

California Bureau of Land Management

Report to the California State OHV Commission

May 20th, 2022

Presentations will be given by:

- **Briana Halstead – CA OHV / Travel Management Lead**
- **Nick Lavrov – Ukiah Field Manager**
- **Leisyka Parrott – Ukiah Assistant Field Manager (Acting)**
- **Sarah Mathews – BLM Project Manager**

BLM PERSONNEL NEWS



BLM California Desert District Manager Andrew Archuleta moving onto accept a new position as the Wyoming State Director

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Tracy Stone-Manning announced today that Andrew Archuleta has been selected as the new BLM Wyoming State Director. In this position, Archuleta will be responsible for overseeing the management of 17.5 million surface acres of public lands and more than 40 million acres of Federal sub-surface mineral estate. Archuleta will report to the BLM WY State Office in late February 2022.

As BLM Wyoming State Director, Archuleta will also oversee more than 600 permanent staff and 150 seasonal employees who help manage a myriad of public land uses and resources, including energy development, livestock grazing, outdoor recreation and the protection and control of wild horses and burros.

“Andrew brings almost three decades of service and leadership experience to his new role, and he has been at the forefront of some of our most important initiatives. His understanding of rural communities and the challenges they face coupled with the expertise he has developed will continue to benefit the BLM and the Wyoming communities and constituencies we serve,” Stone-Manning said.

Archuleta’s career in federal service began more than 28 years ago and includes almost 15 years with the BLM. He has held several important assignments in recent years including BLM Colorado’s Northwest District Manager, the acting Division Chief for Fluid Minerals program and most recently served as the District Manager for BLM’s California Desert District. In addition, he has also worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

A Colorado native, Archuleta earned a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology and a master's degree in wildlife toxicology, both from Colorado State University. He is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys backpacking, hiking, snowshoeing, biking, skiing, hunting and fishing.

Archuleta replaces Kim Liebhauser, who served as acting director and will return to her permanent role as BLM Wyoming Associate State Director.

PAST EVENTS SINCE LAST MEETING

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTH COW MOUNTAIN OHV AREA



January 12, 2022 / UKIAH, Calif. — The BLM Ukiah Field Office will host a virtual public engagement workshop on Thursday, Jan. 20, starting at 5:30 p.m., to hear public input on how to make the South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area more family friendly, increase safety and improve the trail system.

The virtual public engagement workshop will provide an opportunity for the public to propose future routes, facilities and other improvements by using an interactive map at the popular off-highway vehicle recreation site. The public is invited to provide feedback to the BLM that will help identify new trails and redesign routes for better connectivity, find safer solutions for shared trails, provide greater public access, and offer a more enjoyable experience.

South Cow Mountain encompasses more than 23,000 acres of BLM-managed public land with more than 90 miles of OHV trails, two developed staging areas and campgrounds. Some of the existing trails are too steep for even the most equipped off-highway vehicles and experienced riders; causing erosion that requires substantial route maintenance. Recreation area users have requested more family-friendly features, such as a training area for kids, additional campgrounds or RV parking and restrooms. The BLM staff will also use this planning effort to help minimize impacts to sensitive plants and animals, cultural sites and slow the spread of invasive species.

The California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division is funding the planning efforts through an OHV planning grant. 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.

To participate in the workshop, please register at least 30 minutes prior to the event at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8p3wmc>. Please contact us for reasonable accommodations to participate. For specific questions, please contact Ashley Poggio at BLM_CA_UK_SOUTHCOWPLAN@BLM.gov.

THE BLM TO HOST VIRTUAL EDUCATION SESSIONS ON MOJAVE TRAILS NATIONAL MONUMENT LAND-USE PLANNING PROCESS



April 12, NEEDLES, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management is hosting three virtual education sessions about the upcoming resource management plan development process for Mojave Trails National Monument in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. The BLM develops resource management plans that serve as blueprints to keep public landscapes healthy and productive. Meetings are scheduled for Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, April 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and Thursday, April 21 from 9 to 11 a.m.

The meetings are open to the public and held on the Zoom platform. Attendees will learn about the land-use planning process, including an overview of the Presidential Proclamation that established the Monument, share desired participation in the process, and review input received during the BLM’s 2016 Envisioning Sessions.

The Mojave Trails National Monument is a mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and unique sand dunes spanning 1.6 million acres of public land managed by the Needles Field Office. The Monument was designated in 2016 to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant cultural resources. The Monument contains six wilderness areas, historic trading routes, trails followed by Spanish explorers, a transcontinental rail line, some of the best-preserved sites from the World War II-era Desert Training Center and the Nation’s most famous highway, Route 66.

