

Desert Advisory Council Meeting Transcript

Saturday, July 12, 2025

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AG Anderson, Brandon G 0:04

Good morning to everyone. Welcome to July. This year it's been flying by. So I'll start with a round of quick introductions. I'm Brandon Anderson. I'm the acting district manager for the California Desert District and we can go around to our BLM and Forest Service staff who are on today. Let's start with Phil.

DA Desenze, Philip A 0:32

Good morning, everybody. Thanks Brandon. Phil Desenze, I'm the field manager for the Ridgecrest BLM field office.

AG Anderson, Brandon G 0:38

Thanks, Phil. Paul.

GE Gibbs, Paul E 0:41

Good morning. It's Paul Gibbs the district Fire management officer for the California Desert District.

AG Anderson, Brandon G 0:47

And Dan?

KR Kasang, Daniel R 0:50

Good morning. Dan Kasang, acting field manager for the Palm Springs South Coast field office.

AG Anderson, Brandon G 0:55

Amy.

LS Lin, Amy S 1:01

Good morning, Amy Lin. I'm the acting deputy district manager for Desert District.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:07
And Matt?

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:09
Yeah, I'm Matthew Lohr. I'm the field manager for El Centro Field office. Thank you.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:15
Ron.

NO **Nuckles, Ronald O** 1:18
I'm Ron Nuckles. I'm the Needles Field manager.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:22
And Marc?

SR **Stamer, Marc R** 1:24
Good morning, everybody. Marc Stamer, field manager for the Barstow Field office.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:28
That's the BLM team. I'll turn it over to Travis to introduce your folks.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 1:35
Good morning, everyone. My name is Travis Mason. I am the regional coordinator for rec fee proposals (U.S. Forest Service). Amanda.

L **Loye, Amanda - FS, CA** 1:44
Good morning, everyone. My name is Amanda Loye. I am a program specialist with the National Recreation Fee program. Go ahead, Joanna.

W **Wilson, Joanna - FS, DC** 1:56
Good morning, everyone. My camera does not want to work for some odd reason, but I'm Joanna Wilson. I work for the Forest Service in the Washington office.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:06
Back to you, Brandon.

AG Anderson, Brandon G 2:09

And I'll turn it over to Randy.

RB Randy Banis 2:11

Thank you, Brandon. Thanks a lot, and welcome to all the BLM staff and the Forest Service staff that are here. Today's Desert Advisory Council meeting. Great to see all of you again that have frequented our meetings. Good to see a strong team of DAC members here today and I'd like to introduce them. And do we have?

Nathan Francis by chance, has Nathan been able to log in? I'm gonna keep. We'll keep a line open for Nathan to say hello. Desirea Haggard. Good morning.

DH Desirea Haggard 2:49

Hi everyone. Good morning, Desirea Haggard.

RB Randy Banis 2:52

Also you're welcome to introduce yourself. And there's anything on your agenda if there's things that you've seen recently to talk about, this would be a chance to just say anything that's off the agenda that you'd like to comment on.

So Desiree, I wanted to make sure you had that chance. Anything to add?

DH Desirea Haggard 3:13

Thank you. Nothing else to add.

RB Randy Banis 3:15

And we have Jen Henning. Good morning, Jen.

JH Jennifer Henning 3:20

Good morning.

RB Randy Banis 3:23

Anything to share?

JH Jennifer Henning 3:25

No, not at this moment. Just happy to be here and see everyone. Thanks.

RB **Randy Banis** 3:29

And you're located in Morongo Valley, aren't you?

JH **Jennifer Henning** 3:32

Correct. I'm in Morongo Valley, but currently sitting in Palm Springs.

RB **Randy Banis** 3:38

Representing the public at large?

JH **Jennifer Henning** 3:40

Dispersed recreational interests.

RB **Randy Banis** 3:42

There we are. Good morning. Good to have you. And I don't see Anne Kulikoff online yet, do I? And by chance. Let's leave the line open in hopes that Anne can join us. Terry McGlynn is online. Good morning, Terry.

TM **Terry McGlynn** 4:07

Hi everybody. I'm an academician and so as you are aware, the federal government has announced universities as the enemy. And so, I'm glad that you all have my presence here. The one thing I'd like to mention among the many, many extraordinary things that are concerning, broadly speaking, is the permitting of exploration in the ACEC. Which we just got an e-mail about within the last few days. And so we're rather flabbergasted. They're concerned about that.

RB **Randy Banis** 4:40

Which ACEC Terry do you recall?

TM **Terry McGlynn** 4:44

It's the Amargosa.

Randy Banis 4:47

RB Oh yeah. OK. And we also have online Steve Reyes. Good morning, Steve. Good to have you.

RS **Reyes, Steve** 4:57

Good morning, Randy. Yeah. Thanks for having me here today. Shout out to the BLM folks. Just a quick update, the 100-year anniversary for Route 66 is coming up in November 2026. BLM, you see a huge influx of visitors and I know there's some restrictions for the BLM for travel, but whenever field trips are available, it'd be great to start doing those again. And that's all I got. And I represent archaeology and historic.

RB **Randy Banis** 5:31

Good morning. Did I skip over Dick Holiday? I think I did, didn't I?

RH **Richard Holliday** 5:35

Yeah. Good morning. I have just a couple other questions later in the program from the Forest Service about some of the roots on the Forest Service area. But I'm a dispersed recreation person.

RB **Randy Banis** 5:54

Good to see you again.

RH **Richard Holliday** 5:56

Thank you.

RB **Randy Banis** 5:58

I have San Bernardino County supervisor Dawn Rowe. Good morning, Dawn. Nice to see you.

ES **Dawn Rowe** 6:04

Good morning, Randy. Thank you. I am the third district supervisor for San Bernardino County. I cover 10,000 square miles of mostly desert area. I like to tell people I touch Arizona, Nevada and LA County. So, it's a huge area currently still serving as the chairman of the board for the county.

DR **Dawn Rowe** 6:23

So it's a pleasure to be here.

RB **Randy Banis** 6:27

Great to see you here with us today. We had a great team rounding out that team. Is 2 more members Creed Stone, Creed? I don't see you logged in. Holler if you are though. And then lastly, Ed Stovin. Good morning, Ed.

ES **Ed Stovin** 6:47

Good morning, Randy. It's nice to be here. I represent off-road vehicle users.

RB **Randy Banis** 6:55

My name is Randy Banis. I'm a represent public at large. I live in Leona Valley, CA on the edge of the California Desert District. President of Friends of El Mirage and Friends of Jawbone. Just a couple of things. Sorry, we didn't have our March meeting. The transition in administration's. And probably other matters combined cancelled our March meeting and I'm really glad that Brandon and the state office and Kate and the rest of the BLM team were able to put this July meeting together, even though it's virtual. The cut in travel for the agency will impact our meetings and hopefully over time the agency will find a way to be able to fund our in-person meetings again. I miss them a lot and we get a lot done and we get to know each other much better much more quickly. So that said, I'm really glad that we have this. Well, terrible to say, but at least they're glad we had the practice that we had during the pandemic that we could at least meet in a virtual environment.

And it's nice to know that plan could be dusted off and put back into place today. So, the public also has a chance to join us and express their opinion to the Desert Advisory Council. Just one interesting news story that came out last the last several months. A court decision not in our circuit, not in California circuit but in the circuit to the north on what's called corner cutting it was. A court decision that challenged the ban on cutting corners on checkerboard public lands public.

Some members of the public felt they were losing access to public lands and brought forward a suit and went through the agency has long held that corner cutting is not allowed. But this in this circuit. It is now allowed in the circuit. Who knows if it'll go to the Supreme Court or not and become a national decision, but it's something I'd like to learn everybody too, from a standpoint of public access to the public land. Look it up, corner cutting interesting decisions. So, with that, I'm just going to move down

the agenda. Thanks for letting me have so much time today. Let me turn it back to Brandon and Brandon's gonna remind us of the rules of engagement today.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 10:02

Thank you. And so, I forgot to mention in the beginning that we are recording this meeting, and we have someone taking notes. I think our next stop is going to be in, in the public comments, but we're a little bit early on that at the moment. So Kate.

HH **Hans Haas** 10:24

Brandon could I jump in and interrupt real quick?

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 10:27

Yes, of course.

HH **Hans Haas** 10:28

I think I got passed by an introduction there.

RB **Randy Banis** 10:29

Did I miss Hans?

HH **Hans Haas** 10:31

So my name is Hans Haas. I represent dispersed recreational interests.

It's an absolute pleasure to be with you guys. This will be my last meeting for my three-year term and I gotta say it's been a privilege to work with everyone.

It's been a great experience. So sorry about that. You can go ahead, Brandon.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 10:50

But no, I apologize that we skipped over you. So, Kate, should we maybe move into some of the executive orders? And then open up public comment at 9:30.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 11:05

Yeah, so right now we are missing. Let's see Creed and Nathan who would give us quorum? So, at this moment, we don't have quorum. I'm trying to get a hold of them.

We might just take a break until our public comment so I can try and call them if it's OK. Let's resume at 9:30, right at public comment.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 11:27
OK. Thanks Kate.

ES **Ed Stovin** 12:23
Did something happen?

TM **Terry McGlynn** 12:34
Yeah, Ed, what happens is we're taking a break for the moment because we don't have a quorum. Because Nathan and you know there's in one category, we don't have enough people. So, we're just taking a break until the public comments.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 26:51
Welcome back everybody. I know we have about 45 more seconds before we go into public comments, but I did want to mention because we don't have quorum, we won't be able to vote on the Forest Service proposal. So, we're gonna change the agenda a little bit in hopes that we get quorum later. So, we're gonna have the Forest Service present at the end and we'll just push up all the agenda items after the public comment.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 27:31
No problem, Brandon. Thank you so much.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 27:33
Yep. Thanks Travis. Well, I have 9:30 on my time keeping device. Turn it over to Kate to go over some of the protocols for making public comments on. Then we can go into the public comment period.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 28:27
All right. Good morning, everybody. So as a member of public, you're invited to observe but not comment or ask questions during the meeting. You'll be addressing DAC members only. You have 3 minutes to make your comment. If you have additional comments. If we have time at the end, you'll get an additional 3 minutes. If

we have more people wanting to speak, then the time allows you are welcome to e-mail me, and I can put my e-mail into the chat. kmiyamoto@blm.gov. To make sure it's recorded in this meeting minutes. You'll be called on in the order that you raise your hand. At the top of your screen there's a little icon with a hand. So if you click that you will be in line to give a comment, and we'll run through as many as we need until 10:00. All right, so. First up. We have Steven. You are unmuted. And you have 3 minutes. Let me start the timer.

GS **Gjerstad, Steven** 29:49
Yeah, I think.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 29:50
All right, go ahead, Steven.

GS **Gjerstad, Steven** 29:50
I think I'm unmuted now.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 29:52
Yes.

GS **Gjerstad, Steven** 29:54
OK so. I guess you know I've. I've talked to a number of people about the issue that I'm gonna talk about today previously, but I know there have been a lot of personnel changes also in the BLM. So, I'm gonna just very quickly review what the issue is. I own land out in the western Mojave and that area is a checkerboard of private, public land. I'm in the area where my property is just to give some specificity to it, I'm in. Township 31 as range 42 E and about 49.5% of the land in that Township is private and about 46.5% is owned by the BLM. The BLM has established hundreds of routes through private and public land in the area without regard for ownership, and I'm going to just read to you from the final supplemental Environmental impact statement that the BLM issued in 2019. They've said BLM cannot designate routes on non-BLM lands, however, route designation on BLM managed lands may result in the development of linear features on lands which are not under. The jurisdiction of the BLM, for example, in an area which has private lands intermixed with BLM managed lands linear features may develop on private lands as

the public traverses private lands to continue along a route which has been designated OHV Open or OHV Limited on non-BLM.

On BLM managed lands, you know the problem with this language is that it suggests that there's a very passive attitude toward properties the private property, but in fact on the section of property where mine is located, there are 31 BLM signs that have been carcinite signs with route numbers. And this results in a lot of trespass. A lot of property damage and a lot of aggression from OHV riders toward the property owners. So, I'm trying to, you know, get something done about this. And I'm really having a lot of problems. It's been more than 3 1/2 years that I've been trying to, trying to get the BLM to respond to this and to close the routes on my property. You know you've said in the final supplemental environmental impact statement that BLM cannot place routes on non-BLM lands. Nevertheless, you've done this and you've refused to take those routes and close them. So, you know the way I'm going to deal with this in the near future is that my time. Is it up or what? What's this going on?

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 33:05

Yes. So that was the three minutes. We're gonna see if anybody else has a comment and then if not you're welcome to have three additional minutes.

GS **Gjerstad, Steven** 33:11

OK, OK. Thank you.

Miyamoto, Kate K 33:25

MK All right, I'm seeing no other hands. So, Steven, yes, you can have three additional minutes.

