

California Bureau of Land Management
Report to the California State OHV Commission
March 24th, 2023

Presentations will be given by:

- **Briana Halstead – CA OHV / Travel Management Lead**
- **Jennifer Mata – Redding Field Manager**
- **Sky Zaffarano – Redding Outdoor Recreation Manager**

NEW FACES: BLM PERSONNEL NEWS



Zachary Ormsby Serves As New Bureau of Land Management Central Coast Field Manager

December 21 / MARINA, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management announces Zachary Ormsby as the new Central Coast Field Manager. Ormsby brings nearly 20 years of natural resource management experience to the position where he will oversee management of approximately 315,000 acres of public lands in 12 counties stretching from the Pacific Coast to the San Joaquin Valley.

“The BLM Central Coast Field Office manages a breathtaking array of resources. I am looking forward to working on a variety of landscapes, hearing from the public, and serving in the community,” said Ormsby. “We have a dedicated staff that is committed to keeping public lands healthy, productive and accessible.”

A native of Nevada, and a graduate of the University of San Diego, Ormsby began his career as a field-biologist in California where he spent more than ten years studying golden eagles and birds of prey. His published research focuses on the wildland-urban interface and he holds a Master’s degree in Natural Resource Planning, Policy, and Law from the University of Nevada, Reno. He worked for the Walker River State Recreation Area, and later managed the statewide Conservation Districts Program where he worked with ranchers and agricultural producers to implement conservation strategies. Before joining the agency as a specialist for the National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships Division at the Bureau of Land Management Headquarters, Ormsby coordinated with the BLM throughout his career.

As field manager, Ormsby will oversee management of public lands such as the Fort Ord National Monument, the Clear Creek Management Area and the Cotoni-Coast Dairies Unit of the California Coastal National Monument. The office manages public lands in Central California, including those closest to the San Francisco Bay Area, and oversees recreation areas, energy development and cultural

programs, as well as protection of threatened and endangered species. Ormsby succeeds Ben Blom, who has taken a position outside the agency.

“I am excited about the selection of Zachary as the next BLM Central Coast Field Manager,” said Central California District Manager Chris Heppe. “He will bring a diverse range of experiences and collaborative leadership to the field manager position.”

Ormsby grew up spending summers in Santa Cruz with family and enjoys any activity that allows him to be outside on public lands with his dog, Zoe. He is an avid snowboarder, hiker, birdwatcher and photographer who loves to cook and travel.



The Bureau of Land Management Welcomes Marc Stamer as Barstow Field Manager

January 31 / BARSTOW, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management California Desert District welcomes Marc Stamer as the new field manager for the Barstow Field Office. Stamer brings more than 25 years of natural resource management experience to the position where he will oversee management of more than 2.7 million acres of public lands in San Bernardino and Inyo counties.

“We are excited to have Marc join the BLM and lead the Barstow Field Office,” said Shelly Lynch, California Desert District Manager. “Marc has an extensive background in natural resource management and experience with the National Environmental Policy Act, wildlife, fire, and recreation near urban areas and will be able to provide leadership managing our important public lands and resources.”

Stamer’s work in various positions for federal and state agencies have given him the extensive experience required to be successful in this position. His past roles include forest, wildlife, fish and rare plant program manager for the Coronado National Forest in Arizona, various positions as a biologist for the U.S. Forest Service, park interpretive specialist for the Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area, science aide for California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a biology technician for University of Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group. He holds a Bachelor of Science in biology from California State University, Fullerton.

He is excited to join the BLM to continue his public service, and work through the challenges of managing public lands for present and future generations. Stamer grew up with a love of the outdoors and enjoys camping, hiking, fishing, skiing and climbing with family and friends. He joins the BLM from the U.S. Forest Service where he served as District Ranger of the San Bernardino National Forest since 2014. Stamer succeeds Katrina Symons.

The Barstow Field Office has outstanding recreation opportunities with five off-highway vehicle areas including Dumont Dunes, El Mirage and Johnson Valley. It also boasts portions of the Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow National Monuments, segments of the Old Spanish Trail and Pacific Crest Trail, 17 wilderness areas and three developed campgrounds. The California Historic Route 66 National Scenic Byway also runs through the heart of the field office. For more information visit:

<https://www.blm.gov/barstow>.



