

# California Bureau of Land Management

## Report to the California State OHV Commission

### September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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**Presentations will be given by:**

- **Briana Halstead – CA OHV / Travel Management Lead**
- **Brandon Alvarez – Tread Lightly!**

#### NEW FACES: BLM PERSONNEL NEWS

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#### *Collin Ewing Named Manager of BLM Arcata Field Office*

**June 6, 2022 / ARCATA, Calif.** – Collin Ewing, a natural resource professional with 20 years experience in the West, has been named manager of the Bureau of Land Management’s Arcata Field Office on California’s North Coast. He reports for duty in Arcata on Aug. 8.

Ewing comes to Arcata from Grand Junction, Colo., where he has been manager of the BLM’s McInnis Canyons and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Areas for the past nine years.

“Collin brings experience across a wide variety of natural resource management disciplines to his new position as Arcata field manager,” said BLM Northern California District Manager Dereck Wilson. “In addition to working with our agency, he has diverse experience with the Forest Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He has shown a great ability to develop and maintain partnerships, an important attribute for working on the North Coast where partnerships are critical in managing natural and cultural resources.”

Ewing holds a bachelor’s degree in rangeland ecology from Colorado State University. During his career in federal service, he has worked as a rangeland management specialist, fish and wildlife biologist, planning and environmental coordinator, and lastly, as a national conservation area manager. He has experience successfully engaging local communities and staff in developing a resource management plan, the BLM land use plan that guides BLM decision making in the long term. The experience will be immediately beneficial, as the Arcata and Redding BLM field offices are now working together on a new RMP for BLM-managed lands in northwest California.

“My wife, Amanda, our two teenage children and I are thrilled to be moving to the North Coast.” Ewing said. “I am really looking forward to working with the local staff and community partners to steward the amazing landscapes overseen by the Arcata Field Office.”

In Arcata, Ewing will oversee a staff of about 30 and a public land base of about 250,000 acres in parts of Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity and Mendocino counties. The field office jurisdiction includes the King Range National Conservation Area, the Headwaters Forest Reserve, parts of the California Coastal National Monument, and seven wilderness areas. These areas have national significance through inclusion in the BLM's system of National Conservation Lands. Ewing succeeds Molly Brown, who has moved to a position on the BLM's Northern California District staff.



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**Michelle "Shelly" Lynch Named New BLM California Desert District Manager**  
**June 17, 2022 / PALM SPRINGS, Calif.** – Michelle "Shelly" Lynch has been selected District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management California Desert District in Palm Springs. In this position, she will be responsible for 11 million-acres of public lands spanning nine counties and roughly 200 employees spread across five field offices. Shelly replaces Andrew Archuleta who is now the BLM State Director in Wyoming.

"I am pleased to welcome Shelly into this new role where her knowledge of public lands, planning, and recreation will be utilized and benefit the communities and stakeholders we serve," said BLM California State Director Karen Mouritsen.

Lynch brings more than 27 years of state-and federal-service to the position and most recently served as the Branch Chief for Lands, Planning, and Recreation at the BLM California State Office in Sacramento, where she supervised state program leads for recreation, National Environmental Policy Act and planning, rights-of-way, land acquisitions, land withdrawals and sales.

"I am excited to take on this new leadership role with the California Desert District, which is one of the most unique and complex districts within the BLM," said Lynch. "Encompassing three national monuments, renewable energy development, nationally recognized recreational opportunities, and critical habitat for endangered and protected species, I look forward to working alongside the Tribes and stakeholders on the challenges ahead."

Prior to the BLM, Lynch was with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where she worked as the Regulatory South Coast Branch Chief of the Los Angeles District. She also worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and has 12 years state government experience, including serving as a Regional Biologist and Environmental Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Transportation. Lynch also has experience in the private sector, where she managed the natural resources department for a private engineering firm.

Lynch graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management and holds a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. When not working, she enjoys spending time outdoors hiking, camping, paddle boarding, and kayaking.

## PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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### THE BLM SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR DESERT ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP

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**June 24, 2022** / Palm Springs, Calif. — The BLM California Desert District is seeking additional applicants interested in serving on subgroups that assist the Desert Advisory Council, a citizen-based advisory committee that develops recommendations for the BLM on public land management issues. Responsibilities include reviewing information, seeking input from the public and user groups on various programs, projects, and agency decisions, and providing recommendations to the Desert

Advisory Council on the management of these areas.

The Desert Advisory Council established **two subgroups** focused on recreation and management of the **Dumont Dunes** and **Imperial Sand Dunes** recreation areas and both need additional members.

