



Bureau of Land Management, California Report to the California State OHV Commission

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WEMO Update

The West Mojave (WEMO) Route Network Planning Area is located in Southern California and comprises approximately 3.1 million acres of public lands.

The WEMO Plan has been challenged in court and a recent court order requires the following; beginning March 24, 2026, and until further notice, the BLM will:

- Close all routes in desert tortoise and Lane Mountain milk-vetch critical habitat to OHV recreation. [OHV recreation](#) includes street legal vehicles used for recreation ([view map](#)).
- Require a free permit for OHV recreation in Rand Mountains Management Area. The permit is available to download and sign [here](#).
- Implement a compliance monitoring program and submit semi-annual reports to the court.
- Prepare a revised analysis and issue a new route network decision.

Designated county roads and highways, and all routes needed to provide access for established easements, administrative access, emergency access, and other

permitted uses will remain open, but not to public OHV recreational use.

About 63% of OHV routes in the WEMO planning area remain open for OHV recreation.

For more information and FAQs, please visit the BLM [WEMO webpage](#).

Executive Order 14408 - Removing Unnecessary and Counterproductive Restrictions on Access to Federal Lands (OHV Regulations/Minimization Criteria)

The Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management are currently conducting a review of the recent [Executive Order 14408](#) related to off highway vehicle use on public lands. These reviews include legal analysis, policy interpretation, and evaluation of potential operational impacts for state and field offices.

BLM is committed to keeping partners—including the California OHV Commission—informed as this review progresses.

We value our long-standing partnerships with state agencies, OHV user groups,

Tribes, local governments, and other public land stakeholders.

BLM remains committed to balancing outdoor recreation opportunities with obligations to protect public land resources, wildlife habitat, and cultural sites.

BLM California will coordinate with the OHV Commission to provide timely updates and answer any questions as soon as more details are available.

Field Office Reports

Bakersfield Field Office

Recent actions in Keysville Special recreation Management Area (SRMA):

- BLM managed three large (150+ participants), events including a trials event and two large mountain bike races (on OHV trails and staging areas).
- Hosted four volunteer trash clean up events removing approximately six cubic yards of trash.
- Transitioned all kiosk posters to summer OHV messaging and river safety.
 - BLM increased staffing at Keysville SRMA during Memorial Day weekend to conduct educational contacts, area monitoring, and provide a visible presence. Multiple successful OHV contacts occurred, and staff provided

route, rules, and etiquette information all with positive outcomes. Over 160 cubic yards of trash were collected during the weekend.

- Monitored and patrolled 16+ miles of OHV designated routes, making numerous educational visitor contacts.

Recent Actions in the Temblor Range SRMA

- Monitored and patrolled four miles of OHV designated routes, including identifying and marking severe trail damage for public safety, with repairs planned.

Barstow Field Office

New Kiosk Signs

A partnership between Preservation Ranch (who funded the fabrication through a [REPI](#) grant), California State University Fullerton-Desert Studies Center, BLM Mojave Desert Native Plant Program (who designed the panels), and BLM Barstow Field Office developed 12 new educational panels installed on three kiosks. These panels are located within the Ord-Rodman area and include information on native plants, wildlife, and habitat restoration efforts implemented by Preservation Ranch and Barstow Field Office. The completed signs were installed in January 2026.



Figure 1 - One of 12 new education panels installed in the Barstow Area.

Bishop

Recent Ground Operations OHV Grant Work

- Staff conducted 2,141 motorized dispersed camping surveys using Survey123, documenting vehicle types and campsite use patterns and made 335 direct visitor contacts across OHV recreation areas.
- A total of 51 miles of routes were evaluated for Red/Yellow/Green (RYG) condition ratings.
- Maintenance was completed on 0.5 miles of green-sticker route in Alabama Hills, improving its RYG rating from red to green.
- More than 50 new or replacement signs were installed, including many trail difficulty decals and black diamond ratings.
- Facility maintenance was conducted at five campgrounds, including water-

system servicing, restroom upkeep, janitorial work, and signage updates.

- Field staff completed graffiti removal along green-sticker routes in the Tungsten and Alabama Hills.

Recent LE Grant Work

- Approximately 200 hours of and over 2,000 miles OH related patrols were conducted across Alabama Hills, Volcanic Tablelands, BLM campgrounds, Tungsten Hills, Fish Slough ACEC, Long Valley, Adobe Valley, Bodie Hills, and Poleta OHV Area.
- Patrol distribution included 30% in Tungsten Hills and Fish Slough ACEC, 30% in Long Valley, Adobe Valley, and Bodie Hills, 15% in Alabama Hills, 5% in Poleta Open OHV Area, and 20% along Wilderness Study Area boundaries.
- Patrol efforts focused on public outreach and enforcement related to helmet laws, OHV registration, legal riding access, commercial OHV use, abandoned vehicles, and registration violations.

Recent Restoration OHV Grant Work

Restored nearly an acre in the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area including rock barriers, raking out OHV tracks and planting nearly 115 native plants.

Eagle Lake

Restoration OHV Grant Work

BLM continues to focus on work at the Fort Sage OHV restoration sites to install boulders and signs where previous barriers failed. The aim is to protect sensitive habitat, improve drainage, enhance safety, and support responsible OHV use. An interpretive panel, funded by an OHV grant, was designed specifically for these areas.

