Sept., 5 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

September 12, 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

September 5th, 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

Sept. 5, 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

9/16 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

Sept 6, 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

Sept 1, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Sept. 26

, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my strong support for the designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. . We urge you to act now to permanently protect these three areas in the California desert—one of the most intact landscapes in North America.

Mojave Trails National would ensure connectivity between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. It would preserve unspoiled desert vistas that draw visitors from around the world to the longest undeveloped section of historic Route 66. The inclusion of Iron Mountain Divisional Camp from General Patton's WWII Desert Training Center would conserve important military history. And sacred Native American trails and trading routes would be permanently protected.

Rising dramatically from the Colorado Desert floor to Southern California's tallest peak, Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and critical wildlife corridors connecting the Sierra Mountains to Baja California and the desert to the California coast. And most remarkably, this spectacular resource is within a two hour drive of 18 million people.

Castle Mountains would protect some of the finest rare native desert grasslands in the entire California desert, making it a target location for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest terrestrial mammal. Cultural resources also abound. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Sincerely,

Ernesto Fortin
Ernesto Fortin Desert Hot Springs, CA

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

September 12 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

9/25 , 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my strong support for the designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. . We urge you to act now to permanently protect these three areas in the California desert—one of the most intact landscapes in North America.

Mojave Trails National would ensure connectivity between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. It would preserve unspoiled desert vistas that draw visitors from around the world to the longest undeveloped section of historic Route 66. The inclusion of Iron Mountain Divisional Camp from General Patton's WWII Desert Training Center would conserve important military history. And sacred Native American trails and trading routes would be permanently protected.

Rising dramatically from the Colorado Desert floor to Southern California's tallest peak, Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and critical wildlife corridors connecting the Sierra Mountains to Baja California and the desert to the California coast. And most remarkably, this spectacular resource is within a two hour drive of 18 million people.

Castle Mountains would protect some of the finest rare native desert grasslands in the entire California desert, making it a target location for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest terrestrial mammal. Cultural resources also abound. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Sincerely,

SPENCER HUNT

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely, Tom Kayne

92252

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Jean Kenna

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Nancy Klein
Joshua Tree, 92252

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Robin A. Kobak

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Devore, 92407

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Yucaipa, 92399

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Devore, 92407

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Elyna V. Lavender

Devore, 92407

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Anne Lewis

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Michael Bars-LeMay

Michael Bars-LeMay

Yucaipa, 92399

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Susan E. LeMay

Susan E. LeMay

Yucaipa, 92399

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Raul Lopez

Yucaipa, 92399

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Lutz

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Yostma Tree, CA 92252

bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Yucaipa, 92399

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Sept 26, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my strong support for the designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. . We urge you to act now to permanently protect these three areas in the California desert—one of the most intact landscapes in North America.

Mojave Trails National would ensure connectivity between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. It would preserve unspoiled desert vistas that draw visitors from around the world to the longest undeveloped section of historic Route 66. The inclusion of Iron Mountain Divisional Camp from General Patton's WWII Desert Training Center would conserve important military history. And sacred Native American trails and trading routes would be permanently protected.

Rising dramatically from the Colorado Desert floor to Southern California's tallest peak, Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and critical wildlife corridors connecting the Sierra Mountains to Baja California and the desert to the California coast. And most remarkably, this spectacular resource is within a two hour drive of 18 million people.

Castle Mountains would protect some of the finest rare native desert grasslands in the entire California desert, making it a target location for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest terrestrial mammal. Cultural resources also abound. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Sincerely,

D.E. Monday DALE MONDARY

Desert Hot Springs

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

September 1, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National

September 12 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

September 12 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Sept. 26 , 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my strong support for the designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. . We urge you to act now to permanently protect these three areas in the California desert—one of the most intact landscapes in North America.

Mojave Trails National would ensure connectivity between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. It would preserve unspoiled desert vistas that draw visitors from around the world to the longest undeveloped section of historic Route 66. The inclusion of Iron Mountain Divisional Camp from General Patton's WWII Desert Training Center would conserve important military history. And sacred Native American trails and trading routes would be permanently protected.

Rising dramatically from the Colorado Desert floor to Southern California's tallest peak, Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and critical wildlife corridors connecting the Sierra Mountains to Baja California and the desert to the California coast. And most remarkably, this spectacular resource is within a two hour drive of 18 million people.