To be considered for the Dumont Dunes or the Imperial Sand Dunes recreational area subgroups, applicants need to demonstrate experience and/or knowledge in recreation management, education and outreach, volunteer and partnership development, natural resource management, safety, and community representation. The Dumont Dunes subgroup needs four additional applicants with experience in education and outreach, volunteer and partnership development, safety, and a community representative. The Imperial Sand Dunes subgroup needs five additional applicants with experience in recreation management, education and outreach, safety, and an industry and community representative.

For more information about the Dumont Dunes or the Imperial Sand Dunes recreation areas subgroups visit the [DAC webpage](#). Interested applicants must complete the application on the webpage and send to Public Affairs Officer Kate Miyamoto at [kmiyamoto@blm.gov](mailto:kmiyamoto@blm.gov). All applications received will be provided to the Desert Advisory Council for consideration.

The Desert Advisory Council is one of 28 BLM advisory councils formally chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Each council consists of 10 to 15 members from diverse interests in local communities and provides recommendations to the BLM. Desert Advisory Council members provide guidance on the management of more than 12 million acres of public lands across eight counties spanning southern California.

### THE BLM AND FHWA BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON DUMONT DUNES ROAD

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**August 12**, Barstow, Calif. — The Bureau of Land Management and the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Lands Division will begin road improvements to Dumont Dunes Road in San Bernardino County to improve public access. The road improvements are a part of Federal Highway Administration's transportation improvement program.

The contractor for this project, Herback General Engineering, will begin surveying and staking activities on Dumont Dunes Road as early as next week. Construction activities include paving the existing gravel road with asphalt and extending and improving the water crossing at the Amargosa River. While active construction will not start for a few weeks, the public should be aware of the pending road construction when planning a visit to the [Dumont Dunes](#) Off-Highway Vehicle area. The area will be open to the public; however, there may be some delays along the road and at the river crossing.

“The BLM is excited to have this infrastructure project underway,” said Associate Field Manager Jeff Childers. “We will be working closely with the contractor to ensure access to the Dumont Dunes OHV area throughout the construction process.”

Construction may take a few months based on restrictions at the existing low water crossing, however there will be continuous access to the area. The goal for the project is to have the work completed by the end of October, however recent rains have delayed some of the critical work.

The Barstow Field Office will continue to post updates to the BLM [Facebook](#) page and on the [website](#) as often as possible, and as usual, you can contact the office for additional information at 760-252-6000.

## **THE BLM IMPLEMENTS ONLINE PASS PURCHASE OPTION FOR DUMONT DUNES AND EL MIRAGE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATION AREAS**

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**June 30, 2022 / BARSTOW, Calif.** — The Bureau of Land Management Barstow Field Office is implementing a convenient online visitor pass purchase option for Dumont Dunes and El Mirage off-highway vehicle recreation areas in San Bernardino County. Passes will be available on Recreation.gov on June 30. Fee amounts for passes remain the same and include a small transaction fee for online purchase.

“The BLM is committed to providing the public with a convenient and COVID-19 safe online option to purchase passes for use of BLM-managed off-highway vehicle recreation areas,” said Acting Field Manager Brian Croft, Barstow Field Office.

The transaction fees for online purchase of recreation passes for Dumont Dunes and El Mirage off-highway vehicle areas are included in the fee, and the entire pass price goes to the operation and maintenance of each off-highway vehicle recreation area. Passes will still be available for purchase through traditional methods, including on-site fee machines, at the BLM Barstow Field Office, and through partners such as Friends of El Mirage and retail outlets located in southern California and Nevada.

Recreation.gov provides a convenient one-stop shop for the public to make reservations for recreation areas, facilities, purchase passes, and recreation activities including camping, day-use sites, tours, and permits. Transaction fees cover Recreation.gov operational expenses including employee salaries, website maintenance, and transaction costs.

The BLM is authorized to charge recreation fees for facilities and services on BLM-managed land under the Federal Lands and Recreation Enhancement Act. The Dumont Dunes Off-highway Vehicle Recreation Area season pass (Oct. 1-Sept. 30) is \$90 non-holiday, \$120 with holidays, and a weekly pass is \$30. The El Mirage Off-highway Vehicle Recreation Area season pass is \$90, a weekly pass is \$30, and a daily pass (valid till noon the next day) is \$15. The BLM manages recreation as part of its multiple-use mission.

Please visit Dumont Dunes OHV Area and El Mirage OHV Area for more information.

## NIGHT MOTORCYCLE RACE SCHEDULED FOR FORT SAGE OHV AREA

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**August 23**, Susanville, Calif. – Motorcycle racers will converge on the Bureau of Land Management’s Fort Sage Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Area in Lassen County for a night race from 9 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Aug. 27. Trails in the racecourse beginning and ending at the Raptor Trailhead will be limited to competitors only.

