



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
www.ca.blm.gov



Date: September 12, 2014

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

Updates on the following subjects will be provided at the next OHV Commission meeting:

- United States Department of Navy (DoN), Marine Corps/Johnson Valley,
- Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)
- BLM 2015 Proposed Budget.

Pacific Crest Trail Restoration Project

Background:

The PCT is open to hikers and equestrian users, and explicitly closed to all motorized and mechanized vehicles including bicycles. Keeping motorized vehicles off the PCT is a major challenge to its management. The PCT has standards which include a well-constructed and well-marked, low grade tread, free from erosion and obstructions. Keeping the trail quality up to National Scenic Trail System standards is the major maintenance challenge.

The issue of illegal OHV use on the PCT has been ongoing in the Tehachapi Mountains, Mojave Desert, and southern Sierras for decades. Man designated routes and user created trails are found within close proximity to the PCT often paralleling and intersecting the trail. Although there are legal riding areas nearby and an education campaign has been undertaken, the problem that persist. The BLM has over the past several decades been attempting to balance varied interest by working to protect fragile desert ecosystems while still providing recreational opportunities for OHV users.

BLM and the U.S. Forest Service have been working with private landowners and the Kern County Sheriff's Office to reduce or eliminate OHV trespass in the Tehachapi Mountains and along the PCT since the 1980s. A combination of law enforcement enhancement and restoration projects along the trail has produced some improvement, but more remains to be done to protect PCT, and on many of the adjoining public and private lands.



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Project:

In FY 2011, the BLM-California State Office was awarded a \$54,500 OHV grant for PCT Restoration Planning from the California State Parks, Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. The Bakersfield and Ridgecrest Field Offices began the implementation of this project in January 2012. A detailed trail condition assessment of about 110 miles was completed in eastern Kern County by an American Conservation Experience intern with technical oversight and supervision provided by BLM staff. The intern collected GIS data about all conditions along the trail, including photo documentation of OHV use on the trail and created general maps of the illegal OHV routes near and adjacent to the PCT. The completed report was Phase I of the original project.

In September 2012, BLM-California State Office staff met with California State Parks OHV staff to discuss the implementation of the phase II of the planning and restoration grant. State Parks staff recommended that work be prioritized on the segment of the trail, from Tehachapi Willow Springs Road to Highway 138. This segment of the PCT has the most OHV intrusions on the trail and trespass issue with private landowners. BLM and State Parks staff agreed that the following work would be completed with the remaining grant funds:

- Identify and map OHV routes that lead to and across the PCT;
- Collect GPS data and map OHV access points and prioritize for closure and restoration;
- Identify OHV access points on private lands and request landowner support for closure and restoration of routes; and
- Identify and map OHV routes that should be prioritized for potential future restoration projects;

BLM California State Office developed a cooperative agreement with the PCTA to complete the work utilizing PCTA staff and to hire a contractor to provide specialized technical assistance. A majority of this report was researched by the PCTA's Trail Technical Advisor. The Technical Assistance Contractor spent a week on the ground with the PCTA Trail Technical Advisor, and prepared the final report with input from the Trail Technical Advisor, and from other staff from PCTA, U.S. Forest Service and from BLM Ridgecrest Field Office. This report is a collaborative effort that includes work and ideas from both specialists; and oversight from managers from all the agencies and PCTA partners.



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Within the 113 miles surveyed approximately 147 locations below the Tehachapi Ridge area identified for rehabilitation, improved signage and trail reroute, with an estimate of approximately 7,000 hours of on the ground work needed.

The report recommended Tylerhorse segment (Region 2) as a potential pilot project for a larger restoration area that includes both private and public lands, and incorporates closure of large clusters of unauthorized routes, this area was also identified for the following reasons:

- There is a constellation of major trails leaving the Antelope Valley that take a large number of OHV riders into Tylerhorse and Gamble Springs Canyons.
- There are only three landowners beside the BLM in the area, which have been very cooperative with our initiatives to this point.
- The area has abundant natural materials that would make restoration work more efficient.
- While a difficult area to work in, access to various project areas in the Tylerhorse areas has been somewhat improved because the development roads.

For the first year of project work (2015), small restoration projects will begin on PCT, and focus additional projects on closure or disruption of some of the major trails that lead to areas where the PCT is located. In addition, there are some smaller projects that can be performed in the upper areas, along and just below the Tehachapi Ridge.

Further interagency and partner planning will continue for solutions on both federal and non-federal lands, along with joint efforts in signage and law enforcement patrolling.



