

Excerpts from the BLM Website

What is the CDCA?

A. The CDCA is a 25-million acre expanse of land in southern California designated by Congress in 1976 through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. About 10 million acres are administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).



- About 4 million acres are Class C (controlled). These include 69 wilderness areas totaling 3,667,020 acres created by Congress with the October, 1994 passage of the California Desert Protection Act. These lands are to be preserved in a natural state and access is generally limited to non-motorized, non-mechanized means (i.e., by foot or horseback).
- About 4 million acres are Class L (limited use). These lands are managed to protect sensitive, natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resource values. They provide for generally lower-intensity, carefully controlled multiple uses that do not significantly diminish resource values.
- About 1.5 million acres are Class M (moderate use). These lands are managed in a controlled balance between higher intensity use and protection. A wide variety of uses, such as mining, livestock grazing, recreation, energy, and utility development are allowed. Any damage, which permitted uses cause, must be mitigated.
- About 500,000 acres are in Class I (intensive use). These lands are managed for concentrated use to meet human needs. Reasonable protection is provided for sensitive natural values, and mitigation of impacts and rehabilitation of impacted areas will occur when possible.

Q. How does BLM's Plan provide for "appropriate" use of off-highway vehicles?

A. The plan designates public lands as open, limited, or closed to OHV use. About 500,000 acres are designated as open to intensive OHV use, such as portions of the Imperial Sand Dunes that draw tens of thousands of visitors on holiday weekends. Another 4 million acres are closed to OHV use because they are located in designated wilderness areas or contain extremely sensitive resources. The remaining land is in the limited category.

Q. What does the "limited" category mean?

A. Limited means that off-highway vehicles are allowed on existing or approved routes of travel. The nature of the restriction is posted on signs and in public information materials, including detailed maps available from BLM, called Desert Access Guides. These guides show approved routes of travel and points of interest.