

Bureau of Land Management
Quarterly Report
June 30, 2015

1. Route Monitoring and Compliance

a. Monitoring Compliance with Route Closures at a Statistically Significant Level – Update from March 2015 Quarterly Report

Pursuant to the Protocol Monitoring Plan, for the March through June quarter of Year 2 of the second 3-year monitoring cycle commencing August 2014, BLM completed field inspection and data recordation on 110 miles of field sample routes. Table 1 lists the routes field monitored during this reporting period.

Table 1. Routes Field Monitored Since March 2015			
Subregion	Routes Monitored		
Cronese Lake	CL8315	CL8105	CL8203
Darwin	SE24	SE73	
El Paso	EP15		
Jawbone	SC5	SC99	

b. Summary of Monitoring/Enforcement Effort – Update from March 2015 Quarterly Report

BLM law enforcement (LE) Rangers conducted 196 compliance checks (e.g., wilderness, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural sites) and 54 enforcement contacts within the West Mojave planning area. Of these 54 enforcement contacts, 27 pertained directly to off-route (43 CFR 8341.1(b)), closed area (43 CFR 8341.1(c), CA VC 38301(b)), wilderness (43 CFR 6302.20(d)), National Scenic Trail (43 CFR 8351.1-1(a)), or other motor vehicle violations. Written reports were prepared for some of these violations as part of the Incident Management and Response System (IMARS) in support of pending investigations. Table 2 provides an overview of LE actions by patrol sector within the West Mojave planning area.

Table 2. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area Since March 2015 Quarterly Report					
Patrol Sector	Compliance Checks	Federal Violation Notice	State/Local Citation	Written Warning	Written Report Filed
<i>Barstow</i>					
81	32	1	0	0	2
82	13	1	0	2	0
83	30	1	0	1	0

Table 2. Overview Of Law Enforcement Actions By Patrol Sector Within The West Mojave Planning Area Since March 2015 Quarterly Report					
84	0	1	0	1	0
85	0	0	0	0	0
86	13	0	0	2	0
<i>Ridgecrest</i>					
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	0	0	0	0
3	7	3	0	2	0
4	14	0	0	0	0
5	4	0	0	1	1
6	21	1	1	5	0
7	19	0	0	1	0
<i>Needles</i>					
92	10	0	0	0	0
<i>Palm Springs</i>					
2	32	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	196	8	1	15	3

c. Maintenance and Restoration Actions – Update from March 2015 Quarterly Report

Heavy equipment route maintenance was performed in the Indian Wells, Short Canyon, and Sand Canyon areas of the Sierra Subregion. Route maintenance was performed to improve access for the public to these canyons for spring wildflower viewing.

“No camping” signs were installed at numerous locations in the Rand Mountain Fremont Valley Management Area of the Rand Subregion. Within this special management area, camping is restricted to five designated sites identified in the management plan in order to protect critical habitat for the desert tortoise.

BLM area identification signs were installed at the entrances of the Dove Springs, Jawbone Canyon, Olancho Dunes, and Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Open Areas. Area identification signing was also installed in the Rademacher Hills, just outside of the community of Ridgecrest.

On June 4, 2015, the Student Conservation Association Desert Restoration Corps completed an eight month work assignment in the West Mojave Desert. The crews performed active restoration at 101 new sites; monitored 50 previously completed restoration sites; and performed restoration retreatment as needed, thereby returning 30,000 square meters of surface disturbance to desert habitat. Also during this quarter, the Wilderness Restoration crew worked in the Bright Star and Sacatar Wildernesses, and the Great Falls Basin Wilderness Study Area.

Route signs were installed on numerous routes within the Black Mountain and El Mirage Subregions.

2. Kiosks – Update from March 2015 Quarterly Report

BLM continued to perform regular and ongoing maintenance of the information kiosks throughout the WEMO planning area during this last quarter. These efforts included the replacement of Subregion maps, posting of notices, painting, plexiglass replacement, and other structural repairs as needed.

