

**RIDGECREST FIELD OFFICE  
HIGHLIGHTS for the**

**CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 28, 2015**

**RIDGECREST FIELD OFFICE (RIFO)**

**BLM Action:**

**Contact:** Carl Symons is the Field Manager and can be reached at 760-384-5400 (main office line).

**Status:** The Ridgecrest Field Office is extremely busy focusing on priority projects such as:

- Special Recreation Permits
- DRECP
- West Mojave
- Haiwee Geothermal
- Renewable Energy projects
- Central Hazmat and Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)
- Youth Initiative
- Wild Horse and Burro Program
- Grant Administration
- Mining operations
- Cultural issues

**CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THEIR PUBLIC LANDS**

Carl Symons, Field Manager

**Youth and Young Adult Employment**

**BLM Action:** Currently and in the last quarter of fiscal year 2014 the Field Office had 28 interns working on various facets of public lands management. Some of the many tasks that these individuals have under taken include: desert restoration, seed collection, rangeland health assessments, riparian and spring proper functioning condition assessments, cultural resource inventory and recordation, interpretation and outreach, along with NEPA planning.

**Contact:** Carl Symons, Field Manager

**Status:** These interns and task are projected to continue into Fiscal Year 2015. Additional interns may be added or replaced as task and funding sources are identified that can be managed effectively by the on board permanent staff.

**Outreach:** Over the Presidents weekend staff will be conducting outreach at several field locations to inform visitors of use regulations for the public lands and especially the Rand Mountain and Fremont Valley Management Area.

**BLM Action:** Staff has manned booths to reach out to and inform the public about the BLM at a Career Day event at Cerro Coso Community College and at the first annual Petroglyph Festival held in Ridgecrest on November 14<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Contact:** Carl Symons

**Status:** Staff is looking at different events that can be attended to further educate and inform the public about the many features and benefits that Americans receive from their public lands.

### **FIRE MANAGEMENT**

James Aragon is the Zone Fire Management Officer

**Contact:** James Aragon, Fire Management Officer 760-252-6008

**Status:** Fire is now centralized at the District level.

### **RECREATION AND WILDERNESS**

Craig Beck, Recreation and Wilderness Branch Chief

#### **Jawbone Station**

**BLM Action:** The Friends of Jawbone continue to provide the staffing to operate and maintain the visitor center 7 days a week throughout the year 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Additionally, for about the last eight years the BLM has partnered with the Friends of Jawbone (FOJ), a local non-profit group, to assist with management plan implementation efforts within the area. The FOJ maintain a staff of between eight and twenty individuals for field work crews. These staff members take on the many different task including habitat restoration, road and trail maintenance using heavy equipment and hand tools, management area and route signing, recreation facility maintenance, and trash pickup.

**Contacts:** Randy Masner, Recreation; Craig Beck, Recreation and Wilderness Branch Chief

**Status:** In addition to ongoing daily field implementation efforts and staffing of the Jawbone Station the Friends of Jawbone and the BLM are working on putting together the plans for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Moose Anderson Day on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

#### **South Park Bridge**

**BLM Action:** BLM has hired a contractor for the engineering and design work for the South Park Bridge site in South Park Canyon.

