

**ERRATA SHEET  
FOR  
WESTERN COLORADO DESERT ROUTES OF TRAVEL  
DESIGNATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**GENERAL INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATIONS**

1. Based on the comments received during the public review process, BLM would like to clarify the scope of this project. The project area only includes BLM managed land within Imperial County with the off-road vehicle designation of “limited”. Areas with off-road vehicle “open” (e.g., Plaster City, Superstition Mountains, non-wilderness part of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area) and “closed” (e.g., wilderness areas) designations are excluded from the project area.
2. BLM did not present the differences between various terms that are frequently used in the draft Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment in a manner that was clear to the public. Specifically, the distinctions between Multiple Use Classification of “Limited” Use, Off-road Vehicle designations of “Limited” Area, and “Limited” Route, “Open” Route, and “Closed” Route.

“Limited” Use is a Multiple Use Classification that refers to limiting the intensity of all types of use. Off-highway vehicle designation of a “Limited” Area limits off-highway vehicle use to designated routes. A “Limited” Route limits the use of a specific route in some way (e.g., season of use, type of vehicle). An “Open” Route is a specific route that is available for use. A “Closed” Route is a specific route closed to off-highway vehicle use. Routes that are not specifically designated as “open” routes or “limited” routes will be designated as “closed” routes.

3. The off-highway vehicle designations apply to casual use by the general public. The public does not have to apply for specific permission to use open routes or limited routes. Off-highway designations specifically exclude law enforcement and other emergency vehicle use by an agency. Therefore, the designations do not hinder law enforcement or fire fighting efforts. Likewise specific authorizations (e.g., rights of way, plans of operation, and special recreation permits) can allow use of routes that are closed to the general public.

**CORRECTIONS**

1. Several existing camping closures were inadvertently either left off the map or left out of the narrative for the draft Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment. They were not included in the environmental analysis. These existing camping closures should be included in both the proposed action, Alternative 1, and the no action alternatives.

- The 1989 camping closure combined with the adjacent 2000 camping closure in the East Mesa involves approximately 7,280 acres of BLM managed land. This area is flat-tailed horned lizard habitat. The analysis for the draft Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment incorrectly included approximately 810 acres of available camping for this area.
  - The Yuha area camping closure was established in the 1980's and contains approximately 76 acres of BLM managed land. This area is flat-tailed horned lizard habitat and contains noteworthy archeological resources. The analysis for the draft Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment incorrectly included approximately 6 acres of available camping for this area.
  - The Superstition camping closure was established in the 1980's and contains approximately 935 acres of BLM managed land. It is flat-tailed horned lizard habitat and contains noteworthy archeological resources. The analysis for the draft Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment incorrectly included approximately 4 acres of available camping for this area.
2. The document contained several typing errors. Mojave was intermittently incorrectly spelled Mohave. Amendment was misspelled on the title page. Los Angeles was misspelled. Butterfield was incorrectly shown as two words. The word "road" was inadvertently used in place of "route of travel".
  3. The Fort Mojave Tribe of Indians also considered the Salton Sea area to be part of their ancestral lands. The omission was inadvertent.
  4. The map for the proposed action alternative uses different symbols and color to improve the clarity. Several changes were made to the map to correct errors. For example, the proposed Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the California Back Country Discovery Trail segments were not shown on the initial maps with a unique map symbol and blended in with the other routes of travel. The map of the Proposed Plan Amendment shows both routes with a unique symbol and both routes are labeled. These changes did not impact the environmental analysis.
  5. The original acreage for the Yuha Basin Area of Critical Environmental Concern was inadvertently used instead of the acreage for the amended area. The correct acreage is 71,000. The North Algodones Dunes Wilderness is also the North Algodones Dunes National Natural Landmark Area of Critical Environmental Concern and should have been listed on page 22. These errors did not change any environmental impact analyses.

