Comment on BLM Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Preferred alternative for the area around Lone Pine, CA 93545. I object to this plan on the grounds that it would destroy part of the few meadows/lakes in the area. These meadows are vital for wildlife habitat and dust control in the area. The proposed solar project will create a man-made dust hazard around Lone Pine, requiring costly mitigation. In addition, this project will desecrate unparalleled views that are the hallmark of the Owens Valley.

The proposed solar project would not only reduce valuable undeveloped wildlife habitat, but also create a safety hazard for air traffic at the Lone Pine Airport. The hazards and destruction caused by this project outweigh any proposed benefits. It is also unrealistic to put solar projects so far from any major city, due to the amount of electricity transport lines.

I do not come to the Owens Valley to see industrial projects encroaching on my favorite places for camping, fishing, wildlife viewing, and hiking. The DRECP Preferred alternative will cause unreasonable harm to the area around Lone Pine, requiring future costly mitigation measures.

Russ T.
Response to Comment Letter F135

Russ T.
February 23, 2015

F135-1 Thank you for your comment. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has taken it into consideration in developing the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As described in Chapter I.1, Phase I of the DRECP is the BLM Proposed LUPA and Final EIS that addresses activities on BLM-administered lands only. See also Volume II, which includes revised descriptions and mapping for the range of alternatives considered for the BLM LUPA, including removal of Development Focus Areas (DFAs) around Lone Pine in the Preferred Alternative.

F135-2 The presence of renewable energy development on and around the Owens Valley has been identified as a potential long-term visual impact in the Final EIS, Volume IV, Section IV.20, Visual Resources.

F135-3 Under the Final EIS, only BLM land is addressed. The effects of specific projects on specific land uses, such as the Lone Pine Airport, would be addressed on a project-by-project basis, when details on the proposed technology and location are known. The potential effect on airport safety from renewable energy projects is one consideration in the project-specific review.

F135-4 See response F135-1.

F135-5 See response F135-1.
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