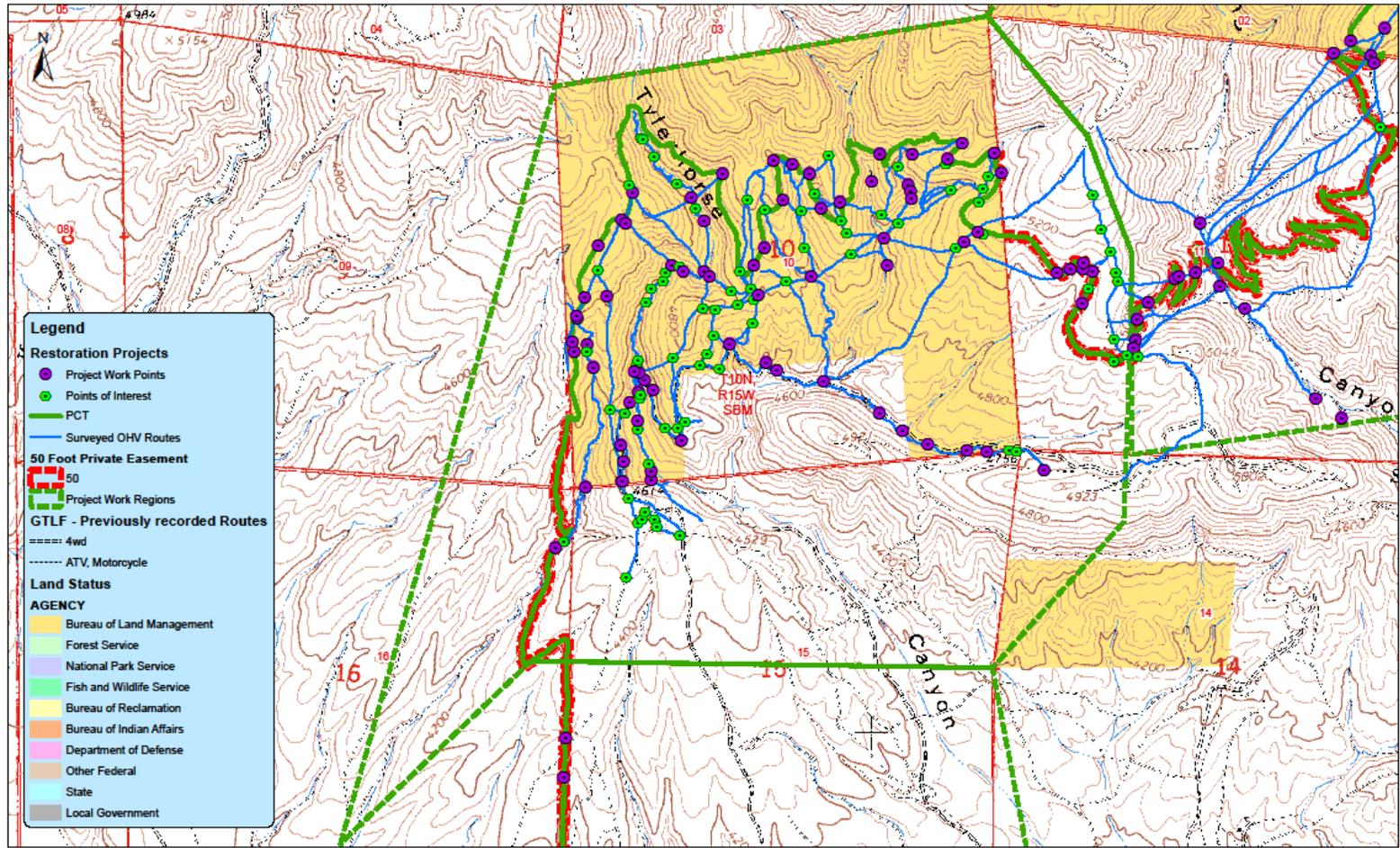
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Region 2 Project Area



