



News Release



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New Report Examines Asbestos Exposure at Clear Creek Management Area near Hollister, California

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks today released a new independent report analyzing naturally occurring asbestos exposures associated with motorcycle riding and hiking in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA).

The report was completed by scientists from the International Environmental Research Foundation (IERF), the Department of Physics at Harvard University, and the Center for Applied Studies of the Environment at the City University of New York. The OHMVR Division commissioned the IERF report to gather more data to determine if management and operational strategies could be employed at the CCMA to mitigate risk while still allowing access to this premier off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation destination.

Daphne Greene, Deputy Director for the OHMVR Division commented, "This report provides additional data which needs to be considered, along with the data from the EPA report, before any final decisions are made concerning long term recreation opportunities at the CCMA. We look forward to continuing discussions with the BLM."

Jim Abbott, Acting BLM State Director, said BLM's number one priority has always been protecting the public health and safety. The 2008 closure of CCMA was based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conclusions that "the asbestos exposures for recreational users at CCMA were above the acceptable level of risk for public health."

Abbott says he "welcomes the dialog" with the OHMVR Division, noting that BLM is in the final stages of completing a long-term plan for managing the CCMA. "We have requested that EPA review the new study, and we will wait until the scientists have had time to consider the new information in the report before any final land use decisions are made," he said.

The new report is available online at: www.ohv.parks.ca.gov

The original EPA study is online at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/toxic/noa/clearcreek/index.html> .

Information about BLM's CCMA Resource Management Plan is available at:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/hollister/clear_creek_management_area.html .