

Clear Creek Management Area

- Timeline of Events -

- 1979 Report regarding potential inhalation health risks posed by naturally occurring asbestos while motorcycle riding at Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) is published. The report, "Chrysotile Asbestos in California Recreation Area," was prepared by W.C. Cooper, W. Murchio, W. Pependorf, and H.R. Wenk, and presented in a 1979 issue of the journal *Science*. The findings of the Cooper et al. investigation are summarized and discussed in the March 8, 2011, IERF Study commissioned by the OHMVR Division.
- 1984 BLM adopts Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP). Hollister RMP provides management guidance for the CCMA. RMP establishes 31,000 acre Clear Creek Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) within the CCMA to protect public health and safety.
- 1991 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signs Record of Decision (ROD) selecting the cleanup remedy for the Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund site in the CCMA.
- 2004 EPA initiates asbestos exposure and human health risk assessment for the CCMA.
- 2004/05 EPA conducts air sampling at the CCMA.
- 2005 BLM implements dry season (June 1st – October 15th) use restrictions.
- 2007 Hollister RMP is updated; the CCMA is not included pending risk assessment from EPA.
- 2008 EPA releases CCMA Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment. Study concludes visiting the CCMA more than once per year can put adults and children above EPA's acceptable risk range for exposure to carcinogens and finds an increased long-term cancer risk from engaging in many of the typical recreational activities at the CCMA.
- BLM Hollister Field Office issues immediate "temporary closure" effective to all forms of entry and public use within the Serpentine ACEC in the CCMA.

2009 BLM releases Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS).

2009/10 Public comments on Draft RMP/EIS accepted for 90 days.

2010 Public meetings held in Coalinga, Hollister, and Santa Clara.

BLM makes presentation on CCMA closure and draft RMP/EIS at February OHMVR Commission meeting. Commission votes to request extension of public comment period.

Commission submits letter to BLM requesting extension of comment period on March 2. Similar appeals were made to the BLM by recreational user groups, individuals, Congressional members and other interested parties.

In March 2010, the OHMVR Division commissioned an independent, off-highway vehicle (OHV)-specific risk assessment of NOA exposure within the Serpentine ACEC of the CCMA to determine if management and operational strategies could be employed at CCMA to mitigate NOA risk while still allowing OHV recreation at the CCMA.

BLM extends public comment period for the CCMA draft RMP/EIS for additional 45 days.

San Benito County Board of Supervisors endorses the "no action" alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS and adopts a resolution to re-open unmaintained County roads in the CCMA.

OHMVR Division submits comments on Draft RMP/EIS on April 19.

The OHMVR Commission is updated at its April 29th Commission meeting on the status of the Draft RMP/EIS.

2011 OHMVR Division releases report, "Preliminary Analysis of the Asbestos Exposures Associated with Motorcycle Riding and Hiking in the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA), San Benito County, California"

April 2011, the OHMVR Commission held a public meeting in Hollister, California and toured the Clear Creek CCMA. At the public meeting, reports on the Clear Creek CCMA were provided by the BLM, EPA and the authors of the OHMVR Division commissioned risk assessment.

2013 April 5, 2013, BLM releases Proposed Resource Management Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS). The 30-day protest period runs through May 6, 2013.