GS **Gjerstad, Steven** 33:34

Thank you. OK. So I mean, just to give you kind of an indication of the, you know, the kind of problems that we encounter, I could tell you my trespass in the area, but I'd rather have it come right from BLM law enforcement. So I'm gonna go to the grants and cooperative agreement programs, law enforcement grant applications from the BLM. Barstow and Ridgecrest and they've used almost exactly the same language from in 2019 to 2025. So I'm gonna just read to you from one of these unlawful off route travel, trespass, incursion and resource damages, resource damage within

sensitive desert habitat such as wilderness areas, areas of critical environmental concern, and on to private lands continues to occur frequently despite efforts to stop this illegal behavior such as signs, barriers, kiosks and maps, which are widely distributed and available to the recreating public. Rehabilitated intrusions and structural improvements meant to educate and guide OHV travelers on to lawful routes of travel continue to be disregarded and destroyed by reckless OHV operation.

So you know this is a problem for the BLM and you know you have a resource decision management problem to determine. You know whether you're going to allow this kind of conduct to continue on your property or not. But when it comes to my property, I see it really differently. I see this as just you know.

You're knowingly allowing people to damage my property and the property of other property owners in this area. And you're unwilling to take any measures to prevent them from doing that when you know they have deliberately mistreated our property and deliberately mistreated us year after year.

So I really want this to stop. And the way that I'm gonna deal with this is I've been coming to you in the Desert Advisory Council meetings, and I first wrote to Karen Mourtisen when she was BLM state director 45 months ago and I can't get anywhere. So, the way I'm gonna deal with this is I'm going to take this to the federal court, and I'm gonna join the Center for Biological Diversity versus BLM lawsuit. And I'm gonna do this. Under Rule 24, A two of the rules of federal procedure, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and if you don't know what that entails or what that means, you can bring that to the attention of Ricky Turner, the US Attorney in this case. Or Paul Turk, the other US attorney. Thank you.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 36:46

OK. I don't see any other hands up for public comment so. Steven, is that was that your last? Are you?

GS **Gjerstad, Steven** 37:04

I'll just say a couple more words.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 37:06

Alright.

GS **Gjerstad, Steven** 37:07

OK. So, if you know the time's kinda running out on this and you can in fact deal with me. But in the future, this is gonna be mediated by a federal judge because it hasn't worked for 45 months in the way that I've been proceeding. And I'll say this, you know, to people who advocate on behalf of OHV, recreation in the western Mojave. You know, it's perhaps somewhat of a matter of indifference to some of the BLM personnel. It might be a relief to them not to have to deal with this if there's a closure in the checkerboard area, you know if that. If that's the result that comes out of a court decision.

But for those of you who do advocate for it like Ed Stovin and Randy Banis, you know, think about, whether you want to continue along this path of taking, the minimum steps that are possible to address the problems that property owners have in this area and risk the closure of the entire checkerboard, or if you want to think about whether you want to try to deal with the property owners and address the safety issues and the property damage and all the other issues that exist out here with having OHV recreation on private property. You know that's what this that's. A decision that you're gonna have to make. Do you want as members of the Desert Advisory Council? Do you want to step forward and say, hey, you know what? Maybe for the interests of the OHV community in this area, we should start to deal with this problem. Or maybe just say we'll continue along the path that we've taken for the past 45 months and just try to ignore this problem and hope it goes away.

And that's pretty much, you know, that's and that's up to you.

But if we you know if we continue along this path that has been taken for the past 45 months, I do see this ending up in federal court and I think I won't need a, I guess this is my third. I won't need a fourth opportunity to make a public comment.

I think I've kind of made the points that I have to make, that we we've run along this the course of this issue. For as far as I think I can with the BLM and with the OHMPR division and with the other organizations that operate in the area, they, they just, they just won't, there hasn't been sufficient flexibility and response from my perspective. So thank you.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 40:11

All right. Thank you, Steven. I'll turn it back over to you, Brandon.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 40:17

Thank you. We're gonna go into the executive orders, but Dick, I see your hand is up.

RH **Richard Holliday** 40:24

Yeah. Well, I thought we got some extra time here for public comment I can make a comment based on the public thing.

I have some questions of the Forest Service in that I not according to their fee increases, but some of the routes that are closed that have been closed since the virus thing and they say they closed them because it was too much use of the roads and I haven't really been able to, there's no plate, nobody really super local up in the up at Lake Arrowhead where I where these occur to ask the BLM and because they're, I mean the Forest Service because they're they probably have some of their smart people here. I thought maybe I could ask them a couple questions and use up some of this time if anybody else comes any other public person comes on, wants to speak, I'll be glad to glad to stop. What do you think?

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 41:25

Kate, is that in terms of the point, is that allowable?

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 41:34

Umm. I'm not sure. I think you would want to do that during. I mean, I guess, yeah, it's a public comment on and you can do it on off agenda items. So yeah, I believe so.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 41:52

OK.

RH **Richard Holliday** 41:55

Let me go ahead and ask my question.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 41:57

Go for it.

RH **Richard Holliday** 41:58

OK, there's a couple routes up in Laurel Lake, Arrowhead in the in the San Bernardino

National Forest, 3N34C and 2N34C that are that are closed. They've been open for years and we've used those as drive our vehicles. Our Jeeps on these roads and they've been closed and anytime I ask anybody up there without if they just say. Well, it was closed. They were closed because of too many people were using them. So I'm kind of wondering if anybody that's familiar with the Samurai International Forest would know why these roads are closed and they're the road that runs off Hook Creek that runs down in and runs into the forest and goes to a place called Splinter's Cab and Deep Creek Rd. I don't know.

Is there anybody here from that knows about those routes in San Bernardino Forest?

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 42:57

Hey, good morning, Richard. I know very little, but I'll be more than happy to take your information and get you in contact with somebody on the on the Ranger district to be able to answer that question.

RH **Richard Holliday** 43:09

OK.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 43:10

And to let you know, I'll be becoming the Forest Recreation officer here in a couple weeks on the San Bernardino National Forest. So, we can also go direct at that time.

RH **Richard Holliday** 43:22

OK. That'll be great. I'll maybe you can take my information and get back to me when you find out something or if when you can talk to me about it a little bit more, that'd be really great.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 43:34

Yeah, it will be a couple weeks just to let you know.

RH **Richard Holliday** 43:37

Not a problem. It's been that way since for the last four years, so I think we can wait a little longer, but I'd like to see if we could get some of those routes open.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 43:46
Understood. And I apologize for not having any a better answer for you, but I'll definitely get it for you.

RH **Richard Holliday** 43:53
Thank you.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 44:12
Any more public comments. Other comments from the DAC.

RH **Richard Holliday** 44:27
Yeah. Is anybody from the, is anybody from the BLM?

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 44:27
I see.

RH **Richard Holliday** 44:32
Addressing this gentleman's here about this issue with through the routes. I know, I know. I've been on the DAC for four years and he keeps coming back and I guess I don't know if anybody's responding to him with the reasons why they can't do anything. Maybe they we haven't had the right people I know we've gone through a lot of changes to the district managers and personnel, but it would seem that we need to need to get that. That issue solved well to somebody's. Somebody's either you know, officials that he's not going to do anything or we're not going to do anything other than just waiting for him to come back. Again, to the DAC.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 45:23
You see, David has his hand up and we're still in public comment, right, Kate?

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 45:29
Yes, yes. So yeah, David, you are welcome.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 45:30
OK.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 45:35

Let me unmute you and. All right, you're free for your 3 minutes. Dave, are you are you able to? I unmuted you.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 46:07

Still muted.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 46:17

Dave, you might have to click at the top where there's a next to your camera. There's a mic icon. I disabled you on my end, but you might have to unmute on your end. There you go.

DK **David Kuskie** 46:30

Different, different meetings. It has them in different locations. I kept clicking on the mic in the box. I'm I apologize. So, first thing, good morning, everybody.

One of the things I wanted to say is thank you, Brando. Matt with BLM was able to have them join US meeting with the transmission line. There's a big project that's going on at the South dunes of Glamis that we've been trying to stay on top of to keep the transmission lines from intruding into the off road riding area, so wanted to mostly say thank you for you know Brandon coming down and joining us for the tour that we did with the Horizon West and the Ironwoods project.

But you know, very nice to get everybody down there to make sure that we can keep our riding areas open and keeping it safe out there for you know, everybody to be able to ride. So there's multiple other projects that I'm working on with those guys, with Matt, Brandon and then the office down there, so it's been really nice and it's great to be on here. I'm gonna throw a quick comment out on that Steven [Gjerstad], you know, even the other meetings with the other groups I ride in his area a lot.

So I know where his property is I know where you know the problems are.

There is a lot of locals to that area up there that they have problems with intruding into a lot of where they're not even designated off-highway vehicle areas.

That they're out there running around on. If you even look at like the Sparia area and you look at the Barstow area, there's a lot of locals that just drive on the streets and then go out and run and intrude in properties. I can flat say that I know 90% of the off roaders in that area. We all respect the different trails in that and people's private

property. The other big problem out there is some of these property owners that are getting in there and stringing up barbed wire or other fencing and obstructions there that make it dangerous for the off roaders. At the same time, so everybody, I'm glad I can be on the call today and have a great day.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 48:44

Thank you, Dave. All right. I don't see any other hands.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 48:53

Other public comments before we transition into the executive orders and Secretary of orders? Think I waited my 7 seconds. OK, we I'll go into the executive orders here. As you know, there's been quite a few updates to policies, and I thought this would be a good opportunity to go over some of the executive and Secretary orders that impact the Bureau of Land Management. So, give me a moment.

I'm gonna share just a quick summary. So, you see what the executive orders are. So there's about nine that I'm gonna cover today and you can see them on the screen here.

So the first one, the ensuring accountability and prioritizing public safety and federal hiring. Kind of. The two kind of key points that that executive order does is it extends the hiring for the federal civilians across kind of the executive departments until October 15th, there's limited exceptions. The exclusions exceptions cover immigration enforcement, national security, public safety, a military personnel and other critical services like Social Security and veteran health care.

That's kind of the main items on that first executive order.

Going into the empowering common sense wildland fire prevention and response.

That one does a couple of things. One, it directs the Secretary of Interior and the Department of Agriculture to consolidate their wild land fire programs.

It has an emphasis on improving federal partnerships as well as driving.

Responsible Land Management and prevention at the state and local levels.

And then also using available technology which includes AI data sharing, mapping, weather forecasting.

Things to help enhance the state and local wildfire identification and response capabilities. And then going on to the addressing national energy emergencies, 3417 So this was one of Secretary Burgum's first major actions that he took to in response to the President Trump's national emergency declaring by tackling critical

needs for reliable, diversified and growing the affordable energy supply.

And so this this does a couple of things. It first will immediately, the Interior is going to identify all emergency and other legal authorities available to help facilitate the permitting, leasing, development and transportation. In refining of domestic energy sources as well as critical minerals.

So this effort is ongoing, the BLM, at the headquarters and the department level. And then the second thing that the executive order and Secretary Order does is to identify all authorities that we have available to help expedite the completion of all authorized.

It's inappropriate infrastructure, energy, environmental and natural resource projects. The Secretary is gonna be reporting these and submit a recommendation for exercise. Any other certain authorities necessary to the President so that that effort is also ongoing and then kind of continuing on into the unleashing America's energy.

This is executive order 14154 and then in response to that executive order.

Secretary Burgum issued the 3418. This one encourages energy exploration and production of federal lands, expediting the permitting process, and reducing some of the burdens on the development of domestic energy resources.

So, that's kind of working in tandem with the national energy emergency. So those two work together. Moving on to the securing our borders. So, this one does again, a few different things. It directs urgent action to stop the mass illegal migration enhanced national securities. It mandates building new infrastructures along the southern border between the United States and Mexico, and then it reinstates full deportation and twist, removal of illegal entrants.

And so, in terms of BLM's kind of involvement, BLM California manages about 71 miles of public land along the California, Mexico border. And within 100 miles of the border, remanded about 3.3 million acres. We're working with Border Patrol.

On some of the user related issues. We maintain strong relationships with the federal state local, and tribal agencies. We're working on some of the issues that we run into - unauthorized trails that are built, litter, there's illegal grow sites that we've been working with, as well as vandalism. So we've been working with Border Patrol in the local areas to help address some of those issues.

In April, Department of Homeland Security announced new border wall and road construction projects in California. And then the BLM, Palm Springs and El Centro field offices have been actively working on a variety of different projects with. Border Patrol and coordinating some of the closures of the gaps.

And then so moving on to delivering emergency price relief for American families and defeating the cost-of-living crisis. So, this one is looking at deregulations and directs the Department of Interior to look at any unnecessary obsolete regulations with the emphasis to reduce red tape, enhance national security, improve the quality of life for the American people.

We've instituted at Interior for every new regulation that the bureaus come out with at least 10 existing regulations need to be removed.

And then so all the bureaus in the department were looking at streamlining financial management and reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens.

And then the Department of Interior in June announced a formal rescission of 18. 18 obsolete or redundant regulations. And then BLM has recently also announced that our intent to rescind the energy rule that reduce rents and fees.

And then going into the immediate measures to increase American mineral production. So that one does a few different things. The Bureau is gonna submit a mineral production project to be considered into the transparency projects on the permitting dashboard. That's in line with the Fast 41 transparency projects.

