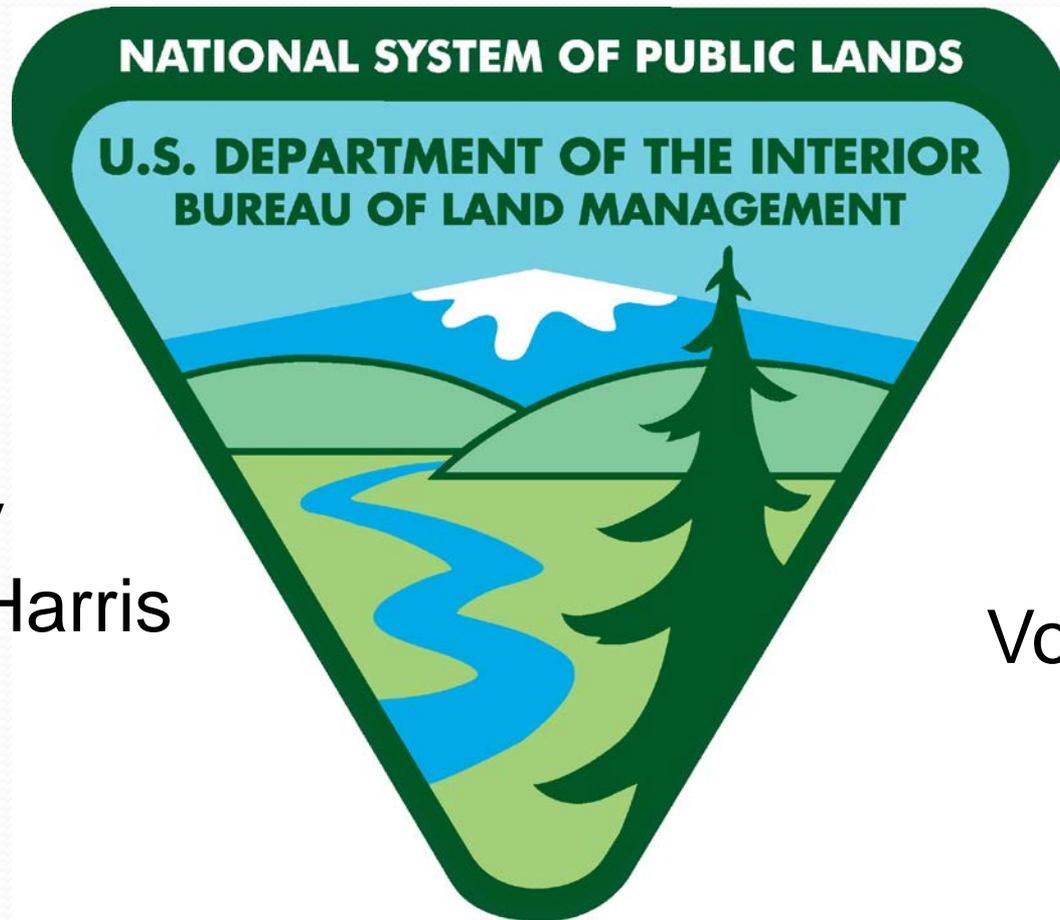


BLM In The Desert



By
Glenn Harris

BLM
Volunteer



The Bureau of Land Management is an agency within the United States Department of the Interior that administers more than 247.3 million acres of public lands in the United States which constitutes one-eighth of the landmass of the country, the most of any Federal agency.

This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska.

In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.



The BLM was established in 1946, but its roots go back to the years after America's independence, when the young nation began acquiring additional lands.

The North West Territories were the first lands acquired from the original 13 colonies.

Then there was the Louisiana Purchase followed by other additions to the public domain.



At first, these lands were used to pay revolution soldiers, generate revenue and encourage homesteading and westward migration.

The General Land Office was created in 1812 to support these national goals.

a government reorganization in 1946, merged the GLO and the U.S. Grazing Service, creating the BLM.



In 1976, Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Created the California Desert Conservation Area

Called for the Preparation of a Land use plan by end of 1980.

As part of that plan, BLM called upon the air quality districts in the desert to provide air quality input.

