

**California Bureau of Land Management
Report to the California State OHV Commission
December 3rd, 2020**

Presentations will be given by:

**Jane Arteaga – California OHV / Travel Management Lead
Arcata Field Office**



INTRODUCTION TO BLM CALIFORNIA

As a courtesy for the newer OHV commissioners, this report will be an overview of the California BLM OHV program:

The BLM's multiple-use and sustained yield mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

BLM California consists of three districts (Northern, Central, and Desert Districts) and 13 Field Offices.

BLM California oversees:

- 15.2 million acres of public lands in California area and 1.6 million acres in northwestern Nevada.
- 47 million acres of subsurface mineral
- 1.6 million acres of surface in northwestern Nevada.
- Just over 28,000 miles of designated routes of which 11,500 miles are OHV routes:
 - Routes include: Paved and Non-paved roads, Primitive routes (OHV) and Trails (OHV).
- 7 nationally designated OHV managed recreation areas that covers 271,000 acres, and another 30 designated OHV areas that cover 407,000 acres.
- Average of 12.3 million Recreational visits with an average of 3.2 million motorized recreational visits per fiscal year.



Special Recreation Permit Information:

- California has one of the largest Special Recreation Permit programs in the Bureau of Land Management. During 2019 recreation season California issued 499 Special Recreation Permits for Commercial and Competitive events.
- The goal is to ensure effective SRP administration occurs consistently across the State in order to provide a safe and quality recreation experience for the public.
- Covid-19 is addressed in operating plans by event coordinators to insure they are following county restrictions

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/38ZT5OI> 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 11/18/2020**

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)

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

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

- *No closures currently*

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

- Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area is Open and Accessible

Recreate Responsibly!

While the ISDRA remains open, it is important visitors are responsible and protect themselves and others from the COVID-19 virus by observing safe mitigation measures.

For the latest updates and information on this year's OHV season at ISDRA visit: www.blm.gov/visit/imperial-sand-dunes as information will be posted here first.



Keep your distance
If you see a crowd, turn around!



Ride safe & prevent
unnecessary hospital visits!



Hand sanitizer and face covering
Don't leave camp without them!



Your COVID compliance helps
keep ISDRA open!

INCREASING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE USE OF ELECTRIC BIKES

On August 29, 2019, Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt issued Secretary's Order (SO) 3376 for the purpose of increasing recreational opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes (e-bikes). The SO directed the BLM and other agencies (National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation) to expand access on public lands to e-bikes and begin the longer-term process of amending existing regulations to address e-bikes. The SO specifically directed the BLM to revise its off-road vehicle or off-highway vehicle (OHV) regulations at 43 CFR part 8340.

A proposed rule to revise the BLM's OHV regulations at 43 CFR part 8340 was published in the Federal Register on April 10, 2020 (85 FR 20229). By the close of the public comment period on June 9, 2020, nearly 24,000 public comments were received on the proposed rule. Issues raised by substantive comments resulted in the BLM updating some language in the final rule, which was published in the Federal Register on November 2, 2020. The rule becomes effective on December 2, 2020

The rule amends 43 CFR 8340.0-5 to define e-bikes, which are limited to Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes.

The rule provides that authorized officers may authorize, through subsequent land-use planning or implementation-level decisions, the use of Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes on non-motorized roads and trails.

The rule provides managers the ability to exclude e-bikes that meet certain criteria from the definition of off-road vehicle (otherwise known as an off-highway vehicle (OHV)) at 43 CFR 8340.0-5(a).

The rule, however, does not result in any immediate on-the-ground changes or site-specific allowances for e-bike usage on BLM-administered public lands. In other words, the rule does not, by itself, open any non-motorized trails to e-bike use. Before any on-the-ground changes can occur, an authorized officer must issue a land use planning or implementation - level decision that complies with NEPA and other applicable legal requirements.

BLM California currently has no authorized trails utilizing this rule.

For more information contact Andrew Burrows at aburrows@blm.gov or Jane Arteaga at jarteaga@blm.gov