We're intending to develop a list of all mineral production projects that have an operating operation, plan or an application for approval that has been submitted that we can immediately approve or permit.

And all this information is gonna be available in our MLRS system or the mineral land recordation system. And the intent is to identify as many possible.

Federal land manage projects by the respective agency that might be suitable to use this particular order.

And then the last one, restoring truth and sanity to the American history.

This one, it directs the agencies to remove any monuments and then restore federal sites to the original history, including any markers within the museum.

BLM doesn't have any of these markers that we've identified to date.

But this also encourages public participation, so within the various field offices we have a sign and cure code that people can scan and provide input or identify any issues with the services that the BLM of any of the facilities, campgrounds, etcetera. So those will be up in the actual offices, as well as many sites as appropriate out on public lands. I know that was a lot, but I think those are the major updates, the policies that we have to date. Sharing the screen here. So with that, I think we can go into our updates. Unless there's other comments or that we do, we have quorum yet?

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 1:00:35
No, not yet. I did get ahold of Nathan.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:00:36
OK.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 1:00:38
We're hoping to have it in an hour, so we're hoping after the updates.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:00:41
OK. So, do you wanna take a break in? We can go into the updates from the field offices.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 1:00:57
Yeah, that works.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:00:59
OK. Maybe take another 15-minute break.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 1:01:10
Let's do a 10. A 10-minute break and then go into the updates. I'll put the timer up.

ES **Ed Stovin** 1:10:07
[Background noise]

TM **Terry McGlynn** 1:10:34
Heads up, Ed, your mic is not on.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:10:35
Next.

ES **Ed Stovin** 1:11:00
There is such a thing. I didn't think there was a difference.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:11:37

Welcome back, everyone. We're gonna go into the district and field offices, report out, and then we'll hopefully we'll have quorum by the end of that.

Then we can go into the four service presentations. So, starting with the district office, got a couple of updates on the staffing front.

As I mentioned in the orders, we've had a hiring freeze since January, and it extends through October. We have been able to get certain positions through, including the law enforcement, fire and a couple of select public safety such as the Park Rangers and maintenance employees. We were able to hire our district law enforcement ranger, and that individual starts next week. On the fire front, we have emergency stabilization from the border, 2 fires that happened in January, which the Border Two burned over the Bonnie Fire from 2024. So those that work is underway. It's near the communities of Dezura and Otimesa in San Diego County.

On the acquisition front. So BLM just recently acquired 8 parcels of land amounting to about 350 acres from the Friends of the Desert Mountains, that's a local conservation group.

And then on the Pacific Crest Trail. They we have FEMA Emergency relief funding that came through after the hurricane or tropical storm, Hillary. Wiped out portions of the Pacific Crest trails, near the Whitewater and Mission Creek.

So we're working on an agreement, the Forest Service, the BLM and the Pitta on work that we're hoping that we'll start this fall. Optima would be the spring.

And then on the OHV front, we have the G 25 grant all 5 field offices have submitted their request for funding. There's about 24 applications and 3.7 million in requested funding. We have to compete obviously for those, but we are competing in the operations, maintenance, restoration, education and safety, and then the law enforcement categories.

So we have our fingers to cross at those funding will come through and those are the major updates from the District office. We can go out to the various field offices starting in Barstow.

SR **Stamer, Marc R** 1:14:58

Yeah. Good morning, everybody. So, a few updates for the Barstow office. Personnel wise, we've actually had some recent changes. We are still down two of our outdoor rec planner positions. And then also we are instead of we on our on our table of organization, we typically run with four Park Rangers. Those are the folks that maintain our campgrounds, our facilities, a lot of the administrative sites, cleared up

trash. Out in the beyond lands, all those, all that work out in the ground, they're the folks that do, really, that's where the rubber meets the road.

So we have four of those typically right now we have 1. So, we're down 3.

We're hoping that we can get those filled, as Brandon was talking about those executive orders as part of that component, that's really important, critical for public health and safety.

So we're working to see if we can get those approved for, you know, for filling. But concurrently as a result of those deficiencies, we're also evaluating our ability to continue to keep some of our facilities open and what that's going to look like, especially as we move into the busy season this fall. Other activities that we've had, we did send out our notification yesterday that our Saint Cloud exploratory mining project or drilling, we published that yesterday.

That's a project that is exploratory drilling for less than one acre. And again, that's out on the street. And yeah, as stated earlier, it is, you know, within the Amargosa in North ACEC which doesn't actually restrict mining from occurring in it.

We just have to mitigate for it, so that's out on the street. I encourage you all to go to E planning and take a look at that.

Let's see. We also did approve recently a comm site in Kahome Pass for improved emergency and communications along the Cohon Pass on the east side of the 15, basically off of 138 as you head towards Silverwood.

And we have, we've had staffing and available.

What we've been trying to continue to implement along the I-40 desert fencing protection. So, fencing to protect or keep desert tortoises off of the highway so that projects been ongoing, continuing to build out that fence and install those barriers for to protect desert tortoises.

And then Brandon talked a little bit about fires.

We've had a few fires on the unit, one of which the ranch fire, which we've currently been requesting funds through our ESR Emergency stabilization program to do some stabilization work out there for the next few years, so.

Otherwise, we're preparing for our upcoming OHV season this fall.

We're also in the process of developing our management plan for the razor open riding area, which is of the five riding areas. That's the one that doesn't currently have a management plan.

So hoping we can get that moved along. And developed and finalized that would really help us out and enable us to have SRPS out there to do other things like Rd.

maintenance and other important activities.

And I've talked about the DDC, the Desert Discovery Center in the past, every opportunity that I can find for funding that, you know, through my mechanisms, we're continuing to request funding to get that facility repaired and open as soon as we can. But that still continues to be a challenge and also reaching out and working with different partners on their interest and involvement. Everyone has, I think everyone I've talked to has an interest in the DDC and see it open. Now it's just trying to pull together the right group to make it happen. That's the end of report for Barstow. Brandon.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:18:51

Thank you, Marc. I think you have your hand up.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:18:59

Yeah, soon as I turn my turn my speaker on. Yeah. I just want to ask Marc. I know we didn't have some meetings, so you didn't get to do your fee proposal, is that correct?

SR **Stamer, Marc R** 1:19:10

Yeah, we just because of other workload, we weren't able to get that through the. That's still on the docket for us to try to get done. Unfortunately, we, you know the quorum and all that is going to be a challenge moving forward. But yeah, we're still working towards it. But it's just it's been a challenge for us to get it through and the next step for us is to get that out for public approval.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:19:33

OK. Yeah, I'm sorry. I'm sorry we didn't get to that in and the problem with the DAC meetings and everything. Anyway, good, good luck.

SR **Stamer, Marc R** 1:19:42

But yeah, you don't need to apologize. That's on us. Just too many things going on and yeah, I appreciate that Dick, and we'll figure it out at some point.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:19:52

OK. Good, good, good job.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:19:58

Any other comments for Marc? Let's go to Matt El Centro.

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:20:06

Yeah. Good. Good morning. Glad to see everyone and hope we can meet in person at some point, but just want to give you an hiring updates. We've recently we recently lost an employee to the deferred resignation program, but El Centro was in pretty good shape.

We are right now interviewing for geologist a full-time geologist, especially with the mining in our area a park Ranger, crew seasonal, two law enforcement Rangers and a seasonal maintenance worker.

So all but the LA Rangers are right now in the interview process and we'll be making job offers next week.

So I want to thank Brandon and Amy for making those happen and working with our team in state office.

What's going on? Currently we have 7 interns for our annual tailor Lizard monitoring in terms of rotating between two differential teams in order to learn the most about the lizards and monitoring the techniques including pit tagging, recording of various physical attributes and collect genetic samples. So I know a few DAC members in the past expressed wanted to go out with the interns. Please reach out to me and we can get that scheduled. It's really cool, but they do go out really, really early in the morning like four or five in the morning and we're wrapping up phase one of the ethnographic study with the Putsan Tribe and the importance of the cargo Muchacho mountains in coordination with the district office, so Brandon's archaeologist team up there cultural team is helping us take the lead on that phase two recently was funded by the State Office, which will be, be a support a National Historic places of nomination.

We are in public, we'll be going into public scoping this fall for two projects.

One will be Perkins renewable energy, which is an East Mesa and the other one will be the Rainbow East mining exploration and that is Mesquite mine out by Glamis Ranger station. So, as you know, the current Ranger station design, how it's designed, we cannot afford that. So, at the next DAC meeting, we're gonna give hopefully give you an update. On how we're moving forward with that, we're right now out for bids for design build.

This footprint needs to be reduced to come in pricing also with our raising that is drafting, we're able to contribute some for every dollar we we're able to contribute from the El Centro office, the state and federal would match it by a dollar. So, we can trade 1.8 million over the next few years and that will be over, you know, five or six years. We'll have to pay that 1.8 million loan, but that would give us, I think 3.6 million more and so. Definitely trying to get that built. We will do a presentation in August. I've been in contact with the American Sand Association, which is getting the other OHV groups that we can do a presentation of where we're at the process, what's the funding and everything. So I'll be working closely with Amy Lin, our deputy District manager on that, and will be Dave Kuskie. We've ASA will coordinate the dates and times that will work for the OHV group.

We are implementing Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation business plan. I want to thank the DAC members for approving that last December so that our permit fees will go up. So we're rolling out those new fees this fall. Some good news. We were going to originally ask, once a bother permit, that we're going to have to register it. So last year we changed how we printed the passes to more holographic and harder things to fake passes. So we last year we found no fake passes out there or permits. I want to say so we will not be implementing that register in your permit.

We've just felt the time would take and that, you know, just another layer of that was not worth that.

The other thing that DAC brought up and also the OHV user groups when we were rolling out this new bit are getting approval on this new business plan with loss of vendors, especially mom and pop.

So unfortunately, we've been working with contracting.

There's nothing we can put in the new bid we're doing for another five years.

Of that contract will go out to bid, but what we can do is once the awarded, we'll meet with the company that wins that bid and have that discussion. If they can do like a layaway kind of function or the small mom and pops can only maybe pay half of the fee up front and then half once it's sold. So, I just wanted to show those because those were the two largest concerns about the business plan when it came in front of the OHV user groups and the DAC.

We are working on a few things for safety, we're update. We'll be hopefully doing some OHV safety videos with Imperial County sheriff's state parks up to wells and ROT partners, border patrols offered to help us make those videos for like they're going to be one-minute videos for, we're gonna have seven one-minute videos.

So we're hoping to have those happen if Border Patrol has the time to help us film those. Last year we had multiple huge fires out there that were people's rigs catching on fire. So, one area that we need to ensure a lot more safety is **** flats. So the next couple weeks we will be, I'll be signing some documents to add in fire corridors out there, there'll be pathways that they'll be escape paths if there's a fire out there. Our concern is everyone's bungled in there. There could be a major fire that just kept lighting everyone's rigs on fire as it went down, so we'll be doing more safety videos and also updating people on the safety what those corridors will look like. We are onboarding site host volunteers. Our camp host for our LTVAs and ISDRA this year. We did change from for ISDRA area from 250 a month. Each campus would get like utilities on that. We're going to offer 800. That has turned out really well. Our LTV as we're this year, we're going to give \$400 to the LTV camp host instead of \$250. So, we're hoping to get a more diverse group of volunteers out there. We are working on a project I've been meeting with, doing government to government with a lot of the tribes up in eastern San Diego and they have a lot of concerns about OHV illegal routes up at M Valley. So, we are working with, I'll be working with, we're gonna be working with Ace and CCC to try to get a crew up there each season to address, you know, do some landscape adding in landscape. Also, prevention of those keto's, OHV routes, illegal routes continually to be used. So, we'll have more updates in probably our November meeting. But something new, something we're gonna do a lot more up there. We're gonna work closer with the Tribes and San Diego Off-road coalition. And that's all I have. Any questions? Yes, Richard.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:27:05
OK.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:27:10

Gotta keep turning that microphone back on. Thank you for your update. I'm glad to see you change the way those fees are that have been pretty did that hard for people to do to try to keep track of their and you keep track of their license numbers and everything. A lot of issues with that. What's the, what's the I? A quick question about they talking about the power line across the South dunes. Can you explain a little bit about which is that an additional to the other 500 line that runs through there?

LD Lohr, Matthew D 1:27:43

Yes, correct. It's called Ironwood, and we're in the preliminary stages.

We've been working with Dave Kuskie, been working closely with them to ensure that it does not affect any of the South dune OHV areas.

You know, Brandon, I think Dave said on his presentation a few minutes ago in public comment that we are working with them. There's no there's a preliminary design, but nothing set in stone. So we are working closely to get that project moving like Brandon was shared is a lot of projects. You know we're getting delayed so we're looking at a way to keep that moving because that is a major power upgrade for the state of California. So I will keep. I can keep you guys posted. I could do a presentation, let you guys know a little more, but we're implementing stages and they've been working closely with Dave Kuskie, which is he's been instrumental of say, Nah, this isn't going to work. And then we went out there about two weeks ago, Brandon and I and toured the area, especially around the All-American Canal area.