The Bureau of Land Management Welcomes New California Coastal National Monument Manager

February 3 / EL DORADO HILLS, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management is pleased to announce Leisyka Parrott as the new Bureau of Land Management California Coastal National Monument manager. With nearly 20 years of public service, Leisyka brings a diversity of natural resource expertise to the position where she will oversee the management of approximately 20,000 offshore rocks and islands, and more than 7,900 acres of public lands in six onshore units along California’s coastline.

“This spectacular coastal resource is an inspiration for Californians and visitors from around the world,” said Central California District Manager Chris Heppie. “Leisyka is an experienced leader who brings a strong background in collaboration, cooperation and coordination needed to manage this important and complex resource.”

A native of coastal California, and a graduate of Humboldt State University (Cal Poly Humboldt), Leisyka began her career in the northwest Great Basin as a fire lookout for the BLM fire program for eight years. In 2010, she joined the BLM Arcata Field Office as an interpretive specialist in the monument’s gateway community of Trinidad, bringing interpretation, education and stewardship opportunities to the north coast and its watersheds. Working with local partners, she led the North Coast Seabird Protection Network which serves to reduce impacts on seabirds through monitoring populations, and public education programs. In her more recent role as assistant field manager in Ukiah, she worked with the Point Arena Gateway partners and led interdisciplinary resource staff in developing plans for trails, implementing fuel reduction work and completing watershed restoration.

“I look forward to collaborating with coastal Tribal governments, local communities, organizations and agency partners,” said Leisyka. “We will work together to keep these iconic public lands healthy and accessible for generations to come.”

The California Coastal National Monument provides important habitat for nesting seabirds and marine mammals. The six onshore units include Trinidad Head Lighthouse, Waluplh-Lighthouse Ranch, Lost Coast Headlands, Point Arena-Stornetta, Cotoni-Coast Dairies and Piedras Blancas Light Station.

Leisyka grew up on a 35’ sailboat in the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor. Homeschooled by her parents during the winter months, her family would sail to Baja and use the ocean and coastal ecosystems as a classroom. Leisyka’s most recent international trip took her to the Santa Marta Mountains of Colombia to see the endemic Santa Marta Warbler. She enjoys adventuring with her son Izaak to visit family, soaking in hot springs, and bird watching with her partner Russ.



Melissa Hovey Named Monument Manager of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

February 14 / UKIAH, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management California and the Mendocino National Forest announce the selection of Melissa Hovey as the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Manager. Her career in public service and natural resources spans over 30 years. She now embraces the challenge of overseeing management of more than 330,780 acres of public lands in a region stretching from Napa County to the mountains of the Mendocino National Forest north of Clear Lake.

“The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument encompasses some of the most spectacular public lands in the country and I am excited to take on this new role. I am looking forward to working with the communities of northern California, our partners, and visitors to ensure this special place is available for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations,” said Hovey.

Hovey has a strong background in natural resource programs and project management for the BLM in Colorado, Montana and Wyoming, as well as at the Bureau of Land Management headquarters. She was instrumental in developing the agency’s first Report on Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Trends and several adaptive management plans for air resources. She also has experience managing and developing environmental programs for municipal and state governments and assisting industrial clients with environmental permitting.

“We are fortunate to have Melissa’s experience, wisdom and collaborative leadership style as part of the BLM California,” said Chris Heppe, Central California District Manager. “Her extensive knowledge of natural resource management and community partnerships will benefit the monument’s scenic and biologically diverse landscapes.”

“I am extremely pleased to welcome Melissa to the region. I share her excitement for the opportunities here and gratitude for the monument and the collaboration among our agencies and partners,” said Wade McMaster, Mendocino National Forest Supervisor.

Originally from the Boston area, Melissa has been “out west” for more than twenty years. She has both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degree in civil and environmental engineering. Melissa enjoys hiking, camping, skiing and spending time with her family including two border collie puppies.

PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

THE BLM PLANS PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES FOR 2023 KING OF THE HAMMERS RACE



November 18 / PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — The Bureau of Land Management will implement a temporary closure of public lands from Feb. 2 – Feb. 12, 2023, in the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, San Bernardino County, during the annual 2023 King of the Hammers desert race event. The race is authorized by a BLM Special Recreation Permit and the temporary closure is necessary to facilitate public safety and provide an enhanced recreation experience for event participants and spectators.

The BLM has [approved a five-year public land closure](#) for up to 10 days a year through 2027. Registered race spectators, participants and race officials are exempt from the closure. Approximately 81,000 acres of the Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area will be temporarily closed to public use and approximately 46,000 acres will be available for public use during the event.

“The safety of spectators and participants is our top priority. The public is reminded to recreate responsibly and cooperate with race officials and local law enforcement officers to stay safe and ensure the success of the off-road races,” said Michelle Lynch, BLM California Desert District Manager.

The temporary closure complies with the management plan for the area. A minimum of three staging areas within the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area will remain open to the public for both weekends of the temporary closure period. Nearby limited use areas will remain available for off-highway vehicle and other recreation uses. Information and a map of the closure area for the 2023 race event will be available for viewing at the BLM’s California Desert District Office and the Barstow Field Office. [Download a map of the closure.](#)

The BLM encourages the public to recreate responsibly on public lands. Find additional tips for [recreating responsibly](#) on public lands.

As stewards, the BLM manages public lands for the benefit of current and future generations, supporting conservation in pursuit of its multiple-use mission. For more information, contact the California Desert District Office at 951-697-5200, or the Barstow Field Office at 760-252-6000.

BLM ACQUIRES LANDS FOR HABITAT CONSERVATION, RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES



January 19 / SUSANVILLE, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management has acquired more than 800 acres of land in five areas of northern California and northwest Nevada to improve opportunities for wildlife habitat conservation and public access for recreation. These acquisitions from willing sellers were funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund and state grants with the goal of conserving America’s lands for the benefit of all people.

“These newly acquired lands in northern California will provide important public benefits now and into the future,” said Karen Mouritsen, Bureau of Land Management California State Director. “These acquisitions help advance the [“America the Beautiful”](#) initiative and will provide increased opportunities for people to connect with their public lands.”

In Lassen County, 680 acres along Upper Smoke Creek east of U.S. Highway 395 are now publicly owned, enhancing opportunities for the BLM and partners to maintain and improve critical habitat for greater sage-grouse, mule deer and other wildlife. This high desert land contains numerous springs that provide water year-round, along with miles of creek habitat and hundreds of acres of riparian areas and wetlands. The area northeast of Susanville is popular with hunters who pursue mule deer, antelope, and upland birds. The area is culturally significant to local Native American Tribes.

The BLM has also acquired 40 acres near the Biscar Wildlife Area on the west side of U.S. Highway 395 northeast of Susanville. The parcel includes a quarter mile of Snowstorm Creek and its associated riparian area, including a spring that flows year-round. The area is important habitat for raptors, owls, waterfowl, mule deer and greater sage grouse.

Closer to Susanville, the Reynolds parcel acquisition of 18 acres at the Rice Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area will enhance riding and off-road driving opportunities. The addition to this off-highway vehicle area provides an important buffer between the recreation area trailhead and adjacent private property owners.

In far northwest Nevada, the BLM has expanded access for public land hunting and dispersed camping with the acquisition of a 40-acre parcel at Divine Springs in the Hays Range about 30 miles east of Cedarville, Calif. The parcel is dotted with stands of mountain mahogany and western juniper and expanses of sage and bitterbrush, all providing important wildlife habitat.

In west Redding, the BLM has acquired 40 acres within the popular Swasey Recreation Area, allowing for expanded mountain biking and hiking trails. Swasey is one of the most visited recreation areas managed by the BLM in Redding, offering more than 30 miles of trails for riders and hikers of all abilities.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was permanently authorized in 2019. In 2020, Congress passed the Great American Outdoors Act and enacted Land and Water Conservation Fund funding of \$900 million annually. Congress allocates this funding to the BLM, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and state and local governments.

