vetting right now are just sitting in the Washington, D.C. area. Yeah.

>> RANDY BANIS: The bureau generally does not make a call for nominations until after. So the [Audio fading in and out] cycle for those to have a new person there. I'm told [Audio fading in and out] I'm cutting out as longer the day goes by. I apologize. It's been a wonderful meeting on my side. I hope all of you had a wonderful meeting too. And with that, Shelly, let's adjourn the meeting today. Sound good?

>> SHELLY LYNCH: Sounds good. Meeting adjourned. Thanks, everybody.