

California Bureau of Land Management Report to the California State OHV Commission July 27-28, 2023

Presentations will be given by:

- **Jamie Fields – CA OHV / Travel Management Lead (Acting)**
- **Zachary Ormsby – Central Coast Field Manager**

ACTING CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE OHV – TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM LEAD



Jamie Fields is serving as the OHV and Travel Management Program Lead for the Bureau of Land Management California State Office. She is in this role temporarily, July through early fall.

Jamie comes to the California State Office from Reno, Nevada where she has been serving the past four years as a BLM state recreation program lead, supporting the wilderness program and state-federal interagency recreation shared stewardship. She has also served at the Forest and Regional levels of the U.S. Forest Service in recreation program management with a focus on trails and partnerships; the National and Park Unit levels of the National Park Service, focusing on partnerships, trails, and youth program development; Utah State Parks, where she wrote the 2009 Utah Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP); and Ely Nevada BLM by way of the Great Basin Institute. She held leadership roles for several years with the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) and continues to support SORP's planning for the annual National Outdoor Recreation Conference.

She can be contacted at jnfields@blm.gov or 775.710.1231.

NEW FACES: BLM PERSONNEL NEWS



BLM California Welcomes New Associate State Director, Federica Lee

March 8 / SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) welcomes Federica Lee as the new Associate State Director in California. Lee, a California native, brings with her more than 36 years of public service. Lee began her new role on March 6.

“We are pleased to have Federica join our BLM California leadership team,” said Karen Mouritsen, State Director for BLM California.

“Federica consistently provides positive and valuable insight into state-wide leadership discussions.”

Lee started her career in Human Resources with the Army Corps of Engineers before moving to BLM California in 1998 as a Human Resources Officer. In 2006, she accepted a position as the Deputy State Director for Support Services for the agency and served as Acting Associate State Director from 2018 to 2022. Lee is an avid runner and enjoys traveling and being outside with her husband and two children.

As the BLM’s associate state director, Lee will lead a team that administers 15 million acres of public lands and 42 million acres of minerals and energy resources in California, as well as 1.6 million surface acres in northwestern Nevada. BLM public lands extend across coastal areas, rangelands, forests, high mountains and deserts making California one of the most diverse states in the nation.

PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

VEHICLE ACCESS TO CAMPGROUNDS IN THE CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA HAS REOPENED

March 8 / MARINA, Calif. — The Bureau of Land Management Central Coast Field Office has completed repairs ahead of schedule to a portion of Clear Creek Road damaged by storms, allowing visitors to once again drive to Oak Flat and Jade Mill campgrounds in San Benito County. Motorized access is still restricted beyond Jade Mill Campground until additional repairs can be made. Please visit our [website](#) for the latest closure order that allows for campground access.



“Our Central Coast staff has done a remarkable job completing timely repairs in advance of our busy season to provide access to designated campgrounds,” said Central Coast Field Manager Zachary Ormsby. “We welcome the public back to these campgrounds and remind visitors to be respectful of our neighbors and avoid blocking private driveways or parking on private property.”

Additional repairs to damaged culverts and stream crossings on Clear Creek Road in the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) are scheduled for April. The temporary restriction of vehicle use in the ACEC, until repairs are complete, will minimize threats to public safety and prevent further resource damage.

Recreate Responsibly and Pack It In – Pack It Out: Practice [Leave No Trace](#) ethics while recreating on public lands by packing out all your trash. Illegal dumping of waste is a public safety hazard and dangerous to wildlife.

For more information, please visit the [Clear Creek webpage](#). For specific questions, contact the Central Coast Field Office at 831-582-2200 or BLM_CA_Web_CC@blm.gov.

MOTORCYCLE RACES TO ATTRACT 300 RIDERS TO THE FORT SAGE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE AREA

April 17 / DOYLE, Calif. – Up to 300 motorcycle riders are expected to compete in the Diamond Back Hare Scrambles motorcycle race, Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, at the Bureau of Land Management [Fort Sage Off-Highway Vehicle Area](#) near Doyle. For safety reasons, trail access will be available only to participants during the event.



