

California Bureau of Land Management
Report to the California State OHV Commission
July 29th, 2021

Presentations will be given by:

- **Briana Halstead –CA OHV / Travel Management Lead**
- **Andrew Archuleta –CA Desert District Manager**
- **Dana Stephenson –CA Desert District Outdoor Recreation Planner**

NEW CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE OHV/TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM LEAD NAMED



Briana Halstead has been selected as the new OHV/Travel Management Program Lead for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) California State Office. Briana comes with a wealth of federal land management experience –with the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service. Briana previously was the Ukiah BLM Field Office's Outdoor Recreation Planner, where she served many roles including acting as the OHV Grant's Project Manager, serving as lead for the OHV grants program and coordinating/monitoring projects as described in the OHV Management Plans

Briana's federal experience includes a recent temporary assignment to the Nevada Carson City District Office as an Assistant Field Office Manager working on issues related to realty and archeological resources. She has additionally held positions as a Natural Resource Specialist, a Rangeland Management Specialist, and Planning & Environmental Specialist.

Her responsibilities in this new role will include being the primary liaison between the OHV commission and BLM, coordinating and managing state grant program for BLM, and overall program management of OHV, Trails, and Transportation Planning.

She can be contacted at bhalstead@blm.gov or (707) 245-7648

OTHER NEW FACES: NEW FIELD MANAGERS
UKIAH FIELD OFFICE & PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST FIELD OFFICE

NICK LAVROV EMBRACING THE CHALLENGE AS BLM UKIAH FIELD MANAGER



UKIAH, Calif. — Nicholas “Nick” Lavrov is embracing the challenge of serving as the Bureau of Land Management Ukiah Field Manager overseeing management of more than 270,000 acres of public land within nine counties in northern California.

“There’s never a dull moment. There are so many complex, multi-faceted issues in managing our BLM public lands and balancing the various uses in our multiple-use mission,” Lavrov says. “I enjoy working with the Ukiah Field Office staff

who are very knowledgeable and dedicated to caring for our resources. I look forward to helping to improve our recreation areas and protecting our riparian areas.”

The challenges of the job became apparent immediately for Lavrov. On his second day, the LNU Lightning Complex Fire started, burning more than 360,000 acres, including more than 46,000 acres of public lands managed by the Ukiah Field Office. Lavrov and his staff are still dealing with recovery.

As field manager, Lavrov oversees a field office jurisdiction covering parts of Marin, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Napa, Colusa, Glenn, Yolo, and Solano counties. The field office manages areas including parts of the California Coastal National Monument in the Point Arena-Stornetta area and the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, managed jointly with the Mendocino National Forest. The field office also administers geothermal leasing at The Geysers, the world’s largest geothermal steam field and the Cow Mountain Recreation Area, which includes the first Congressionally designated OHV area.

Lavrov grew up in the North San Francisco Bay Area. In the late 90s, he started his career with the National Park Service as a senior park ranger, managing special uses at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which includes Alcatraz Island. He has also served as a patrol ranger and inspector for the San Francisco Water Department, as a watermaster for the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, and as park manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally, Lavrov has experience serving on incident management teams for emergency response.

“We are fortunate to have Nick on our team,” says BLM Central California District Manager Chris Heppe. “His experience and leadership in natural resource management combined with his knowledge of the northern California inland and coastal areas have been valuable additions to our Ukiah Field Office.”

Lavrov succeeds Amanda James, who moved to a position with the BLM in Montana. When not in the office, he enjoys traveling, gardening, hiking and skiing.

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WELCOMES NEW FIELD MANAGER TO PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST FIELD OFFICE



Tim Gilloon joined the Bureau of Land Management Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office as the new field manager located in Palm Springs, Calif. Drawing on his years of combined experience from federal civil service, private industry, and the military, Tim is well prepared to take on his newest challenge as a BLM field manager responsible for more than 1.7 million acres of public lands within portions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties.

“Tim is a great addition to the BLM team and will be responsible for managing a variety of program areas and resources both within the California Desert Conservation Area and California’s South Coast area,” said California Desert District Manager, Andrew Archuleta. “We are excited to have Tim lead the Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office.”

