

Date: April 10, 2014

**Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
Report to the California State OHV Commission**

California Desert District Presentation

CDD Quick Facts:

- 11 million acres for open and limited off-road vehicle recreation
- 371 recreation partnership agreements in California
- More than 9.4 million recreation visits and 3.2 million campers and picnickers

Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Set to Change Closures this Fall

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced today that locations previously identified as closed for off-highway vehicle (OHV) use will change in the fall of 2014. A recent court decision paved the way for the BLM to implement the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), allowing for increased OHV riding opportunities in the recreation area and for better protection of natural resource values such as the Peirson's milkvetch.

Implementation of the Imperial Sand Dunes RAMP requires education and outreach such as new maps and signing directing riders to open areas and away from closures intended to protect critical habitat for Peirson's milkvetch. The BLM will seek assistance from local partners to help with this effort in preparation for the upcoming 2014-2015 season and requests that visitors continue to respect all existing regulatory signs until they are changed.

"Visitors to the Imperial Sand Dunes have patiently waited for implementation of the new RAMP, and we are very excited that new riding opportunities are just around the corner," said El Centro Field Manager Thomas Zale. "I appreciate the cooperative spirit of our dunes visitors and will be working hard with staff and partners to get ready for great times next season in America's Great Outdoors!"

The RAMP Record of Decision was issued in June 2013 and provides guidance of management to over 160,000 acres in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area and over 50,000 acres of public lands in the surrounding area. The Record of Decision is located at the following website:

http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ca/pdf/elcentro/planning/2010.Par.89984.File.dat/isdra_rod-ramp_final.pdf.

Special Recreation Permit's Presentation

Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) are authorizations which allow specified recreational uses of the public lands and related waters. They are issued as a means to manage visitor use, protect natural and cultural resources, and provide a mechanism to accommodate commercial recreational uses.

Authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, there are five types of uses for which these permits are required: commercial, competitive, vending, individual or group use in special areas, and organized group activity and event use. These are outlined below.

BLM's SRP program is designed to satisfy recreational demand within allowable use levels in an equitable, safe, and enjoyable manner while minimizing adverse resource impacts and user conflicts. SRPs are managed in a manner which is consistent with objectives and decisions determined in resource management plans, recreation area management plans, or in their absence, through management objectives resulting from analysis of resources and visitor use for each area.

Special Recreation Permits Issued Commercial, Competitive, Organized Group, Vending

National Recreation Information System / Accomplishments	Nationwide	BLM CA Statewide	CDD Wide	CDD National Percent	CDD State Percent
Recreation Visits FY Date Range: Oct 1,2009- Sept 30, 2011					
A. Total number of recreation visits to BLM lands.	116,371,247	19,309,445	9,861,298	9%	51%
B. Total number of Special Recreation Permits: commercial, competitive, organized groups.	331,126	153,759	153,278	46%	99.7%
C. Total Number of Vending permits issued.	591	521	515	87%	99%

Contact: Jo Ann Schiffer-Burdett Recreation, Travel Management California Desert District Office Phone: (951) 697-5369

Congressionally Designated Johnson Valley Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Area