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON PROPOSED RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS AT WILLIAMS HILL RECREATION AREA



April 22, MARINA, Calif. — The Bureau of Land Management Central Coast Field Office is seeking public input on a draft plan to improve the off-highway vehicle riding experience at the Williams Hill Recreation Area in southern Monterey County. The BLM has prepared this plan with support from the California State Parks’ Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division, recognizing that nature and recreational opportunities on public land are essential to the health, well-being, and prosperity of every family and community in America. Public comments on the plan are welcomed through May 23 and will be used to shape the final plan for the recreation area.

Williams Hill Recreation Area currently provides off-highway vehicle recreational opportunities on 15 miles of roads and trails. The draft plan includes up to 21 miles of additional trails, which would provide opportunities to establish new loop routes that can accommodate more visitors and provide an enhanced recreational experience; expanding campground and staging facilities; and a training track for less experienced riders. The proposals include strategies to reduce unauthorized entry onto private lands.

“We are looking forward to hearing from the public and our partners as we seek ways to improve recreational opportunities at Williams Hill,” said Central Coast Field Manager Ben Blom. “By getting involved in this planning effort, we all can help shape the future management of this area.”

The BLM will host a virtual public meeting, via Zoom, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., May 11, to discuss the draft plan. The public must register in advance for this webinar to participate: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8eumj4>. Registrants will receive a link and phone number to join the meeting.

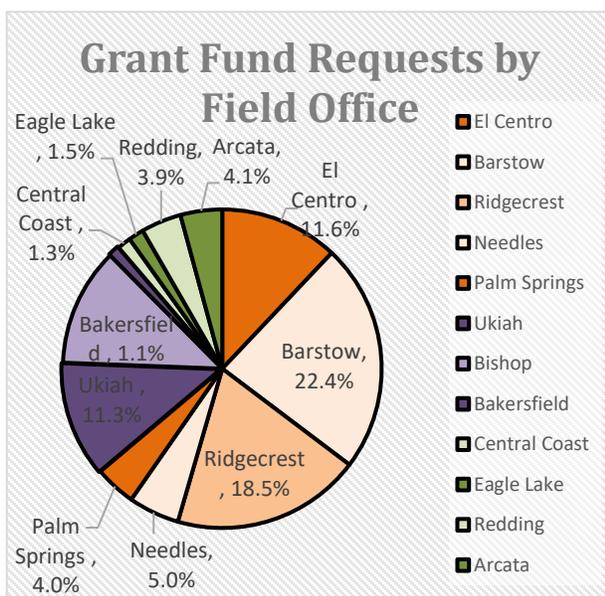
More information can be found on the project website at <https://go.usa.gov/x6TWt>. Written comments may be submitted electronically to BLM_CA_Web_CC@blm.gov, or by mail: BLM Central Coast Field Office, Attn: Williams Hill OHV Planning EA, 940 2nd Avenue, Marina, CA 93933.

Williams Hill encompasses approximately 8,500 acres of BLM-managed public lands ranging from gentle hills to mountainous terrain. The hilly terrain is characterized by impressive shale formations, offering visitors great views of the surrounding Salinas Valley. Camping, hiking and wildlife watching are popular activities in the BLM recreation area. Proper management of these resources keeps working public lands healthy and productive for current and future generations of Americans.

The BLM has received a planning grant to support this project from the California State Parks’ Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program, which supports well-managed recreation in California by distributing more than \$35 million annually collected from gas tax, entrance fees and off-highway vehicle sticker registrations.

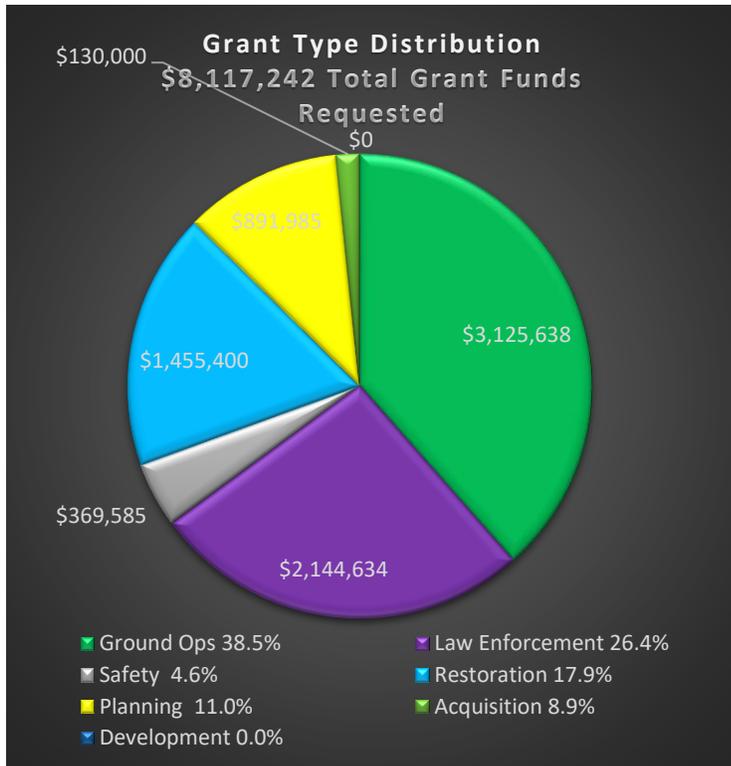
To learn more, visit online at www.blm.gov/visit/williams-hill. For specific questions, contact the Central Coast Field Office at 831-582-2200. Please contact us for reasonable accommodations to participate.

