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Appendix A1 – Barstow Priority Ranking Criteria

Sub-Region Priority Matrix

Sub Region	Biological	Wilderness	WSA	Cultural Resources	Proximity to Urban Area	Degree of Readiness	Total
Afton Canyon	5	5	5	5	2	5	27
Joshua Tree	5	5	1	5	5	5	26
Calico Mountain	4	3	1	5	5	4	22
Cronese Lake	2	5	5	5	2	2	21
Ord Mountain	5	4	1	5	4	1	20
Newberry/Rodman	4	5	1	5	3	1	19
Black Mountain	3	5	1	5	3	1	18
Coolgardie	4	5	1	2	4	1	17
Pisgah Crater	4	4	1	5	1	1	16
Rattlesnake	3	5	1	3	2	2	16
Juniper Flats	3	1	1	4	4	2	15
Broadwell Lake	3	4	4	1	1	1	14
Harper Lake	1	5	1	2	4	1	14
Fremont Peak	3	3	1	2	3	1	13
Wonder Valley	2	5	1	1	3	1	13
El Mirage	3	1	1	2	4	1	12
Johnson Valley	3	4	1	1	2	1	12
Kramer Hills	4	1	1	2	2	1	11
Stoddard Valley	4	1	1	1	2	1	10
Mitchell Mountain	2	2	1	2	1	1	9
Iron Mountain	2	1	1	1	1	1	7

Biological

Sub Region	Priority Level	Rational
Joshua Tree	5	High desert tortoise value, proximity to Joshua Tree National Park
Afton Canyon	5	Relatively high number of sensitive species, riparian habitat, focused area for current habitat restoration efforts, some off route intrusions in ACEC, big horned sheep.
Ord Mountains	5	High desert tortoise value, quite a bit of off route intrusions in Ord/Rodman SWMA.
Calico Mountain	3	High desert tortoise value, relatively minor issues in area.
Coolgardie	4	Fairly high off route intrusion area, restoration efforts/route closure efforts in effect, Lane Mountain milk-vetch protection high priority Potential Critical Habitat.
Harper Lake	1	Relatively low OHV use and relatively low off route intrusions, few sensitive species, Watchable Wildlife Area/ restoration efforts priority.
Black Mountain	3	High desert tortoise value, Black Mountain Wilderness area protection concerns, potential tortoise translocation receptor site, quite a bit of off route intrusions in Ord/Rodman DWMA.
Rattle Snake	3	Wilderness area protection concerns
Cronese Lake	2	Low desert tortoise numbers, relatively few sensitive species except big horn sheep and Mojave fringe-toed lizards.
Juniper Flats	4	Medium desert tortoise habitat, extensive route closure efforts, high public profile.
Kramer Hills	3	High desert tortoise value.
El Mirage	3	Medium desert tortoise value, OHV open use area but relatively few confined routes.
Broadwell Lake	3	Medium desert tortoise value, other sensitive species such as Mojave fringe-toed lizard.
Iron Mountain	2	Medium desert tortoise value.
Mitchell Mountain	2	Medium desert tortoise value.
Pisgah Crater	4	High development threat(Calico Solar Plant), high tortoise value, many identified sensitive species, very high profile, relatively low off route intrusions.
Wonder Valley	2	Medium desert tortoise value, large open OHV use area.
Johnson Valley	3	Medium desert tortoise value, many off route intrusions issues including intrusions on private lands.

Biological Rating Criteria Sub Region Ranked on five point scale: 5 = highest priority, 1 = lowest priority

- a.) Number of potential listed species present – not based on a strict accounting, but on professional judgment.
- b.) Number of potential sensitive species present – not based on a strict accounting but on professional judgment.
- c.) Areas with current management issues ranked higher than other areas – i.e., areas with more illegal OHV activity ranked higher.
- d.) Areas with greater short term future threat ranked higher – i.e., areas with imminent development potential ranked higher.

Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas

Sub Region	Wilderness Priority Level	WSA Priority Level	Rational
Joshua Tree	5	1	Shares boundary with Joshua Tree National Park and Pinto Mountain Wilderness, no WSAs
Afton Canyon	5	5	Shares boundary with Mojave Preserve and near Kelso Wilderness, contains Cady and Soda Mountain WSAs and Afton Canyon ACEC.
Ord Mountains	4	1	Shares boundary with Newberry/Rodman, no WSAs.
Calico Mountain	3	1	Close proximity to Rainbow Basin ACEC, no WSAs.
Coolgardie	5	1	Close proximity to Black Mountain Wilderness, no WSAs.
Harper Lake	5	1	Close proximity to Black Mountain Wilderness, Contains Harper Lake ACEC and Barstow Woolly Sunflower ACEC, no WSAs.
Black Mountain	5	1	Contains Black Mountain and Grass Valley Wildernesses, close proximity to Barstow Woolly Sunflower ACEC, no WSAs.
Rattle Snake	5	1	Contains Bighorn Mountain Wilderness, no WSAs.
Cronese Lake	5	5	Contains Hollow Hills Wilderness, shares boundary with NPS, contains Avawatz and Soda Mountains WSAs, Contains Cronese Lake ACEC.
Juniper Flats	1	1	No Wilderness or WSAs.
Kramer Hills	1	1	No Wilderness or WSAs.
El Mirage	1	1	No Wilderness or WSAs.
Broadwell Lake	4	4	Shares boundary with Kelso Wilderness, shares boundary with Cady Mountains WSA.
Iron Mountain	1	1	No Wilderness or WSAs.
Mitchell Mountain	2	1	No Wilderness or WSAs, close proximity to Rainbow Basin ACEC
Pisgah Crater	4	1	Close proximity to Kelso Wilderness, no WSAs.
Wonder Valley	5	1	Contains or borders Cleghorn Mountains and Sheephole Wilderness, no WSAs.
Stoddard Valley	1	1	No Wilderness or WSAs.
Johnson Valley	4	1	Close proximity to Rodman Mountain Wilderness, no WSAs, shares border with Soggy Dry Lake ACEC.