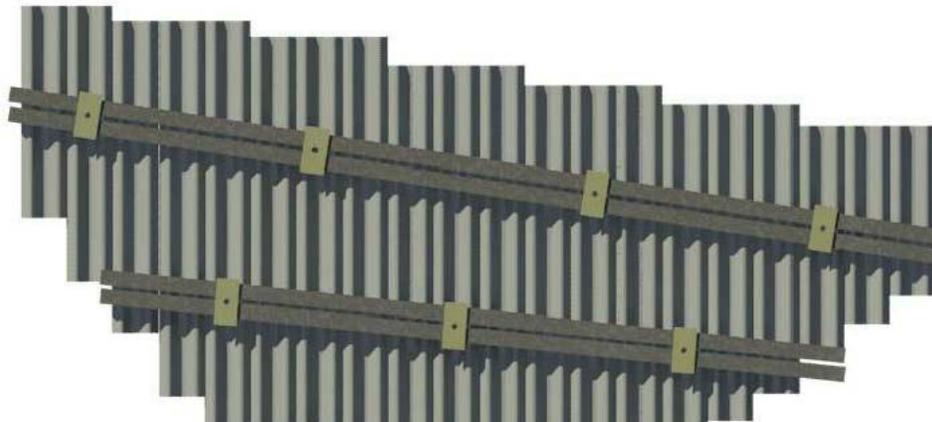
**Contacts:** Randy Masner, Recreation; Craig Beck, Recreation and Wilderness Branch Chief

**Status:** The Engineering Evaluation Report for the repair or replacement of the South Park Bridge has been completed and dated December 19, 2014. Ridgecrest BLM staff have reviewed

the Engineering alternatives and recommendations, and have requested a more detailed plan for alternative 4 (Sheet Pile construction). Sheet Pile Construction is similar to retaining wall systems in that soil is retained by a wall type structure; but does not have a conventional footing. Construction is of steel with rock and soil backfill. Lateral support is achieved through bolted anchorage into solid rock behind the fill zone. A discreet key is cut into base rock for the sheets. The key prevents soils from eroding out from under the sheets. The sheet piling will be assembled from W-rail that is commonly used for highway guardrails. Steel wales (beam elements installed on the face of the sheets) transfer soil forces applied against the sheet piling to the bolted anchorage. Final decision for the road repair will be made after completion of the NEPA process. It is anticipated that a construction contract will be awarded in the first quarter of 2016.



South Park Bridge



W-rail piling and wale system

### **Special Recreation Permits**

**BLM Action:** The Ridgecrest Field Office (RIFO) annually issues numerous Special Recreation Permits for activities on public lands. These activities traditionally consist of motorcycle races, running events, endurance horseback rides, jeep tours, truck races, group outings, vision quests, and vending permits.

**Contact:** Eduardo Duque, Outdoor Recreation Planner

**Status:** Thus far in FY 2015 the following types of permits and activities have occurred in the RIFO: 1) man versus horse foot race, 2) charity fundraising equestrian ride, 3) mountain bike race, 4) three motorcycle races, 5) four-wheel drive touring, 6) dual sport tour, 7) ultra-marathon, along with several vending permits in association with the competitive events.

Upcoming events for the second quarter of calendar year 2015 include motorcycle races, truck races, endurance equestrian rides, guided four-wheel drive and motorcycle tours, off-road vehicle operator training course, and organized group outings.



### **West Mojave Route Monitoring and Route Maintenance**

**BLM Action:** The BLM RIFO continues to perform route monitoring and maintenance of the designated routes and kiosks within our management scope of the West Mojave Planning area.

**Contacts:** Craig Beck, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

**Status:** We are still focusing on maintaining and monitoring the trail systems along with improving signing efforts in locations where confusion may still exist. We continue to maintain information kiosks within each region within the WEMO Plan Area. Staff has initiated the planned Protocol Monitoring for year two.

### **State OHV Grants**

**BLM Action:** The Ridgecrest Field Office was very successful with its grant request submitted to the CA Department of Parks and Recreation (CA Parks) for the 2013/2014 grant cycle, Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division. For the first time in the recent history the field office was successful in being awarded 100 % of all funding requested in its grant applications. The three grants awarded totaled approximately \$1,246,574. For

the 2014/2015 grant cycle the Ridgecrest Field Office will be applying for 5 grants: Law Enforcement, Restoration for the PCT, Restoration, Development for the South Park Bridge, and Ground Operations.

**Contact:** Dana Stephenson, Outdoor Recreation Planner

**Status:** The BLM RIFO is extremely grateful to the State of California for these funds. This funding provides for staffing, management actions and maintenance efforts that result in providing for the many various activities enjoyed by the public land users. Some these actions and efforts would not be possible without this outside funding source.