Spectators are welcome at designated viewing areas. Participants and visitors can camp overnight at the Raptor Trailhead on the left of the main entrance road. Single-day visitors will use roadside parking areas.

“Our Fort Sage area provides an ideal setting for competitive events with trails designed to avoid impacts to natural and cultural resources, while providing challenges for riders,” said BLM Eagle Lake Field Office Manager Emily Ryan. “We expect great conditions for competitors and spectators.”

To reach the Fort Sage OHV Area, take Laver Crossing from U. S. Route 395 just north of Doyle and follow the directional signs about four miles to the Raptor Trailhead.

Cross Country Promotions LLC and American Motorcyclist Association sponsor this race under a special recreation permit from the BLM. The organizers will provide course marshals, and the BLM will provide law enforcement rangers and staff to monitor the event.

The Fort Sage OHV Area provides about 100 miles of roads and trails suitable for all levels of motorcycle riders and for all terrain vehicles and four-wheel-drive trucks. Trails are marked with difficulty ratings and appropriate vehicle types. There are three primary trailheads offering toilets, loading areas, picnic tables and fire rings. There are no fees. Detailed information is available online at <https://www.blm.gov/visit/fort-sage-highway-vehicle-area>.

For more information, telephone Marisa Williams at the BLM office in Susanville, 530-252-5303.

BLM TEMPORARILY LIMITS VEHICLE ACCESS AT SOUTH COW MOUNTAIN TO PROTECT IMPERILLED SPECIES

May 17 / UKIAH, Calif. — The Bureau of Land Management Ukiah Field Office is taking measures to protect habitat for the imperilled Clear Lake hitch by temporarily limiting vehicle access to the South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area in Lake County. The temporary closure of the Scott's Creek gate entrance near Lakeport is effective starting on Friday, May 12 and ending Thursday, June 1.

The South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area will remain open to vehicle access on the west side via the Westside Staging Area near Ukiah in Mendocino County. In addition, the Indian Valley/ Walker Ridge and Knoxville Management areas in Lake County will remain open to vehicle access as an alternate location for OHV recreation while the Scott's Creek gate remains closed. Recreationists can continue to access the Scott's Creek entrance by hiking.

"This temporary gate closure at the Scott's Creek entrance is required to protect water quality and juvenile fish as they migrate back to Clear Lake from Scott's Creek and prevent destruction of riparian habitat necessary for juvenile Clear Lake hitch survival," said Ukiah Field Manager Nicholas Lavrov. "This temporary gate closure is an added measure to ensure survival of the Clear Lake hitch as this species has shown rapid decline over the last several years."



The state-threatened Clear Lake hitch, found only in the Clear Lake Basin, has been in rapid decline since 2017. Presently, the Clear Lake hitch is under review for listing under the Endangered Species Act. In February 2023, the Lake County Board of Supervisors issued an [emergency proclamation](#) to save the culturally significant species known as Chi to the local Tribes. In recent years, due to drought, the fish have not been able to reach the spawning grounds on BLM lands. With the recent wet winter and spring, Scott's Creek has become a productive breeding ground and rearing habitat for the fish. Scientists determined that 2017 was the last successful reproductive year and hitch live an average of six years; 2023 is potentially the last year for that age class of fish to successfully reproduce.

The BLM intends to partner with local Tribes, Governments, and Agencies to promote the protection of the species and prevent the imminent danger of extinction. This endeavor to close the Scott's Creek entrance, while juvenile hitch remain in the creek is a key step to ensuring the prolonged survival of the species.

Scott's Creek is the largest tributary to Clear Lake. Much of the land within the South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area is within the Scott's Creek watershed. Soils in the region are naturally high in nutrients like phosphorous and the [BLM is mandated](#) by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to reduce nutrient inputs into Scott's Creek to protect the Clear Lake watershed.