RH Richard Holliday 1:28:39

Is that is that a second 500 line?

LD Lohr, Matthew D 1:28:43

Yep, it will be, yes.

RH Richard Holliday 1:28:44

All right. What? How are you? What are you doing with a safety quarter issue that you're working with, Dave and other people as far as that and the CBD?

LD Lohr, Matthew D 1:28:52

Huh. So that's in Glamis Flats area. So, it's not anything with PMV [Peirson's Milk-vetch]. So we've been working close with fire Sheriff's Department to make sure there's corridors and there's proper, you know, suppression out there. So those corridors will run kind of with the Polaris area, the same numbering and stuff we're working with. So, they're just ways for people to get out that they're a clear path, that law enforcement can take in their fire, but also there was a major fire that users could get out of there.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:29:28

OK. I think that's really good idea cause that Glamis flats get really everybody gets more funny.

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:29:37

No.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:29:38

What a safety quarter down in the South dunes that you have been working with the Fish and Wildlife Service on?

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:29:45

Safety quarter.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:29:48

That's not the thing that the.

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:29:48

We.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:29:53

ASA has been working on IS in the patent Valley, a road in the patent valley.

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:29:57

Oh good. Yeah, yeah. So, we met with ASA and Dave is on here, but I think in May we have a path forward and we were all gonna get back together in the fall just with people schedules with ASA schedules on our schedules with what was going on with fires. So, we have a path forward. We're gonna start working on that.

I'm meeting with CBD, California for biological diversity and US Fish and Wildlife.

So there's a plan forward. We've met when we met with ASA, they had their attorney.

And there are biologists there. So, I think we have something moving forward on that, that we're gonna start working to see if that's possible without. Again, we don't wanna impact any use of the ISDRA area by opening that up. We wouldn't wanna close, you know, large swaths of lands. We wanna ensure you know that these

corridors can get in there and how we understand from ASA which says that they Fish and Wildlife and CBC are open to that. So, we're gonna have those conversations in the fall.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:30:55

All right, one last thing here on your end for your law enforcement for the dunes. Have you looked at Ghost Camping again this next year?

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:31:02

Uh-huh. We're gonna have definitely information out again at the Santa Super Sports show, but also yes, ghost camping. The good news is last year we out of our 12 Rangers, we only had six. This year we'll have 10 of the 12 and the No, the new ones we added have already used two. I've been out here before for like one of the incidents and so we have a strong team.

Last year we did do some ghost camping towing, and you know, it's just hard when you the tow company if they won't tow them.

So we did do some ghost camping look at and. Then we're also looking at Osborne Overlook doing a shoulder work on there. I know the shoulders have deteriorated, so if you have an ambulance and you know people coming up or down, it's really hard to land a helicopter on. So we'll be doing that too, but a lot of great things happening out there this year and my rec team. Thanks.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:31:56

OK. Thank you.

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:32:01

Mr. Banis.

RB **Randy Banis** 1:32:03

Thank you. Hey, awesome. Appreciate you coming back to the deck with feedback on our feedback. That's really neat, especially while it's still fresh in our mind. Thanks for that.

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:32:11

Good.

RB **Randy Banis** 1:32:15

I have questions about the geothermal lease sale.

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:32:18

Yes.

RB **Randy Banis** 1:32:19

First thing I found it interesting that as I understand it, each of these parcels that are identified for the lease sale each of those. Opens each parcel opens for a period of time online to a bidding process. So, you sign up and you say what parcel you're interested in, and they'll tell you the time slots and you'd participate, and you bid, which is really cool.

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:32:44

Mm-hmm.

Randy Banis 1:32:51

I'm sorry I did not sign up for any.

RB **Randy Banis** 1:32:56

But I do have a question because.

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:32:57

Yes.

RB **Randy Banis** 1:32:59

In the DRECP ACEC NLCS, that is, areas of critical environmental concern, national landscape conservation lands, as well as special and extensive recreation management areas were all exempted from renewable energy development.

LD **Lohr, Matthew D** 1:33:11

OK. Mm-hmm.

RB **Randy Banis** 1:33:25

With the little exception that Ocotillo Wells area OHV area could receive resource development without surface occupancy. Just wondering if any of these parcels are the start of that. If these parcels are those that could lead to opening that door for what was allowed in DRECP.

LD Lohr, Matthew D 1:33:56

So I'm going to step back and talk about a current project Truck Haven geothermal. So we've been working closely with state parks. And with warm *** and we are in working our way to scoping. It's nine months out, probably but what that's going to look like if Ormat does have wells or any kind of physical presence on state parks land. So we've been meeting with Enrique Arroyo, the district Superintendent of that area. This is very different. For state parks, they're not open to this. In the past, ever till now. So, we're working closely on that.

So the next part, yes, we've done our outreach with state parks.

Randy, on that again. There's no surface occupancy, but always, as always, per the MOU with state parks is they can get back those parcels with Truck Haven or the leasing. If they get leased, they are more open to that. I think with the clean energy of the State of California, but we'll work closely with state parks, and they've been they've been open. So, we've been talking about, hey, there's how we get this pipeline and claws to wash that rider's right on. You know, out there. And so we've I've just chatted with Ed still another recently on this so how can we put that underground under the wash or over or make it go up over the wash so they will be working closely this Wednesday just to share with you for the Truck Haven I met with state parks and or met where they discussed you know this is what we need to see if we want to keep that land in their EMU, or give it back the MOU or give it back to us. BLM does that kind of answer your question.

RB Randy Banis 1:35:28

It does. Yeah, it does.

LD Lohr, Matthew D 1:35:29

Yeah, we'll think, yeah, yeah.

RB Randy Banis 1:35:30

Thanks for that background.

LD Lohr, Matthew D 1:35:32

Thank you for the love following up on that business plan. It's going well, and we want to make sure we try to address anyone's concerns. Thank you.

RB Randy Banis 1:35:40

Thanks Matt.

LD Lohr, Matthew D 1:35:41

All right. Thanks.

AG Anderson, Brandon G 1:35:43

It looks like we have quorum now we will transition into the four service so they can give their presentation while we have quorum. So, Travis, is your team ready to go?

M Mason, Travis - FS, CA 1:35:59

Yeah. Just give me a second and I'll get my presentation ready, and we'll get going.

AG Anderson, Brandon G 1:36:02

Sure. Perfect. Appreciate the flexibility.

MK Miyamoto, Kate K 1:36:14

And welcome Nathan. Thanks so much for hopping on. Can we do a quick just a voice check for you?

FW Francis, Nathan W. (D&T) 1:36:27

Sure, this is Nathan.

MK Miyamoto, Kate K 1:36:30

All right. We can hear you. Thank you very much.

AG Mason, Travis - FS, CA 1:36:58

Sorry, my computer crashed all of a sudden, so just give me a sec.

M Mason, Travis - FS, CA 1:37:33

Kate, if I could have like 5 minutes, I believe it or not, I'm having some issues.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 1:37:41

OK. Should we do one more?

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 1:37:47

That'll be that would be awesome.

MK **Miyamoto, Kate K** 1:37:47

Field office OK. We'll do one more and then we'll go to you, Travis.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:37:55

Ron you're up.

NO **Nuckles, Ronald O** 1:37:58

All right. Good morning. Needles Field manager Ron Nuckles.

Hey, Randy, just to touch on something geothermal leases are minerals activities, not renewable resources, just to kind of clear that up.

But I did want to just kind of go over staffing for the Needles Field office.

We are down a few positions, but we've done a pretty good job and morale is pretty good in the office. We have been sharing resources.

I think that's something the other managers haven't really mentioned is we've been.

Sharing resources among the field offices and around the state and kind of pull together as a group for these high priority, you know, high profile projects and activities and it's actually been pretty, pretty good to watch you know behind the scenes you know working with our, my peers and anybody else that can lend a hand. So I think as you hear these staffing updates, yes, we are down positions, but we've done a pretty good job of managing our workload and working together on these in, in these tough times. So right now, Needles filled office were down.

We're actually down five positions, so assistant field manager Mitch Owens, one of our natural resource specialists, outdoor rec planner and our project manager, Planning environmental coordinator, as well as one of the LE Rangers.

But we have hired through recruitment act and LE Ranger. He's currently going through the background and we hope they will on board within the next couple months. So as it stands right now for management it's me. And then Sabrina, the monument manager, she filled in for me during the last stack.

And yeah, we're really excited to have her for projects right now.

Guess a little bit of a hot spot in the VLM.

We do have one of the only, we actually have the only rare Earth operating rare earth mineral mine in the United States, and it's the most prominent mine in the world.

Through that, that area, there's a lot of claim activity and operations. You know that folks turning in their operations plans and trying to jump on that bandwagon right now. Our highest profile project right now is a Castle mountain mine, EIS.

It is now a fast 41 covered project. And it it's about a 2000 acre expansion to the current footprint of the Castle Mountain mine and it's end result is to.

Triple the gold production coming out of that in the next for the next 20 years, we have a solar renewable solar project up in Sandy Valley, CA.

It's in preliminary stages. We're still working through plans of development, so it's really not ready for anything, but I thought I'd make mention of that.

We have multiple, multiple plans of operations being submitted for exploratory drilling in the Ivanpah ACEC. For the Desert, Antimony project is identified as a critical mineral by this administration through executive order.

We're currently working in the early stages for the finer gap mutual water company pipeline right of way.

We're still working through plan of development issues and trying to finalize their application NP materials, which is the mine I referenced, is the only rare earth mine in the United States.

They've approached us about a potential expansion as well as some well modifications. They also Department of Defense just became the largest shareholder of NP materials.

So we're sure how that's going to impact this office. We're currently working on two major transmission line rebuilds partnered with Palm Springs and Barstow on a couple of them WAPA Western area power associations going to do a rebuild from. The Lake Havasu Field office, down into Palm Springs.

And then we're in the preliminary stages of working with the LA District Water and power of the transmission line rebuild going through the Needles, Barstow office.

We're also working with SCE on the maintenance master operations and maintenance agreement in our area to kind of renew their right of ways and maintenance rights along a lot of the corridors and routes mentioned previously.

For this group's awareness, Mojave Trails National Monument plan.

Which was a hot topic there for a little bit. We've shelved that.

We're unsure when that may or may not come out. We haven't really received word

on it for several months now and it's just kind of it's pretty much done. We've just put it on the shelf and we're awaiting direction from headquarters on what to do next. And then the only other thing I have project wise, we're doing an emergency borough gather at Fenner Springs to Paiute mountains. We've got about 12 burros that are kind of trapped up there. That don't really have a good watering source and we've been kind of taking care of them for a while and we want to get them out of there. And so, we can take the water source out outside of that. I'm ready for questions. Steve Reyes.

RS **Reyes, Steve** 1:43:12

Hey, thanks for the Castle Mountain gold mining project for the overburden. Is there much intrusion to some of those historic town sites. I know there was some talk about burying some grave sites. Is that still gonna happen?

NO **Nuckles, Ronald O** 1:43:26

I think that's gonna be analyzed under one of the alternatives. We haven't really gotten that far down the road. I think that's an alternative for them to put the overburden over the gravesite and then.

RS **Reyes, Steve** 1:43:38

OK.

NO **Nuckles, Ronald O** 1:43:39

We're analyzing, you know, other alternatives to avoid it.

RS **Reyes, Steve** 1:43:46

Cool. Thank you.

NO **Nuckles, Ronald O** 1:43:49

Yep.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:43:51

Yeah, I had a question. When you're talking about the rare earth mines, were you talking about Mountain Pass?

Nuckles, Ronald O 1:43:56

NO Correct.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:43:57

OK. Yeah, that I saw something on the TV the other night. Kind of irritated me. It said that they're doing some big mine in in Montana. The only place in the United States that has that and I, somebody needs to tell them, hey, we've been doing it mount path for a long time, OK.

NO **Nuckles, Ronald O** 1:44:14

Yeah, there there's a lot of interest near that area, a lot of mining's going to picked up Colosseum, which is on MPs lands. And then there's a few exploratory drillings. Operations that are going to commence in a kind of east of MP materials.

RH **Richard Holliday** 1:44:31

Thank you very much.

NO **Nuckles, Ronald O** 1:44:34

Randy.

RB **Randy Banis** 1:44:36

Hey Ron, I just want to thank the BLM for working with the Chubbuck mine operators on working out a process for them. When the Mojave Trails National Monument subgroup visited there and met on it, it was a real head scratcher, and it was an interesting story. And an interesting challenge, and I'm surprised to see it got worked out as quickly as it did. Something satisfactory. So, kudos on that.

NO **Nuckles, Ronald O** 1:45:08

Yeah, no worries. Thank you. They were a good group to work with and it was kind of neat to. Reestablish their operating procedure. You know very similar to what they had 70 years ago. So, we were pretty excited to kind of do that work with them and I think they embraced historic nature of that mine. And I think that kind of went a long way in facilitating that project. So yeah, no worries.