The grants that were awarded include: Restoration grant (\$626,541) runs July 1, 2014 thru July 30, 2017. Ground Operations grant (\$364,760) runs January 1, 2015 thru December 31, 2015. Law Enforcement grant (\$255,273) runs October 1, 2014 thru September 30, 2015. For the 2014/2015 grant cycle an open house will be held at the Ridgecrest Field Office on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 6:30-8:30. Preliminary grant submissions are due March 2, 2015 by 5:00 and the Public Comment Period will be open from March 3<sup>rd</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup>, check out the OHV Divisions website for further information: .  
<http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/>



Trail Maintenance and Boulder Project paid with OHV Grant Funds

### **Desert Restoration**

**BLM Action:** Desert Ecosystem Restoration to assist in the return of natural diversity within several management areas.

We have four Student Conservation Association restoration crews consisting of 5 persons each working in the Ridgecrest Field Office Area. Two crews are working within the Jawbone-Butterbrecht Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Red Mountain, and the Rand Mountains Fremont Valley Management Areas. Two additional crews are working in the Golden Valley, Grass Valley, Kiavah, Owens Peak, Bright Star and Coso Wilderness areas.

**Contact:** Dana Stephenson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Martha Dickes, ORP/Wilderness Coordinator/ Specialist

**Status:** The FY 2014/15 crews will work from October 2014 and end in June 2015.

Rands Mountain Restoration Project 2014/2015 Season



R30 Before



R30 After

Golden Valley Wilderness Restoration Project 2014/2015 Season



Along Fence Off of Extension RM7A Before



Along Fence Off of Extension RM7A After

**Trona Pinnacles National Natural Landmark Management**

**BLM Action:** We have partnered with Farmworker Institute of Education & Leadership Development (FIELD) to carry out ecosystem restoration along with site maintenance and enhancement activities at the Trona Pinnacles National Natural Landmark.

**Contact:** Elaine Hanson, Realty Specialist, Carl Symons, Field Manager

**Status:** FIELD was a successful partner in obtaining grant funding from the CA Parks OHMVR Division to work at the Trona Pinnacles. From about November 2014 through May 2015, FIELD will be sending a crew that averages six people twice monthly to restore and remove impacts from visitation and authorized uses that have happened to the National Natural Landmark.

### **Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

**BLM Action:** We are working to complete Lands with Wilderness Characteristics reviews of public lands located within the DRECP and WEMO planning areas managed by the RIFO.

**Contact:** Martha Dickes, ORP/Wilderness Coordinator/Specialist

**Status:** Inventories have been completed for the Jawbone, Red Mountain, Ridgecrest, South Searles, North Searles, and Middle Knob WEMO Sub-regions. The Sierra and Darwin Sub-regions are nearly completed. The El Paso Sub-region is still outstanding. The goal is to complete these reports by the 1st quarter of 2015.

### **Wilderness Character Monitoring**

**BLM Action:** The BLM RIFO, with the help of the neighboring Bishop Field Office is working on the Wilderness Character Monitoring Report for the Inyo Mountains Wilderness. Work on this report has been delayed in both field offices due to other priorities. The RIFO staff will be working on wilderness character reports for the Piper Mountains and Sylvania Range wilderness later in the year.

**Contact:** Martha Dickes, ORP/Wilderness Coordinator/Specialist

**Status:** Work on these reports has been delayed due to staff being assigned to other priority work.

### **Wilderness Management Activities**

**BLM Action:** The two BLM RIFO interns have finished collecting data on the North Searles area, including the Great Falls Basin WSA. They are now working on Panamint Valley, with a focus on the 40-plus miles of boundary along the Argus Range Wilderness. The data is being used to plan current and future restoration projects, as well as establishing a baseline for compliance with the WSA and wilderness boundaries.