Temporary closure of the Scott's Creek entrance will help to prevent unauthorized vehicle access into the creek to prevent degradation of water quality and the sensitive riparian area while water remains in the creek. Although the BLM operates on a multiple-use mission that includes grazing, recreational access, and minerals extraction, protecting identified significant resources within streams and riparian areas is a priority use of those lands.

Please remain respectful and stay on designated routes to avoid crushing juvenile fish and to protect a valuable water resource critical to the Lake County community and Clear Lake hitch survival.

Pack It In – Pack It Out: The Bureau of Land Management encourages all recreationists to practice [Leave No Trace](#) ethics while recreating on public lands. Help the BLM be good stewards and preserve public lands for future generations.

A copy of the closure order is available [here](#). For more information, please visit the [South Cow Mountain webpage](#). For specific questions, contact the Ukiah Field Office at 707-468-4000 or by email at BLM_CA_Web_UK@blm.gov.

BLM EXTENDS PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD ON MOJAVE TRAILS NATIONAL MONUMENT, MANAGEMENT PLAN

June 9 / Needles, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management announces an extension of the public comment period for the Mojave Trails National Monument Management Plan. Acceptance of public comments is extended 15-days and will close on July 5, 2023.

The 1.6-million-acre Mojave Trails National Monument was designated by [Presidential Proclamation 9395](#) in February 2016, to protect cultural and historic resources and maintain its diverse natural and scientific values for the benefit of all Americans.



“The Management Plan will focus on preserving and protecting the Monument’s cultural, physical, social, biological, historic and scientific objects and values,” said BLM California State Director Karen Mouritsen. “We welcome input from the public on the management of this unique and beautiful landscape.”

Substantive written comments may be submitted through the extended deadline of July 5, via mail at ATTN: Mojave Trails National Monument Manager Noelle Glines-Bovio, 1303 US-95, Needles, CA 92363, or via email at BLM_CA_NFO_MTNM_PLANNING@blm.gov. The BLM will use written public comments to assist in developing the Monument Management Plan alternatives. Once the draft alternatives are developed, the BLM will offer another opportunity for the public to comment on the draft, which will be made available for public review on the BLM’s ePlanning website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022347/510>.

Since publishing the Notice of Intent to Plan in the Federal Register on May 5, 2023, the BLM has held three face-to-face public scoping meetings and one zoom meeting. Information collected in these well attended meetings identified a consistent request from the public for more time to collect data and provide substantive comments, resulting in the extension.

For additional information, please contact BLM project manager Noelle Glines-Bovio at (760) 903-8356, or by email at BLM_CA_NFO_MTNM_planning@blm.gov.

VEHICLE ACCESS AT SCOTT'S CREEK ENTRANCE TO SOUTH COW MOUNTAIN HAS REOPENED

June 14 / UKIAH, Calif. — The Bureau of Land Management has completed installation of barriers along the access road that traverse Scott's Creek, allowing visitors to drive to the South Cow Mountain Off-highway Vehicle Management Area in Lake County once again.

"Our Ukiah staff has done a remarkable job completing emergency measures to reopen public access to South Cow Mountain, while protecting habitat for the imperiled Clear Lake hitch," said Ukiah Field Manager Nicholas Lavrov. "We welcome the public back to the area and remind visitors to be respectful of our access barriers near the water and avoid driving behind the barriers, while fish recovery efforts continue."



Ongoing efforts to recover the endangered hitch will continue as pools become more defined and disconnected and until the larval fish are matured. This will make it easier to rescue fish and will make it easier on the extremely tiny larval fish to give them the best chance at survival. The BLM will continue ongoing partnerships with local Tribes, organizations and agencies to promote the protection of the species and prevent the imminent danger of extinction. This endeavor at Scott's Creek is a key step to ensuring the prolonged survival of the species.