One last thing I did want to mention as well, we are working with the Ivanpah solar group. To decommission that plant and you know, kind of formalize a

decommissioning plan for what that is, it looks like they're going to retire the plant first quarter of next year, but they're not going to decommission it until about second or third quarter. So, we're in the early stages of that as well. So that was one thing I like to mention. I apologize for that. Mr. Reyes.

RS **Reyes, Steve** 1:46:00

Yeah. I just want to thank you, Ron, for being so responsive. A couple emails we sent and Sabrina as well. I know some other folks have contacted you. Thanks for being so responsive.

NO **Nuckles, Ronald O** 1:46:10

We try to provide the best customer service we can. That's something that we can't control within this office, and we do, we try to do a good job, and we ensure something gets out whether it's me, Sabrina our admin team or you know anybody we try to get right on it, so I appreciate that. I'll give that feedback to the team. Thank you.

RS **Reyes, Steve** 1:46:29

No, thank you.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:46:35

Travis, are you ready to go?

Mason, Travis - FS, CA 1:46:40

M I am.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:46:41

All right.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 1:46:43

You see on the screen.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 1:46:46

Sure do.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 1:46:47

Wonderful. Well, hello everyone and good morning. My name is Travis Mason and I'm here to present the San Bernardino National Forest Recreation fee proposal. First, I want to thank the Bureau of Land Management in the Desert District Advisory Council for hosting us today.

SR Stamer, Marc R 1:47:28
Hey Travis, you muted?

M Mason, Travis - FS, CA 1:47:36
Thanks Marc. To orient you where the San Bernardino National Forest is located. The map on the left shows the San Bernardino is one of 18 national forests. In the Pacific Southwest region, also known as Region 5, the map on the right shows the San Bernardino National Forest with its three Ranger districts. The front country, mountain top and San Jacinto Ranger districts. The forest also lies in both San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

AG Anderson, Brandon G 1:48:12
Like you muted again, Travis.

M Mason, Travis - FS, CA 1:48:18
I am so sorry about that, everyone. OK. How are we doing now?

AG Anderson, Brandon G 1:48:40
We got you.

M Mason, Travis - FS, CA 1:48:40
Yep, OK. The upper right corner of the map shows the Desert District Advisory Council boundaries. The lower map you can see that the San Bernardino is one of the three national forests within your district. The Forest Service uses the national visitor use monitoring tool to find out how visitors use their National Forest lands. In 2019, the San Bernardino National Forest had roughly 3,317,000 visitors. And the main activities were hiking, relaxing and viewing our wonderful natural features. You can also see the breakdown of visitation. Since we are mostly talking about campgrounds. Today I added the types of lodging our visitors use. The recreation fee is determined based on the local recreation market and the

amenities available at the site. This change in fees is intended to provide a consistent recreation experience across the state. Prior to proposing new fees, the Forest Service conducts a market analysis. The Forest Service recreation fees are determined by considering the cost of recreation opportunities offered by the private sector, state agencies and other federal agencies such as the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Market conditions should be reflected in the fee. These are too low. May undercut private providers, while fees that are too high may discourage visitors to the forest.

The San Bernardino continues to offer several free recreation sites with limited amenities and visitor services.

Here's a quick overview of the San Bernardino National Forest Fee proposal today. A few notes to share with you.

You'll see that we proposed a \$10 extra vehicle fee, but after public comment, the forest modified its original modified, modified to the original \$5 extra vehicle fee. The Applewhite campground was originally proposed but has been removed and added to the forest concessionaire program.

The intake *** site is being removed from the fee program.

Here on the left we have a list of amenities that will be found at both day use sites and campgrounds. On the right we have a map of these locations across the forest. Big Pine Flats is our newest OHV staging area on the Mountaintop Ranger District. Currently, there's no fee at the site, and we're proposing a \$5 fee.

On the front country Ranger District, we are wanting to eliminate the intake day use area rec fee site with the improvements of the Benita Falls Day use area. There's no need to keep this site.

These have not been collected at this location for over a year and the force will be decommissioning the site.

This slide showcases the breakdown of amenities and fees for the campground proposal on the San Jacinto Ranger district.

The \$20 campgrounds have basic amenities. The \$30 campground proposed at the Ribbonwood Equestrian Center, which includes a higher level of development with flush toilets, hot showers, horse corrals and hitching posts.

The Black Mountain Group campground has amenities for up to 100 people.

On the San Jacinto Ranger District, a proposed fee increase to \$20 is at the Boulder Basin Campground, with its 34 sites, the Dark Canyon Campground, with its 14 sites Fern Basin with its 21 sites.

Merriam Mountain Campground has 24 sites. This is a mix of reservable and first come first served sites. By the way, pinion flats with its 19 sites.

Currently these campgrounds are between 8:00 and \$12.00 a night. Also listed are the amenities offered at these sites. These sites also have an \$8 reservation fee.

Also on the San Jacinto Ranger district, the proposed fee increase to \$30 is that the ribbon would equestrian camp, which is currently \$15 a night.

You can see listed here are the amenities for the site.

Please note that this campground is designated for equestrian use, so it has horse specific amenities such as corrals hitching posts.

Along with flesh, toilets and hot showers, this site also has an \$8 reservation fee.

Again on the Sandwash Central Ranger District, the proposed fee increase is at the Black Mountain Group campground.

The fee structures based on the number of overnight visitors on the left, you can see this proposed rate.

On the right is the list of the amenities. The mountain Top Ranger District proposed fee is that the Big Pine Flats OHV staging area?

This will become part of the Adventure Pass program with all the shown passes being accepted. This site will also have free fee days for Martin Luther King Junior Day National Get Outdoors day Juneteenth National Public Lands Day and veteran's day. The San Bernardino National Forest has done very well leveraging recy dollars with other funds to provide the best visitor experience possible.

Our goal is always providing the highest quality visitor experience.

Some of our planned improvements with this proposed fee increase are new animal bear proved style, trash cans, level temp sites for improved comfort and drainage.

Upgrade of our fire rings and picnic tables.

New kiosk at our equestrian site. New horse crowds of water lines and most importantly, our education and signage.

Here are some of our many projects at the San Bernardino has accomplished by using recv dollars.

The Lake Hemet Picnic area on the San Jacinto Ranger district.

Has received new metal, Sun, sun, shade structures, 15 new concrete picnic tables and six new BBQ grills.

Again on the San Jacinto Ranger district, the lakefront received new bathroom facilities, a site redesigned and new concrete asphalt pads, concrete tables and BBQ grills. This is a great example of how recy funds were being leveraged with Great

American outdoor funds to complete this project. On the Mountaintop Ranger District, we're showing that the rehab and improvements of Horse Springs campground, where new barrier fencing around the campground, along with improved updated signage along with a new kiosk.

The San Bernardino National Forest started public involvement for this fee proposal in July of 2023.

We posted signs at the impacted recreation sites on our website on the Forest Service or on the San Bernardino Forest social media platforms and posted news releases. Our Federal Register notice was published in November of 2023.

We also reached out to our county, state and federal legislators in July of 2023, all with no comment and concerns received.

We've reached out to our partner groups and only received one comment back from the Pacific Crest Trail Association. They were generally supportive of the fee increase, with a few concerns. The lack of first come first served sites was a barrier. The use of credit debit only is a barrier.

And increase fees might block some people out. Also, we contacted our local tribal partners in November of 2023 and again in August of 2024. They had no comments or concerns. The San Bernardino Forest also used the story map tool to explain the fee proposal and collect comments. This tool explained the proposed sites with descriptions, gave a map of their locations. As you can see, we had over 350 views and collected 4 comments.

The San Bernardino National Forest received 4 comments from the story map.

All these comments asked where would the funds be going if the fees increased?

We also received 12 e-mail comments, 9 in support and three opposed. Our social media post on Facebook and Twitter produced 4 comments.

After the force reviewed the comments and did reanalysis of the market analysis, the fours chose to keep the \$5 extra vehicle fee.

And not increase to the proposed \$10 fee. On behalf of the San Bernardino National Forest, I want to thank the Bureau of Land Management and the Desert District Advisory Council for hosting us today. Thank you again for this opportunity and feel free to ask any questions you may have at this time.

ES

Ed Stovin 1:59:09

I got a question.

RB Randy Banis 1:59:12

Brandon, I'll take it from here in guiding the DAC through, I saw a question a hand up. I see. Dick has his hand up and I think it's Ed also. Do you have your hand up Ed? Yeah, Ed, you're up first.

ES Ed Stovin 1:59:26

Thank you. Can you go over how the fees would be collected please?

M Mason, Travis - FS, CA 1:59:31

No problem. So, the fees will be going through our rec.gov system for the campgrounds and then the Adventure Pass fee will be, you know, the normal interagency pass, the Adventure Pass. Second vehicle passes, those will be sold at the local vendors. We have a fee tube.

ES Ed Stovin 1:59:52

The flight, the thing you hang, you put on your dashboard that you buy the little for.

M Mason, Travis - FS, CA 1:59:55

Yeah, that, it's the hanger for the big pine flats. It's the yearly hanger, or the decal that would go on a bumper if he had a Jeep or Bronco or something like that without a top.

ES Ed Stovin 2:00:12

What are the stores like? Do you know some of the stores where you can buy those in that region?

M Mason, Travis - FS, CA 2:00:21

Flats it's. You could go to the discovery Center, which is right off the highway before you go up through, the Big 5 in Big Bear, I believe.

M Mason, Travis - FS, CA 2:00:35

Some of the other little markets, I don't know those names, but Ed.

ES Ed Stovin 2:00:39

Is it?

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:00:41

I'll be more than happy to get you a full list if you wish.

It's also posted on the San Bernardino National Forest website on all the vendors that they currently have.

ES **Ed Stovin** 2:00:51

I'll have a look over there. Can you like if you were to pull in there? I guess you don't have cell phone coverage at Big Pine. That's way too far out.

Is there? Are there any of the sites where you could use your phone to get your spot?

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:01:11

Yeah, there's some scan and pay, which you would. It's kinda like a park mobile app if you will, where you register your drivers, your license plate and that's how the field staff would do compliance. We offer that scan and pay at the Applewhite picnic area. The Forest Falls picnic area. Some sites on the San Jacinto and where cell coverage is available on the mountaintop.

ES **Ed Stovin** 2:01:38

OK.

Mason, Travis - FS, CA 2:01:39

M And we're looking to expand that, Ed. But right now, our limiting factors is that cell coverage.

ES **Ed Stovin** 2:01:47

Alright, thank you.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:01:50

Dick, before you, before you get started, let me provide just for a minute.

Provide context of why we're here and why we're hearing this feed proposal. The this is the third or fourth. This is the 4th fee proposal that we've heard in recent months.

Fees were authorized to be charged in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2005. It requires agencies wishing to institute.

Fees or change their fee structure to go through a public process and have their

proposal heard by a Resource Advisory Council back when this started, the there was one specific resource Advisory Council called the Recreation Fee Advisory Council. That was managed by the Forest Service, but heard fee proposals for Forest Service. And BLM in the state of California and being that that was new, they were very busy and they heard a lot of proposals and that's how all of the fees that we have in those forest recreation fees that we have in the Forest Service and the BLM found. Their genesis, however, over time, all of those fee proposals got worked through, and that standing committee.

Was no longer put up and doesn't exist and instead The Resource Advisory Council such as ours had inserted into its charter the authority for us, the Desert Advisory Council, to hear fee proposals from not only the BLM but from other agencies, including the Forest Service.

So in order for these fee proposals to go forward, we will have to discuss, take a vote. And approve or not approve.

The proposal before you. So that's the genesis of it. That's what we're trying to get to DAC members. So I'm going to turn the floor back over to Dick and let him have the floor to answer. Ask his questions. Sorry, but Dick, thanks for letting me butt in.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:04:07
Not a problem.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:04:11
Go ahead, Richard.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:04:13
OK. I appreciate your presentation was very good and to the point, I appreciate it. I have a few suggestions though for your operation if you will. I looked at each one of these sites on the on the Internet, on its thing. Some of the data they show closed. There's 22 sites that show closed Dark Canyon and Pinion flat and ribbon wood show closed. Did something show open something? Show closed. And two of the sites, Dark Canyon and Pinion flat did not have your nice little link to where the people can learn about the fee proposal. The other places all did so they people could trying to get on there. The one issue also on the when I look at the recreation Gov site down at the bottom on some of these sites, they show \$10.33.

So I don't understand what the 33 is, is that is, is it variable or?

Boulder Canyon, Burne Basin, Marion all show when you open their page.

On recreation, Gov. And it shows down their price 10 to 33 which is kind of misleading, but I'm sure that if you go to sign when you go through the process the sign go all the way to sign up is probably gets the right path right value.

So that that was 11 issue I had with these things I just issued looking at all these all your sites, these are the issues, the other. The other thing is one of the big issues I have is with recreation.gov.

And I know that you're probably required to do that, but you know, if you're, if you're, if you're going, you know, the president would like us to make things cheaper for people.