That working group led to what we know today as the California Desert Air Working Group...CDAWG

Major BLM Air Quality Issues in 2018



Major BLM Air Quality Issues in 2018

Renewable Energy Development



Major BLM Air Quality Issues in 2018

Renewable Energy Development Planning



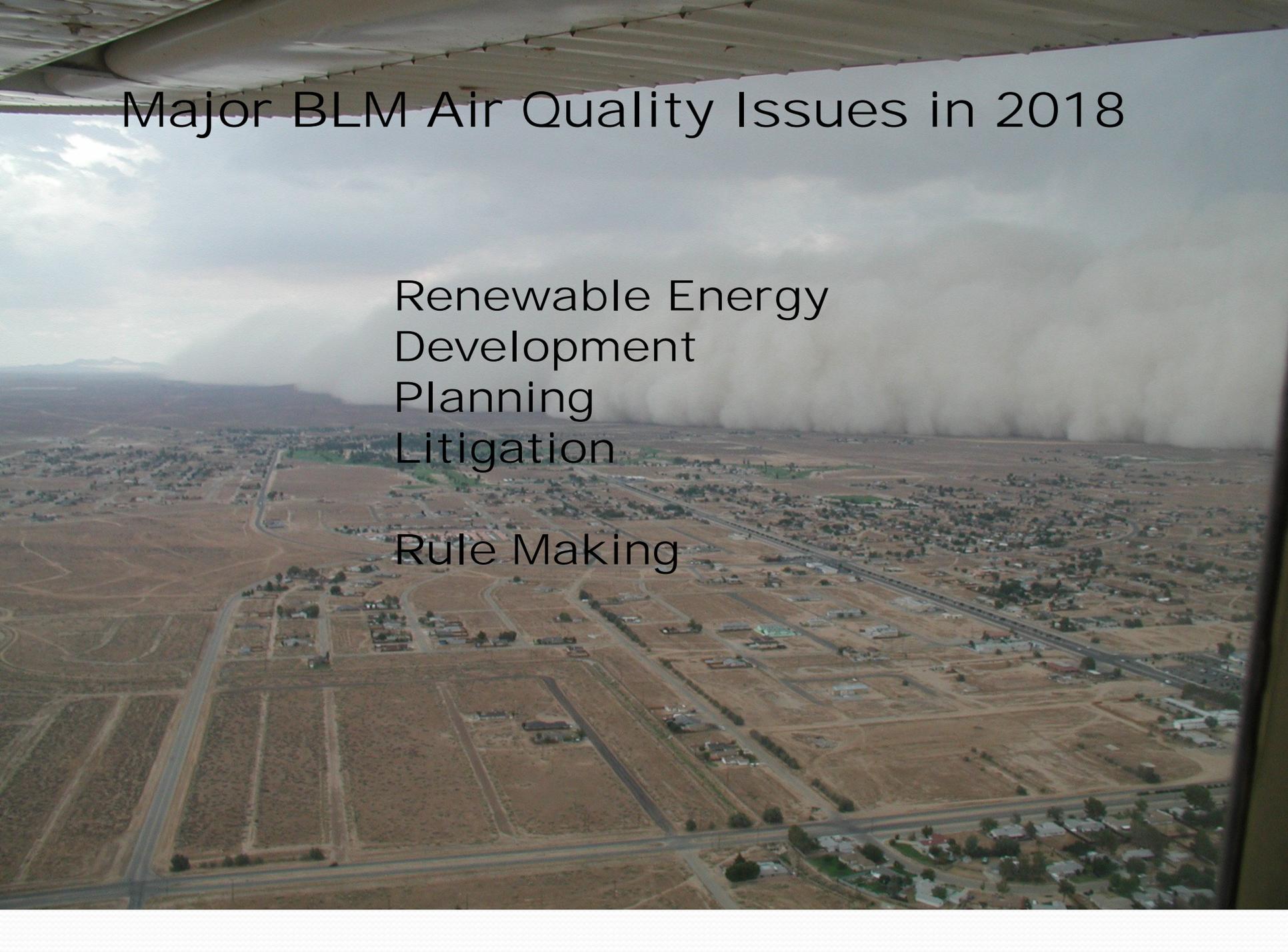
Major BLM Air Quality Issues in 2018

**Renewable Energy Development
Planning
Litigation**



Major BLM Air Quality Issues in 2018

Renewable Energy
Development
Planning
Litigation
Rule Making



On Thursday, November 1, 2018. The Bureau of Land Management authorized the Palen Solar Project, a 500-megawatt solar photovoltaic facility owned by EDF Renewable Energy, to occupy up to 3,140 acres of BLM-administered lands, approximately 10 miles east of Desert Center, north of Interstate 10, in Riverside County. It will include a main generation area, on-site substation, switchyard, site security, and a 230-kilvolt gen-tie line.