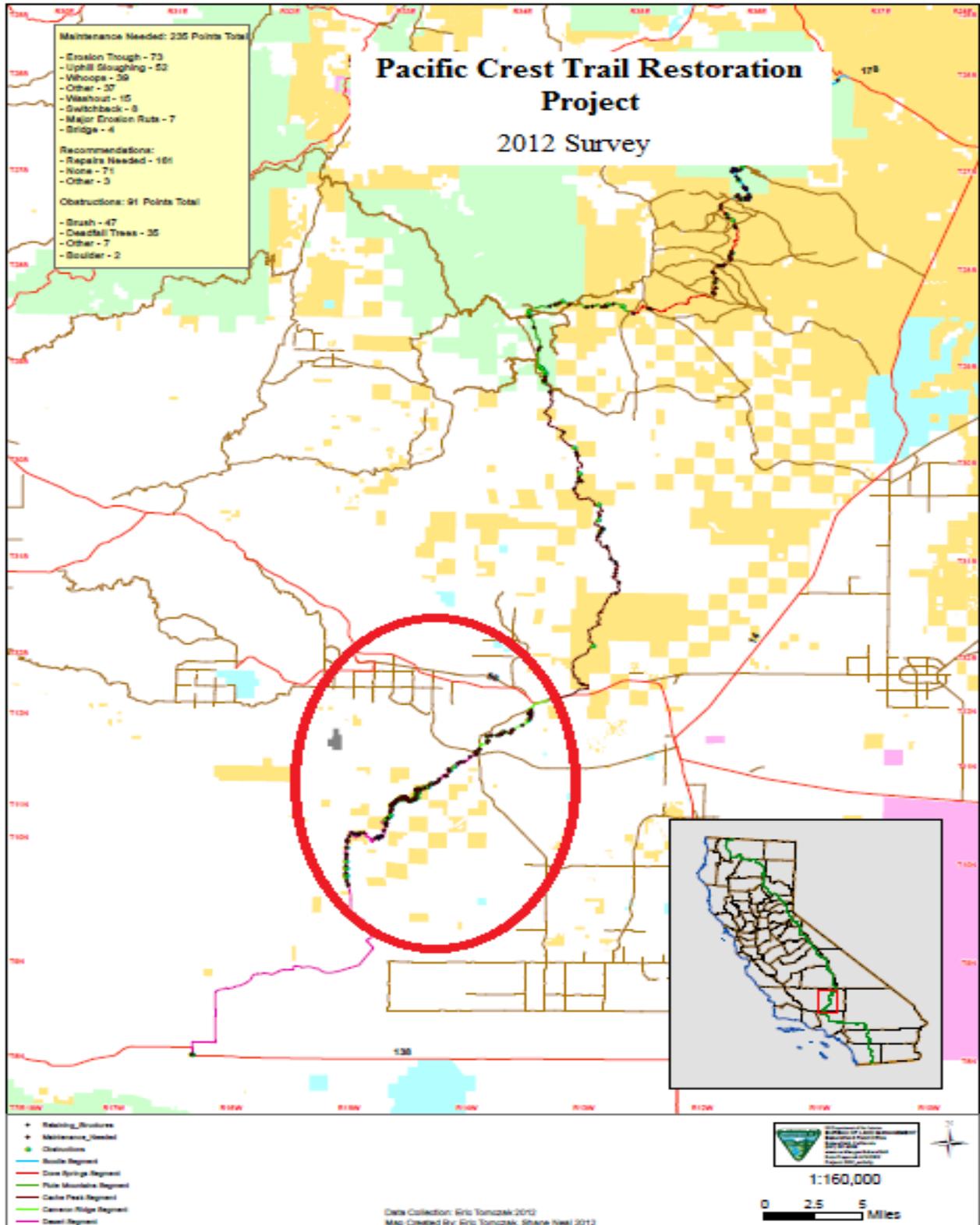
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DISCOVER THE Desert

The Bureau of Land Management in California manages 11 million acres of unique and diverse desert landscapes rich with cultural, historical, archaeological, environmental and recreational resources. The Discover the Desert initiative focuses on connecting people with these spectacular resources of the California desert by working with gateway communities and partners to identify opportunities for education and interpretation through the arts, sciences, tourism and recreation.