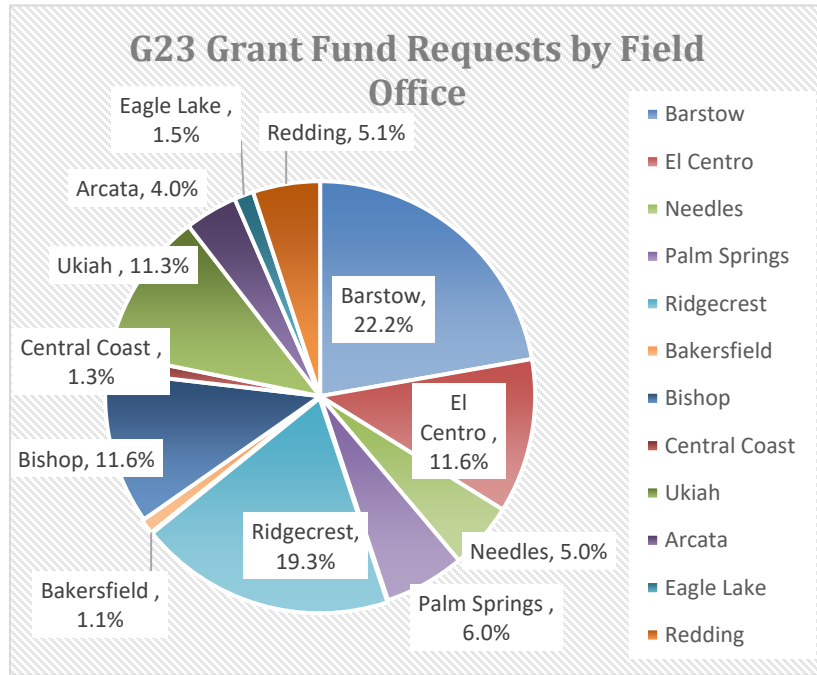
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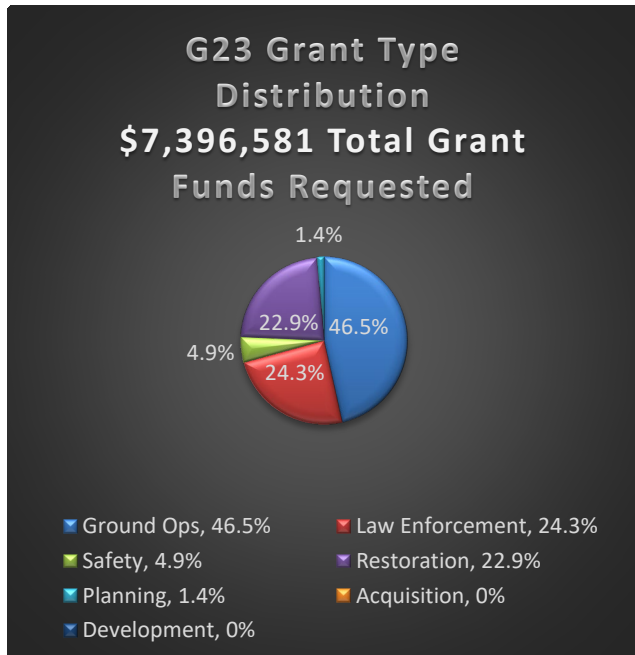
For more information, please visit the [South Cow Mountain webpage](#). For specific questions, contact the Ukiah Field Office at 707-468-4000 or by email at BLM_CA_Web_UK@blm.gov.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) GRANTS

According to final grant applications submitted by June 5, the Bureau of Land Management has requested a total of \$7,396,581 OHMVR funds in the 2023 grant cycle. Grant applications were submitted by 12 of the 14 BLM CA Field Offices, with the majority of funds (68%) requested by the California Desert District, in the Barstow, El Centro, Needles, Palm Springs – South Coast, and Ridgecrest Field Offices.



The Central California District and the Northern California District each account for approximately 16% of funds requested.



