



## United States Department of the Interior



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EMS TRANSMISSION 06/15/04  
Instruction Memorandum No. CDD-2004-02  
Expires: 09/30/2004

To: All CDD Field Office Managers  
From: District Manager, California Desert  
Subject: CDD Route Signing Strategy

Program Areas: California Desert District

Purpose: To provide CDD Route Signing Strategy guidance for identification and numbering of approved motorized routes of travel in the California Desert District. The CDD Route Signing Strategy is tiered off the draft CDD Sign Policy.

Once a field office's route inventory is reasonably complete, a primary access route network will be designated by each Field Office. These routes, including some washes, will be those upon which the BLM wishes to encourage heavy use such as major connecting routes, loop tours, or routes to destination points (e.g., Yuha Geoglyphs). The primary routes are differentiated from secondary and spur-routes that provide more solitude or used by small numbers.

The on-the-ground identification of routes is best accomplished through the use of a combination of maps and signs depending upon the particular management situation. Due to the diversity of management areas the Field Manager will be allowed the discretion to select methods that best fit a given situation, within the parameters set forth in this guidance.

**Policy/Action:** The following interim guidelines are intended for Field Office use in the CDD as the recommended route signing policy as directed in Draft 9130 Sign Manual.

The following guidelines must be followed for all Field Offices in the California Desert District:

### **CDCA Route Signing Policy**

- **Open Routes**
  - Most routes (all primary routes) are signed and identified with route numbers/names. Primary routes are defined as routes that link destinations, provide access to major sites or provide touring opportunities.
  - Other open routes (secondary routes) will be signed.
  - Open wash zones will not be signed; open wash zones will be identified on kiosks and maps.
  - Route names and numbers will correspond to BLM produced maps.
  - Kiosks, brochures, and portal signs explain area “rules” and display route maps.
  
- **Limited routes**
  - Will be signed
  - Will identify restrictions for the route
  - Gates or barricades are installed as necessary.
  - Limited routes that are available for use only by authorized users will be signed closed, and/or gated, and not rehabilitated.
  
- **Closed Routes**
  - Will be rehabilitated, to the extent possible, in lieu of installing closed signs.
  - Will be signed closed when necessary to protect sensitive resources.
  - Closed signs will, to the extent possible and reasonable, identify why the closure is necessary.
  - Closed routes that are required for administrative use will be signed closed, and/or gated, and not rehabilitated.
  
- **Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA’s)**
  - Additional DWMA information including closed wash zones will be identified and posted on gateway kiosk signs.

### **ROUTE NAMING POLICY**

- Primary routes will be named
  - Where a common name doesn’t exist, one will be developed.

- Where possible, the public (including Indian Tribes) will participate in naming process.
- Route names may be based on natural features, historic events or people.
- Route names, where appropriate, will be displayed on signs and maps. All 4"x4" steel posts will have route names and numbers.

### **ROUTE NUMBERING POLICY**

- All routes in the network will be assigned a number.
- Route numbers will be displayed on signs and maps.
- The route number will consist of an alpha field of up to 3 characters representing a subregion and a numeric field of up to 4 numbers for each discrete route.

### **RECOMMENDED SIGN DESIGN POLICY**

#### **Route Signs:**

All posts will have the 3" BLM logo on top, the route number and name, and the OHV triangle decal where funded with green sticker money.

Open routes: identified with a brown post  
Limited routes: identified with a (red post or brown post) and a rectangle "Limited Route" placket. The limited message box will vary.

Open routes will be assigned with:

1. Steel Posts:

The preferred standard route sign will be vertical, tan colored, steel post sign set in concrete, 4"x4"x4' with vertical decal lettering. Steel posts will mark the primary access network and where 2 or more high-use routes intersect.

Or

2. Brown fiberglass (carsonite type) 6' posts, flat on front, rb on back. See graphic.

- Vertical or horizontal rectangular signs may be used for information or interpretive purposes- (standards to be developed)

#### **Existing Standards:**

Assign route numbers (and names where they already exist) to all routes proposed for designation as open or limited.

### **RECOMMENDED SIGN CONTENT POLICY**

- Standard content items for route signs includes
  - BLM Logo
  - CDCA logo (if and when developed)
  - Route name or number
  
- Optional content items (as necessary or appropriate)
  - Sensitive area logo
  - OHV logo (if funded by State of California)
  - Backcountry Discovery Trail Logo
  - Directional Arrows
  - Technical level of route/vehicle restrictions (vehicle clearance, 4WD, motorcycle)

### **RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION POLICY**

- Route signs will be placed at major intersections
- Location and spacing of additional signs to be determined by the BLM

### **RECOMMENDED SIGN TRACKING/MAINTENANCE POLICY**

Form 9130-4 will be used to track signs and facilities installed on routed of travel.

Signed By:  
Linda Hansen  
District Manager

Authenticated By:  
Charlee C. Christe  
Records Manager

Distribution  
CA610  
CA944

The following 2 pages cannot be made fully compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you need help using the information here, please contact the California Desert District Office at phone number 951-697-5200.

The next page contains Alpha Identifiers for Route Identification. The final page is an image of the interim route sign.

Alpha Identifiers for Route Identification by Geographic Subregion:

The alpha identifiers for route polygons are based on a "first-come, first-served" criteria to decide which FO received the single letter sub-region alpha identifier. Current 4/10/03.

Ridgecrest (2/10/03)

Eureka = E	Saline = S
Red Mountain = RM	Sierra Canyons = SE
El Pasos = EP	Scodie = SC
Rands = R	Panamints = P

Needles (2/13/03)

Chemehuevi Valley = C	Shadow Valley = SV
Cadiz Valley = CV	Ivanpah Valley = I
Ward Valley = W	Hart Peak = H
National Trails Hwy = N	Turtle Mountains = T
Flattop Mountain = F	Piute Valley = PV

Broadwell Lake/Bristol = B (NOTE: this subregion is adjacent to Barstow's

Cady sub-region. Routes which continue into Needles would keep the same number but the alpha identifier would change)

Barstow (2/20/03)

Yucca = Y	Amargosa = A
Granite = G	Dumont = D
Newberry = NE	Cady = CA
Kramer = K	Superior = SU

Palm Springs (2/21/03)

Coachella Valley = CO	Vidal Valley = V
Chuckwalla Bench = CB	Rice Vidal = RV
Palo Verde Valley = PA	Coxcomb Granite = X
Meccacopia = M	Palo Verde Mesa = PM
Joshua Tree South = J	Chuckwalla Valley = CH

El Centro

El Centro = EC. They proposed to use EC for their route sign markers.

INTERIM ROUTE SIGNS - VERTICAL FIBERGLASS OPEN SIGN



BLM LOGO

Rt. name & #

OHV LOGO IF  
FUNDED by ST. DCA