Castle Mountains would protect some of the finest rare native desert grasslands in the entire California desert, making it a target location for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest terrestrial mammal. Cultural resources also abound. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Sincerely,

Daisy E. Ramirez

Daisy E. Ramirez
Desert Hot Springs, CA

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

RUTH E. RIEMAN
1188 Tahoe Avenue, Yucca Valley, CA 92284 ph: (760)364-3455 email: rrieman@riemansculpture.com

opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Rieman
Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency, Board of director
Morongo Basin Conservation Association, volunteer and board member
California Desert Coalition, volunteer and vice-chair

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

STEVEN L. RIEMAN 1188 TAHOE AVE., YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92284 ph(760)364-3455
email: riemans@riemansculpture.com website: www.riemansculpture.com

ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

For me personally, the desert environment has significantly influenced my work, since moving from a crowded coastal city to the open spaces of the Mojave Desert in 1979. I feel myself peeling back time and observing the natural processes at work in the universe much like the Indians must have experienced them.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Rieman, artist
sole proprietorship
Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency, Board of director

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

September 19 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

9/25, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my strong support for the designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. . We urge you to act now to permanently protect these three areas in the California desert—one of the most intact landscapes in North America.

Mojave Trails National would ensure connectivity between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. It would preserve unspoiled desert vistas that draw visitors from around the world to the longest undeveloped section of historic Route 66. The inclusion of Iron Mountain Divisional Camp from General Patton's WWII Desert Training Center would conserve important military history. And sacred Native American trails and trading routes would be permanently protected.

Rising dramatically from the Colorado Desert floor to Southern California's tallest peak, Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and critical wildlife corridors connecting the Sierra Mountains to Baja California and the desert to the California coast. And most remarkably, this spectacular resource is within a two hour drive of 18 million people.

Castle Mountains would protect some of the finest rare native desert grasslands in the entire California desert, making it a target location for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest terrestrial mammal. Cultural resources also abound. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Sincerely,

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

LINDA RZEZNIK-ATTIAS

9-16 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

Sept. 6, 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

September 12,
2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

9/26/2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my strong support for the designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. . We urge you to act now to permanently protect these three areas in the California desert—one of the most intact landscapes in North America.

Mojave Trails National would ensure connectivity between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. It would preserve unspoiled desert vistas that draw visitors from around the world to the longest undeveloped section of historic Route 66. The inclusion of Iron Mountain Divisional Camp from General Patton's WWII Desert Training Center would conserve important military history. And sacred Native American trails and trading routes would be permanently protected.

Rising dramatically from the Colorado Desert floor to Southern California's tallest peak, Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and critical wildlife corridors connecting the Sierra Mountains to Baja California and the desert to the California coast. And most remarkably, this spectacular resource is within a two hour drive of 18 million people.

Castle Mountains would protect some of the finest rare native desert grasslands in the entire California desert, making it a target location for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest terrestrial mammal. Cultural resources also abound. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Sincerely,

Lewis Stewart
LEWIS STEWART

Desert Hot Springs

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

9/5/ 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

9/5/ 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

9/6 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

12 Sept, 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

4 - 5 - 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

September 12 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

THE SUN
San Bernardino County's Newspaper
WWW.SBSUN.COM

Editorial: Protect desert land by bill — or by monument designation

San Bernardino Sun, 9/24/2015
Editorial Board

In February, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein introduced a well-balanced bill as a follow-up to her spectacularly successful California Desert Protection Act of 1994.

This editorial board endorsed her S. 414 that same month, citing two main reasons:

• Feinstein's 1994 bill — upgrading Death Valley and Joshua Tree from national monuments to national parks, and establishing Mojave Natural Preserve — had a huge, beneficial impact on San Bernardino County and beyond. The parks draw ever more visitors and their money, to the tune of an estimated $194 million for the region's economy, and more than 2,700 jobs in 2014.

• Her new bill, called the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015, does a great job of balancing desert protection with ensuring the public's continued access to the land for hunting, hiking, camping, off-roading, rockhounding and other recreational uses.

Even while endorsing S. 414, we expressed reservations about the prospects of its getting through a dysfunctional Congress. Nineteen ninety-four was a different time, when a bill like Feinstein's Desert Protection Act could be debated, attract votes from both sides of the aisle in both houses, be sent to the president and become law.

Her new bill was introduced Feb. 9, referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and there it remains. Representatives for Rep. Paul Cook, R-Apple Valley, have said the congressman is working on alternative legislation to address some shortcomings in Feinstein's bill but it has yet to be introduced.

Meanwhile, Feinstein did an end run around her own bill last month, writing a letter to President Obama asking him to designate three new national monuments in the desert.

He should do it — if it comes to that. But first, he should give Congress more time and the chance to act on S. 414 and to consider Cook's alternative. It would be a better outcome for

The Desert Sun
A GANNETT COMPANY

Community Voices: It Is Not Overreach to Establish Monuments to Protect Public Lands

The Desert Sun, 9/21/2015
Dr. Fred Jandt

The California desert is vast, unforgiving and undeniably fragile. The plants and animals that endure do so because they have adapted to one of the harshest environments on the planet. Human habitation of the desert is likewise a delicate matter, and successful communities must adapt to thrive.