**Contact:** Martha Dickes, ORP/Wilderness Coordinator/Specialist

**Status:** Interns will be on until May, 2015.

**BLM Action:** The BLM RIFO has scheduled a volunteer tamarisk removal trip with the CA/NV Sierra Club Desert Committee for Willow Creek in the Inyo Mountains from March 14-17<sup>th</sup>. Several recent flashfloods have completely scoured the floor of the canyon. This has given us an unprecedented opportunity to successfully treat tamarisk here, as the seedlings and saplings that are now springing up are small, isolated, and easily accessible.

**Contact:** Martha Dickes, ORP/Wilderness Coordinator/Specialist

**Status:** Still plan to retreat Upper Pat Keyes and to inventory and treat more tamarisk above the 1<sup>st</sup> impassible falls in McEvoy and the 2<sup>nd</sup> falls in Cougar Canyon later in the year.



Willow Creek

**Wild and Scenic River Management Plan for Cottonwood Creek**

**BLM Action:** BLM RIFO is continuing to collect data to write the management plan for the 4-mile reach of Cottonwood Creek WSR on BLM land.

**Contact:** Dana Stephenson, Outdoor Recreation Planner

**Status:** Coordinating efforts with USFS

**LANDS, MINERALS AND REALTY**

Vacant, Minerals and Realty Chief - under current supervision by Robert Pawelek, Chief - Resources

**Renewable Energy**

**BLM Action:**

Haiwee Geothermal project - We are hoping to publish a final EIS this spring with a decision to follow pending BO. On hold, waiting on Final SOL Comments.

RE Cinco (Barren Ridge 1) - ROW grants to RE Barren Ridge 1 LLC for the gen-tie line, access road, spur roads, and temporary construction areas for the Selected Preferred Alternative as Application for a gen-tie line near Jawbone from Private land to substation (Recurrent Energy).

Oro Verde - The Solar project is located on Edwards Air Force Base and will be connecting to the Wind Hub Substation (SCE). The gen-tie will cross 988 feet of public lands along Oak Creek Road in order to get to the substation. Draft EIS/EIR available for review. Edwards AFB lead for NEPA, Sec 7, and 106. No word on a release date.

L H Renewables, LLC - ROW grants to LH Renewables for gravel road. Status unknown. No movement.

Tylerhorse Wind Energy Project - The review of the project continues with a revised timeline and schedule prepared in mid-January 2015. The EIS contractor will submit the 'final' admin Final EIS to the BLM by Feb. 23, 2015. The BLM will submit the FEIS to EPA on July 10, 2015 with a Federal Register publication on July 17, 2015. The signing of the ROD is scheduled for Sept. 4, 2015.

**Contact:** Paul Rodriquez – Realty Specialist for Type II & Type III applications  
Jeff Childers – For Haiwee, Oro Verde, L H Renewables  
Cedric Perry – Tyler Horse  
Donald J. Storm - For Cultural Resource Section 106 compliance

**Status:** High Priority

### **Non-Renewable Energy**

#### **BLM Action:**

- Eleven film permits processed and issued.
- Six film permits monitored:
  - included 17 days onsite monitoring, 7 days technical film scouting
  - (majority were music videos and TV commercials, including the Super Bowl Jack-In-The Box. Elaine Hanson met Jack :)
- USGS Seismic station monitoring ongoing.
- Oasis realignment Hwy 395 (Mono County) at CASO for review; State Office and FHWA are in communication as to the language to be used in the letter of consent.
- 02 Optical cables between Bakersfield and Ridgecrest (MediaCom). Staff is conducting final review.
- Maintenance of LADWP Aqueduct, Recapping, penstock (Pipeline) replacement, resurfacing concrete channel and aqueduct realignment.
  - Realignment is pending the review by the SHPO and Tribes on the research design for the National Register Eligibility. Evaluation testing and analysis. Target date for the research work is first week of March.
  - Concrete channel has been completed. Compliance inspections conducted.
  - Capping of the aqueduct is a five year process, being done in segments. The current segment is from Coso Junction 5 miles south.
- Bicycle Path parallel to College Heights Boulevard, Kern County Roads lead completed
- Billing and collections
- Trespasses

