Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)

Comment Form

Commenter: James Gregory Herring, First Class Miners, Inc

Contact Information: When submitting comments on the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS, please include the name and means of contact for a person who would be available for later consultation if necessary. Please note that public comments and information submitted will be available for public review at www.drecp.org. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that any information submitted as part of your comment will become part of the public record. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other internet search engines. You may choose to withhold contact information, but the agencies will not be able to consult with you if clarification of your comment is needed. While you may request in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, agencies cannot guarantee the ability to do so.

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<td>Your DRECP draft plan does not address the protection of my rights as a &quot;Casual Use&quot; miner under the Mining Laws of 1872. Rights of miners have been upheld in court time and time again. During the Public Comment meeting held in Joshua Tree on 19 November 2014 Vicky, your Program manager, assured me and others in my group that our rights as casual use miners would not be hindered or restricted in any way because we have existing legal mining claims, yet there is no reference to casual use mining in your document. I request that you please ensure that the protection of our rights under the Mining Law of 1872 as Casual Use miners is incorporated into your plan. Specifically, please ensure these rights are included in the appropriate sections of the Plan documents, in all &quot;action&quot; alternatives, for the following areas: the BLM area known as the Dale Mining District east of 29 Palms, CA, the BLM area of the Eagle Mountains north west of Desert Center and just east of the Joshua Tree National Park.</td>
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the BLM land within the Rattlesnake Canyon area near Vaughn Springs just south of
the Big Horn Mountain Wilderness Area, and the south eastern area of Stoddard
Valley/Ord Mountain and east of Hwy 247. These are areas the First Class Miners, Inc
have eight "casual use" mining claims. I request that you address not only our rights to
existing casual use mining claims but our right to file for new casual use mining claims.
It is important to me and my group that we have the right to continue to prospect,
meaning we want to be able to continue our right to look for new areas of BLM land
with gold deposits that we may file legal casual use mining claims on.
In addressing the rights of casual use mining I request you also include access rights
to those claims as specified under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
1976.
If you need clarification on any of my comments and requests or more specific location
information of the areas I which addressed please contact me.
F36-1 Thank you for your comment. In general, casual collection of mineral specimens is allowed on public lands. Collection is allowed in most Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). However, site-specific management plans for resources will be developed for each ACEC and National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) unit to address protection of the specific values of those units. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will follow national guidance for management of NLCS units found in Manual MS-6100. Please see response to letter G5 for further information.