Ratings:

- 5: Areas containing a Wilderness or WSA. May contain numerous ACECs
- 4: Areas bordering a wilderness sub-region. Shares boundary with a single wilderness or WSA, Close proximity to wilderness or WSA but does not share a boundary. Close proximity to ACEC.
- 3: Close proximity to wilderness, WSA or ACEC
- 2: Contains an ACEC
- 1: Close to ACEC or WSA
- 0: No Wilderness or WSAs

Cultural

Sub Region	Cultural Resources	Rational for Cultural Rating
Joshua Tree	5	Several significant historic mining districts.
Afton Canyon	5	Significant historic mining districts, prehistoric sites and trails.
Ord Mountain	5	Several significant historic mining districts and prehistoric sites.
Calico Mountain	5	Several significant historic mining districts.
Coolgardie	1	Little of known cultural importance.
Harper Lake	1	Little of known cultural importance.
Black Mtn	5	National Register (NR) petroglyph site, Native American concerns, several prehistoric sites.
Fremont Peak	1	Little of known cultural importance.
Newberry/Rodman	5	National Register petroglyph district, Native American concerns, several prehistoric sites.
Rattlesnake	3	A few sites of cultural importance
Cronese Lake	1	Native American concerns, several prehistoric sites eligible for NR, Native American cremations and burials
Juniper Flats	5	Native American concerns, several prehistoric sites, cultural ACEC
Kramer Hills	1	Little of known cultural importance.
El Mirage	1	Little of known cultural importance.
Broadwell Lake	1	Little of known cultural importance.
Iron Mountain	1	Little of known cultural importance.
Mitchell Mountain	1	Little of known cultural importance.
Pisgah Crater	5	Native American concerns, several prehistoric sites eligible for NR.
Wonder Valley	1	Little of known cultural importance.
Stoddard Valley	1	Little of known cultural importance.
Johnson Valley	1	Little of known cultural importance.

Ratings

- 1: Little known of cultural importance.
- 3: Fair amount known of cultural importance
- 5: A great degree of cultural importance which include sites and districts eligible for inclusion or listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and/or sites of importance to Native American Tribes.

Proximity to Urban Areas

Sub Region		Rational for Importance
Joshua Tree	5	Large urban influence from Yucca Valley, Palm Springs
Afton Canyon	4	Has become a destination, unauthorized OHV use Close to Razor OHV Area
Ord Mountain	4	Large area with visitation from Barstow, Lucerne, overflow from OHV areas on the fringes.
Calico Mountain	5	Large urban influence from locals, Calico Ghost Town camp sites and has become a destination for large groups of campers, OHV use and shooters. (mostly Mule Canyon)
Coolgardie	4	Had become an illegal riding area. Was a destination at one time. Will receive visitors from the Rainbow Basin area and gold miners from everywhere.
Harper Lake	4	Established nature ACEC. Major route to the east and North. Destination
Black Mtn	3	Remote, May require specialty vehicle at times, cultural area requiring route designation for resource protection.
Fremont Peak	1	Remote, requires 4WD, not a destination. Visitation mainly from off-road tourist
Newberry/Rodman	3	Remote, visitors from OHV areas, requires route signing for resource protection. 2 wilderness moderate visitation
Rattlesnake	2	Remote, requires 4WD destination for some OHV use
Cronese Lake	2	Remote, requires 4WD, requires signing to protect resources
Juniper Flats	4	Access from several directions, heavy visitation and some illegal OHV use. Major horse use and hiking. Moderate to heavy use.
Kramer Hills	2	Remote, Requires signing to protect resources.
El Mirage	4	Large urban influence, overflow from OHV area.
Broadwell Lake	1	Remote, few roads, small amount of visitors
Iron Mountain	1	Remote, few roads, small amount of visitors
Mitchell Mtn.	1	Remote, few roads, small amount of visitors
Pisgah Crater	3	Destination for small groups, Requires signing for resource protection
Wonder Valley	3	Easily accessed, Mostly local population, 29 Palms creates some OHV use and visitation
Stoddard Valley	3	Urban influence from Barstow, Victorville. Destination for OHV use large visitation
Johnson Valley	2	More remote than Stoddard but has large visitor base for OHV use.

Ranking Criteria – Proximity to Urban Areas

- 5-A rating of 5 indicates that proximity to urban areas is such that it tends to increase visitation and urban problems tend to overflow into the areas within the sub-region. These areas may be near cities or off-highway vehicle areas or other places that tend to be a destination.
- 4 – Near urban areas but draws people to a lesser degree. Tends to not necessarily be a destination.
- 3 – Somewhat near urbanization but requires additional drive time or specialized vehicle.
- 2 – Area is mostly in remote locations and requires knowledge of the area and a specialty vehicle.
- 1 – Area is very remote and requires a very seasoned driver and vehicles capable of negotiating rough, rocky and/or soft surface roads.

Priority Criteria Degree of Readiness

Degree of readiness ratings are based on a scale of 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, by completeness of routes per sub-region. Completeness is determined by the extent that it is possible to correct linear features to reflect ground condition without further field reconnaissance, and that the background files have been prepared and clipped to the WEMO sub-region boundaries.

- 5 rating 100% complete
- 4 rating 75% complete
- 3 rating 50% complete.
- 2 rating 25% complete.
- 1 rating 0% complete.