**Contact:** **Elaine Hanson** – Realty Specialist for filming  
**Paul Rodriquez** – Realty Specialist for all other ROWs

**Status:** Normal

**Geothermal Leasing Inspections**

**BLM Action:** COSO Geothermal lease

**Contact:** Mike Lystad, Petroleum Engineering Tech.

**Status:** BLM RIFO is continuing to administer these leases.

**Minerals****Saleable and Locatable****BLM Action:**

BLM RIFO continues to process minerals sales and small mining claims.

- Dragonfly Drilling Project. Proposal to drill 12 exploration holes by Last Chance Canyon, El Paso Mountains. The project is authorized, pending proffer of performance bond, and is expected to take place sometime this spring.
- Appeal to the State Director of the Bronco Drilling Project Decision was dismissed and Stay denied. No further action has taken place
- Makayla Pumice Quarry (Coso Mtns) is in transition from California Lightweight Pumice, Inc. to Southwest Pumice, Inc. The operator has applied for permission to expand the pit 30-40 acres to the north.
- Perdito drilling project (Great Bear Resources) operator proposes to re-drill 7 locations previously drilled by BHP Minerals in 1997. The purpose is to confirm the presence or absence of gold on lode claims located on Conglomerate Mesa. The area is north of Malpais Mesa Wilderness and south of Cerro Gordo ACEC. Operator is working on surveys and Field trip with the Tribes has taken place.
- Golden Queen Mine on Soledad Mountain south of Mojave, CA., majority on private land, with some parts on public lands. EIS/EIR approved in 1997 for open-pit mining. Sat idle for many years, but the operator is preparing the site to begin commercial operation. BLM staff is working to follow-up on terms of decision. Prep work has started and mining will begin in 2015.
- LaPozz Project, El Paso Mountains: Environmental Assessment is completed & pending final decision. Waiting on California Portland Cement to complete requirements of Kern County Planning (Mojave Ground Squirrel take permit).
- Sleepy Bear Mining, Fremont Valley: Environment Assessment pending to authorize expansion.
- Snow White Bentonite: Environmental Assessment pending for small, 2-acre operation on public lands within Red Rock State Park. The proposal would average 500-1000 ton/year of specialty clay produced from a previously-mined site.
- Reclamation of the Keystone Mine, south of Goler Wash in the Panamint Mountains.
- Several small prospecting proposals (less than one acre each) in the vicinity of Duisenburg Camp & the El Paso Mountains.

**Contact:** Randy Porter

**Status:** Continuing work on other small mining operations.

### **Abandoned Mine Lands**

Sterling White, CDD AML & HAZMAT Lead

**BLM Action:** The Ridgecrest Field Office is continuing with its inventories and contracts for remediation of abandoned mines that can present a public safety hazard will be awarded this summer.

**Contact:** Sterling White, CDD-Environmental Protection Specialist  
Ridgecrest Field Office AML/ Hazmat Position- Vacant

**Status:** Staff is being cross trained to aide in field work related to AML work.

### **HAZMAT**

BLM Action: The Ridgecrest Field Office is continuing with its efforts to complete actions to remediate three old burn dumps operated by Kern County prior to 1972. BLM has met with Kern County Waste Management and the State of California Waste Management to develop a plan and time line to upgrade the closure method used on these sites to meet the current environmental conditions. Interim measures would cover fencing and signing to protect the public health and safety. Status is unchanged.

An illegal dumping on BLM land was reported along with pictures.

Contact: Peter Graves, CA State Office Program Lead- Hazmat & AML

Status: BLM Law Enforcement is investigating dumping

### **CERCLA**

BLM Action: The Ridgecrest Field Office is continuing with its efforts to complete actions to remediate the arsenic issues with the Yellow Aster Mine Site (Descarga- OU2) through the CERCLA processes.