We're slowly figuring out that unchecked exploitation of precious desert resources is a dead end. The desert is powerful but complex and doesn't easily bounce back from disturbance. Striking the right balance between responsible use and protection is the only way forward for the cities, towns, and communities of this amazing land.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein is leading a dual-track campaign for stewardship of the Southern California desert. One track is her legislative plan — the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act — to designate national monuments and wilderness areas, expand national parks, and protect rivers, all while ensuring continued recreational enjoyment and providing a balanced approach to renewable energy development.

A separate approach is built around the president heeding a growing call to designate the national monuments proposed in the senator's bill through the Antiquities Act, thus establishing the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountain monuments.

Either of the senator's dual-track strategies would lead to important conservation of public lands and enhanced economic and recreational opportunities for desert communities. Either approach would protect unique cultural, historic, and landscape features, rare and iconic desert wildlife and plants, and current recreational activities.

I suggest that we embrace every opportunity to achieve those goals.

Before Death Valley and Joshua Tree became national parks, they were expansive national monuments proclaimed by Presidents Hoover and Roosevelt in the 1930s using their authority under the Antiquities Act. Death Valley comprised almost two million acres stretching into Nevada, while Joshua Tree totaled more than 800,000 acres. It wasn't until the 1994 passage of the California Desert Protection Act championed by Sen. Feinstein that they were re-designated as national parks as policy makers came to embrace the inherent worth of protecting the natural values of the greater California desert.

Sen. Feinstein has devoted much of her public service career to making sure the best parts of this legendary, enigmatic landscape survive the best intentions of developers, energy companies, and others whose plans for the desert would inevitably rob it of its singular natural values.

INDEPENDENT

Community Voices: It Is Not Overreach to Establish Monuments to Protect Public Lands

Coachella Valley Independent, 9/22/2015

Scott Connelly

The struggle to gain protection for critical land and water resources, wildlife, Native American cultural sites and spectacular landscapes within the California desert has gone on for more than a decade. With support from a wide group of constituents, including off-roaders, businesspeople, faith leaders, conservationists and veterans, Sen. Dianne Feinstein has developed strong, balanced legislation—but Congress has been either unwilling or unable to act.

Her latest proposal, the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, hasn't even been scheduled for a committee hearing, and no bill was introduced in the House. So, the senator pushed forward to safeguard our precious public lands by asking the president to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to declare three new desert national monuments—Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains.

The responses from editorial boards at The Desert Sun, The Press-Enterprise in Riverside and the Orange County Register were disappointing and perplexing. While editors acknowledged the need for protection of the California desert, they chose to advance arguments defying all logic. The Desert Sun applauded Feinstein's conservation efforts and even said the proposed national monuments "would be great additions to the nation's protected lands"—but then slammed the senator for turning to the Antiquities Act to accomplish this goal. Instead,Desert Sun editors argued that we should return to a dysfunctional Congress that is intent on blocking any public lands legislation, no matter how broad and diverse its support in local communities.

In an editorial published by both The Press Enterprise and Orange County Register, Feinstein was accused of being eager to "cede congressional powers" to the executive branch because of her request that the president take action. That argument is certainly hard to swallow, given the senator has spent nearly 10 years trying to push desert-conservation legislation through Congress. The same editorial gave Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Granite Bay, a soapbox to spout misinformation about both the Antiquities Act and the nature of national monuments. As chair of the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands, McClintock has consistently blocked conservation efforts. He proposes that Feinstein and the president would be conspiring "to declare vast tracts of land off-use" if they proceed with the designation of the new national monuments. McClintock claims they would benefit an "elite few granted restricted use." In reality, it would be mining, solar and wind projects that would restrict access to an "elite few," while creating these monuments would benefit the greatest number of people by ensuring recreational access for equestrians, hikers, hunters, rock-hounders and off-roaders on designated routes.

Use of the Antiquities Act—which grants the president the authority to declare national monuments on lands controlled or owned by the federal government—has been used almost

DAILY PRESS

Letters: National monuments needed

Victorville Daily Press, 9/21/2015
Carlos Simenta

I'm writing to urge President Obama to designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments and to thank Senator Feinstein for championing this issue.

As a U.S. Armed Forces veteran, the California desert is, for me, a special place of healing and calm. Many veterans enjoy spending time in the desert with family and friends as they transition back to civilian life. The opportunity to explore dirt roads and go rock hounding, hiking, and camping under star-filled desert skies is a major benefit of living in this region.

