



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Needles Field Office  
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### NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ACTION ON PUBLIC LANDS DESIGNATED PART OF THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

**STATE:** California

**DISTRICT:** California Desert District

**FIELD OFFICE:** Needles Field Office

**COUNTY:** San Bernardino County

**WILDERNESS AREA:** Dead Mountain Wilderness

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.

#### 1. Background:

On Saturday, June 15, 2013, at approximately 5:30 p.m., a Cessna aircraft crash landed a short distance inside the Dead Mountains Wilderness. Fire crews from the Fort Mojave Mesa Fire Department, Mohave Valley Fire Department, and the San Bernardino County Fire Department established a command post at the intersection of Aha Macav Parkway and Needles Highway. A CareFlight helicopter was called in to assist shortly after the search and rescue was implemented.

Due to rugged terrain surrounding the Dead Mountain Wilderness, the initial ground-based search and rescue teams were unsuccessful in their first attempts to reach the injured crash victims. Just before sundown, the CareFlight Helicopter notified ground operations they had been able to locate the crash victims and began their evacuation. BLM law enforcement knowledge of the area was able to develop a direct route to the accident site using closed routes and washes to reduce the level of impact to the area.

The crash site is visible from the Needles Highway and adjacent to a busy state line, casino area. Prior to BLM's notification the area was heavily traveled by numerous vehicles which included crash investigators, search and rescue, and the news media. Visitation to this site may prove more impacting to the wilderness characteristics of the area, than the crash alone. Immediate removal of the aircraft could prevent further