Tim joined the BLM from the U.S. Forest Service, where he worked on a wide variety of issues as a National Environmental Policy Act program manager and a physical resources staff officer. During his time with USFS, Tim was responsible for multiple programs in a complex and challenging area of the country. The knowledge and experience he gained will benefit the BLM’s mission, and the lands and public they serve.

Tim also brings private industry experience with him to the BLM. He worked in commercial property management in Arizona and California and as an environmental contractor at dozens of military facilities across the southwest. Tim earned a Bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master’s degree in Urban and Environmental Planning, both from Arizona State University.

In addition to federal civil service and private experience, Tim also has over 17 years of military service with the U.S. Army. He began his military career as a Special Forces engineer sergeant where he deployed twice and conducted a variety of missions. Tim transitioned to the Army Reserve after active duty and held pivotal roles as a senior non-commissioned officer in planning and operations, where he was successful in designing and facilitating training exercises for thousands of military personnel, most often out of Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif. He was commissioned as an officer in the Arizona Army National Guard after 16 years as an enlisted member and is currently a second lieutenant serving as a Civil Affairs team leader with the Army Reserve in Colorado.

Tim has lived across the country from Hawaii to North Carolina and several places in-between. He is high-energy, committed to teamwork, and encourages a good work-life balance for his team. He enjoys vacationing with his wife and three daughters across the southwest, from the sand to the snow; their favorite activities include camping, country music festivals, and ocean cruises.

BLM SEASONAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS FOR MOST OF THE STATE



As of June 2021, the Bureau of Land Management has implemented fire restrictions for public lands managed by the BLM covering the entire state of California, excepting two northeastern field offices: Eagle Lake and Applegate Field Offices. Fire restrictions will remain in place until further notice.

For more information, please visit the Fire and Aviation fire restrictions webpage at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-info/california/fire-restrictions>. An interactive fire activity and restrictions map can also be found at <https://nifc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1c4565c092da44478befc12722cf0486>

BLM CLOSURES PANOCH HILLS TO VEHICLE ACCESS EARLY DUE TO DRY CONDITIONS— VEHICLE ACCESS REMAINS OPEN AT TUMEY HILLS UNTIL APRIL 15.



MARINA, Calif. — The Bureau of Land Management Central Coast Field Office will be temporarily closing vehicle access to the Panoche Hills Recreation Area in Fresno and San Benito counties effective at 7 a.m. on Friday, April 2. The closure will help prevent unnecessary destruction of plant life and wildlife habitat due to abnormally hot and dry weather conditions. The Tumey Hills Recreation Area, also in Fresno and San Benito counties, remains open to vehicle access until April 15. Normally, the annual seasonal closure for both recreation areas runs from April 15 until Oct. 15.

Researchers have observed that the endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard has emerged earlier than normal from hibernation in their burrows. The lizards that live on the Panoche Hills Plateau are part of a captive breeding program with the Fresno Chaffee Zoo to try to recover the species. The motorized vehicle closure will prevent disturbance during the critical breeding season to this protected species' natural environment, which is found only in central California.

Recreationists can access the Panoche and Tumey hills by hiking, biking or horseback riding year-round. The BLM has made facility improvements at the Tumey Hills Recreation Area to provide safer parking options and help reduce impacts to private property, creating a more enjoyable outdoor experience. Please be respectful of our neighbors and do not block private driveways or park on private property.

Similar to the Alabama Hills Don't Crush the Brush campaign, the shrubs that grow in the Panoche and Tumey hills are critical to wildlife survival. Please stay on designated routes.

Know what to expect: Visitation to BLM-managed recreation sites has increased during the pandemic. While you still may find moments to be alone with nature on the trail, getting there may be more

challenging. The key to a relaxing time is to plan ahead and prepare, have a back-up plan and manage expectations. If you are longing to get away to nature, chances are your neighbors and friends are too.

Recreate Responsibly: The BLM encourages the public to recreate responsibly on public lands and to take precautions to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Know your county's COVID-19 tier assignment, stay local, do not gather in large groups, practice safe social distancing, take your own soap and hand sanitizer and wear a mask when social distancing is not possible.

