

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Cheryl <ldynithawk@citlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 9:22 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

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Vehicular access could be largely, if not entirely, closed in the 15 million acres of conserved lands, such as previously occurred with designation of wilderness areas. A Conservation Management Action (CMA) is identified for renewable energy development for trails, but not for conservation actions. To adequately address the impacts on recreational trails and remain consistent with the mandate to BLM to manage lands for multiple uses, I recommend that it is imperative to adequately address impacts, that this (CMA) item be strengthened and moved to the section on page IV.18-29, under CMAs (Conservation and Management Actions) Applicable to the Entire Planning Area. The revised Conservation and Management Action applicable to all DRECP Areas should read:

If existing designated vehicle routes are directly impacted by development or DRECP activities, including conservation actions (including modification of existing routes and restricted access or full closure of designated route to the public), mitigation shall include the development of alternative routes to allow for continued vehicular access, with similar recreation experience. In addition to continued access, mitigation shall include construction of an OHV touring route which circumvents any closed area and allows for directional and interpretive signs to be placed at strategic locations along the route.

This revised action would allow the hundreds of thousands of people annually to continue to access, use, and enjoy the desert areas of California, rather than be shut out. Many enjoy exploring the rich historical, cultural, rock-hounding, geological, and biological resources of the California deserts. Almost everyone who uses the desert, arrives and accesses areas by vehicle, including accessing trailheads.

Sincerely,

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