Grant requests are split between Ground Operations, Law Enforcement, Safety, Restoration, and Planning. Four (4) Restoration grant applications were submitted this year, making up approximately 23% of the total funding requested. Of the BLM Field Offices that did not submit for a Restoration grant in G23, seven (7) are currently operating under one or more active, previously-awarded, 3-year Restoration grants, and only two (2) Field Offices do not currently have and are not currently requesting a Restoration grant.

TREAD LIGHTLY! PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT UPDATE



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 2023 California OHV Safety Weeks.

Tread Lightly! distributes education materials for the Bureau of Land Management field offices to distribute during community engagement events.

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 clean up BLM areas through Tread Lightly's relationship with BFGoodrich Outstanding Trails.

Tread Lightly! has supported the BLM in the following projects since the last BLM Report in March 2023:

- March 3-5: Tierra Del Sol Desert Safari - Thermal, CA BLM El Centro

Community Outreach and Education via booth setup at this medium scale enthusiast event. Estimated 5,000 attendees, and direct interaction with 300 people.

- March 11: Girl Scouts in STEM Interpretive Trail Ride - Ocotillo, CA BLM El Centro

On the windy morning of March 11th, volunteers from several organizations such as Tierra Del Sol 4x4 club, San Diego 4 Wheelers and Rigs & Brews came together with representatives from BLM El Centro, Rivian, Total Chaos Fabrication and Tread Lightly! with the goal to inspire young women to pursue degrees and careers in STEM. Over the course of the day, the Girl Scouts would hear from a variety of speakers, including Carrie Sahagun, Acting Field Manager and Archeologist from the BLM and Lilly Macaruso a Senior Vehicle and Prototype Engineer from Rivian.

The day was structured to showcase several points of interest along the Anza National Historic Trail, such as the Yuha Geoglyph and Yuha Well, all situated in the Yuha Basin. The Geoglyph site in particular provided an amazing teachable moment as Carrie spoke to not only its historic significance and connection to the indigenous peoples of the area but also the vandalization and damage that occurred nearly 50 years ago, damage that



is still visible to this day. At the Yuha Well site, Nicole Pitell talked about some of the challenges around building a business from the ground up and how their products are some of the best-engineered parts one can put on a Toyota, while Mikaela Worthington talked about how as a failure engineer she gets to break things in order to make them better. Rounding off the POIs for the day were the Anza Overlook and Fossil Beds. At the Overlook, Alexia Williams spoke on several aspects of wildlife management and opportunities for Biologists in the BLM and Lilly Macaruso touched on how math and planning affects her daily work as a Senior Special Vehicle and Prototype Engineer. Our day finished at the Fossil Beds, where Mayra Martinez educated the group on the geologic history of the area and set everyone out fossil hunting and Nicole Johnson talked about the challenges behind designing Human Machine Interfaces and the importance of mentorship. Tread Magazine wrote an article covering this event, which can be found here:

<https://www.treadmagazine.com/outdoor-adventures/overlanding/girl-scouts-tread-lightly/>

- **March 11: Rigfest - Johnson Valley, CA BLM Barstow**

Tread Lightly supports this enthusiast event with educational materials promoting responsible recreation, 150 attendees.

- **April 13: Tread Trainer Course - Irvine CA**

Tread Lightly teaches its 6-hour Tread Trainer Course to 25 employees of the EV Manufacturer Rivian. The Tread Trainer course teaches the Tread Lightly Outdoor Ethic and covers teaching techniques so that Tread Trainers can educate and inform other recreationists on how to recreate responsibly on public lands across the country.

- **April 22: - Rigs & Brews - Mira Mesa, CA**

Community Outreach and Education via booth setup at this small-scale enthusiast event. Estimated 500 attendees, and direct interaction with 75 people.

- **April 29: Metal Cloak's Skillz Days - Prairie City SVRA, Sacramento, CA**

Four hour intro to 4x4 class taught at Prairie City SVRA. 200 attendees learned the basics of 4-wheel drive from a number of entities. Tread Lightly's portion focused on teaching the TREAD Principles and the basics of responsible recreation.