Pack It In – Pack It Out: Please practice Leave No Trace ethics while recreating on public lands. Regarding trash, if you pack it in, please pack it out and consider picking up additional trash along your way. Please dispose of pet waste in a trashcan at your next stop, and not along the trail, as it can be hazardous to wildlife. Help the BLM be good stewards and preserve public lands for future generations.

For more information, please visit the Panoche Hills Visit Us webpage at <https://www.blm.gov/visit/panoche-hills> or the Tumey Hills Visit Us webpage at <https://www.blm.gov/visit/tumey-hills>. For specific questions, contact the Central Coast Field Office at 831-582-2200 or BLM_CA_Web_CC@blm.gov.

BLM SEEING PUBLIC INPUT ON WILLIAMS HILL OHV TRAILS, RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS



MARINA, Calif. — The Bureau of Land Management Central Coast Field Office is seeking the public's help with designing an off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail network and other potential recreation improvements, including staging areas and campgrounds, at the Williams Hill recreation area in southern Monterey County. The 30-day scoping period ends on July 6.

Using a planning grant from the California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program, as well as public input, the BLM California will evaluate existing OHV trails and explore opportunities to expand routes. The state program supports OHV recreation in California by distributing more than \$35 million annually collected from gas tax, entrance fees and OHV sticker registrations.

Williams Hill encompasses approximately 8,500 acres of BLM-managed public lands ranging from gentle hills to mountainous terrain at more than 2,700 feet in elevation. In addition to OHV recreational opportunities, the lands are also popular for hunting, hiking, wildlife watching and stargazing. Camping is available and offers seven developed overnight campsites with level parking pads for small to moderately-sized recreational vehicles, fire rings, shade structures, picnic benches, as well as vault toilets and an informational kiosk. There is no electricity, potable water or trash collection. Dispersed camping is also available. To learn more about Williams Hill, see the Visit Us webpage at <http://www.blm.gov/visit/williams-hill>.

Information about the planning effort can be found on the ePlanning website at <https://go.usa.gov/x6TWT>. Written comments may be submitted electronically to ePlanning; via email to BLM_CA_Web_CC@blm.gov; or by mail: BLM Central Coast Field Office, Attn: Williams Hill OHV Planning EA, 940 2nd Avenue, Marina, CA 93933-6009. For specific questions, contact the Central Coast Field Office at 831-582-2200 or BLM_CA_Web_CC@blm.gov.

Before including mailing 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.

BLM FINALIZES ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR NEW CAHUILLA RANGER STATION



EL CENTRO, Calif. - Today the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), El Centro Field Office approved a new Cahuilla Ranger Station by issuing the decision record and finding of no significant impact for construction of a new station.

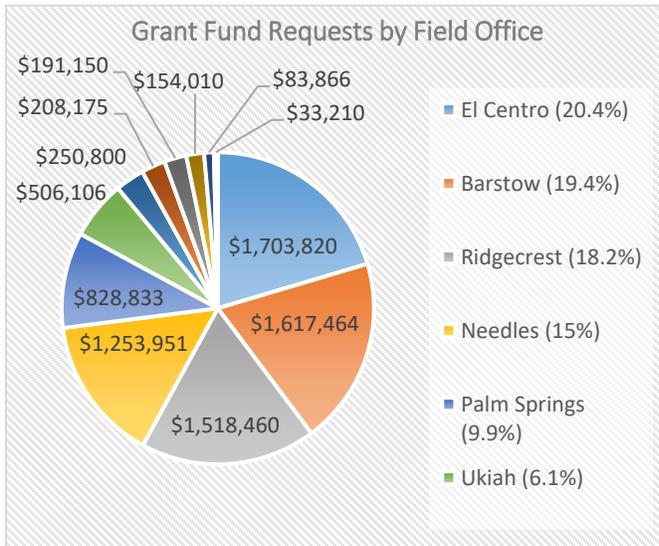
“This is an exciting day for both the BLM and the public we serve,” said El Centro Field Manager Ryan Chatterton. “This much needed new ranger station will replace the aging facility which has supported the OHV community and so many others well beyond it’s anticipated lifetime.”

The decision record approves the tear down and removal of all existing structures located at 4500 Gecko Road in Imperial County and the construction of a 12,500 square-foot facility which will include a new building with related parking and storage to better serve the needs of visitors and staff. The new Americans with Disabilities Act compliant facility will include a visitor services reception area, public restrooms, first aid area, designated space for law enforcement, a maintenance workshop, and an administration staff area. The new and larger parking lot will accommodate both BLM and visitor vehicles as well as RVs.