Rice Canyon's 120 Open OHV area was recently maintained with ground operations grant funds in partnership with the local Susanville Rock Stompers OHV Club that frequently rock crawl in the OHV Area. Staff used an excavator to maintain the trails, kid track, tabletop jumps, and place boulders. In addition, BLM re-graded and re-graveled the parking area by borrowing the Redding Field Office grader. Staff cleaned culverts, collected micro litter, and removed weeds in addition to conducting public contacts and outreach while work was performed.



Figure 2 - Eagle Lake OHV projects use an excavator to place boulders and complete trail work.



Figure 3 - Eagle Lake OHV project includes the installation of signs at restoration site.

El Centro

Recent actions by the El Centro Field Office:

- Staff are coordinating with AMA District 38 to put on permit application training this summer to support motorcycle racing.
- Staff are completing OHV route signing and trash pickup along OHV trails using OHV Grant Funds.
- Grant funds were used during the week of June 1 to pump the 63 vault toilets at Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA).
- Maintenance on the paved road to Osborne Overlook in the ISDRA is set to begin around July 6 (crack seal and expanded shoulder work) and is funded through federal dollars.
- Staff is coordinating with San Diego Off-road Coalition and other organizations to replace damaged kiosks in the Superstition/Plaster City OHV areas.
- MLK weekend had the annual dunes cleanup with over 500 volunteers
- Staff completed 21 outreach or volunteer events
- 48 SRPs - most for OHV activities including racing events, jeep/trail rides, or vending associated with ISDRA recreation

Current visitation to OHV areas since Oct. 1, 2025:

- 983,098 visitors to ISDRA
- 58,832 to Superstition
- 8,800 to Plaster City

Emergency Medical Service Statistics:

- 281 incidents
- 161 Treat and releases
- 65 Ground transports
- 54 Air transports
- 7 Search and Rescue incidents
- 52 responses where the reporting party was not located.
- 3 OHV related fatalities
- 86% of calls in Glamis area
- 6% of calls to Gordon's Well
- 9% of calls in Superstition and Plaster City

Needles Field Office

The Needles Field Office team delivered multiple OHV education and outreach programs across the region. On March 7, 2026, staff provided an educational session for the Boy Scouts, emphasizing responsible OHV use, Leave No Trace practices, and trail etiquette. The team also conducted an OHV focused youth program at West Well for the Chemehuevi community March 13 - 14th, aligned with the West Well OHV Grant objectives; instruction centered on safe riding behaviors, understanding designated routes, environmental stewardship, and respect for culturally sensitive lands.

Staff additionally represented the program at the San Bernardino County

Resource Fair on March 18 at the Harvey House, offering public facing OHV outreach, sharing educational materials, and strengthening interagency connections while increasing public awareness of OHV regulations, registration compliance, and desert safety. An OHV education presentation was also delivered May 18th to the Gem and Mineral Club, providing an in-depth discussion on responsible travel, designated route use, and minimizing impacts to desert resources. The session included extensive Q&A on topics such as OHV related impacts to bighorn sheep habitat, springs, mining claims, OHV routes and how they connected to AML sites, and stewardship concerns; participants also raised issues related to OHV impacts in the Chemehuevi area and recent illegal bulldozing at the Red Rock site. This presentation helped reinforce community understanding of OHV requirements and supported collaborative efforts to protect shared public land values.

Redding Field Office

Redding BLM staff recently met with Don Amador at the Chappie-Shasta OHV Area and completed an OHV motorcycle ride to discuss new OHV trail designations and ongoing trail management and maintenance. Don reported that there is “Great work at the field office in support for managed OHV

recreation.”



Figure 4 - Sky, Zaffarano, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner (left) and Don Amador, former Chair of the OHMVR Commission (right) pause for a picture at Chappie-Shasta OHV Area.



Figure 5 - Don rides down trail 17, aka "the Chute", an intermediate skill level trail.

Ridgecrest Field Office

In early 2026, the Ridgecrest Field Office continued work with American Conservation Experience youth crews to complete restoration fencing in the Fremont-Kramer Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This fencing is phase one of a larger restoration project to rehabilitate habitat that has been damaged by unauthorized off-highway vehicle play areas. From October 2025 – April 2026, 5.78 miles of fencing and capped bollard barriers were installed, and 1.7 acres of active restoration were completed.

The Ridgecrest Field Office has also started route maintenance along the Argus Range in Panamint Valley to repair washouts and minor damage to OHV trails. This work is made possible with the support of the Barstow Field Office as Ridgecrest is utilizing their heavy equipment operator to complete this work.

Law Enforcement Rangers patrolled the field office's resource area throughout the high-use OHV season to complete educational contacts and enforce OHV regulations.

Ukiah Field Office

The Ukiah Field Office has been working hard, hand brushing approximately 10 miles of OHV trails and removing down

trees within South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area.

They have also started repainting vault toilets and repairing OHV facilities and animal-proof enclosures at Knoxville.

In April, they managed the Sheetiron 300 Dualsport. This dirtbike ride is a two-day ride that starts in Stonyford, goes to Fort Bragg, and returns to Stonyford. Part of the course goes through several trails and roads in South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area. It was a successful event with approximately 500 participants.

This month, the Mendo-Lake Road resurfacing construction project will be starting. This project was funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. The BLM is working with the Federal Highways Administration. This project will focus on road resurfacing and road improvements on the eastern side of Mendo-Lake Road.

~End of Report~