BLM Action: Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area

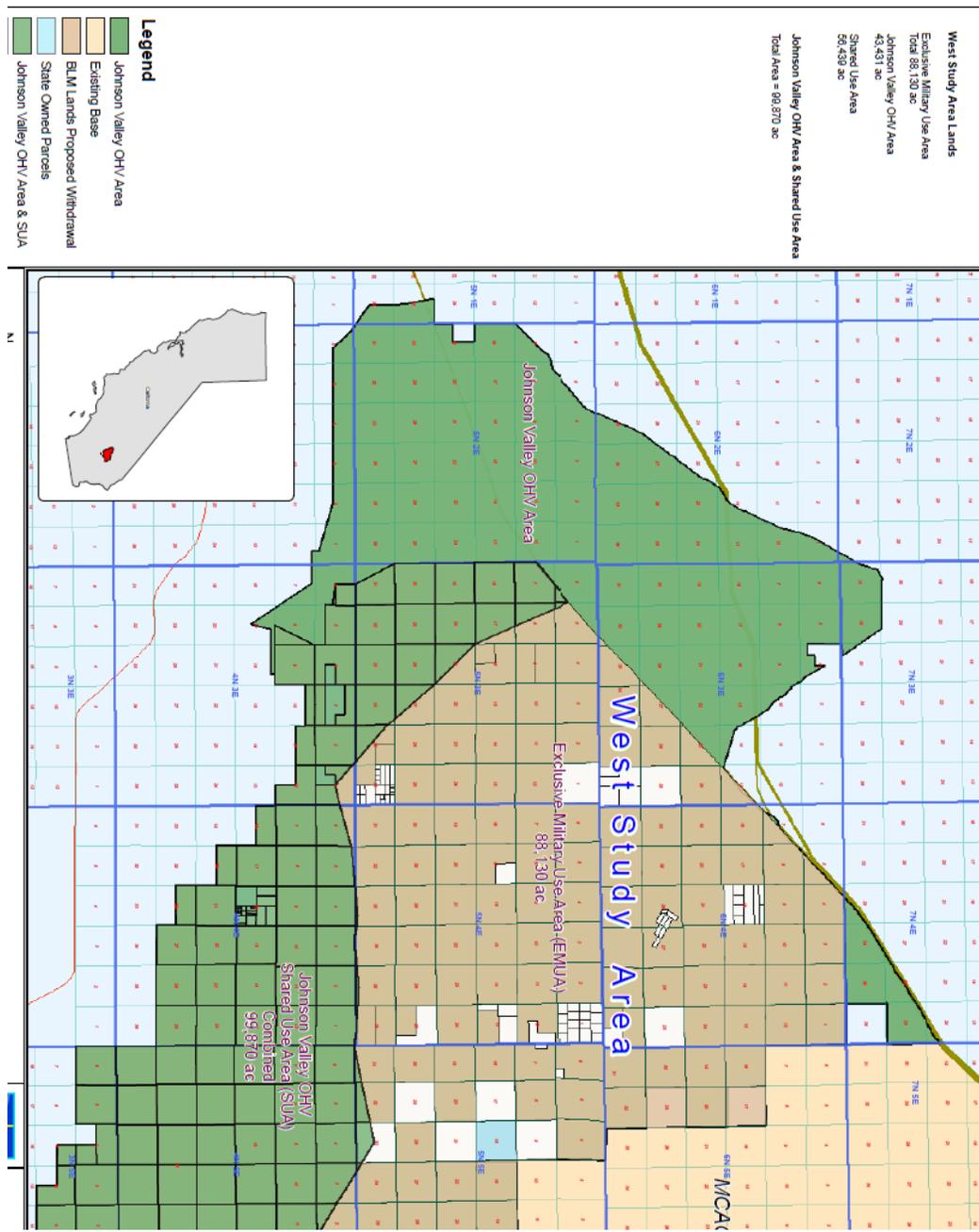
Contact: Katrina Symons, Field Manager, Barstow Field Office

Status: The BLM is working cooperatively with the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms, California, to implement the withdrawal and reservation of public land in the Johnson Valley OHV Area identified in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-66) (NDAA 2014). The NDAA 2014 also established the “Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area” which includes a Shared Use Area (SUA) to be managed for recreational and natural resources conservation purposes ten months of the year and for military purposes two months of the year.

Cooperative and coordinated actions implemented since December 26, 2013 by staff from both the BLM and the United States Marine Corps (USMC) include, but are not limited to: 1/ Execution of two Memorandum of Understanding to authorize BLM to permit and administer a commercial recreational activity upon withdrawn federal public land under the jurisdiction of the USMC, pursuant to a Special Recreation Permit (SRP). The OHV race events occurred on January 26, 2014 (Desert Motorcycle Club) and February 1-7, 2014 (King of the Hammers); 2/ Public outreach jointly conducted during the King of the Hammers (KOH) event to disseminate information related to the withdrawal and reservation of land in the Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area; 3/ Unified command for law enforcement established during the KOH event for the purpose of minimizing conflicts from recreational incursions into the MCAGCC as live fire training was occurring on the military base. California State Parks Law Enforcement assisted with patrols of the previously designated military base boundary; and 4/ Initiated the development of the Resource Management Group (RMG) Charter and discussed holding a series of public meetings starting summer of 2014.

