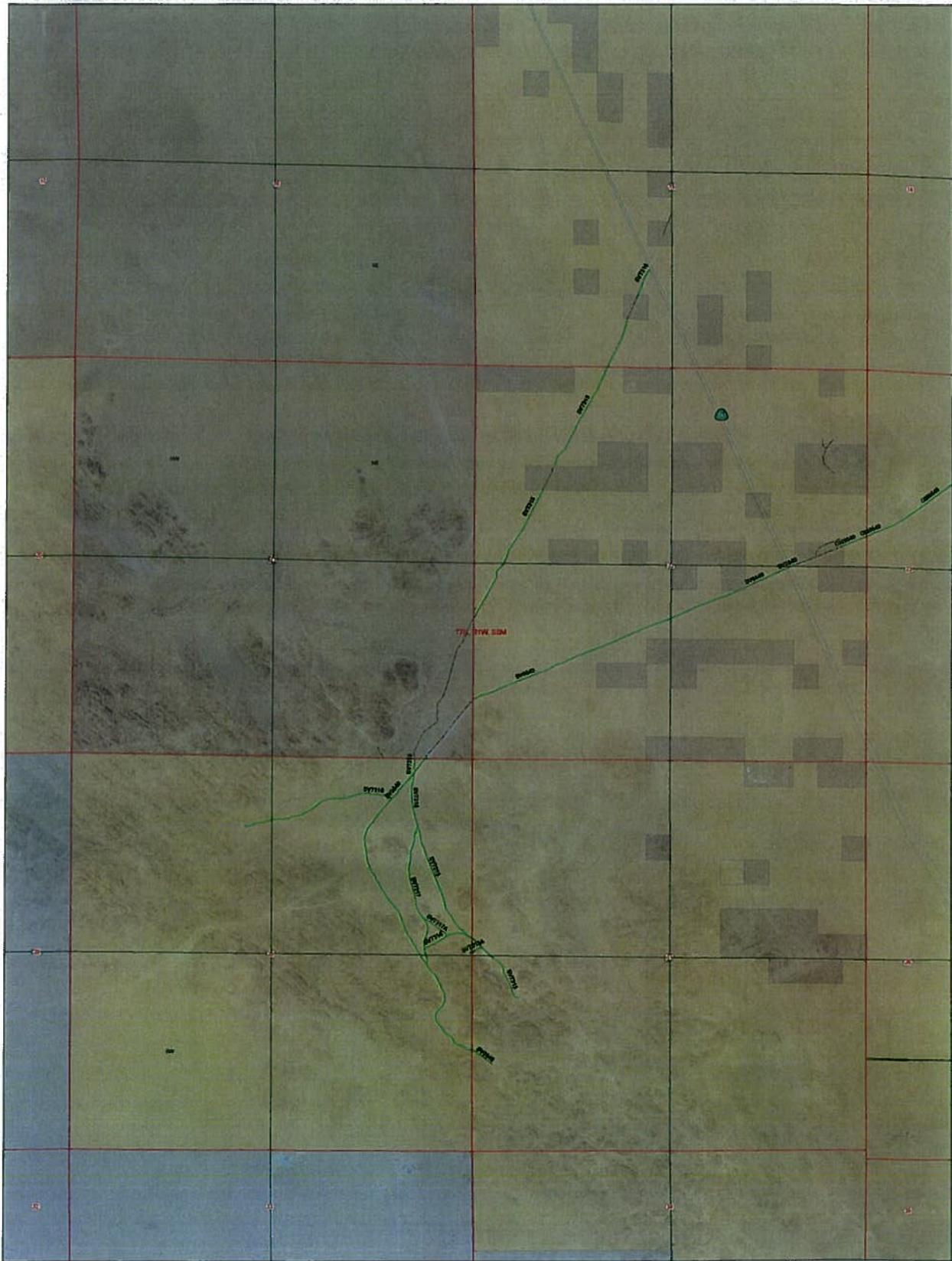


Temporary Emergency Closure of Sawtooth Campground



Legend

Wemo Route Network

RT_DESIGN

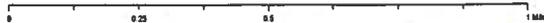
- Open to All Vehicles
- County, State, or Federally Maintained
- Undesignated or Unknown

Land Status

AGENCY

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private/Other

1:7,394



- e. Participants that violate any special desert tortoise stipulation shall be disqualified from the event. Support team members that fail to comply with the stipulations shall result in disqualification of the associated rider(s). Anyone who accumulates three violations shall be barred from participating in any organized off-highway vehicle event for one year from the date of the third violation.
17. development of a self-guided interpretive loop trail;
 18. implementation of a registration program for testing off-highway vehicle race cars. An area one square mile in size would be selected by the Bureau and racing professionals. Construction of the testing area, including a track and fencing, would be through donations and volunteers. After construction of the test area, all testing of vehicles within the Area would be restricted to this site and test drivers using other off-highway vehicle areas would be encouraged to use it also;
 19. installation of 30 miles of three-strand, smooth wire fence between the Area and limited use areas, private land, residential sites, and Highway 247;
 20. placement of signs that provide information on access and visitor orientation on access roads, at staging areas, and other appropriate places to inform users of existing rules and regulations;
 21. designation and improvement of the Sidewinder, Hodge, Central, and Stoddard staging sites as staging grounds. Improvements would include off-highway vehicle loading ramps, toilets, picnic tables, and camp sites;
 22. designation and construction of a developed campground in Sawtooth Canyon, which is a "limited" multiple and vehicle use area. This program would institute a closure on green sticker vehicles in the canyon and on all shooting within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the campground;
 23. establishment of routine maintenance programs for Sidewinder, Hodge, Central, and Loop Roads, information signs, staging areas, the interpretive loop trail, and race courses;
 24. reclamation of interim category 2 desert tortoise habitat that has been extensively disturbed by off-highway vehicle activity. Approximately 212 square miles of category 2 desert tortoise habitat occur between the Johnson Valley and Stoddard Valley Off-highway Vehicle Areas (attachment 5). Route designation, visitor contact, signing, and improving access to the interiors of the off-highway vehicle areas should reduce impacts to the category 2 habitat. Excessive parallel roads and trails and the Goat Springs and Cinnamon Hills areas will be reclaimed. This habitat reclamation program will be implemented on a phased schedule, corresponding to implementation of the Off-highway Vehicle area plan. Phase 1 would consist of a route inventory and designation process. The second phase would be to sign routes as open, closed, or limited and to mark the boundaries of the Goat Springs and Cinnamon Hills reclamation areas. Limited routes could be subject to seasonal closures. Reclamation actions would begin in the Cinnamon Hills in phase 3;