6. The mines in the Fish Creek Mountains are not plaster mines. The text should have stated that the mines in the Fish Creek Mountains are gypsum mines and that gypsum is manufactured into plasterboard.
7. Access routes to camping areas were omitted from the Alternative 1 map. Exact routes to a camping area would be determined in a site specific Environmental Assessment if Alternative 1 is selected.
8. In the proposed action alternative, BLM proposes to monitor flat tailed horned lizards as an indicator species for the resource area. BLM proposes to monitor the flat-tailed horned lizard using a mark-capture study on a yearly basis. This monitoring program generates a population estimate for the flat tailed horned lizard management areas. BLM also proposes to conduct a flat-tailed horned lizard vehicular damage study every 3-5 years and a flat-tailed horned lizard scat count on an occasional basis. The vehicular damage study is conducted at the same locations as the mark-capture study. It assesses vehicular damage in the management areas by using triangular plots and point counts. The scat count monitoring has been conducted since 1979. It is conducted on the same triangular plots as the other monitoring programs. This data allows BLM to estimate the population and range of the flat-tailed horned lizard. These monitoring programs are identified on the Implementation Schedule. The draft Plan Amendment did not discuss monitoring, but it was BLM's intention to continue with the current monitoring program. If you would like a copy of the monitoring program, please call Arnold Schoeck at 760-337-4441 or write to him at BLM, 1661 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, El Centro, CA 92243.
9. An Implementation Schedule for the proposed action has been developed and is included in this Proposed Plan Amendment package.

## **CHANGES**

1. Two sand highways immediately north and south of Highway 78, between the East Highline Canal and the Coachella Canal, were added to the proposed action and the no action alternatives. The routes currently exist and are in the CalTrans right of way. This adds a total of 12 miles additional of routes. This was not specifically analyzed in any of the alternatives, but it reflects the actual conditions on the ground and should have been included in the No Action alternative. This change is not expected to have noteworthy impacts to environmental resources.
2. One route in the area managed by Ocotillo Wells State Vehicle Recreation Area was added to the proposed action and the no action alternatives based upon information from California State Parks. This route currently exists. This change added 2 miles of routes. This was not specifically analyzed in any of the alternatives, but it reflects the actual conditions on the ground and should have been included in the No Action alternative. This change is not expected to have noteworthy impacts to environmental resources.

3. The no camping area along the common border with the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area has been deleted from the proposed action alternative. This situation was analyzed as part of the No Action Alternative. The change reflects a balance between reducing the impacts to sensitive resources along the common boundary, providing adequate camping areas, and utilization of law enforcement and park ranger resources. This change adds a total of 12,160 acres with 200 acres of available camping on the southwest boundary and 7,500 acres with 1500 acres of available camping on the northwest boundary. The entire area is culturally sensitive. The southwest area is also flat-tailed horned lizard habitat. Camping would be allowed within 50 feet of the centerline of an open route for the Lizard Management Area and 300 feet of the centerline of an open route for all other added areas. Although this area has the OHV designation of "Limited" use, and camping adjacent to the routes within specific distances is allowed, it is unlikely that extensive use of the area for camping will occur due to accessibility conditions (e.g. soft sand). This change is not expected to have noteworthy impacts to environmental resources. It reflects the current condition for the area. The decision record for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management Plan will determine the management for this border area. (The final Environmental Impact Statement for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management Plan is currently being revised.)
4. An undeveloped camping area of approximately 20 acres has been added to the proposed action alternative in the Yuha Area south of Highway 98. The change reflects a balance between reducing the impacts to sensitive resources and providing adequate camping areas. This will add an additional 20 acres of potential impact to an area that is within the habitat area for flat-tailed horned lizards and is culturally sensitive. However, this area will have a Class III Pedestrian survey by a BLM archeologist prior to formally opening the area to camping. This change is not expected to have noteworthy impacts to environmental resources. Although this camping area was not analyzed in any of the alternatives, it is not dissimilar from the other camping areas that are proposed for the Yuha area.
5. The limitation of no parking and stopping adjacent to routes of travel in the Yuha was changed in the proposed action alternative to allow parking and stopping immediately adjacent to limited routes of travel in the Yuha during daylight hours. (However, no overnight camping or parking would be allowed.) The change is made because the original proposal could have inadvertently impacted all forms of recreation (e.g., rock collecting, hiking, picnicking, nature study, and photography) except for what could occur from a moving vehicle. The change also reflects a balance between reducing the impacts to sensitive resources and providing adequate recreation opportunities. Although this change could provide a slight impact to cultural and natural resources such as the flat-tailed horned lizard in the areas that are adjacent to the limited routes, BLM does not believe that the impact will be noteworthy since this area is currently used for both

parking and camping. Vehicular use of the area adjacent to the routes was analyzed under alternative 2.

BLM has tried to identify the changes in the draft Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment in this Errata Sheet. BLM understands that the factual information in the draft Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment may not be entirely accurate due to some of these changes. (For example the total acres of camping in lizard habitat is not completely accurate unless it is considered with the changes in this Errata Sheet.) BLM does not believe that these inaccuracies are of a substantial nature.