Kelly Mine Site (OU1) is in the planning stages of stabilization of runoff from the mine site onto private property; undergoing site investigations for stabilization of the interim remediation in conjunction with the potential for permanent site remediation.

**Contact:** Peter Graves, CA State Office Program Lead- Hazmat & AML

**Status:** Yellow Aster Mine Site (Descarga- OU2) is at the Department for review.

## **RESOURCES**

Robert Pawelek, Resources Branch Chief

### **Rangeland Management**

**BLM Action:** Current Projects

Deep Springs water haul sites have been identified. EA due completion by Summer 2015. Funding is through 8100 (range receipts) funds.

Deep Springs South Oasis Allotment: Grant proposal written for Russian thistle eradication and restoration at windmill site.

Three cattle permittees currently grazing on BLM allotments: Deep Springs, South Oasis and Lacey-Cactus McCloud. Approximately 500 cow-calf pairs.

Sheep grazing scheduled to begin March 15 for an abbreviated season, subject to localized range condition assessments in advance, as well as in-season compliance inspections. Five allotments: Cantil, Tunawee and Hansen Commons, Spangler Hills and Monolith Cantil, 21 bands, approximately 800 sheep per band.

Rudnick Common / Canyons Pasture Mitigation: proposal relinquishing up to 8,400 acres, (1:3 mitigation ratio) for RE Cinco Solar, exclusive of private inholdings via Conservation ROW issued to CDFW. Cattle-related infrastructure to be gradually removed.

**Contact:** Sam Fitton, Natural Resource Specialist

**Status:** All grazing turnouts subject to advance range condition assessment (prior to turnout) due to drought conditions.

### **Cultural Resources**

**BLM Action:** The Ridgecrest Field Office Cultural Program has been working on:

DRECP:

- Continuing GIS support to CASO and Section 106 review; assisting with local tribal consultation and coordination

WEMO:

- Developing cultural resource specific GIS model for directing inventory in WEMO plan area
- Hired 6 interns through the American Conservation Experience to conduct cultural resource field inventory for WEMO (Shared with Barstow Field Office)
- Interns have inventoried over 2800 linear acres since September.
- Developing a programmatic agreement for section 106 related to the WEMO plan. Kick-off Meeting held in January. First Working Draft Meeting scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> with consulting parties. Next Working Draft Meeting will be March 24<sup>th</sup>, location TBD.

Other Projects:

- Providing expertise support to the CDD RECO for two renewable energy facilities applications. Tylerhorse and RE Cinco
- Formal consultations with the State Office of Historic Preservation and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding renewable energy projects.
- Continuing Section 106 support of Mining, Grazing, Wilderness, Realty, Recreation Actions
- Provide support to Bakersfield for the fiber optics line between Inyokern and Lake Isabella. Media com
- On-going coordination with Bishop for the Olancho Cartago 4 Lane Expansion and Reroute of Highway 395. Working with Caltrans, SHPO, and the Advisory Council to develop a Historic Properties Treatment Plan in consultation with Owens Valley Tribes.
- California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP): Working with volunteers who have the capacity to identify recent impacts to cultural sites.
- Coordinate Section 106 compliance with the City of Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power for the replacement of the North Haiwee Dam and the two mile long South Haiwee Penstock, both critical infrastructures of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

#### Professional Development

- Cultural Resources Data Sharing Partnership Representative (CRDSP) for BLM California is Ashley Blythe; she provides GIS Support and training to other BLM-CA archaeologists and works with the Washington Office to find funding and staff to further GIS initiatives for Field Offices and the California Office of Historic Preservation
- Field Office Representative to the BLM Preservation Board through 2016 is Ashley Blythe. The Board acts as the staff body for the Directorate, State Directorate, and field organization, to provide oversight for the implementation of the BLM National Programmatic Agreement among the BLM, Advisory Council, and National Conference of Historic Preservation Officers; review problem situations; and assist in development of cultural resource policies for the BLM
- West Mojave Team will be giving presentations at the Society for California Archaeology Meeting scheduled for March 2015 in Redding, CA. Coincides with Annual Cultural Resources Meeting required by California State Protocol