- **May 6: Dove Springs OHV Area Clean-up - BLM Ridgecrest Ricardo, CA**

Cleanup effort at the Dove Springs OHV Area North of California City. This cleanup was completed in partnership with Clean-Dezert, CORVA and ASA. 65 volunteers gathered 4500 lbs of trash from the OHV area.

- **May 13: United States Adaptive Recover Center 1st annual Poker Run - Johnson Valley CA**

Educational materials provided to this event that focuses on improving recreation access for wounded veterans and people with disabilities. Estimated attendance of 500 people.

- May 26: Fast Friends Friday - Norco, CA

Tread Lightly supports this enthusiast event with educational materials promoting responsible recreation, 100 estimated attendees.

- June 3: HOWLING Micro-Rally - Verdi, CA

Tread Lightly teaches a one hour awareness course at this small-scale overlanding event to 45 attendees.

Upcoming for 2023:

- Sept 15: - Sand Sports Super Show - Costa Mesa, CA

Educational outreach and community engagement at this large OHV enthusiast event, usually brings 12,000 attendees.

- Sept 22: Split Mountain Dispersed shooting area cleanup - BLM El Centro

Cleanup of this dispersed shooting site south of Ocotillo, CA

- Oct 1: Off-Road Expo - Pomona, CA

Educational outreach and community engagement at this large OHV enthusiast event with yearly attendance close to 20,000.

- Oct 6: California 300 Kickoff Cleanup – BLM Barstow, Barstow, CA

Cleanup event to kick off the 2nd annual California 300 desert race just outside Barstow.

FIRE NEWS: SEASONAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT

Seasonal fire restrictions are in effect in the following Field Offices until further notice, unless otherwise noted:

- California Desert District, effective [May 22 – October 12](#) (includes some seasonal target shooting closures)
- Bakersfield Field Office, effective [May 25](#)
- Central Coast Field Office, effective [May 25](#)
- Bishop Field Office, effective [June 28](#)
- Mother Lode and Ukiah Offices, effective [June 28](#)
- Redding and Arcata Field Offices, effective [July 3](#)



Seasonal restrictions are in addition to the [statewide, year-round fire restriction](#), issued in 2020 remains in effect through 2025. Under the statewide order, the public is required to follow these criteria before building, attending, maintaining, or using a campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove outside of a developed campground:

- Maintain a five-foot diameter area cleared to bare soil and free of any overhead flammable materials in all directions around the campfire;
- Have on hand a functioning round-point shovel with an overall length of at least 35 inches, that can be easily accessed within a reasonable amount of time in response to a fire ignition;
- Possess a valid California Campfire Permit, available free of charge: [Campfire Permit - Ready for Wildfire](#).

For more information and a list of all Field Office seasonal restrictions, 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](#).

HELP PREVENT FIRES

The BLM reminds residents and visitors to take these precautions to help prevent wildfires:

- Make sure all campfires are dead out. Drown it and stir it around the fire area with a shovel to wet any remaining embers and ash. If it's not cool, it is not out.
- Be sure to maintain proper tire pressure for all vehicles, ensure adequate tire tread, and check brakes for overheating. Do not drive or park on brush or grass. Do not drag chains while towing.

- Motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and chainsaws require an approved spark arrestor when used on public lands.

Anyone found guilty of violating a fire prevention order may be fined not more than \$100,000 and/or face imprisonment for not more than 12 months. Restitution for total fire suppression and damage costs incurred may be borne by the trespasser.

To learn how to prevent wildland fires, visit online at www.readyforwildfire.org.

A map of current restrictions and active fire prevention orders are available online at: <https://go.usa.gov/xmUEG>. Fire weather forecasts are available through the National Weather Service at <https://www.weather.gov/fire/>.

~END OF REPORT~