

USING THE WEMO 2018 ROUTE FORM

Why document WEMO routes? Because the BLM has proposed open ORV routes on many residential roads throughout the Morongo Basin, as well as other routes that are not appropriate for ORV use. The routes appear to have been generated by an algorithm that simply designated as a possible ORV route any road or track that comes in contact with a piece of BLM land, no matter how short or long a distance. It's up to all of us to show BLM that this is not acceptable, and to do that, we have to do their job.

How? We've developed a [Route Form](#) that helps make the process easy and effective. Complete the Route Form as best you can using information from the WEMO maps, other maps such as Google Earth, observation in the field, or your own personal knowledge. Do what parts you can; some is better than none. Use the following orientation tips on how to access information for the forms.

1. ACCESS THE MAPS

You must access the WEMO maps (PDFs) before you can proceed effectively. You will find links to the maps via the COW website at <https://orwatch.com/category/wemo/> (see the right sidebar). From the documents listed at the link, use the [Index Figure](#) or [Index List](#) to locate the maps you want. Most Morongo Basin communities are found in TMA (Travel Management Area) 3.

NOTE: If you have difficulty with digital access or cannot obtain, read, or understand the WEMO maps, try teaming up with someone such as a neighbor. If you still cannot overcome the obstacles, *please still submit a Route Form* for any roads that concern you. At the top of the form enter the local name of the road and/or describe its location as best you can. Be sure to note the problems you encountered in the "Part 2: Process" part of the form.

2. NAVIGATE THE MAPS

Once you've opened the map you need, refer to the [Tips and Tricks](#) document for help navigating; again, access this document via a link from the COW website, right sidebar: <https://orwatch.com/category/wemo/>. As the document suggests, be sure to explore the Layers menu and review the Legend at the bottom of the map.

3. ORIENT YOURSELF

Many roads on the WEMO maps are not named. This may make it hard to orient yourself. Enlarge the view and look for any roads or highways you can recognize and try working out from there. It may be helpful to print out parts of the map (using the Snapshot Tool) and label the print-out with road names. You can also try comparing the WEMO map to Google Earth or other maps that have street names or other features you're familiar with.

4. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

The routes that the BLM is proposing to open to OHV use are bright green, which signifies "Motorized." This means open to all motorized vehicles, including OHV. (You may need to enlarge the map to see them.) A yellow line, on the other hand, is a subdesignation that signifies "Street-Legal Only", which would exclude most OHVs. Use your Layers menu to

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make sure Alternative 4 is open; this is the BLM's Preferred Alternative and is heavily tilted to Motorized (green). Now, turn off Alternative 4 and open Alternative 2, and you may see a lot more yellow (make sure the Subdesignation option is turned on in Alternative 2 to see this). There are other colors (designations) possible, as well; consult the Legend at the bottom of the map to understand the meaning of these. **Any route segments that concern you you will want to document on your Route Form** - one form for each segment. The route segments are supposed to be labeled with a unique ID - a number or combination of letters and numbers. That Route ID number goes on the top of your form. **If there is no ID number**, try to describe the location of the segment or, if possible, use GPS coordinates (obtainable through Google Earth). If the route segment has more than one ID, include both numbers on your form. If the endpoints of the segment are unclear (e.g., runs into another segment without separation), note that in the Comments. *If you submitted comments in 2015-16, be aware that the segments may have different numbers than they had on the 2015-16 maps.*

5. FILLING OUT THE FORM: WHERE TO FIND YOUR INFORMATION

WEMO Maps: Especially useful for showing land ownership, jurisdictions, and protected areas. Use the Layers (especially the Resources Data) and the map Legend.

CSA's and Wildlife Linkages: Is your route within a CSA (County Services Area) or a Wildlife Linkage? Find out at a glance from the maps available <https://orvwatch.com/communities-with-wildlife-linkages/>.

Google Earth: Google Earth satellite maps can help a lot with your effort. Comparing them to the WEMO maps can help you get oriented as they show many street names (but caution: those names may be erroneous in our outlying areas!). They also clearly show tracks, residences, washes, and other information that can reveal errors or omissions in the WEMO maps or help supply answers to the Minimization Criteria questions. The Google Earth Tips and Tricks shows you how you can find coordinates, measure distances, or print out map views to accompany your comments and demonstrate your points, such as images of residences or illegal tracks.

Field observation: Getting out and driving the route can be very revealing. How do the WEMO maps and designations measure up against reality? Take photographs of anything significant, such as illegal tracks, wildlife and vegetation, scenic views, dust trails, etc. When photographing with a smart phone or tablet you may be able to append GPS coordinates to your photos, or pin a location on a Google map for later reference. Attach any photos, map images, or additional notes to your Route Form.

NOTE: Please respect private property and the privacy of residents! Avoid photographing residences. Stay aware of driving conditions on unfamiliar roads.

6. SUBMIT YOUR FORM AND ANY COMMENTS OR DOCUMENTATION TO:

Bureau of Land Management

California Desert District
Attn: WMRNP Plan Amendment
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
OR email at blm_ca_wemo_project@blm.gov

If possible, please also send a copy to
Community ORV Watch at:
COW
PO Box 1722
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
OR email at orvwatch@orvwatch.com