Major BLM Air Quality Issues in 2018

Planning



DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

DRECP.org



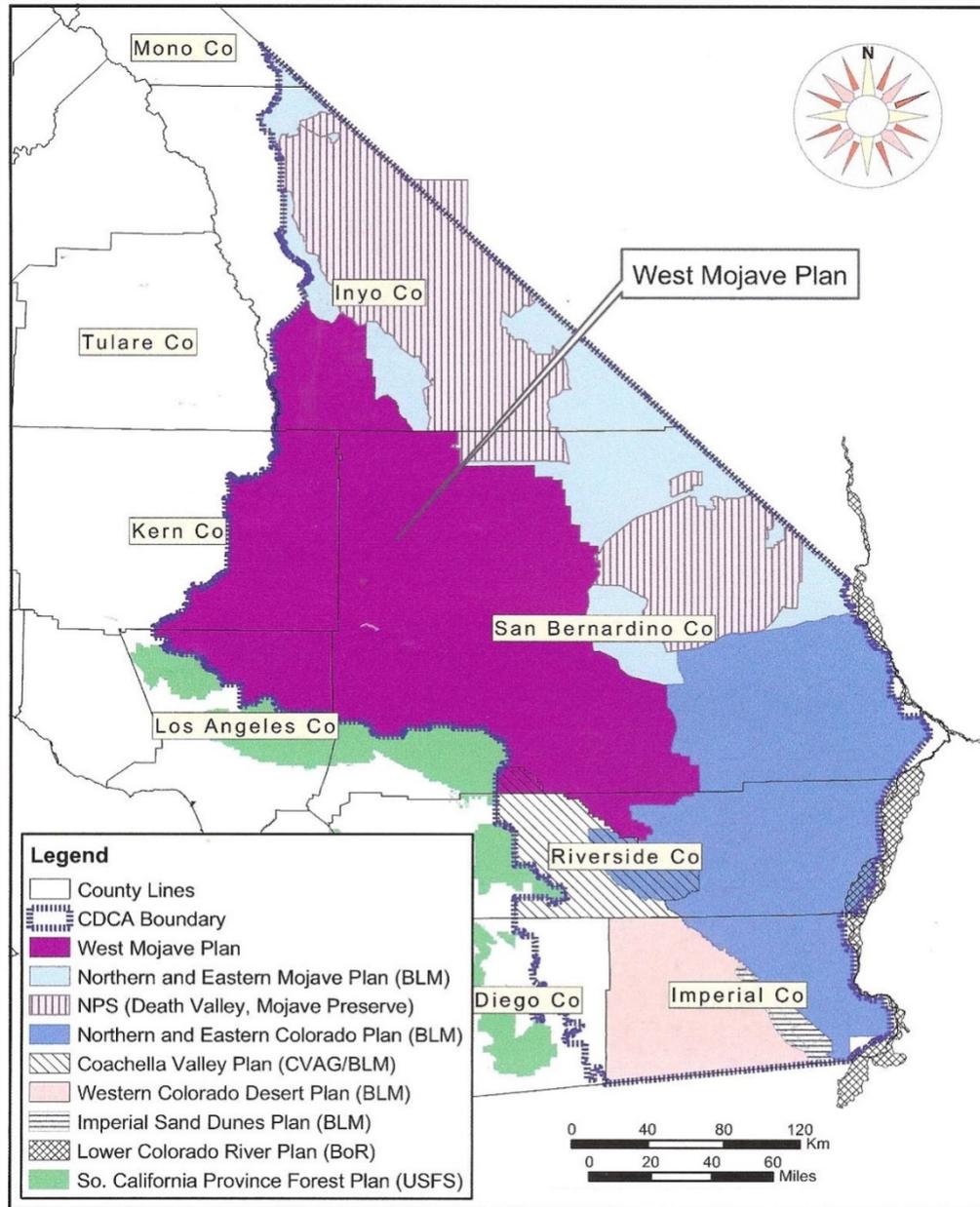
On September 14, 2016 BLM announced approval of Phase I of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) covering 10.8 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the California desert.