Well, we get in there and if you're only getting it for one night and you have to pay \$8, that's 40% increase. You know, for just being able to do it. Now if you if you do it for a week, it's not. Doesn't affect you very much. I just made reservations at.

National Park. So, it kind of was two nights. So the \$8 didn't feed, didn't wasn't too bad. But I just think that somehow you need to look at. I know you probably can't.

Can't adjust what? What recreation fee?

Call paid, but it seems like somehow you know going from \$12.00 or \$10 to \$20 your depleting duplicating the fees and now you're adding.

I don't know if you have still had to get those other sites with recreation.

gov. Because those have probably been the values for 30 or 40 years since you changed them last and. And so now you for a one-night stand. You haven't increased it by 100%, you've increased it more. You know, it's 40% more for one night.

I just I'm a little bit. I have a little bit of problem with that.

I know you started this program in in 23 and you did a good job of trying to get people to respond and God didn't get very much response, even from the governmental agencies. Nobody responded, so I don't really have a problem with the fee increases. I know it needs to be done and the things that you're doing are good.

I wish there was some way, and I don't know if you can, if there's some way that you can somehow cut the feed down when you only are doing it for one night or something. I don't know if that's possible with this.

M

Mason, Travis - FS, CA 2:07:59

Now you know Richard, thank you so much for those questions. The rec.gov fee is it's kind of what it's at.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:08:09

Is there some way that you can people can do it without going through that if you don't have a don't you don't have government or don't have a computer or something.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:08:18

Right. So that that goes to our first come first serves sites like the example at Merriam Mountain. One reason why we went to Rec Gov is so that folks that are trying to plan wouldn't go to a site and have that campground totally maxed out. And then they have to figure it out. So we were trying to give that little planning. And that comfort to be able to travel because some of these folks are coming from the Los Angeles, San Diego area. They drive for a couple hours and there's no availability. So that's one reason why we went with rec.gov. We will look at maybe adding more first come first serve, but we do have that aligned Richards. Hopefully that it's not the best answer for you, but hopefully that kind of gives you an example of that. I forgot your first question, I'm sorry.

Richard Holliday 2:09:12

RH I think it's very good that that you do have the reservation sites in because.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:09:17

Oh, it was a Dark Canyon. Why was Dark Canyon closed?

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:09:21

Yes.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:09:22

Currently we don't have a campground host at Dark Canyon for protection of the mountain leg of Frog with our consult consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service, we had to have some of them on-site 24/7 to have that campground open. And we just were unsuccessful in getting that host into place, the pinion flats and.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:09:48

Ribbonwood campsites are closed during the summer. I know you're all in the desert.

So, you like the heat, but US mountain folk? We're not a fan of that. That low elevation close to Palm Desert, and it's just so hot we don't. We don't open up those sites during the summer. That's more of a seasonal closure, Richard.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:10:10

But that's why I allow mountains true.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:10:11

Just to let you know. Us mountain folks, we we're that's too warm for us.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:10:18

All right. Well, I, I mean I approve of this change. I mean I think it's necessary just from the time span I know that campground and I you know I haven't had any changes, and I see that you're doing some maintenance changes on them as far as. Visitor services. So anyway, that that. Thank you for your time.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:10:41

Thank you for the questions, Richard.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:10:44

Thank thanks We also have Jennifer with her hands up Jen.

JH **Jennifer Henning** 2:10:49

Aye, OK.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:10:49

You're on.

JH **Jennifer Henning** 2:10:50

Thank you. Hi, Travis.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:10:52

Hi, Jennifer.

JH **Jennifer Henning** 2:10:53

Quick question, if you already answered this, my apologies. Can you tell me how the fees are spent and where this money goes?

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:11:01
Hola.

JH **Jennifer Henning** 2:11:02
Does it go to a general fund? Does it go back to the campsites?

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:11:06
It goes back to the forest within our recy program. So, these charges at the campground, let's take ribbonwood, the equestrian campground that's going to take care of the maintenance plumbing issues of that, because we have the flush toilets, the hot showers and things like that. But it's also going to help us with replacing corrals. You know the aged infrastructure at that site just needs that facelift. It's also going to help. Pay for our recreation technicians, who are the ones going out there and doing all that great work, picking up the trash, making the contacts with folks, cleaning the restrooms, taking care of the corrals. That is all part of it. Also updating our signage and making our information boards more relevant to the now instead of maybe what was 20 years ago. So all those things kind of combined is where those fees go. In many other places within the campground, it doesn't go to a general fund where say, well, I don't want to even speculate, but it doesn't go to the general fund, but it goes to those sites specifically.

JH **Jennifer Henning** 2:12:15
OK. Great. Thank you.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:12:24
Other questions? Hi Desirea. I see your hand is up. You have the floor.

DH **Desirea Haggard** 2:12:30
I thank you for the presentation. I appreciate it, Travis. I just had a question for you, you mentioned some of the campsites are available to be reserved online and then summer first come first serve on the first come, first serve. Are those paid by cash at the campsite?

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:12:50

Yes, those can be paid by cash and or check.

DH **Desirea Haggard** 2:12:53

OK, perfect. I think that would alleviate the comments you got from one of your commenters.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:12:58

Right.

DH **Desirea Haggard** 2:12:59

I just wanted to make sure we addressed that OK.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:13:01

Yeah, and. And there's a feed tube there at the site.

DH **Desirea Haggard** 2:13:01

Thank you very much.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:13:03

They don't have to go to a Ranger station or anything like that.

They can. The visitor can take care of everything at that information station.

DH **Desirea Haggard** 2:13:12

OK, perfect. Thank you.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:13:16

Me.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:13:18

Other questions? Go ahead, Dick, I got you.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:13:21

Let me ask another question in regard to that. Yeah, I like to have some first come, first served. Is there do you take a look at like for instance Boulder Basin has 34

campsites and no first come first serves. Do you ever look at the idea of putting some first serves in?

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:13:41

Yeah, that that really goes down to the District Recreation Department to see what the capacity happens to be for that season. And they can change. There's a lot of room within Rec Gov where we can change up the amount of reservable to first come first serve this year. Unfortunately, we've had some issues with staffing and so that's why you see more reservable at that at the sites these days.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:14:07

OK. Thank you. That makes sense.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:14:13

You know what the this is the third of the forest presentations that we've heard. One thing I've done in the previous two is to do a quick calculation of the total dollars. That would be anticipated to be raised additional dollars to be raised by these proposals. The Cleveland National Forest was the first one we heard. That fee increase was anticipated to yield an additional \$91,000, the Angeles National Forest proposal that we heard and approved weighed in at about \$125,000. This one here for the San Bernardino National Forest is only a whopping \$49,000. It's less than \$50,000 this is the smallest of the fee proposals that we've received from the three. Southland Forest I think it puts it into perspective for me. To know how what dollars were talking about #1, how much to angst over this \$50,000 is barely a pickup truck. It's not even really a full-time ranger salary, benefits and expenses. The other thing I wanted to point out is in raising this 49,000 that also would. That they're eliminating the fees on one of the areas, the intake they're eliminating that fee and that that had anticipated to bring in 11,000 so it really nets down to 50,000. This is a very balanced proposal. Some increases are happening, but also other adjustments are being made to take away fees at other areas. So, I think that's significant part of this proposal. And let before we go before, I take. Steve, is that a question you have?

RS **Reyes, Steve** 2:16:23

Yeah, just a quick one.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:16:24

Let's go into the question and then I'll take a motion from the DAC if anyone's willing to offer it. Go ahead, Steve.

RS **Reyes, Steve** 2:16:31

Yeah. Thanks for all the for educating me on this Randy. But I always have a need to ask. This is kind of the last check box for the Forest Service before they can move forward, correct?

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 2:16:41

Correct.

RS **Reyes, Steve** 2:16:42

OK. That was it.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:16:46

So there are very few, there are very few opportunities for the Desert Advisory Council to be more than just advisory. This is one of them, and it's a good opportunity for this group of seasoned DAC members. Floor's still open. Any comments, questions or I'll entertain a motion.

DH **Desirea Haggard** 2:17:12

Hey Randy, this is Desirea. I'd like to make a motion to approve.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:17:14

Please. You made a motion to approve the fee proposal as submitted.

JH **Jennifer Henning** 2:17:20

Randy. Oh, oh, OK. Second, whoever.

DH **Desirea Haggard** 2:17:20

Yes.

Terry McGlynn 2:17:21

TM 2nd.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:17:24

Do we have a second? Was that you, Jen?

JH **Jennifer Henning** 2:17:28

I think there was two of us, yes.

TM **Terry McGlynn** 2:17:29

Yeah, that was me.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:17:29

I'll take you. I'll take yours. Jen, I've got yours as a second.

TM **Terry McGlynn** 2:17:32

Either.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:17:35

Now it's the actual vote is up for discussion. Is there anybody would like to persuade other DAC members one way or another? I intend on voting in favor of the proposal. Any others like to speak?

RS **Reyes, Steve** 2:17:52

I just think this is kind of the one you mentioned. It's one of the cool things that we get to do as an advisory group is to support something like this.

DR **Dawn Rowe** 2:18:05

This is Dawn. I'm just gonna weigh in with a comment before I vote in favor that in to address Dick's comment on like not government agencies responding or government agencies not responding. I got the letter, and I didn't have any questions or concerns on it. And I think government elected officials and agencies typically weigh in when there are concerns. I don't think that a lot of us love to see that we favor raising fees in writing, so that's probably one of the other reasons that you don't get a lot of written comments back.

RB **Randy Banis** 2:18:37

And Dawn, could it be that maybe your phones weren't ringing off the hook on this particular item?

DR Dawn Rowe 2:18:42

For sure.

RB Randy Banis 2:18:43

Yeah. Thank you. And I know these this forest is clearly and plainly within your county, and you work with them regularly, I'm sure, on a number of items.

DR Dawn Rowe 2:18:53

Yes.

RB Randy Banis 2:19:01

With that, no further questions or comments. We have a motion and a second to approve the fee request as submitted. Let's see. I'm just gonna call for all those in favor. If you could go ahead and raise your hand, we can do that. Go ahead and raise your hand. All those in favor. It can either be virtual or otherwise. I have all DAC Members responding in the affirmative now.

RB Randy Banis 2:19:42

This vote is actually done by category.

FW Francis, Nathan W. (D&T) 2:19:45

[Background noise]

[All members virtually raised hands yes]

RB Randy Banis 2:19:47

But since we have them all DAC members in favor and we have quorum, that means that in all categories this is passed. So therefore, this motion has passed. Thank you everybody. For your vote today, good work.

M Mason, Travis - FS, CA 2:20:05

Thank you everyone.

RB Randy Banis 2:20:06

Congratulations, Travis. Thank you to your team for all the work that you did and for spending your Saturday with us here. A day off is a day off and I and we all appreciate you're taking your day off to be with us. I think with that I should turn the floor back to Brandon and his team to finish their reports. Thank you everybody.

AG Anderson, Brandon G 2:20:34

Thank you, Randy, and thank you, Travis. So, let's go to Palm Springs. Dan, Are you ready?

KR Kasang, Daniel R 2:20:42

Yes, good morning, everybody. I'll start off with staffing. Similar to many of the other offices in the California Desert District. We are navigating vacancies in key positions throughout the office. However, we are working on advertising vacancies for our Realty specialist position on equipment, operator and law enforcement to get those out on USA jobs. While it's not a BLM position, I would like to announce.

Once at the San Bernardino National Forest, recently hired Jeremy Kamara as the San Tyson National Monument manager.

Who will also be serving as the monument manager for the BLM lands within that monument under a service first agreement.

Looking at our National Monument program, we're very excited about the 25th anniversary of the National Conservation Land system and are preparing several events and publications internally and with partners to commemorate that anniversary. I just want to touch briefly on our OSH grants program.

I didn't hear Brandon mention that there was a planning grant in from the district, and so I just want to confirm that we have submitted a an application for a planning grant to continue efforts for the Meccacopia OHV open area and.

Facilities to include campground and staging area within that special recreation management area.

I'm moving to some of our other projects. We're excited to be moving into the second phase of Corn springs graffiti removal. For those who aren't aware, we did have some graffiti at one of our campgrounds on a sensitive cultural area earlier this spring. We had a pilot test on the different methods with tribes to remove that graffiti in a less sensitive site that was very successful and now we're proceeding to. Work with the SHPO. And the tribes on implementing that. Graffiti removal on a very

sensitive area near the campground. Other programs within our office that I'd like to mention the Redonda Solar Generating project, photovoltaic.

Proposal north of Interstate 10 near the corner springs exit went through its public scoping phase and E planning that ended on the 2nd of July. And so we're working on reviewing those comments and then beginning to have discussions on the draft environmental assessment.

The grace of photovoltaic project close to Blythe north of Interstate 10.

Is we are meeting with cooperators to begin discussing alternatives to prepare that draft document to be posted to E planning.

We are working on cultural surveys for the lichens proposed solar project.

Project South of Interstate 10 E of Corn Springs.

To gather the field information to be able to inform analysis that will then initiate public scoping on E planning.

The Morongo Communications site has been in east planning for some time.

