

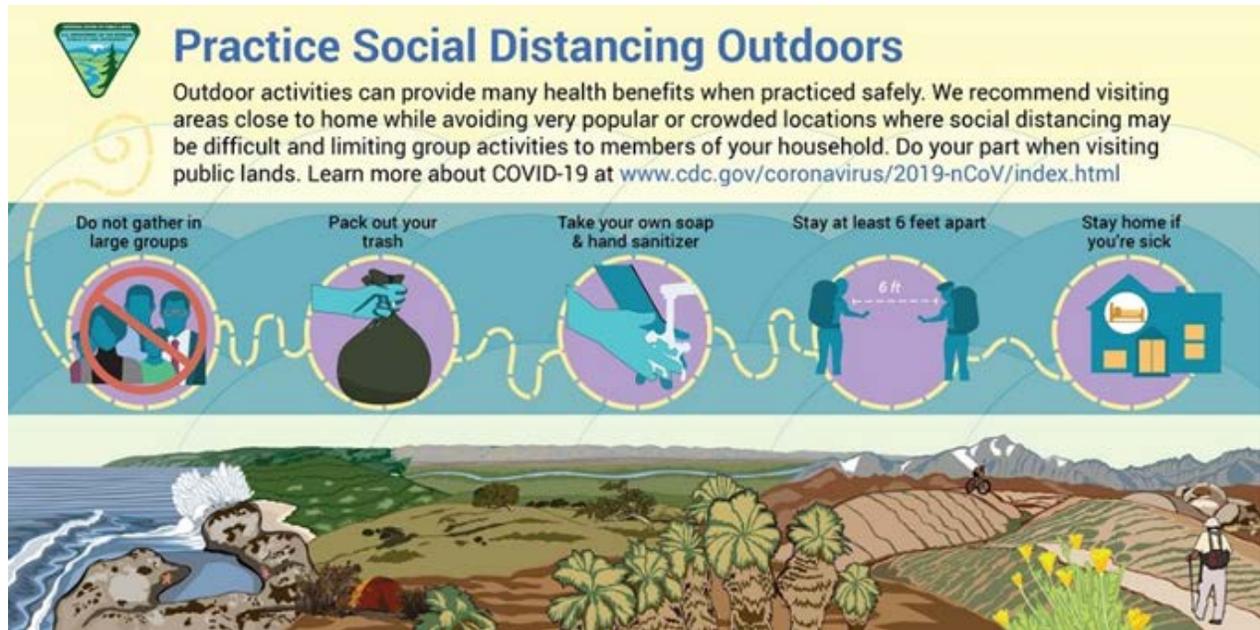
**Bureau of Land Management
Report to the California State OHV Commission
August 6, 2020**

Presentations will be given by:

**Jane Arteaga – California OHV / Travel Management Lead
Karen Mouritsen- California State Director
Needles Field Office**



AMBOY CRATER – NEEDLES FIELD OFFICE



BLM CALIFORNIA COVID-19 UPDATES

The BLM continues to work with local, state, and federal officials to reopen recreation sites throughout California as quickly and safely as possible. Because the safety of our visitors and employees is our top priority, some areas including developed campgrounds, restrooms and other facilities remain temporarily closed and we encourage visitors to check the list below before planning their visit. Field staff continue to clean and prepare additional sites so they will be ready for visitors soon.

Additionally, the BLM is temporarily restricting in-person public access to visitor centers and public rooms in our California offices. Please check with individual offices regarding specific facilities and services available. Visit <https://on.doi.gov/38ZT50I> for a complete list of BLM California contact information.

Despite facility closures, millions of acres of BLM-managed public lands across California remain open to enjoy, as long as you do so responsibly and safely. [Click here for more Responsible Recreation tips.](#)

Here's how you can explore opportunities to recreate responsibly:

Find a recreation site that matches with what you want to do. Do you want to hike? Go fishing? Camping? <https://www.blm.gov/visit>

✓ Next, make sure that site is currently open by checking our COVID-19 closure list below. **We will remove sites from the list as they re-open.**

✓ Finally, check this interactive map to see if there are any fire or target shooting restrictions: <https://go.usa.gov/xwRdk>

Remember to plan ahead, be responsible, be safe and above all, have fun!

Bureau of Land Management California Closures as of 7/14/2020

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

The following areas in the Northern California District are temporarily closed.

Redding Field Office

- Group sites at Chappie-Shasta Campground (Individual sites are open)
- Douglas City Campground

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

The following areas in the Central California District are temporarily closed.

Bakersfield Field Office

Seasonal fire restrictions are in effect for all lands managed by the Bakersfield Field Office. ([Press Release](#))

- [Keyville Special Recreation Management Area](#)
- [Piedras Blancas Light Station](#)

CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT

The following areas in the California Desert District are temporarily closed.

