

**NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ACTION  
ON PUBLIC LANDS DESIGNATED PART OF  
THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM**

**State:** California

**District:** California Desert

**Field Office:** Needles / Barstow

**Counties:** Riverside / San Bernardino

**Intent:**

In the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) efforts to inform affected or interested public about proposed actions, specific emergencies, or unauthorized activities occurring within BLM Wilderness areas, the following information is provided. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has proposed research actions that would occur in BLM Wilderness areas throughout the Barstow and Needles Field Offices. These areas include: Bristol Mountains, Dead Mountains, Hollow Hills, Kingston Range, Newberry Mountains, North Mesquite Mountains, Resting Spring Range, Sheephole Valley, South Nopah Range, Stepladder Mountains, Trilobite, and Whipple Mountains Wildernesses.

**1. Background:**

In response to the drought, a State of Emergency was declared by the California State Governor in January 2014 and in subsequent executive orders, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) was charged to implement projects to respond to drought conditions through habitat restoration and other measures. To provide scientific information necessary to meet these conservation challenges, leadership at CDFW have prioritized establishment of a statewide resource assessment program, one component will be to monitor wildlife populations and their vulnerability to drought stressors. Terrestrial Species Stressor Monitoring (TSSM) initiates the monitoring process by collecting baseline survey data on a wide variety of common wildlife species throughout the drought-stricken Great Valley and Mojave Desert ecoregions. Key survey methods include automated sound recordings, camera traps, visual encounter surveys, and rapid habitat assessment. The data will be used to estimate occupancy and abundance of wildlife species and to model associations with drought and other habitat conditions.

**2. Proposed Action:**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife proposes the following actions to occur in wilderness to conduct Terrestrial Species Stressor Monitoring.

**Installation of Automated Recorder**

Automated recorder survey equipment will be affixed to a temporary t-post installed in the ground. Equipment may extend up to 3 meters above the ground. If t-post is not feasible, the equipment may

be attached to a tree or other vegetation. If needed, vegetation maybe trimmed within 2 meters of the equipment. The equipment will be removed after five days after installation.

#### Installation of a Camera Trap

A camera trap will be located at least 30 m away from the automated recorder. The camera will be attached to a t-post and aimed at a bait station located 3-4 meters away. Placement of the t-post and camera trap will be general placed within 5 meters of a deer or other animal trail, or a burrow or other wildlife sign.

A 1-kg salt lick, 500 ml of oatmeal-peanut butter mixture, and 150 g of fishy cat food are placed the ground near the center of the camera's field of view. The different bait items are separated from each other by 10-30 cm. The camera trap and bait will be removed within 30 days after installation.

#### Access

Personnel will hike equipment into the wilderness research sites from designated routes.

**3. Research Sites:** Please see attached map.

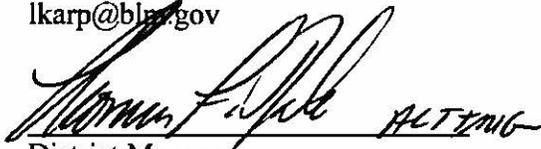
#### 4. Authority:

43 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1701 and 1733 (Federal Land Policy and Management Act), 16 U.S.C. 410 (California Desert Protection Act) and 1131 (The Wilderness Act).

#### 5. Advisory:

The BLM will conduct a Minimum Requirements Analysis to ensure wilderness character is preserved. Additionally, the BLM will proceed through the Environmental Assessment process. This notice is for disclosure purposes; specific comments may be directed to:

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District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
California Desert District

  
Date

## Map of Terrestrial Species Stressor Monitoring Locations throughout California

### Wilderness Areas Include:

Bristol Mountains, Dead Mountains, Hollow Hills, Kingston Range, Newberry Mountains, North Mesquite Mountains, Resting Spring Range, Sheephole Valley, South Nopah Range, Stepladder Mountains, Trilobite, and Whipple Mountains Wildernesses.

