



# 5

## HOT SPRINGS



Trails West  
marker at  
Trego hot  
springs

## **A. GOAL**

Burning Man participants understand that they are not to be used en route to or from the event. Even a fraction of 50,000 participants would make a sizeable impact. This ensures hot springs remain in good condition and their value as a cultural resource is preserved.

## **B. STIPULATION**

*24. BRC personnel will discourage travel, including travel by aircraft, to other historical, cultural, recreational or geographical resources in the Black Rock Desert area during the event. BRC will discourage participant use of hot springs for the purpose of bathing, or extracting mud or water.*

## **C. METHODS**

The team hoped to make one baseline inspection prior to event start and a second inspection after the event ended. Due to limited staff and the distances involved, the only areas checked by the Monitoring Team were Trego and Coyote Springs. The Earth Guardians, Burning Man's BLM volunteer group, did regularly patrol the springs. They reported little use by event participants.

## **D. DATA**

While users are highly discouraged from using the springs during the event window, a team member came across 3 vehicles camped at Trego near the end of the event. These were clearly Burning Man participants based on their conversation about that year's event. This, however, appeared to be an isolated case.

## **E. RESULTS**

This stipulation is being met.

## **F. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Enlist Earth Guardians help**

A simple form could be created for patrols to report the amount of use seen by participants and non-participants and the general condition of the springs. With Earth Guardians and the BLM Contact Station adjacent in Center Camp, coordinating logistics should be feasible.

### **Minimize scope of this study**

Due to limited playa access over the years and participant cooperation, the springs have been less of a concern. The Monitoring Team should only monitor Trego and Coyote Springs, if any, due to the distances involved in traveling to the other springs.