NOHVCC LISTENING SESSIONS- SOUTHERN AREA SESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR LATE-MARCH TO MID- APRIL, 2023



March 2023— The Bureau of Land Management continues to work in partnership with the national non-profit organization National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) www.nohvcc.org to gather public input and learn how the BLM can better provide access to high quality OHV recreation experiences throughout California. This public input will be compiled by NOHVCC into a State-wide OHV Action

Plan that BLM can use as an aide to help guide future OHV and travel management and resource management decisions.

This partnership with NOHVCC began nationally in 2014 and together a National Motorized Recreation Action Strategy was developed, which is designed to help the BLM develop individual State Action Plans for providing high quality OHV opportunities and developing partnerships to maintain these opportunities.

So far, this process has created state-specific action plans in seven other states. NOHVCC is now working with the BLM to create a California statewide OHV Action Plan.

NOHVCC is the lead in this effort and in order to make this happen in California, they need your assistance and insights.

In developing these strategies, you as an enthusiast will have a chance to share your thoughts on the following topics:

- What activities are taking place on BLM-managed lands in California?
- Where in general are these OHV activities taking place?
- What experiences are you looking for on BLM-managed lands?
- Where might these missing activities fit on BLM-managed lands in California?
- What could the land managers do better to enhance your recreation experience?

To gather this important information, NOHVCC has already hosted one set of listening sessions, focused on the Northern CA areas in November 2022. They are now shifting focus to the southern California areas. These listening sessions will be entirely virtual and will occur late March to mid-April, 2023.

For more information on the meetings please contact Duane Taylor, NOHVCC Executive Director, at duane@nohvcc.org.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) GRANTS



The BLM manages OHV areas to provide outstanding, sustainable opportunities for recreation on trails designed to minimize impacts on natural resources. The agency works closely with stakeholders and communities in this effort.

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.

Public outreach meetings for the various field offices were held virtually and in-person in February to obtain public input on what grants to apply for and what to be included in the grants.

Field offices are diligently working on getting their preliminary applications completed by the March 6, 2023 deadline. Once the proposals are submitted to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division, they will be available on the [OHMVR Division website](#) for additional public review and comment from March 7 to May 1, 2023.

Anyone interested can review and comment on the preliminary applications from March 7 to May 1, 2023 by either:

1. Visiting the [OHMVR Division website](#). The website will provide detailed instructions for accessing the preliminary applications and submitting comments.
2. Submitting written comments to the field offices by mail:
 - **BLM Eagle Lake Field Office**, 2550 Riverside Dr., Susanville, CA 96130, Attn: Marisa Williams
 - **BLM Redding Field Office**, 6640 Lockheed Drive, Redding, CA 96002, Attn: Sky Zaffarano
 - **BLM Arcata Field Office**, 1695 Heindon Road, 95521, Attn: Casey Hague
 - **BLM Bishop Field Office**, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100, Bishop, CA 93514
 - **BLM Ukiah Field Office**, 2550 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95485
 - **BLM Bakersfield Field Office**, 35126 McMurtrey Ave, Bakersfield Ave., CA 93308
 - **BLM El Centro Field Office**, 1661 S. 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243
 - **BLM Ridgecrest Field Office**, 300 S. Richmond Rd., CA 93555
 - **BLM Barstow Field Office**, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311
 - **BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office**, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262
 - **BLM Needles Field Office**, 1303 S. Highway 95, Needles, CA 92363
3. Submitting written comments to the field offices by email.
 - **BLM Eagle Lake Field Office**: Marisa Williams; email: mbwillia@blm.gov
 - **BLM Redding Field Office**: Sky Zaffarano; email: szaffara@blm.gov

- BLM Arcata Field Office, Casey Hague; email: chague@blm.gov
- BLM Bishop Field Office, email: BLM_CA_Web_BI@blm.gov
- BLM Ukiah Field Office, email: BLM_CA_UK_OHV_Grants@blm.gov
- BLM Bakersfield Field Office, BLM_CA_Web_BK@blm.gov
- BLM El Centro Field Office, email: BLM_CA_Web_EC@blm.gov
- BLM Ridgecrest Field Office, email: BLM_CA_Web_RI@blm.gov
- BLM Barstow Field Office, email: BLM_CA_Web_BA@blm.gov
- BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, email: BLM_CA_Web_PS@blm.gov
- BLM Needles Field Office, email: BLM_CA_Web_NE@blm.gov

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; they are working hard, in collaboration with the Safety Week Working Group, to finalize this year's theme and logo.

