

**Carrizo Plain Monument Advisory Committee
December 13, 2014
Carissa School**

ATTENDEES:

MAC: Ray Hatch, Carl Twisselman, Jennifer Caffee for Debbie Arnold, Jim Patterson, Ellen Cypher, Craig Deutsch, Dale Kuhnle.

BLM: Johna Hurl, Gabe Garcia, Kathy Sharum, Ryan Cooper, Karen Doran, John Kelley, Harrison Friedman, David Christy.

PUBLIC:

MANAGER'S UPDATE:

Johna Hurl presented highlights of 2014 accomplishments. The Painted Rock permit system is working well. BLM and gateway communities are working on a phone app that would serve as a travel guide. It would cover a route from Santa Margarita through the Carrizo to Taft. BLM acquired 1,000 acres at the south end of the monument.

Questions: Are monitoring results available on the Carrizo science website or by request? Is BLM monitoring what happens when fences are removed?

Response: Some completed studies are available on the web. Other monitoring information is available by request. BLM does monitor the results of fence removal. However, there are factors such as the species at the site and the amount of forage, so it is difficult to separate out the effects of fence removal.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT:

Ryan Cooper presented alternatives for travel management on the monument. Travel management previously was discussed at the March 2014 meeting.

Question: Are "closed" trails closed to foot traffic.

Answer: With a few exceptions such as Painted Rock, the entire monument is open to foot traffic. Pedestrians can walk on trails closed to other forms of travel.

Question: Are bicycles allowed in wilderness study areas?

Answer: On authorized routes.

Ryan Cooper said BLM has developed a preferred alternative and two other alternatives. People can comment on all three. Criteria discussed at the March meeting was used to develop the alternatives. There is a 30-day comment period on the proposed maps. The maps will be used in an environmental assessment that will have another 30-day comment period. The record of the decision will follow.

Question: Will there be more road signs?

Answer: During the public process for the Carrizo Resource Management Plan, people said they want to see the monument kept as primitive as possible. Therefore, signage will be minimized.

Question: How did BLM make its decision on the routes.

Answer: There is a spreadsheet that has a long list of factors BLM considered in route designation such as threatened and endangered species and how much water collects on roads.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Wooster, an allotment holder near Cuyama, wants more roads open to administrative access to manage water tanks and other facilities on her allotment. She said it appears BLM lacks a scientific method to decide whether routes should be open or closed. A road in Morales Canyon is important to her allotment, but BLM plans to close it because it is difficult to manage traffic. Another road is dangerous, but BLM proposes to leave it open. BLM needs to have a more business-friendly attitude and a scientific basis for decisions.

Bruce Whitcher, California Off-Road Vehicle Association, said there is an interface between the monument and a motorized road network in the Temblors east of the monument. The road network area provides recreation and open space. Part of the ridge route east of a fence is on the monument, so the travel management plan should keep it open for motorized recreation. He would like to see more signage and fence improvements so people using the route don't go onto the rest of the monument.

Bruce Miller, Stewards of the Sequoia, agreed the roads should be kept open for motorized use. Gates should be installed at some cattle guards so people don't go through them onto the monument.

Jim Patterson, MAC member, asked BLM staff to provide Jane Wooster with the criteria used in making route decisions and discuss ways to address her concerns about access to water facilities. Ryan Cooper said some routes were initially closed because BLM wasn't aware they were needed for access to some facility.