Barstow Field Office

- Borehole
- Desert Discovery Center

El Centro Field Office

- Hot Springs Day Use Area (including parking lot, tubs and pool)

Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office

- Big Morongo Preserve
- Coachella Valley Preserve
- Coon Hollow Campground
- Corn Springs Campground
- Dos Palmas Preserve
- Painted Canyon (restrooms only)
- Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center

Stay Safe

- Stay home if you don't feel well or have recently been sick.
- Follow guidance from local, state, and federal authorities.
- While the BLM will do its best to manage public lands for public health and safety, you are responsible for deciding what is safe. Take responsibility for your safety and wellbeing
- Wiley's Well Campground



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON ALABAMA HILLS MANAGEMENT PLAN



BISHOP, California. - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bishop Field Office is seeking public input for the future management of the Alabama Hills near Lone Pine in Inyo County. Today's release of an environmental assessment lays out three proposed alternatives and begins a 30-day public review period that ends on August 7, 2020.

Set between the jagged peaks of the Sierra Nevada and the Owens Valley, the Alabama Hills are a unique formation of rounded rocks and eroded hills that encompass more than 29,000 acres of public land that is well known for its mix of scenic, cultural, geological, educational, biological, historical, recreational, cinematographic, and scientific values. In March 2019, President Trump signed Public Law 116-9 (P.L. 116-9), also known as the [John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act](#), which designated 18,745 acres within the Alabama Hills as a National Scenic Area. The BLM is currently preparing a management plan for the Scenic Area and adjacent public lands in the Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area.

Implementing P.L. 116-9 is a top priority for the Department of the Interior as we work to strike a proper balance for land and resource management, increase access for hunting, fishing, and recreation, and create economic prosperity, while protecting and preserving America's treasures.

"We welcome continued public engagement in our effort to develop a comprehensive plan for management of the area," says Bishop Field Manager Steve Nelson. "We also look forward to completing the plan and working with the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group, the local tribe, and the Lone Pine community to implement management strategies that will ensure the long-term protection, conservation, public access, and responsible use of this magnificent landscape."

To facilitate public review and encourage public participation in the Alabama Hills planning effort, the BLM will host two virtual meetings in late July. Public meeting materials will be available on the project website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1502669/570>. Virtual meetings will be conducted on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, July 22, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 23, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

To register for one of the virtual meetings, go to the [project website](#). Once registered, you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the meeting. These instructions will also include an option to call into the meeting using a traditional phone line.

Written comments on the proposed alternatives in the environmental assessment can be submitted via email to: blm_ca_alabama_hills_planning@blm.gov; by fax: 760-872-5055; or by mail to: BLM Bishop Field Office, Attn: Alabama Hills Management Plan, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100, Bishop, CA 93514.

Before including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or other personal identifying information in a comment, commenters should be aware that the entire comment, including personal identifying information, could be made publicly available at any time. While the public may ask the BLM to withhold personal identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

For specific questions, please call Project Manager Monica Buhler at 760-872-5000.

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON NEW CAHUILLA RANGER STATION



EL CENTRO, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office is seeking public input on the proposed replacement of the Cahuilla Ranger Station located at 4500 Gecko Road, Brawley in Imperial County. The new facility would better serve the needs of the public as well as BLM emergency medical staff, law enforcement, and park rangers. The current 2,200 square-foot facility, which also serves as a visitor center for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) was built in the 1980's. Visitation to the ISDRA has steadily increased since the visitor center was built creating a need for more space for safety

personnel and staff.

"The Cahuilla Ranger Station plays an important role in ensuring the safety and well-being of the public who visit the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area," said El Centro Field Office Manager Ryan Chatterton. "We look forward to the public participating in a new facility that will better meet the needs of our visitors and our employees."

The proposed action includes the removal of all current structures and debris, and replacement with a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant facility better suited for current and future needs, in addition to improved parking for both visitors and BLM staff. The 30-day public scoping period will close on Friday, July 31.

Construction of the new facility is expected to begin in the summer of 2021 on the existing site of roughly 120,000 square feet of land and include the building, parking, and storage. The current proposal consists of a new 12,500 square-foot ranger station designed to accommodate a visitor services reception area, restrooms, first aid area, maintenance workshop, an administration staff area, break rooms, showers and lockers, and an employee sleeping area, among other facilities. The new station would also provide enough open space to brief up to 150 people in a climate-controlled environment while providing space to adequately serve the public.

Public scoping is an important part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and will help the BLM determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis. Substantive public comments received will be considered during the preparation of an Environmental Assessment, which will analyze the site-specific impacts of the proposed action on various resources which may be affected. Questions and substantive public scoping comments may be submitted by email to: aswilliams@blm.gov; or by fax to 760-337-4490, Attn: Alexia Williams; or by mail to: Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Alexia Williams, 1661 S. 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243, no later than July 31, 2020. More details about the project can be found here: <https://go.usa.gov/xwuZH>.

Before including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or other personal identifying information in a comment, commenters should be aware that the entire comment, including personal identifying information, could be made publicly available at any time. While the public may ask the BLM to withhold personal identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so.