We're working on addressing public comments that were received on the last draft, environmental assessment and working on incorporating a new alternative that was proposed in response to public comments and hope to get that back out to the public for review in a new draft environmental assessment.

There's a host of other projects we're working on, but one thing I did want to mention is we have established a new master agreement with Southern California gas to be more responsive to both new applications as well as operations and maintenance requests that come to our office.

Otherwise, I believe that is end of report for Palm Springs pending any questions.

DR Dawn Rowe 2:24:54

Thank you. Do you have a ballpark time on the new public noticing for the Morongo cell tower? My office gets questions...on that and would love to be able to say one month, six months, two years, just a ballpark.

KR Kasang, Daniel R 2:25:10

Absolutely. Yeah. We were working with the contractor on receiving those documents. We haven't gone through that review yet. So, we're still finalizing the schedule, but I would guess it's going to be sometime next quarter where we're going to be having those publicly available in Eplanning.

DR Dawn Rowe 2:25:25

I will tell people hopefully by the end of the year.

KR Kasang, Daniel R 2:25:29

Thank you.

DR Dawn Rowe 2:25:30

Thank you.

KR Kasang, Daniel R 2:25:33

Hans.

HH Hans Haas 2:25:37

Yeah. Hi, Daniel. Thanks for taking my question. Two of the three solar projects that you had mentioned are that are South of the 10 freeway there. Are either of those within the boundaries of the newly declared Chuckwalla National Monument?

KR Kasang, Daniel R 2:25:55

Deep proposed solar projects that we've discussed are within development focus area lands under the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

There are some that are somewhat proximate to the monument boundary, but they are all wholly outside the boundary and wholly within Development Focus area lands.

HH Hans Haas 2:26:18

Thank you. I appreciate it.

KR Kasang, Daniel R 2:26:20

Mm-hmm. Ed.

ES Ed Stovin 2:26:25

Yeah. I wanted to thank you for opening the planning for the Meccacopia OHV area, I very much appreciate that and keep me in mind if you need any help from the public either going out there, writing a letter or anything, let me know.

I'll be happy to help.

KR **Kasang, Daniel R** 2:26:44

Thank you very much, Ed. We're looking forward to hearing positively from the division on that application soon and we'll be initiating next steps, including engaging stakeholders once we're ready to start proceeding.

ES **Ed Stovin** 2:26:58

Yeah, I got comments in on that grant. I'm sure you saw those.

KR **Kasang, Daniel R** 2:27:03

Thank you very much. And Dick.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:27:09

I'm gonna I'm always beating the core, beating about the power about these solar plants and I would like I've asked many times for the for the this organization to have a meeting or have a presentation by the independent system operator of California. They're interrupting solar plants every day, or most of the day during the year. We keep putting in these solar plants. We keep interrupting them. I don't know exactly how we're paying these people when we interrupt them. I'd like to know from the BLM how we're getting paid for them using our land. This is this is this is our land, and they're putting in these plants and they're making money on it. Hopefully some of them are making money. But you know, I'd like to know by the BLM how we're getting paid for these plants. We get paid by the square foot, by the MW hour or what? And you know, and then I would like, I know in the new administration, they're looking at different ways to make power. And more and putting in more solar plants just doesn't make sense. Using up our land for the amount of power that we're getting for the amount of the acres for the amount of MW hours and the time we're getting. And then we're interrupting it during the because we don't have enough, we have too much energy. We don't have enough plants to do it. If people would have the independent system operator explain to us how they're interrupting them and how much it's costing the public to interrupt these plants. Because we have too much, we can't make power. I retired from the power company, my job for 30 years was making sure that we had power here and we put this into the independent system operator. We put in all these solar and wind plants. And there, then we have

to interrupt them because they're we got too much power when the sun goes down. We have to have energy to cover the load when the sun goes down.

Anyway, I would like to have a SME.

I'd like to know from the independent system operator how they how they charge for this. I'd like to know from the BLM how much they're getting paid, how much is the public getting paid for these plans and?

Are any of our? Are they interrupting them? And what the I'd also like to know what the criteria is when you approve a plant. Is there are you looking at their chances of success? Are they in a place where? They would be interrupted if you know they could be interrupted due to a transmission. Some of the interruptions are due to transmission capacity. So that's just my point here. I'm really every time they talk about what we want to do for the next meeting, I say I'd like to have a demonstration. I'd like the BLM to have us a demonstration from the system independent system operator and the BLM on how they what their criteria is for approving these plans. Thank you. Sorry for the long one in the term.

KR **Kasang, Daniel R** 2:30:15

Yeah. No, and I'll do my best to address what I can. I'll need to coordinate with Brandon and Kate about how we can engage Cal ISO to kind of get the information you're seeking from how they handle and have agreements with these power companies. But for the Bureau, the way that there are several pending changes to the rate structure for renewable energy and so there are several different.

Rate structures that renewable energy projects are currently. Authorized under, but generally when the Bureau has approved a project, there is a acreage rental fee as well as a MW capacity fee that applies and so the approved projects are charged both of those for the market or the fair market value of the uses of those.

Public lands that then go into the general fund and are you know part of the appropriated dollars that each federal agency?

Through those congressional appropriations as we're looking at the project we, you know, review a number of technical and other reports.

One of the things that we review as part of the like very preliminary process of these are is the company technically and financially capable of implementing and operating the project through the lifetime. And so that is something that the Bureau reviews and tries to ensure if there are, there are always of course changes and so the Bureau does also have a bonding program for those rights of way, such that if

the operator is unable to meet their obligations, the Bureau is able to use that bond to reclaim those land to the state that is acceptable to the authorized officer in the public's interest.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:32:10

Yeah, I hopefully that the plant up at the up the border, the solar plant.

That, that plant, they're going to go out of business here. They're canceling purchase orders with the utilities. I think PG&E has already canceled theirs because they can't support with the amount I was on the Desert Advisory Council when they put that plan in and we met with their engineers and I had some.

I had some experience with a temporary plant that displayed that we've had it at Daggett for years and one of my programmers was responsible for that and I was out there when a big cloud went over and it tripped the unit off.

So I asked those guys at that other plant what are you going to do when?

The wind when the big clouds drift over, their engineer said Oh, we got that solved.

We're going to have a boiler running, so they got a gas boiler running up to that plant all the time to cover or at least when the big clouds were around.

To cover that. So, they're using way more gas and they said they were going to, they've only produced about 50% of their design capability.

Now they're gonna have to go out of business and somebody's gonna have to go in there and clean up all those all-cement pads and everything and try to make some more home for tortoises. That's what I see going on here with our government is we're putting these plants in without looking at it back 20 years ago when they started it. I looked around, I said, you know, in 20 years, we're gonna look back.

Say, what the hell were we doing when we started putting all this crap in?

So anyway, thank you for your information.

KR **Kasang, Daniel R** 2:33:50

And I do apologize your comment on that project did remind me you'd asked about how we generate in off when the sun's down or when the wind's not blowing. And many of these projects are now including battery energy storage systems as part of their proposal. And so, for example, the Redonda project is both a battery energy storage system as well as the generating system.

And so the idea is that as they generate excess power while the sun's available, it charges those batteries, and then when there's increase demand when the sun's

down. They can send that energy to the grid.

So that is something that we are seeing with a lot of our applications as well as companies coming back that have previously built photovoltaic generating facilities to incorporate that use.

RH Richard Holliday 2:34:37

To that, to that to that question. Then when you when you tell us about one of these plans, you know, don't need to tell us that a plan is a 20 MW or something plan. Tell me how many MW hours it's going to produce. How much you know you have battery for your car, and it might. It's the same battery you have in your watch, and they don't do the same thing. So, the batteries that are going into all these plants, we need to know what how much MW hours are generated, how many hours of energy. Are they gonna produce not just their voltage? Thank you.

KR Kasang, Daniel R 2:35:12

Thank you, Richard. And then Hans, I did see your hand was up briefly and I just wanted to make sure if you had another question, we had a chance to hear from you.

HH Hans Haas 2:35:22

Nope. Good to go. Just technical difficulties.

KR Kasang, Daniel R 2:35:26

Thank you.

AG Anderson, Brandon G 2:35:30

Thank you, Dan. And before we move on, I also wanted to welcome Creed [Stone]. Thank you for joining us for the Forest Service presentation and the vote. So with that, let's go to Ridgecrest.

DA Desenze, Philip A 2:35:51

All right. Thank you, Brandon and thanks everybody for being here today. As Randy said on a Saturday, I've got a few updates for Ridgecrest and be happy to answer any questions at the end. So on the project world, what's going on the OHV side of things, of course, the WEMO litigation is ongoing and that has impacted some things. Obviously, our OHV grant for this year. Was rescinded last November.

So that's made some things challenging for us in the Ridgecrest office this year. The good news is we feel we've worked with the division appropriately to secure grants in the years ahead for ground ops.

We also have grants as Brandon stated on the outset and a lot of other categories that we will continue, but we got good news in the first round that we kind of cleared that hurdle and it looks like hopefully you know, depending on how the scoring goes and everything we'll be able to have a ground ops grant in the year ahead.

Without that, we're going to continue to be challenged and one of the folks that we've lost this year due to the various incentive programs that were provided was Rob Enriquez and Rob's our heavy equipment operator was our heavy equipment operator, did a lot of the road maintenance route maintenance on the field office and he's no longer with us.

We hope we he will be coming back as a volunteer though. So, the program he took, he's able to do that, but nonetheless it's a big hole in our LHV team.

Right now we're in the slow part of our season.

We have an SRP SI think until end of August when things start to cool down a little bit. I don't know about August, but nonetheless getting prepped for the fall.

And in the meantime, have a restoration focus.

We've got various crews and interns on that are helping us do evaluations for restoration and implementation for restoration projects on OHV.

I'm looking forward to it looks like And Barstow, a fall OHV Commission meeting there and again, hearing word on our G25 grants in the near future.

On the wild horse and burro side of things, we've moved about almost 400 animals out of the facility this year to various adoptions long term holding.

There's also and I want to say adoptions, but moving these animals to, you know, ranch and farms or sanctuaries in Oklahoma and the like. And in the southern part of the US that that utilize these animals put them out to pasture, if you will, but not in the way you might be thinking, but literally out to pasture. And for the duration of. Lifespans, of course.

A lot of the animals coming in, particularly the burros, are pregnant, so that keeps pushing our numbers up, but we have moved out and almost all of our last China Lake naval base gathered animals.

To you know, adoptions in the various other places that I told you about and we're getting prepped to refill those numbers this fall.

We're in the midst of an emergency. Gather in the Needles Field office, hoping to

bring in about 40 animals. They've got about 1/4 of that completed and then the China Lake gather. The next one will be in October. There'll be a public viewing period or day at our corrals. We'd love to have you come by and we'll certainly Kate will share that out with everybody as it comes. But in early October, we'll have some time for that. And as always, we will welcome you there and then we're gearing up for. It looks like semiannual adoption events. We had our first large adoption event.

RH **Richard Holliday** 2:39:32
Yes.

DA **Desenze, Philip A** 2:39:36

In Ridgecrest, at the corrals this spring, we went really well. Nearly 40 animals were adopted, and we're hoping that we can utilize that success and our partnerships to get the word out and attract some different audiences to that event.

There, we've had some other satellite adoption events too, but it's really cumbersome for us to be able to move the panels and the animals, you know, maybe 100 plus miles away. And the staff associated with it. There are also some difficulties there and I'll get more to staffing, but that's -- we lost our other to the deferred resignation. Person was at the corrals, but we did at the beginning of January since we last spoke actually bring on an administrative assistant there. He's also got some experience in handling animals, so he's been doing a really great job of helping us get those online corrals going and helping the customers that come through the door, that sort of thing, but we also don't have a manager for that facility. So, we're hoping that this this round of exemptions to the hiring freeze, we can make the case we've been trying to for this part of the.

Of the year, so far unsuccessfully, to get those two critical positions, the wrangler and the manager filled. But that definitely is hamstringing. Our ability to do more than what we have to do, which is make sure those animals are properly cared for, that we have there but hopefully better news on the horizon by the time next time we speak.

Some other I guess, maybe things I'll just touch on. You've heard other folks talk about large SE LADWP projects. We certainly have those in the Ridgecrest Field Office Southeast transmission lines. LADWP continues their work on North Hayward Dam #2 amongst other things.

And then over at the DT RNA, working closely with the Desert Tortoise Protection Committee, their naturalist program was really successful again this year.

That's something that we support as well as invasive removal and fence repair with their various SCA crews and that sort of thing. We're hoping to continue that in the future. We've actually got a nofo on the street right now.

Now that hopefully we'll be able to utilize to help them and just budget challenges continue to affect our ability to do that. And if you haven't seen those opportunities and you're interested, they're out there available publicly, yeah. Then some other good stuff that's been happening we had our cleanup on South Oasis allotment This is a deep springs college allotment up on the North End of the Ridgcrest Field office Russian Thistle removal in June, with the Sierra Club.