**Contact:** Donald Storm - Archaeologist,  
Ashley Blythe – Archaeologist  
Danny Tyree – Contract Archaeologist

**Status:** Extremely busy program.

#### Wildlife Management

**BLM Action:** Currently both Wildlife Biology positions in the Ridgecrest Field Office are vacant. The Ridgecrest Field Office Wildlife Program has worked on:

##### Alternative Energy

DRECP: provided input as requested by state office for biological resources

##### WEMO Route Designation:

Restoration of routes: presenting information and instruction on plant identification and tortoise awareness to the SCA crews.

DTNA: Supporting the DTNA and the DTPC Naturalist program.

Quail Forever:

Supporting local chapter to maintain wildlife water development sites.

Working with CDFW to craft protocol for guzzlers in wilderness.

Abandoned mines – assessing habitat use by wildlife.

**Contact:** Vacant – Wildlife Biologist

Vacant – Wildlife Biologist

**Status:** Very busy ☺!

### **WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM**

Robert Pawelek, Resources Branch Chief

#### **BLM Action:**

Approximately 900 burros and horses are currently at the Ridgecrest Corral.

Adoptions:

Budget allocation target of 150 animals for FY15.

The Ridgecrest Corrals staff continues to develop innovative adoption ideas. A mini adoption was held at the Equine Expo at Pomona in February. 8 animals offered at auction. 8 animals adopted. Approximately 25 have been adopted from the Corrals or the Redlands facility since the beginning of FY15.

Outreach:

The Corrals staff participated in the Equine Expo at Pamona, reaching well over 5,000 individuals.

Gathers:

Over the MLK holiday weekend, BLM assisted NAWS-China Lake in gather operations from the Navy's section of the Centennial HMA. The action taken was within the portion of the Centennial HA/HMA under the management of the Navy. A total of 152 horses, 1 mule and 17 burros were gathered for a total of 170 animals.

57 mares were treated with PZP, an immunocontraceptive, and were released back to Navy lands on January 24th.

53 horses and 17 burros were sorted off from the 170, removed and prepped to be placed in the adoption program, for a total of 70 animals removed from the range.

57 mares, 42 studs and 1 mule (100 animals) were returned to the range.

The Centennial HMA consists approximately 247,000 acres Navy administered lands and 71,000 acres of BLM lands. Approximately 95% of the wild horses stay within the boundaries of NAWS-China Lake.

Due to the restricted access onto the Navy lands, no public viewing was accommodated. Currently, wild horse gathers are restricted to federal court orders, followed by extreme emergency situations. In the meantime, several nuisance burro complaints in the Desert have been met with inventive short-term solutions, such as bait-trapping followed by relocation, if and where appropriate.

**Contact:** Grant Lockie, Corral Manager

**Status:** Adoptions continue year round by appointment.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Wayne Dengal, Chief Ranger

**BLM Action:** RIFO Law Enforcement is spending considerable time and effort in patrolling and monitoring the WEMO designated route areas including wilderness boundaries and ACEC as well as other closed and limited use areas to detect and deter illegal off road travel activity.

Continuing with monitoring efforts of SRPs.

Patrolling open OHV areas and the Pacific Crest Trail.

Patrolling and monitoring areas of cultural and historical archeological significance.

Participating in national and state priority details as required.

Working on wildland fire incidents and investigations. One investigation ongoing.

Working with Special Agent to resolve ongoing felony investigations

**Contact:** Wayne Dengal, Chief of Law Enforcement, RIFO

**Status:** BLM and Public safety continue to be highest priority. Current staffing is three Rangers and one Chief Ranger.