

From: Bowman, Randal
To: [Domenech, Douglas](#)
Subject: Re: Passing along a message to Secretary Zinke
Date: Thursday, July 06, 2017 12:36:05 PM


Thanks, will file it as a comment

On Thu, Jul 6, 2017 at 1:34 PM, Domenech, Douglas <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Monument comment.

Doug

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Brandon Finnigan" <>
Date: Jul 5, 2017 1:15 PM
Subject: Passing along a message to Secretary Zinke

Cc:

I appreciate whatever you can do to get this message through him to current Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. He upset me a little bit by not running for Senate, but he's pro-tribe, pro-recreation, and a pro-outdoors man, and I know he will examine each National Monument up for review carefully and fairly.

I am emailing you about Mojave Trails National Monument, established just last year at the request of Senator Dianne Feinstein. Local Congressman Paul Cook also pushed for its protections but with the provision mining operations could continue in the area. Both Cook and Feinstein's efforts intended to block mass development for alternative energy farms in the area, development better suited for Desert Center and other places.

I live in suburban Los Angeles. The Mojave Trails NM is a necessary escape for many of us, seeking to enjoy the quiet, vast wilderness away from lights, tract housing, and freeways. It preserves a stretch of old Route 66, an aging but not yet forgotten icon of car culture and Americana. The establishment of the NM blocked further development of a nearly 1.6 million acre area, bordering Mojave National Preserve.

Why I most enjoy it is the night sky: Amboy Crater NM, located within Mojave Trails, boasts the darkest night sky south of Death Valley. The light pollution from Las Vegas is minimal, and the efforts of the City of Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, and even [the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base](#) provide a nice pocket of dark sky protection to its south and west. It's an increasingly rare resource in the United States: truly dark skies.

I want to invite the Secretary of the Interior, before he makes a decision on Mojave Trails, to come visit Amboy Crater during the upcoming dark sky weekend- Saturday July 22nd into the wee hours of July 23rd, so he can experience first hand what we in Southern California can: the magic of sand and

stars. I have no intention of publicizing it (desert activists can be a noisy bunch), I don't want to ruin the experience and wonder anyone feels staring up.

I know Mr. Zinke has a love of the outdoors, especially in Montana and Glacier NP. He is all too familiar with the beauty of the night sky. But from our latitude down here in Southern California, the Milky Way's core rises so prominently, you can read and walk by its light.

Thanks Ben for forwarding this on however you can.

Brandon Finnigan

(b) (6)