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 November 2022:

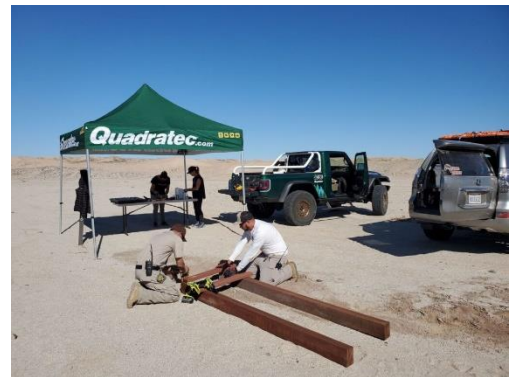
- **November 5, 2022: Lost Lizard Fun Run/Cleanup – BLM El Centro**
Tread Lightly! attended this event and provided educational outreach, connecting with an estimated 400 attendees, and having one on one interactions with 50 individuals.
- **January 14, 2023: 25th Annual Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Cleanup – BLM El Centro**
Tread Lightly! helped run a remote volunteer station for the 25th Annual Imperial Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) cleanup. This year's event pulled 400 volunteers to the ISDRA who collected trash over a three-hour period at six distinct areas. Educational outreach was also performed via a booth setup within the Dunes.
- **Jan 21, 2023: Yuha Well Historic Sign Reinstallation – BLM El Centro**
Tread Lightly! has partnered with the Quadratic 50 for 50 initiative to fund a project committed to improve an off-road trails and public lands in each of the 50 states by December 2023. On January

21, 2023, Tread Lightly! hosted a small group of volunteers, including members of Rebelle Rally and Total Chaos, to reinstall a historic sign on the Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail. This sign marks the Yuha Well, an important water source in the 1700s on the trail between Yuma and San Diego. The original sign had fallen into disrepair ten years ago and had completely disappeared from the site. The new sign, designed to emulate the historic style of the original, provides historical context to the Yuha Well site, and marks it as an area of historic significance once again. This was the fourteenth project of fifty as part of Quadratec and Tread Lightly!'s 50 for 50 initiative.



"It is very meaningful to be part of a project that has so much history and meaning. There is something very special about retracing the steps of those before us. I am thankful that Tread Lightly! could help restore such a significant location." -Emily Miller, Volunteer/Rebelle Rally

"This project has been needed since the original historic sign weathered away. We're very grateful for the support from Tread Lightly!, Quadratec, and the volunteers from Rebelle Rally and Total Chaos to get it replaced. Our partnership will help to improve experiences for visitors and provide information about the historical significance of this site." - Neil Hamada, Bureau of Land Management



▪ **Feb 5 - Feb 12, 2023: King of the Hammers Spectator Area Cleanups – BLM Barstow**

Tread Lightly! hosted daily cleanups at the popular spectator areas Chocolate Thunder and Backdoor during the King of the Hammers off-road racing event, and set up multiple receptacle stations at each site. These spectator areas collectively drew thousands of spectators each day. Over the course of 8 days, 95 volunteers worked for 285 hours and collected 9,050 lbs. of trash.

Upcoming for 2023:

- Feb 18th, 2023: Educational Outreach/Community Engagement Event (anticipated attendance of 100) - **Temecula, CA - BLM El Centro**

FIRE NEWS: BLM CALIFORNIA SEASONAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS



Currently, there are no seasonal fire restrictions in place for any BLM California field office or district, however [statewide, year-round fire restriction](#), issued in 2020 remains in effect through 2025. Under this 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, 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](#).

~END OF REPORT~