OHV GRANTS REQUEST UPDATE



According to preliminary grant applications submitted March 7th, the Bureau of Land Management has requested a total of \$8,117,242 in OHMVR grant funding. Grant applications were submitted by 12 of the 14 BLM CA field offices with the majority (64%) 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 25% of funds requested, and the Northern California District accounts for approximately 11% of funds requested.



Grant requests are split between Ground Operations, Law Enforcement, Safety, Restoration, Planning, and Acquisitions grant applications. Four (4) Restoration grant applications were submitted this year, making up approximately 18% of the total funding requested. Of the BLM offices that did not submit for a Restoration grant in G22, three (3) are currently operating under an active, previously awarded, 3-year Restoration grant (awarded in either G21, G19, or G18), and five (5) offices do not currently have a restoration grant.

Similarly, two (2) Planning grant applications were submitted this year (G22), making up approximately 11% of the total funding requested. Of the

BLM offices that did not submit for a Planning grant in G22, four (4) are currently operating under an active, previously awarded, 3-year Planning grant (awarded in either G19 or G18).

One (1) Acquisition grant was submitted this year (G22), which is proposing to purchase two (2) 10-acre parcels adjacent to BLM lands within the BLM OHV area. These parcels currently have an identified trail going through the property, causing frequent trespass issues. This acquisition would solve these issues and enhance the BLM OHV area, allowing for future development.

TREAD LIGHTLY!



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 2021 and 2022 CA OHV Safety Weeks; this year's theme is "Train for the Trail". Tread Lightly! distributes education materials for BLM field offices to distribute during community engagement events. BLM Redding received 100 children's Adventure Packs to encourage 4th graders to

get outside as part of the 'Every Kid in a Park' Initiative and in partnership with Americorps. BLM Ridgecrest received 2 education material boxes to distribute at their events. Tread Lightly! runs social media ads that list and link to education messages targeted toward the off-road community and off-road recreationists. From October 1 - December 31, over 2.8 million impressions were generated.

Tread Lightly! acts as a resource for land managers to utilize as extra hands to complete trail maintenance projects. Tread Lightly! can engage volunteers and fund smaller non-profit organizations and volunteer groups that cleanup BLM areas through Tread Lightly's relationship with BFGoodrich Outstanding Trails.

This year, Tread Lightly! supported San Diego Off-Road Coalition's (SDORC) efforts in the BLM El Centro field office.

1. Jan 15th was the 24th Annual Imperial Sand Dunes Cleanup where 14.5 dumpsters were filled full of trash from Buttercup to Gordon Wells and Back to Glamis to Catch the Deuce.
2. February 26th was the Painted Gorge Cleanup that included a 3-mile guided BLM hike afterwards. More than 40 volunteers showed up to clean the area and many joined in the hike to try to spot Bighorn sheep later in the day.

Tread Lightly! supported the BLM and the Clean-Dezert organization in the Hodge Road clean-up on November 6, 2021, in the BLM Barstow Field Office at the Stoddard OHV Area. During the cleanup more than 500 volunteers and organizers filled 11 dumpsters, totaling 16.43 tons of trash. Of the trash, two vehicles, a burned down trailer and 2 tons of tires were removed from the desert.

Tread Lightly! supported the BLM Bishop Field Office, the Eastern Sierra 4-Wheel Drive Club, and the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association in the Alabama Hills Day Use Area improvement project on January 8, 2022. This event helped to restore dispersed camping and improve the day use area by removing 10 fire rings and delineate day use areas from dispersed campsites. Volunteers also removed trigger trash, totaling a removal of approximately 1,000 pounds of trash from the area. Twenty educational signs were installed in the area.

And, Tread Lightly! hosted daily cleanups of spectator areas in Johnson Valley at the King of the Hammers off-road racing event January 30 - February 6, 2022. Each day, Tread Lightly! met volunteers at Chocolate Thunder and Backdoor, two main spectator areas at the races, to clean up trash left behind and pack out trash bags from receptacles placed by the Tread Lightly! team. In total 6,075 pounds of trash were removed from the areas throughout the week. Most days, 20 volunteers or more from the off-road community showed up to help clean up. This is the fourth year where Tread Lightly! has hosted daily cleanups at King of the Hammers. In 2022, King of the Hammers hosted more than 85,000 attendees, but less trash was left in these areas thanks to spectators doing their part each day to pack out trash and leave the desert clean. Much of that success is attributed to the education and communication efforts of Tread Lightly!

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