Additional actions taken by BLM since December 26, 2013 include, but are not limited to: 1/ Contacted SRP applicants to provide information related to the NDAA 2014. Since KOH was the last SRP to be held within the Exclusive Military Use Area (EMUA), ten race events in 2014 were cancelled, race courses/race formats modified, and/or the event moved to another location; 2/ Contacted the Inland Empire Film Commission to provide information related to the NDAA 2014 so that commercial film permit applicants could adjust their shoot locations to avoid the EMUA; 3/ Initiated contacts with user groups offering to attend their meetings to provide information related to the NDAA 2014; 4/ Contacted the grazing lease permittee for the Ord Mountain Allotment to provide information of changes to allotment due to the NDAA 2014; and 5/ Reviewing reports for mining claims and right-of-ways for notification of the NDAA 2014.

BACKGROUND: The 188,000 acre BLM-designated Johnson Valley OHV Area was altered by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014. The legislation, signed by the President on December 26, 2013, directs the Johnson Valley OHV Area be divided as follows: 1/ Approximately 88,000 acres (approximately 79,000 acres of public land and approximately 9,000 acres of private and State land to be acquired by the Department of the Navy) is designated an EMUA; 2/ Approximately 56,000 acres (approximately 53,000 acres of public land and approximately 3,000 acres of private and State land to be acquired by the Department of the Navy) is designated a SUA to be managed by the BLM for public recreation and natural resources conservation except for 60 days per year that the land will be used and managed by the USMC for military training, as well as two company objective areas (approximately 22 acres each) to be used exclusively by the USMC for military training; and 3/ Approximately 43,000 acres of the BLM-designated Johnson Valley OHV Area to the west of the EMUA boundary line, together with the SUA, to be designated the “Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area”, totaling approximately 100,000 acres.



CCMA - No update to provide at this time, updates will be submitted at the meeting.

BLM Barstow Field Office Youth Outreach Program (Play, Learn, Serve, Work)

FROM: Rose Beardshear, Volunteer Coordinator

Tight budgets, staffing shortages, and pressing priorities impacted the BLM Barstow Field Office's ability to meet some of the OHMVR grant requirements for soil reports and habitat management plans. In an effort to assist BLM staff in these requirements, interns were secured with OHMVR dollars through the American Conservation Experience Program.

In addition to their valuable contributions to our work force, these interns help to meet the goals of a recent Secretarial Order issued by Secretary of Interior Sally Jewel to inspire millions of young people to play, learn, serve, and work in the outdoors. Bridging the growing disconnect between young people and nature is essential to nurturing a future generation that understands and cares for our natural and cultural resources.

With one-third of the DOI workforce eligible to retire within the next 5 years, this initiative is not only critical for the health of our public lands and economy, it is also key to ensure that we have raised a new generation of land managers, wildlife biologists, tribal experts, park rangers, scientists, civil engineers, lawyers, and the many other professionals that enable us to carry out our diverse missions.

Additionally, the Barstow Field Office has partnered with the High Desert Junior Colleges and high schools through a California Career Pathways Trust Grant in an effort to establish career pathways leading to these internship positions. This fund was made possible through the AB 86 in the amount of \$250 million and made available to school districts, county superintendents of school, charter schools, and community college districts in the form of one-time competitive grant.