Discover the Desert @ Alabama Hills



Discover the Desert @ Trona Pinnacles



Discover the Desert @ Big Morongo Canyon Preserve



Discover the Desert @ Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mtns



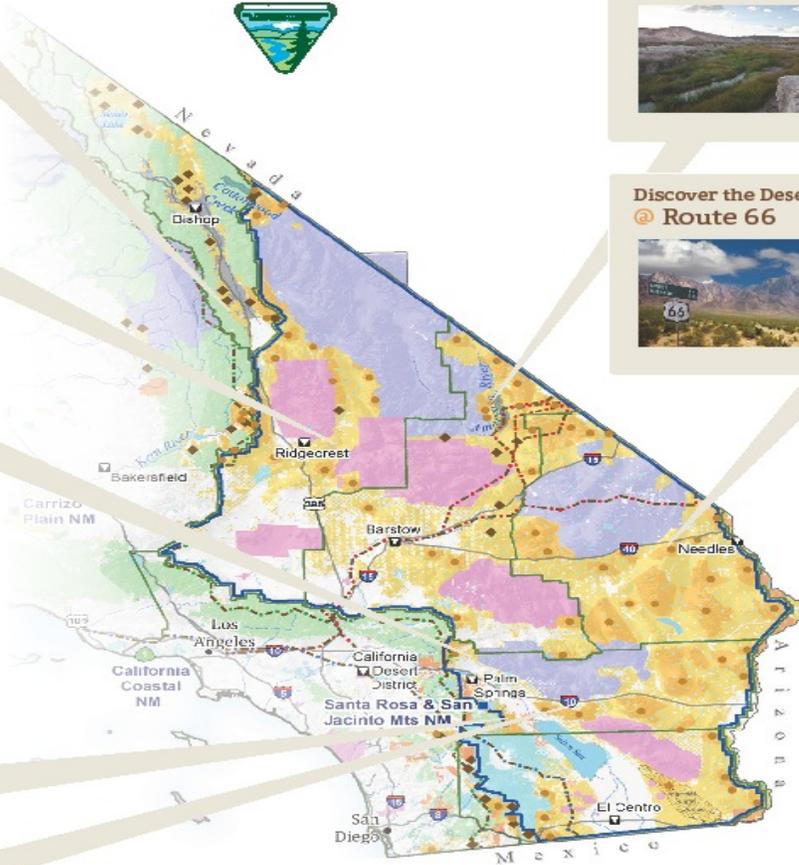
Discover the Desert @ Desert Training Center



Discover the Desert @ Amargosa River



Discover the Desert @ Route 66



Discover the Desert @ OHV Areas



- Imperial Sand Dunes
- Johnson Valley
- El Mirage
- Dumont Dunes

Discover the Desert @ National Trails



- Pacific Crest Trail
- Juan Bautista de Anza Trail
- Old Spanish Trail
- California Historic Trail
- Nadeau Recreation Trail

Discover the Desert @ Wilderness



- Wilderness
- ◆ Wilderness Study Area



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Youth Summit

November 4, 2014

California State University, Sacramento
University Union Ballroom; 6000 J Street, Sacramento
Connecting Youth to America's Great Outdoors

The Bureau of Land Management invites youth, partner organizations, government agencies, and others interested in connecting youth to the outdoors to participate in the 3rd Annual Youth Summit on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on the California State University campus in Sacramento, California.

This year's Youth Summit will focus on education and partnerships to connect youth to outdoor opportunities. The program will feature a keynote address by Dr. Nina Roberts, workshops tailored to youth and partner organizations, and an Expo where organizations can share opportunities for connecting youth to America's Great Outdoors. **The Youth Summit is free of charge.** Please view the tentative agenda attached to this email.

Participate in the Expo!

The Expo is an opportunity for young people to learn about your organization. Share your programs, accomplishments, employment opportunities, or upcoming events. Bring a display to educate, engage, or employ youth. The Expo will be open from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm and participation is FREE. Exhibitors should set up between 7:30 and 8:30 am. For a booth at the Expo, please complete the Expo section of the online registration form by October 1.

Email blmcayouth@blm.gov with questions.

Keynote: Dr. Nina Roberts, San Francisco State University

Dr. Roberts is an expert in outdoor programming and leadership, adventure education, youth development, recreation land management, outreach & community engagement, as well as constraints and barriers to visiting parks and public lands. As a Professor in the College of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism at San Francisco State University, her work and research has made her an authority on race, culture and gender issues in parks and outdoor recreation.

Workshops

The Youth Summit will feature two workshop sessions focused on interactive stations, listening circles, panel discussions, college preparation, career paths, and mentoring. Please select your sessions on the online registration form and we'll do our best to match participants with workshop topics.

Youth Summit Social Media

Social media is a core component of the Youth Summit. Participants will be encouraged to share important aspects of the Youth Summit with their own social networks to become a part of the national social media movement to promote youth in the outdoors. Be a Youth Influencer! Use #cayouth to help us link in networks. Please follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Tumblr](#), and [Instagram](#).

Or go to this link to register. Space is limited, so sign up early!

https://docs.google.com/a/blm.gov/forms/d/11jvmyJ_fcsOUmyNzBq9e2dy7euIFL9fskIM9o9jZPM/viewform?c=0&w=1

For More Information

Visit the BLM California Youth web page at blm.gov/ca/youth