

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Andrew Gottscho <andrew.gottscho@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 2:48 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: DRECP comments

California Energy Commission

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To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing to express my comments regarding the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). Overall I oppose this plan. As a biologist, I am deeply concerned about the impact this proposal will have on our public lands in California. I am opposed to private interests profiting from public lands while simultaneously destroying or degrading them. I am in favor of promoting renewable energy in the state of California but I do not think it is necessary to further degrade/develop public wild lands to do so. These lands belong to we the people, and developing them for private interests is not in our best interest. Instead, we should rely on rooftops, parking lots, and other developed or disturbed lands before turning to undeveloped lands that provide habitat for threatened and endangered species. Wilderness is an ever shrinking resource while developed and disturbing lands are ever growing. For example, the recently built wind farm near Ocotillo, CA was unwisely constructed between the summer foraging/winter lambing grounds for desert bighorn sheep, and it is also an enormous eyesore that can be seen from dozens of miles away.. Likewise I am concerned about the impact these giant facilities will have on other sensitive species such as flat-tailed horned lizards and desert tortoises. Let us not sacrifice endangered biodiversity so that private corporations can profit at our expense.

Please make the right decision for California's citizens and endangered species. Thank you for considering my comments.

Best,

Andrew Gottscho
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