Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Doug Goodall [sunandsage1@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 12:29 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System; info@calwild.org
Subject: DRECP NEPA/CEQA
Categories: Ready to Docket

To whoever this may concern:

Please include the following comment in the decision-making process.

Please include the following places in their entirety in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and National Conservation Lands:
- Argos, Ash Hill, Big Maria Mountains and surrounding flats.
- Bristol Lake, Cadiz Valley-Iron Mountains, Danby Lake, Knight Canyon, McCoy Wash, Middle Knob, Mule Mountains, Osborne Canyon, Ragtown, Red Mountain, Riverside Mountains, Rodman Mountains, Sacramento Mountains, Silurian Valley, Slate Range, Snow Canyon, Valley Moon, Vidal, Whipple Mountains, and Wildrose Wash.

Please make National Conservation Lands off limits to mining and mineral leasing. Those interests can't be trusted to be good stewards of our lands.

Please designate National Conservation Lands as either Visual Resource Management Class I or II.

Please retain Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within National Conservation Lands, as an added layer of protection for more specific values within these areas.

I appreciate the interest in renewable energy development but I feel what's being proposed here is the wrong approach. I support renewable energy but there are right ways and wrong ways to do it. I would like to see dead spaces used up before we build any more facilities such as these. One of these projects takes up a very large area. There are rooftops, parking lots, transportation corridors, and powerline corridors. Here's another option I would like to see explored before we start disturbing relatively pristine land. This will allow us to replace our paved areas with energy generating plates.

[Link to a project]

--

Doug Goodall
Aka: Sunandsage

https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/solar-roadwaysat-home
INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK
Response to Comment Letter F13

Doug Goodall
October 22, 2014

F13-1  The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) evaluated the relevant and important values of the proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) provides the national policy for the protection of public land areas of critical environmental concern. Please see response E24-3 regarding the designations of locations specified in this comment.

F13-2  The BLM does not have the authority to withdraw lands from mineral entry but can recommend areas for withdrawal to the Secretary of the Interior. The BLM considered a phased evaluation for withdrawal of National Conservation Lands in Alternatives 2 and 3. Under the Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA), the BLM will consider area-specific withdrawals on a case-by-case basis as part of implementation and adaptive management (Volume II, Sections II.3.6 and II.3.7).

F13-3  Most of the National Conservation Lands will be managed as Visual Resource Class I or II. However, a few of the National Conservation Land units will be designated Visual Class III, to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape will be moderate (i.e., transmission lines, campground development, and other recreational development).

F13-4  The Proposed LUPA includes ACECs within the National Conservation Lands. See Section II.3.4.2 for an explanation of how these areas will be managed.

F13-5  This comment has not resulted in a change to the document, but the BLM has taken it into consideration.