Once a career path is established and internships are made available, individuals that complete 640 hours will have Public Land Corps Act hiring authority (PLC). Public Land Corps Act of 2013 expands the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service opportunities for young Americans; help restore the nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational and scenic resources; train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts; and promote the value of public service. This means that with the PLC Act Hiring Authority, for 120 days after successfully completing their position, they are able to compete for federal positions on USAJOBS on the same level or status as federal employees. Innovative partnering for career pathways and funding for these internship positions will provide opportunities for students to work together to protect our planet and improve our country through a deeper connection to nature, civic engagement and community development.

BLM Seeks Members for Connecting People to the Desert Subgroup

The Bureau of Land Management is seeking nominations for seven to nine positions in its Connecting People to the Desert subgroup of the Desert Advisory Council (DAC). Members of the subgroup will be nominated by the DAC chairman, selected by the DAC and concurred with by the BLM. Deadline for submission of applications will be May 2, 2014.

The focus of the subgroup will be to make recommendations on how to connect youth and adults with the spectacular resources of the California Desert by identifying education and interpretation opportunities in the sciences, recreation, the arts, economics and history. Nominees should have expertise in education, outreach or marketing, along with one or more of the following areas:

Cultural, Performing or Visual Arts
Recreation
Archaeology
Geology or Paleontology
History (Military, Westward Expansion, Mining or other)
Economics
Biological Sciences
Writing and Literature
Film
Sociology or Anthropology

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires input from the subgroup to be presented directly to the California Desert District Advisory Council (DAC) for deliberation and consideration. The DAC, chartered by the Secretary of the Interior, serves in an advisory capacity concerning the planning and management of public land resources with the BLM California Desert District.

All members of the subgroup will be required to disclose any direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts or claims that involve lands or resources administered by the BLM, or in any related litigation. No subgroup member will participate in any matter in which the member has a direct interest. Selection and appointment of subgroup members is by the DAC with the concurrence of the designated federal official.

The subgroup is projected to meet four times per year, and all meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates, times and locations will be determined at a later date. Persons wishing to apply for consideration as members of the subgroup should submit their applications to: Stephen Razo, BLM California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553 or electronically at: srazo@blm.gov. The application and detailed information about the subgroup are posted on the subgroup's website: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/rac/dac/connectingtothedesert.html>

A Close Look at the California Coastal National Monument

While the [California Coastal National Monument](#) (CCNM) offers magnificent scenic vistas from the mainland, getting a closer look at the rocks and islets can be a challenge. Recently, students from the Trinidad area on the North Coast had the opportunity to take to the sea and get a closer look at the monument and its inhabitants. (text continues below)



Trinidad students prepare for departure

Students from Trinidad's elementary school participated in a charter boat tour to Green and Flatiron rocks, which provide important nesting habitat for seabirds. The two islets, only a nautical mile apart, are home to the largest common murre colony in the entire monument. Together the rocks, about a mile north of Trinidad, are home to about 66,000 nesting seabirds.



Students from Osher Lifelong Institute (OLLI) paddle kayaks around Prisoner and Camel rocks near Trinidad Harbor. BLM Wildlife Biologist Jesse Irwin accompanies the group.



Students from the Osher Lifelong Institute had the chance to kayak in the waters surrounding the monument. They were accompanied by BLM wildlife biologist Jesse Irwin and kayaking instructor Hawk Martin. The students watched from a distance as California sea lions feasted on fish. They got good looks at a variety of birds including pigeon guillemots, brown pelicans, Caspian terns, long-tailed ducks, black oystercatchers, Western gulls and Brandt's cormorants. Friendly harbor seals were also on hand to greet the students. The group learned about the natural and cultural history of Trinidad Bay and the importance of keeping a distance to avoid disturbing nesting and feeding wildlife.

Trinidad is one of the California coastal towns designated a gateway to the California Coastal National Monument. The Trinidad Rancheria owns Trinidad Harbor operations and is an official steward partner in management of the CCNM.

The CCNM contains more than 20,000 small rocks, islands, pinnacles and exposed reefs stretching the entire 1,100-mile length of the California coast, from mean high tide and out 12 nautical miles. It provides important habitat for seabirds and marine mammals