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Campground (New Jack City)

prohibited vehicle travel and camping in and around the guzzler. To protect the climbing resources from vehicle travel a post and cable fence was installed and created a parking lot as well as protection for the climbing areas. Two kiosks were installed one near the entrance to the Sawtooth limited use area and the second was placed near the guzzler. Other projects were to sign all open routes and rehabilitate illegal routes of travel.

B. Purpose and Need

The purpose for the proposed action is to to construct 13 campsites, a picnic area, a new restroom, and a kiosk in the Sawtooth area. Each campsite will have a fire pit with a grill, a barbeque, shade ramada, and picnic table. The need for the proposed action is to enhance the unique recreation opportunities in this area. Camping improvements will encourage users to camp at the hardened improved camp sites. A new restroom is also needed closer to the rock climbing areas to manage human waste generation.

The need for the proposed action is to implement the Stoddard Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Plan for a site-specific EA for the campground development, as adopted in the Stoddard Valley Management Plan (1993).

C. Conformance with Land Use Plan

The California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, as amended by the WMP (2006) has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms to land use terms and conditions required by 43 CFR 1610.5. The proposed action is in conformance with the CDCA Plan, (1980 as amended). The affected lands are classified Multiple-Use Class (MUC) L (Limited), with vehicle access limited to designated routes. Guidance for these classifications is in the 1999 Amended 1980 CDCA Plan, p137. Class L is identified for lower-intensity carefully-controlled uses.

D. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Policy and Plans

This action would be consistent with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; the California Desert Protection Act of 1994; Native American Religious Freedom Act; other cultural resource management laws and regulations; Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice; and Executive Order 13212 regarding potential adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.

The Environmental Assessment (CA-068-91-23) for the Final Stoddard Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Area Management, September 1993,

The biological opinion for the Stoddard Valley OHV Plan (1-8-93-F-1) provided one term and condition specific to the Sawtooth Campground: this development would include closure of the canyon area to green-sticker vehicles and shooting within a ½-mile proximity to the campground.

CHAPTER 2: PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. Proposed Action

EA CA-068-91-23

EA For Final Stoddard Valley OHV MGT PLAN

- 12) A race car test registration program would allow BLM to establish where and when to test and monitor the activity. This would increase visitor safety and determine the extent of soil and vegetation damage.
- 13) Cooperative management agreement with a local business to provide a motorhome sewage dump, trash receptacle and information station would reduce illegal sewage dumping and litter in the Area. This would improve the quality of the recreation site and stimulate the local economy.
- 14) Area boundary fencing would provide an effective means of directing visitors to primary entrances, and separating intensive OHV recreation from limited vehicle use areas, private land, residential sites and Highway 247. Directing visitors to primary entrances would increase BLM employee and visitor contact and the dissemination of information. Recreational and adjacent land use conflicts would be reduced improving relations between the parties. Also, the fence would separate off-highway recreational use from Highway 247 fulfilling a needed safety provision. A small percentage of visitors may be displaced due to their resentment of being "fenced-in".
- 15) Increasing visitor information and Area directional signing would enhance the awareness of the Area's location, rules and regulations. These signs would assist in eliminating inappropriate OHV use, encourage responsible use and visitor safety. A small percentage of Area visitors may be displaced due to the increased management presence.
- 16) Scheduled maintenance for Area access roads and maintaining signs, staging areas, race courses and the interpretive loop trail on an as needed basis would reduce vandalism and enhance the recreation experience.
- 17) Wildlife guzzler repair, maintenance and monitoring would enhance the opportunity to view wildlife, increasing the visitor's outdoor experience.
- 18) Federal OHV use right-of-way reservations for the primary staging areas would provide the Bureau with the authority to ensure OHV activity as the priority use within the staging areas. This would ensure quality staging opportunities for future generations.
- 19) Development of Sawtooth Canyon Campground would provide additional camping and passive recreation opportunities. "Green Sticker" OHV use would be restricted from the campground, and would be directed to the Area. - Stoddard Valley
- 20) Monitoring plan implementation would assist in creating effective planning for future recreation management actions.
- 21) Closing the Slash-X exclusion area to motorized vehicles would effectively remove approximately 600 acres from vehicular use. This would result in a minor negative impact to recreation activity. However, the fence enclosing the exclusion area, constructed in 1987, has in all but special instances eliminated use from within the area.