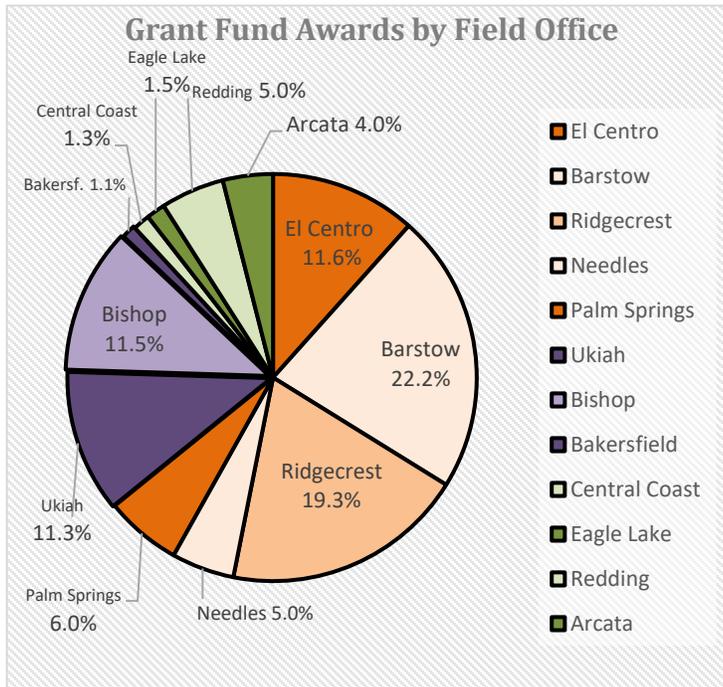
The BLM expects 40 riders to form into 20 teams for a relay-style race on a measured course. They will complete as many laps as possible during the three-hour event, competing for fastest time.

For safety reasons, there are no provisions for spectators along the course. Team supporters and spectators will be allowed only in the pit area at the trailhead. The event organizers will provide course marshals, and BLM law enforcement rangers will be on hand to monitor the event.

The event is being sponsored by the Lassen Motorcycle Club under a special recreation permit issued by the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office in Susanville.

The Fort Sage OHV Area offers about 100 miles of roads and trails for dirt bikes, all terrain vehicles, utility vehicles and four-wheel-drive trucks. Detailed information, including directions for getting there, can be found here: <https://www.blm.gov/visit/fort-sage-highway-vehicle-area>.

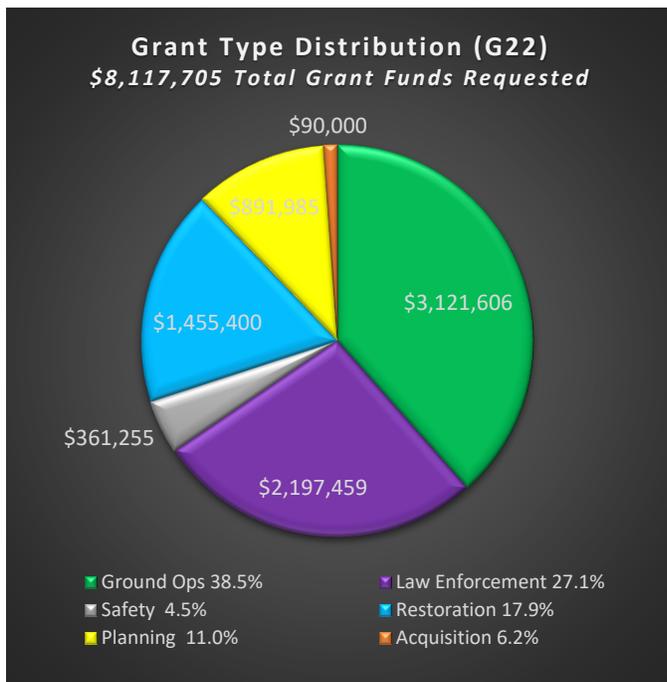
## OHV GRANTS REQUEST UPDATE



Intent to Award for the 2022 Grants and Cooperative Agreements grants cycle (G22) was announced by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

For the G22 grant cycle, the Bureau of Land Management is planned to be awarded a total of \$8,117,705 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; Barstow, El Centro, 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 10% 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. Two (2) Planning grant applications were submitted this year (G22), making up approximately 11% of the total funding requested. 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 Redding Field Office's Chappie-Shasta 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! PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT UPDATE

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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 2022 CA OHV Safety Weeks; this year's theme is "Train for the Trail".

Tread Lightly! Will provide a detailed presentation to the Commission on accomplishments achieved and planned during the 2022 year.

## FIRE NEWS: BLM SEASONAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS IMPLEMENTED ON PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE ENTIRE STATE

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As of August 1, 2022, the Bureau of Land Management has implemented fire restrictions for public lands managed by the BLM covering the entire state of California. 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 [here](#).

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