Then we're prepping for our November tamarisk removal with the Sierra Club and other partners in the Saline Valley area. So, continue to work on that sort of stuff. We've got fire, ESR work, emergency stabilization, rehabilitation work across the field office from a couple of years ago. The West and El Paso fires, 500 ish acres, the dove fire from last fall if you recall over near Dove Springs, we're in the planning stages of that project.

Those other two. Who were working to implement this year and then we had the Jaw fire back in May and near jawbone, and we will, we're working to hopefully secure ESR funds so that we'll be able to do some work in that about 4500-acre fire. So it's pretty large and we want to make sure that area's protected as it recovers naturally and help it along with some seeding and that sort of thing.

We're also looking at 102 new CXS we've been given authority to utilize.

At earlier this year, you know it's a process in terms of learning how we can apply them and then taking that leap of faith, if you will, and applying them appropriately on BLM lands for the first time and certainly in the field office. But where we've been. Looking at that most is in when it comes to invasive treatments and mining, more exploration type of projects because of course that is one of the administrative administration's priorities.

And on that note, with mining, I'm sure a lot of you saw we had published the Mojave Exploration Drilling Project in the Conglomerate Mesa area, the EIS, the draft EIS was published back in early May.

We close the public comment period about a month ago and I'm literally in the midst of finalizing public comment responses as we speak. And we're hoping to put that to final this fall. So that's been the primary focus of my attention.

These days, but we did just put out another gold mine, EA for Mesa Gold.

It's a five-acre gold mine in El Paso area and that's open and available for public

comment now through August 4th. We also plan to put another EA out for 126-acre gold mine in the Atolia area, the Persistence Mine. Probably the end of the month is what we're looking at if early August. And we've got several others that are in the pipeline so working to develop a team that can manage the planning properly and successfully considering all the other resources adequately, including recreational use and all the other things that are important to folks.

And to us as the BLM and I that that process has been challenging because my last point is I want to talk about staffing to fulfill that work, we need a geologist. We need a biologist, we need, you know, folks with specific expertise in NEPA and in GIS and archaeology. We don't have any of those positions in the Ridgecrest office currently. We have got a lot of help from other offices and hope that that will continue so that we can do that and other work and we're hoping to hire an archaeologist some point in the next couple of months.

We'll be interviewing folks next week for that, but to date haven't received approval for any of those other positions either and frankly, if we did, funding them would be challenging to say the least.

So that's the update on the field office. I do wanna note one thing to end with and I think it's really important and a lot of you knew and worked with Craig Beck, our recreation manager for the Field Office, 34 plus years in our office. He passed away after a long and valiant effort and fight with cancer. Just a few weeks ago. That's definitely left a huge hole in our office and affected a lot of folks, including myself and you know, ways we haven't worked in an office that's experienced that type of loss before. But we do plan to have and hold memorial in the fall, hopefully down at The Jawbone station, Randy.

But we're working with his family to make sure that we can coordinate that appropriately, and certainly we'll communicate that with you, Randy and others.

That might want to be attending, but I think we want to get some family members in for that. And recognized all the work that Craig did, not just to get that facility built, but you know to work across the field office on OHV and all types of recreation.

But Greg, Greg was a quiet but humble person. But he did a lot of great work in his time with the BLM and certainly a huge loss and appreciate all the kind words we've received since his passing. With that, any questions. Thanks Randy.

Appreciate that.

ES**Ed Stovin** 2:47:08

Yeah. After the Friends of Jawbone Poker run last spring, I drove over to Ridgecrest and I found your horse facility and drove around the outside perimeter of it. And there were a few people there feeding the animals and looking at them. I had no idea what it was like and it was an interesting experience for me. There's an awful lot of animals over there. And I really appreciate that you're taking an effort to find homes and pastures and finding ways to get them into a better life. It's a super difficult problem that they're just breeding out in the wild and I understand that it's too much resource impact out there. So, I appreciate your doing it. It's just a difficult problem and I'm glad to see that you're working on it. Thank you.

DA**Desenze, Philip A** 2:48:03

Thanks, Ed. Appreciate that. Yeah, it's not going away anytime soon, but we're doing our best. What we've got, yeah, Creed.

CS**Creed Stone** 2:48:12

I just have a question in regard to the burros as well. Is there any plans in the future to do a gather around the Big Bear area?

DA**Desenze, Philip A** 2:48:26

The Big Bear area is the Forest Service territory. We have received some questions on how best they might be able to deal with that and provided some technical guidance to folks just in the past few months, but we haven't received any formal request to go on to their plans and assist. That typically requires some environmental documentation, some need for work before it happens, and there's also some challenges with working across those boundaries. But ultimately, that's that type of request, and that initial environmental work must be done by the Forest Service, but we'd be happy to engage with them. It's just a limited resources and limited capacity for holding, but I don't think their problems as big as like let's say, the naval base so. I'd say that's a possibility but love to hear from them.

CS**Creed Stone** 2:49:13

No. There's a pretty good problem with burrows in Big Bear. I mean, they're getting into people's trash. You have to have a special trash can to keep them out of the

trash. You know, if I ride from my horse from my step, dad's house to my house, there's afternoons where I can count 150 burrows. In less than a two-mile horse ride. There's a definite problem with the boroughs up there, and it's not only them getting into trash and that, you know, some and you also have the issue of, you know, killing their pets. So now they feed them and water them and drain them and do those things. And so, they end up, you know, eventually they're going to hurt people because they, they are a wild animal out there. You know, and it's like probably a month ago, my wife and I were out walking up there, and we had one chase us down and I, you know.

CS **Creed Stone** 2:50:25

Sorry if I offend anybody, but I mean I had to hit the thing to get it to leave us alone.

DA **Desenze, Philip A** 2:50:31

Well, yeah, once they become acclimated to humans, being that food source, just like a bear, right? They might not be as dangerous, but we get a lot of reports on them getting hit by cars. Others are starving or being dehydrated out there in the wild too, because there's just not resources to support them. So that's the crux of our program. I'd say we got Travis, who's about, as he said to be, San Bernardino's recreation manager. But he'll sit next to the folks that manage their natural resources. Travis, I'd love for you to get them in touch with me and we can see what we can do to address this in the Big Bear area. A lot of challenges to be able to do that across those lines, but I'm open to it and happy to work with the folks on the San Bernardino I know well and I've worked with in the past in my Forest Service life so. We'll. We'll see what we can do.

CS **Creed Stone** 2:51:24

OK. Thank you. You know, and if they're in like Big Bear City and that they're not even within what is supposed to be their designated grazing area, you know, they're way out of what is what is considered their grazing area at that point.

On Forest Service and BLM mapping, it shows that grazing area being down around, I think Cactus Flats and horses flats and in those places where there is some live water sources. And that sort of thing form. But if they're in Big Bear City and Big Bear Lake, you know they're 8 or 10 miles out of there. But you know, their area of designation or whatnot.

DA Desenze, Philip A 2:52:07

Yeah. And we've got some different categories that the burros and horses fit into, you know, emergency gathers, nuisance gathers and then our regular gathers like we're doing on China Lake and there's different levels of planning and coordination that have to happen with each one of those this sounds.

Like it'd fit into either nuisance or emergency. I'm not certain I'd want to talk to my specialist about that cause this is what they do every day. But yeah, we need to get more information from the forest and I'd say. You know, if they hear from folks like yourself. The community that might give them a little more impetus to act on it, but yeah, we serve as that holding facility for all of most of Southern California BLM. But that doesn't say that you know we can't work with the Forest Service lands or other lands that are out there. In the southern part of the state as well, there's ways to do it. So, we'll, but thank you for bringing it to my attention. I don't get too much time in Big Bear. I haven't been there for a while, so I wasn't aware it was an issue there.

CS Creed Stone 2:53:08

All right. Thank you very much for giving me time.

DA Desenze, Philip A 2:53:11

You got it.

AG Anderson, Brandon G 2:53:13

Great. Other questions or comments? Let's go to fire, Paul.

GE Gibbs, Paul E 2:53:26

OK. So, I'll start off with staffing. So we had a job fair in Apple Valley for temporary fire, fire hiding, hiring for this year went really well.

We had a lot of people show up, did a lot of interviews and we're looking really good on our staffing, both our overhead and we got some key overhead positions build on our engines also on our helicopter. And so basically, we're really looking good. Our helicopter just gives an example. Had 12 folks on it last year. We have 18 this year. The engines were sitting at 3:00 and 4:00 staffing. Per engine, we're at 405 fives Max for our Type 3 engines. Four is max for our Type 6 engines.

So very successful with hiring and recruiting so good. Good to see that.

And as a lot of you may know, there's been talking about for a while, the increased pay for firefighters and so that has been made permanent now. And so as opposed to being an incentive. It's now built into a separate pay scale just for wildland firefighters. So, and then accounts also towards retirement as opposed to the incentives, did not so good to see that happen too.

So, so good news on hiring and staffing for us, Firewise has already been mentioned. And we've responded to about 250 fires or so from January and about a little over 55 of those are on actually burnt on BLM land. The others responded to that were a threat and helped our cooperators to keep it off the be on land.

Some notable and that's burned about 10,000 acres. Those 55 fires have all totaled. They burn about 32,000 acres, but about 10 thousand of those acres have actually been on D line. And you know, I've already been. I think everyone's already kind of mentioned the notable fires.

Other than maybe the hues that was the first large one we had in the end of January and the 22nd, it burned over 10,000 acres, but only about 300 acres on buluman in the Santa Clarita Lake. Lake Hughes started Lake Hughes burned towards Santa Clara area it was already mentioned the Border 2 fire.

That happened the next day, and so we were kind of busy at, you know, one in LA County and down there, San Diego County by the border kinda going on at the same time. And that one burned about 6600 acres, and about 3600. Those acres were on BLM. And then I think folks already mentioned the other two notable ones.

They're more recent, May and June, which were the Jaw fire, 4500 acres, 1500 acres on that on BLM and the and Jawbone Canyon and then the ranch fire, which by Bowman Ranch, Apple Valley.

Area that one burned about 4300 acres, about 3300. Of those acres are on BLM. So that's kind of kind of just what's been happening 4th of July.

We did a lot of prep work with the San Bernardino County fire, Apple Valley Fire District and had a lot of activity. Folks were really busy work folks, you know.

Busy past midnight and but everything was small. On so, we're really, really happy with that. As far as fire prevention, we've reached about 37,000 people so far with fire prevention message that we've actually, you know, physically met and talked to most of those come in the LA over 30,000 of those contacts come when we go and are at the LA County Fair for about a month and then fuels wise, we've retreated about 7,000 acres of fuels work so far this year. Some of the larger projects Beauty

Mountain Dos Palmas, Mission Creek down desert, Hot Springs and the Whitewater area and that's pretty much it for fire. Unless anyone has any questions. Thanks.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 2:57:42

Do you follow any questions, comments. All right, we're on the homestretch here, so. Wanna thank the field managers and Paul for giving the updates. I also want to recognize Hans and Jennifer. This is going to be their last DAC meeting before their term ends in October. So, thank you for serving on the DAC.

So moving forward, there's been a couple of changes I just wanted to make everybody aware of. The first one is that if we're gonna be holding a meeting, we have to have either a recommendation or a vote on a specific project or recreation fees. And in order to do the recommendation, we have to have quorum.

So unfortunately, if we don't have quorum, we won't be having a meeting until that kind of brings me to the next point. The DAC will lose quorum if we don't get additional nominations in October, prior to the November 15th meeting. So, we plan to hold a statewide call for nominations in August. We're not sure how long the reviews and approvals will take, so there could be a chance that we lose quorum in November. But I wanted to thank you for your continued engagement and kind of participation in the DAC. And with that, Randy did have anything else that you have on your agenda?

RB **Randy Banis** 2:59:35

I've been particularly enjoyed working with Hans and Jennifer the last three years. I don't remember 2 new members coming on the board and having such an impact. It really became All Stars of the DAC very quickly and we really enjoyed working with them and thanks to Hans for bringing me into conversations during the time that he was chair and my only last thing, I'd like to say other than thanking the rest of the board members for coming in today is, I'd like to have us adjourn in the memory of Craig Beck today for all of the work that he has done on behalf of public lands in the California desert.

AG **Anderson, Brandon G** 3:00:26

Yeah. Thank you for that, Randy. He's been an institution out here. But with that, we can adjourn our meeting. Really appreciate everybody participation today and like I

said, we'll have more information rolls out. We'll keep you informed on whether or not we have quorum and other timing of the meetings. Thanks everybody.

CS **Creed Stone** 3:00:52

Thank you.

DA **Desenze, Philip A** 3:00:53

Thanks.

M **Mason, Travis - FS, CA** 3:00:54

Thank you everyone.

DH **Desirea Haggard** 3:00:55

Thank you.

TM **Terry McGlynn** 3:00:55

Thanks, hope. Hope we meet again at some point. Bye.

CS **Creed Stone** 3:00:58

Thank you.

GE **Gibbs, Paul E** 3:00:59

Bye everybody.

HH **Hans Haas** 3:01:00

Think you guys, it's been a pleasure.

JH **Jennifer Henning** 3:01:02

□ Thank you.

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