



BLM Mission

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



History of the BLM

- In 1812, Congress established the General Land Office to oversee the disposition of these Federal lands. Then, to encourage land settlement Congress enacted a wide variety of laws, including the Homesteading Laws and the Mining Law of 1872.
- In 1946, the Grazing Service was merged with the General Land Office to form the Bureau of Land Management within the Department of the Interior. The BLM had no unified legislative mandate until Congress enacted the Federal Land Policy and Management act of 1976 (FLPMA).
- In FLPMA, Congress recognized the value of the remaining public lands by declaring that these lands would remain in public ownership. Congress also gave us the term “multiple use” management.



Facts

- The BLM Ridgecrest Office is responsible for managing about 1.8 million acres of land in Los Angeles, San Bernadino, Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties.
- The area the BLM Ridgecrest Office manages includes three physiographic areas which consist of the eastern Sierras, part of basin and range province, and the Mojave Desert. The area includes portions of the Coso, Argus, Inyo, and Panamint Mountains.
- We are responsible for a wide variety of resources including range, recreation, minerals, wild horse and burro populations, wildlife habitat, wilderness, W&SR, and archaeological and historical sites.
- The BLM administers public lands within a framework of numerous laws. All policies must be consistent with Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and other laws that govern the use of public lands.



Major Points of Interest On BLM Public Lands



Archaeological/Cultural



Camping



Bird Watching



Fishing



Watchable wildlife



Hunting



Scenic Drives



Wilderness



Rock-Hounding



Wildflowers



Off-Highway Vehicles



Trails



River Recreation



Horseback Riding



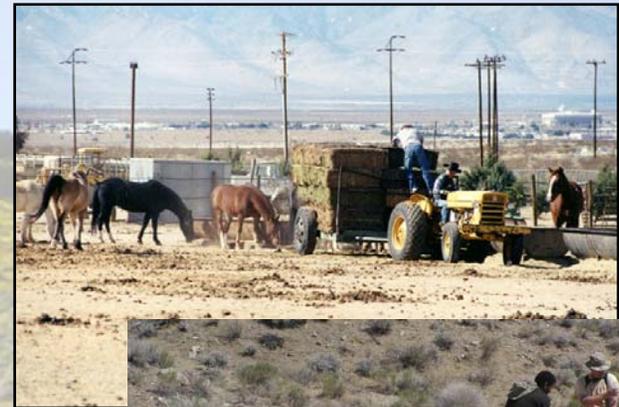
Equestrian



Mountain Biking

Ridgecrest Field Office *CA-650*

- **Hector Villalobos, Ridgecrest Field Office Manager.**
- **Ridgecrest Office includes about 40 employees in various sections.**
- **Multi-resources: Archaeologist, wildlife biologist, Natural Res. Spec., Rangeland Mgnt. Spec.**





Ridgecrest Field Office

CA-650 (Continued)

- **Recreation / Wilderness:** Including outdoor recreation planners, maintenance engrs., park and wilderness rangers.
- **Law Enforcement:** Includes staff of approximately 8 enforcement rangers when fully staffed.
- **Fire Management:** Includes FMO, Fire Mitigation and Education Ofcr., 2 Engine Capts. Plus crews for two Engines.
- **Lands and Minerals:** Geothermal Specialist, Geologists, Realty Specialists, Resource Management Specialist, Computer Specialist, and GIS Specialist.



Sites & Facilities

- **Desert Tortoise Natural Area:** Includes Kiosks, hiking trails, self-guided nature walks and on-site interpretive talks during Spring months.
- **Sand Canyon:** A riparian ACEC area that is used as an outdoor classroom for local school groups. Focuses on water resources and related topics.
- **Trona Pinnacles:** A highly scenic geologic site with over 500 Tufa spires up to 100 feet in height, drawing 20,000 visitors per year.





Recreation Sites & Facilities

(Continued)

- **Fossil Falls:** An ACEC site because of geologic and cultural resource values. With easy access off U.S. Highway 395, the site attracts over 30,000 visitors per year.
- **Saline Valley Road / Byway:** 82-mile long Class II Byway with many historic sites and spectacular scenery.
- **Owens Valley / Death Valley Byway:** 60-mile long Class II Byway with views of both Mt. Whitney and Death Valley.
- **Pacific Crest Trail:** 78 miles of scenic trail from the antelope Valley to Walker Pass.

Recreation Sites & Facilities

(Continued)

- **Recreation Trail Network:** Thousands of miles of trails and access routes for 4wd, ATV, motorcycles, mountain bikes, equestrian, hiking.
- **16 Wilderness Areas**(approx. 800K ac.), 2 WSAs, and 19 ACECs.
- **Ridgecrest-Rademacher Hills:** Urban interface area south side of the city, laced with 14.5 miles of trails, and a network of vehicle routes that provide hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, and vehicle touring.
- **4 Open OHV areas (70,000 ac.).**
- **Jawbone OHV Visitor Station.**
- **Salt Wells Wild Horse and Burro Corrals.**
- **Salt Wells and Olancha Fire Stations.**



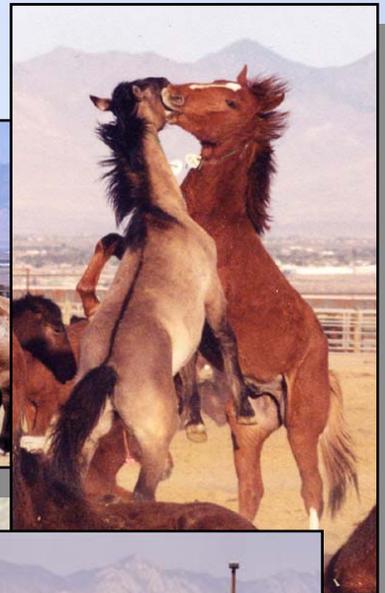
Current Major Initiatives

- **Rand Mountains Trail Maintenance and Restoration.**
- **Jawbone-Butterbredt Trail Maintenance and Restoration.**
- **Surprise Canyon Riparian Habitat and Vehicle Access EIS w/DVNP.**
- **Furnace Creek Route/Access EA w/Inyo NF.**
- **Abandoned Mines Lands Remediation & HAZMAT Cleanups.**
- **NEMO and WEMO Plan Implementation.**
- **Pine Tree Wind Energy Development Proposal.**
- **Deep Rose Geothermal Exploratory Drilling Proposal.**
- **Wind Turbine Proposals.**
- **Solar Energy Proposals.**
- **Mineral Exploration and Development Proposals.**



Wild Horse and Burro Program

- Ridgecrest Field Office corrals located 4 1/2 miles east of Ridgecrest
- Program began in 1973. To date, over 185,000 animals adopted.
- We gather 50-100 animals/yr.
- About 400-500 animals are adopted/yr.
- As many as 1100 animals are housed at the facility. Facilities also located in Susanville, CA.
- Cost is \$125.00 per horse or female burro, and \$25.00 for jack burro.
- To qualify, applicant must be 18 years old and be a U.S. resident.
- Must have corral available for adopted animals.
- BLM retains title for 1 year, applicant can apply for Title if all agreements have been met.





Historic Site Stewardship Program

- Historic Sites in Ridgecrest Field Area