3. Proper Functioning Condition – Seeps and Springs – Update from March 2015 Quarterly Report

Two Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments were completed within the WEMO planning area since the March 2015 Quarterly Report. Table 3 shows the results of the PFC assessments.

WEMO Subregion	Unique Identifier and/or Name	Date	Finding	Notes
Juniper Flats	Grapevine Canyon Spring	2015	PFC	Flow at 2-4 gallons per minute; healthy riparian
Stoddard Valley	Milpas Drive Spring	2015	Nonfunctional	No evidence of above ground flow or riparian vegetation present

4. Status of Planning – Update from March 2015 Quarterly Report

BLM held four public meetings on the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The purpose of these meetings was to provide information on the Draft LUPA/SEIS, answer questions, and take written comments. The comment period on the Draft LUPA/SEIS closed June 4, 2015.

Approximately 600 unique comments were received during the Draft LUPA/SEIS review period (February 27 – June 4, 2015). Most comments addressed specific or area route designations and route alternatives. Several commenters also asked for additional time to review the Draft LUPA/SEIS, and in particular, the route network alternatives.

BLM continued to coordinate with local, state and federal agencies on cross-jurisdictional issues.

BLM continued to work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Tribes, and other consulting parties on the development of the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA). Between April and June 2015, BLM hosted two consulting party meetings. At the June 17, 2015 meeting, BLM briefed the consulting parties on the status of the Archaeological

Sensitivity Model. The Section 106 PA has been distributed for final review by the consulting parties. The last working group meeting is planned for July, and the final document will be circulated for signature by the Signatories and Concurring Parties in August.

Cultural resource inventories along randomly selected routes throughout the planning area are nearing completion. The crew has surveyed 5,514 acres (159 miles) of previously unsurveyed routes and identified 439 occurrences of cultural resources, including 298 archaeological sites and 141 isolated artifacts. BLM has completed a first run of the Archaeological Sensitivity Model and is now working with the data from the field inventory to test the validity of the results.

On April 15, 2015, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) acknowledged receipt of BLM's Biological Assessment. Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the USFWS is working on the development of a Biological Opinion.

5. Chronology of Management Actions – Update from March 2015 Quarterly Report

March 31, 2015: West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS public meeting held in Ridgecrest, CA.

April 2, 2015: West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS public meeting held in Victorville, CA.

April 7, 2015: BLM briefed the Inyo County Planning Department and Inyo County Board of Supervisors on the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS.

April 7, 2015: West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS public meeting held in Lone Pine, CA.

April 15, 2015: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with Joshua Tree National Park on the West Mojave Route Network Project.

April 15, 2015: West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS public meeting held in Joshua Tree, CA.

April 15, 2015: USFWS acknowledged receipt of the West Mojave Route Network Project Biological Assessment.

April 23, 2015: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with Caltrans, Inyo County, and the City of Ridgecrest on the West Mojave Route Network Project.

May 4, 2015: Consulting party meeting held in Ridgecrest, CA to review a third working draft of the Programmatic Agreement.

May 9, 2015: BLM briefed the California Desert Advisory Council on the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS.

May 12, 2015: BLM briefed the City of Twenty-Nine Palms on the West Mojave Route Network Project Draft LUPA/SEIS.

May 14, 2015: USFWS assigned a project number and initiated request for development of the Biological Opinion for the West Mojave Route Network Project.

May 15, 2015: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with the Department of Defense on the West Mojave Route Network Project.

May 20, 2015: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with the Town of Apple Valley on the West Mojave Route Network Project.

June 3, 2015: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with San Bernardino County Department of Public Works.

June 16, 2015: BLM held an interagency coordination meeting with San Bernardino County Special Districts Department.

June 17, 2015: Consulting party meeting held in Barstow, CA to review a fourth working draft of the Programmatic Agreement.