



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



## Notice of Temporary Emergency Closure: of the Owens Peak Wilderness Area, Indian Wells Canyon Area and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail north of Highway 178 through the Wilderness.

**AUTHORITY CITATION:** 43 CFR, 8364.1, Closure and Restriction Orders

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office (BLM) is providing notice pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8364.1 (Closure and Restriction Orders), which provides, in part, for the Authorized Officer to close or restrict use of designated public land for the protection of persons, property, and public lands and resources.

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 a fire started in the Indian Wells Canyon area. Fire suppression activities have been initiated but the fire continues to burn westward into the Owens Peak Wilderness and has burned across the Pacific Crest Trail.

For public safety, all human entry into the Owens Peak Wilderness Area, Indian Wells Canyon area, travel along the Pacific Crest Trail north of Highway 178 through the Wilderness area, and travel on designated routes within the canyons of the region is prohibited until further notice. This closure is issued to provide firefighter and public safety by restricting human entry into an area that may be congested with firefighting equipment, used for safety zones, and staging firefighting equipment and personnel.

**DATES:** This closure is effective July 19, 2010 and shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified by the Authorized Officer.

**ADDRESSES:** Maps showing the affected area are available for review at the following locations: BLM Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 S. Richmond Rd, Ridgecrest, CA 93555; the Jawbone Visitor Station, 28111 Jawbone Canyon Rd., Cantil, CA 93518.


**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** BLM Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 S. Richmond Rd, Ridgecrest, CA 93555. Telephone: (760) 384-5400.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:** The affected areas described herein will be subject to the following use restrictions:

1. Unless otherwise authorized, no person shall enter the Owens Peak Wilderness Area, Indian Wells Canyon area or travel along the Pacific Crest Trail north of Highway 178 through the Wilderness Area.
2. Persons who are exempt from the restriction include:
  - a. Any Federal State or local officers engaged in fire, emergency, or law enforcement activities;
  - b. BLM employees, contractors, or agents engaged in official duties;
  - c. Private Property owners accessing their private lands;
  - d. Individuals operating within the scope of their official and legitimate governmental duties; and
  - e. Additional persons may be allowed, but must have advanced written approval from the BLM Authorized Officer, Ridgecrest Field Office.

Maps showing the described areas are available at the BLM's Ridgecrest Field Office.

**PENALTIES:** 43 CFR 8360.0-7. Violation of any regulations in this part by a member of the public is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000.00 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

  
Hector A. Villalobos  
Field Manager

07/19/10  
Date