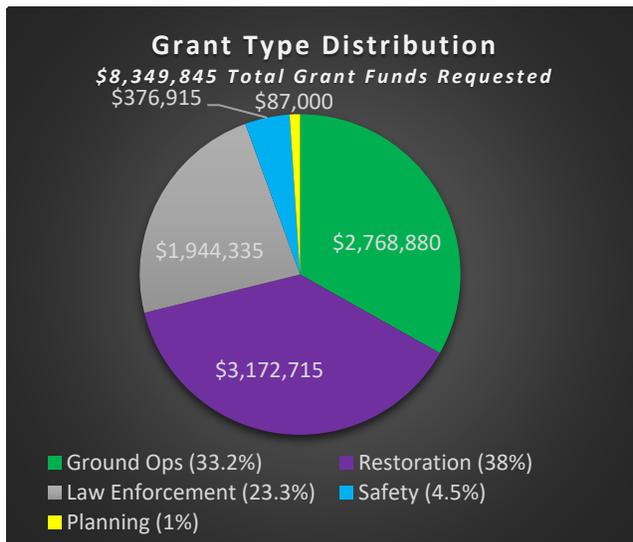
For more information on the project or to view the environmental assessment, finding of no significant impact, or decision record visit: <https://go.usa.gov/xH5FM>.

OHV GRANTS STATUS

According to final grant applications submitted June 7th, the Bureau of Land Management has requested a total of \$8,349,845 in OHMVR grant funding. Grant applications were submitted by 12 of the 14 BLM CA Field Offices with the majority (83%) of funds requested by the California Desert District; El Centro, Barstow, Ridgecrest, Needles, and Palm Springs-South Coast Field Offices. The Central California District accounts for approximately 10% of funds requested, and the Northern California District accounts for approximately 7% of funds requested.



Grant requests are split between Ground Operations, Restoration, Law Enforcement, Safety, and Planning grant applications. Six (6)



restoration grant applications were submitted, making up approximately 38% of the funding requested. Four (4) of the remaining 6 Field Offices who did not submit a Restoration grant application for this year (G21) are currently operating under an active, previously awarded, 3-year Restoration grant (awarded in either G19 or G18).

TREAD LIGHTLY! – “KNOW BEFORE YOU GO”



The Bureau of Land Management and Tread Lightly! California have been working together to promote responsible recreation to motorized recreationists as well as to highlight the Division’s 50th Anniversary and Safety Weeks. Some achievements that have been completed so far are the creation of: the theme “Know before you Go”, the Safety Week logo, event flags, social media suggestions, education tip cards (English and Spanish), stickers, patches, and a website for agencies to order materials or to download and print these materials themselves. These materials are housed at the website <https://treadlightly.org/california-safety-week/> (for the password, reach out to Mindie Walkoviak at mindiew@treadlightly.org or Don Schmidt at don.schmidt@parks.ca.gov.)

Tread Lightly! has sent educational material boxes full of stickers, patches, and kiosk posters to five BLM Field Offices (Needles, Bishop, Bakersfield, Ukiah, and Palm Springs) and will continue to send out materials throughout the year. Through the Education Poster Program that Tread Lightly! began in June 2021, agencies can get up to fifty (50) 18 in x 24 in educational posters shipped FREE, with customized imagery and messaging. Reach out to Mindi Walkoviak mindiw@treadlightly.org. One example is that Tread Lightly! is currently working to replace kiosk signage in the Bakersfield Field Office, Erskine Creek area to educate people to ride responsibly.

In support of the 50th Anniversary and Safety Weeks, Tread Lightly! helped to support a social media presence and promotion campaign, which included a May ad that yielded 545,000 impressions (which refers to the number of times the content is displayed/distributed) for the month. Additionally, throughout the year OHV safety messaging has been via similar campaigns. Tread Lightly! will continue to work with the BLM, the Safety Week Working Group, and California Outdoor Recreation Foundation to support upcoming Safety Week events in October as well as the promotion of the 50th Anniversary through December 31, 2021.