The approval is the culmination of more than eight years of planning, collaboration and extensive public engagement

Major BLM Air Quality Issues in 2018

Litigation

West Mojave Management Plan (WEMO)
Ongoing Litigation.



Mono Co

Tulare Co

Kern Co

Los Angeles Co

Inyo Co

San Bernardino Co

Riverside Co

Diego Co

Imperial Co

West Mojave Plan

BACKGROUND

The ***West Mojave Plan*** is a federal land use plan amendment adopted in 2006, that presents a comprehensive strategy to conserve and protect sensitive plants.

The planning area covers 9.3 million acres in the western portion of the Mojave Desert covering parts of San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Kern, and Inyo Counties. The plan applies to the **3.2 million acres** of public lands.

The Record of Decision for the ***West Mojave Plan / Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan*** was signed in March 2006.



In September of 2009, the Court issued a summary judgment remanding the route designations made in the West Mojave Plan, but keeping other parts of the plan in place.

A remedy order based on this judgment was issued in January, 2011.

To satisfy the remedy order, new route designations must be completed, consistent with the court's order.

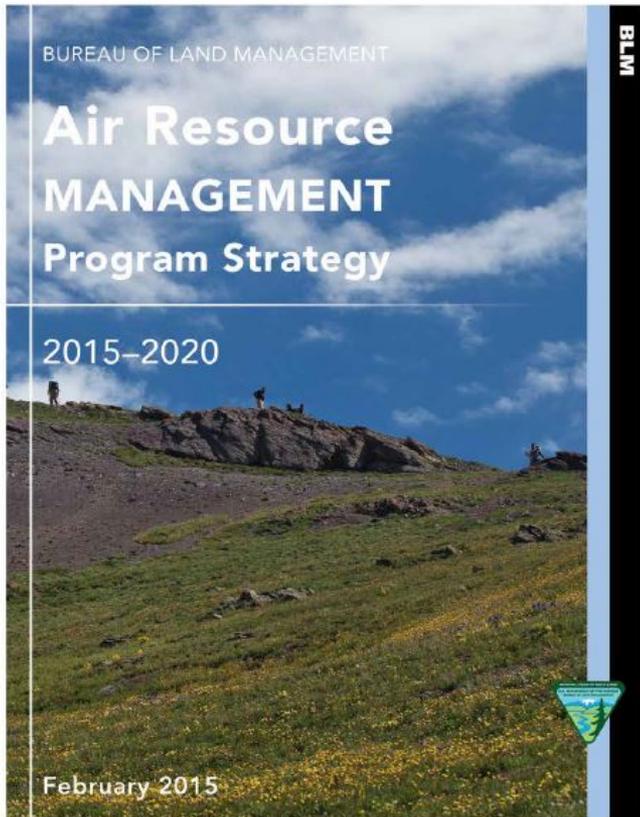


This is the basis for the West Mojave Route Network Project and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement now under development.



BLM Air Resources Program

BLM Air Resources Program



<https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/AirResourceProgramStrategy.pdf>



The goals of the Air Resources Program include:

Reducing or limiting emissions of harmful pollutants to improve air quality. This involves strengthening the BLM's ability to address emerging issues, such as more strict regulatory standards for ozone and updated policy direction to reduce GHG emissions.



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Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of air quality analyses by enhancing already high standards of air quality expertise.
Improving the availability of and access to air quality monitoring data.



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Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of air quality analyses by enhancing already high standards of air quality expertise.
Improving the availability of and access to air quality monitoring data.

Building collaborative relationships with communities to reduce conflict and promote efforts to achieve and maintain good air quality.

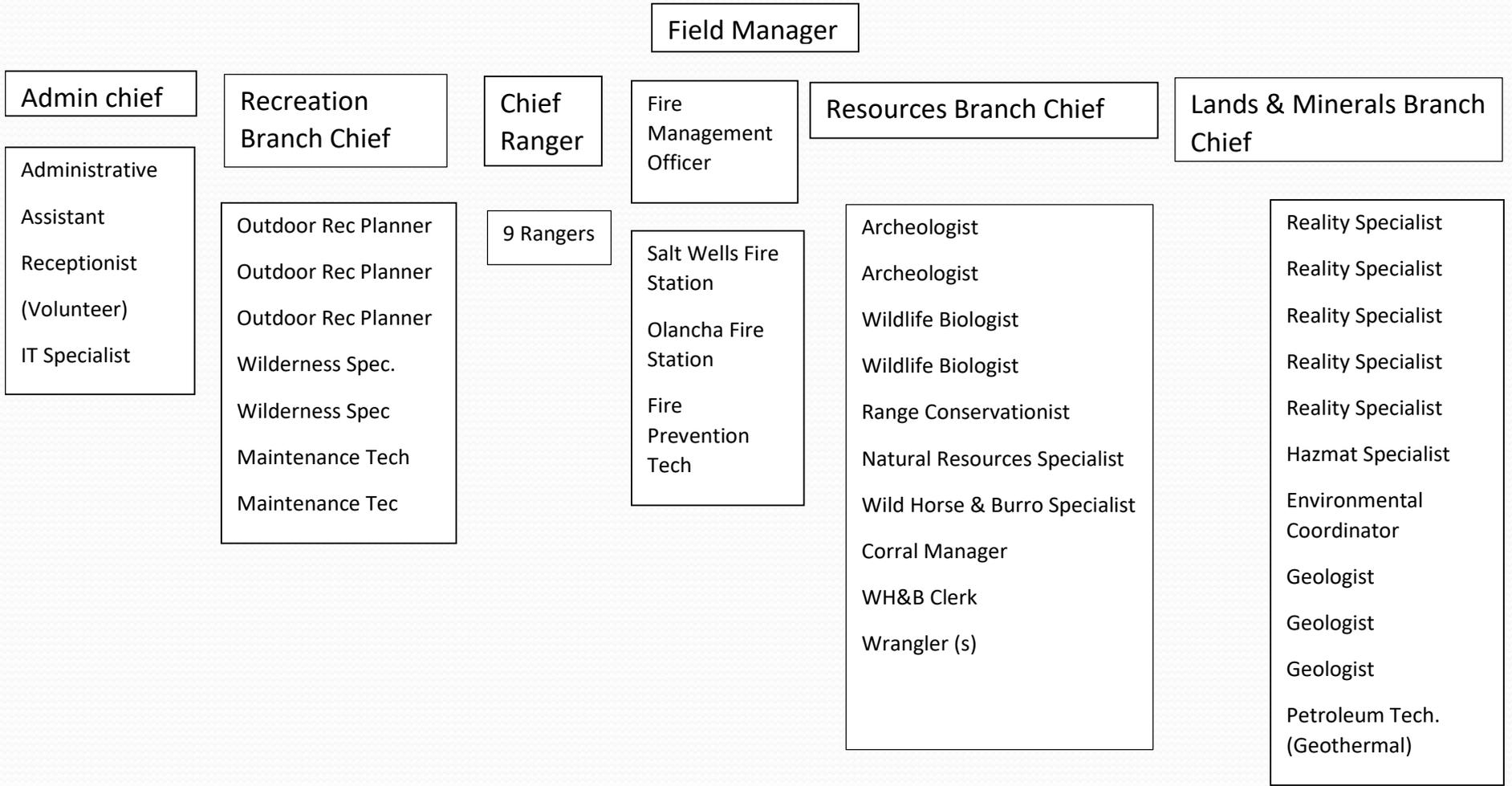
Fugitive dust in the western Mojave desert continues to be an issue.





Staffing issues continue

2009



Staffing issues continue

2018

Field Manager

Admin chief

Administrative
Assistant
Receptionist
(Volunteer)
IT Specialist

Recreation Branch Chief

Outdoor Rec Planner
Outdoor Rec Planner
Outdoor Rec Planner
Wilderness Spec.
Wilderness Spec
Maintenance Tech
Maintenance Tec

Chief Ranger

9 Rangers

Fire
Management
Officer

**Salt Wells Fire
Station**
**Olancha Fire
Station**
**Fire
Prevention
Tech**

Resources Branch Chief

Archeologist
Archeologist
Wildlife Biologist
Wildlife Biologist
Range Conservationist
Natural Resources Specialist
Wild Horse & Burro Specialist
Corral Manager
WH&B Clerk
Wrangler (s)

Lands & Minerals Branch Chief

Reality Specialist
Reality Specialist
Reality Specialist
Reality Specialist
Reality Specialist
Hazmat Specialist
Environmental
Coordinator
Geologist
Geologist
Geologist
**Petroleum Tech.
(Geothermal)**



Good Bye For Now