National monument designations would protect public lands that benefit us all like Mount San Gorgonio and the headwaters of the Santa Ana and Whitewater Rivers. The Mojave Trails National Monument would protect habitat for wildlife such as bighorn sheep, preserve historic resources associated with Route 66 and railroad heritage, and ensure continued access to some great places to hunt.

I know other veterans who share my strong belief in the importance of protecting and preserving California desert public lands for others to enjoy just as we have. Please use this historic opportunity to designate these national monuments to protect these special lands for future veterans and their families.

— Carlos Simental Victorville

http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20150921/OPINION/150929966/12966/OPINION

as the connective tissue in the California desert for wildlife moving between Joshua Tree National Park, the Marine Air Ground Combat Center and the Mojave National Preserve.

Finally, the Castle Mountains has a unique assemblage of rare plants and spectacular vistas. It's an area where state and Federal agencies have talked about reintroducing pronghorn antelope and is the site of the historic mining town of Hart.

As a longtime resident of the Morongo Basin who cares deeply for the desert, I urge people in our community to support the new desert monuments proposal. As a businessman who has made his living in the Morongo Basin for over three decades, I can attest to the fact that these new designations will have a positive impact on our desert economy.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_2897088c-5e57-11e5-94c3-6f8cef7ddfde.html

THE SUN
San Bernardino County's Newspaper
WWW.SBSUN.COM

Desert business group supports Mojave Trails National Monument: Guest commentary

San Bernardino Sun, 9/9/2015
Suzi Dennett

Sen. Diane Feinstein announces a bill to establish the Sand to Snow and the Mojave Trails national monuments on the 20th anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act at the Whitewater Preserve near Banning, Nov., 6, 2014. (The Sun file photo)

More than a quarter-century ago when the Death Valley Chamber of Commerce was chartered, the board of directors set out on a handshake tour to urge neighboring communities to join forces in a desert alliance. The primary goal was to better serve the eclectic gateway populations that framed and defined the iconic California highway corridor from San Bernardino to Victorville, Barstow, Baker and Death Valley.

The principals reasoned that a joint campaign encouraging travelers to support "off the beaten path" attractions, lodging, dining, shops, service stations and museums might shift the external perception of our beloved Mojave Desert from that of an unforgiving wasteland to that of a welcoming destination of enigmatic beauty, stargazing wonder and enduring wilderness adventure.

Speaking with a unified voice, business owners, members and friends came together to afford travelers the opportunity to experience firsthand the people, places and things that make our desert home unique. Simultaneously, our board sought a way to offset the devastating economic and environmental effects of a regional mining "bust."

Hopeful for a change of fortune that might bring a sustained "boom" while safeguarding our wild and scenic lands, one director, Jim Copeland, was inspired to invite the world to "discover America's outback." To this day, his resolve to accomplish the original mission remains steadfast. In this historical context, the Death Valley Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly supports the Mojave Trails National Monument.

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein has pursued designation of Mojave Trails National Monument for several years through the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, legislation which the Death Valley Chamber of Commerce has supported. Now we

The Desert Sun
A GANNETT COMPANY

Momentum grows in push for new desert monuments

The Desert Sun, 9/8/2015
Kia Farhang

Preservationists are rallying around a push to get President Barack Obama to designate new national monuments in the California desert, which could draw more visitors to the Coachella Valley.

The proposed Sand to Snow national monument would set aside more than 130,000 acres stretching from near Joshua Tree National Park to Mt. San Gorgonio. It's one of three areas Sen. Dianne Feinstein wants preserved.

The California Democrat and others supporting the move want Obama to bypass Republicans in control of Congress and use his executive power to designate the monuments, which combined would cover more than 1 million acres.

"We want our kids to be able to enjoy what we are enjoying right now," said Pastor Frank Ruiz of the Indio Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Sand to Snow monument would permanently protect large swaths of land in Riverside and San Bernardino counties currently used for hiking, camping, and other outdoor activities.

That could attract hordes of new tourists to the area, said Scott White, president and CEO of the Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau. Outdoor recreation is already one of the most common things visitors ask about, according to bureau surveys.

Bolstering outdoor opportunities is "in line with our mission and our vision of what this destination represents, which is health and wellness," White said.

In turn, visitors would likely stay in the Coachella Valley, pouring money into local economies.

Feinstein and others want two more national monuments as well:

The Mojave Trails National Monument, which would protect about 942,000 acres of federal land between Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave Preserve; and the Castle Mountains National Monument, which would expand the Mojave Preserve created about 20 years ago.

Feinstein has long advocated for the California desert. She introduced the 1994 law that turned the Joshua Tree and Death Valley national monuments into national parks.

Palo Verde Valley Times
& Quartzsite Times

COMMENTARY: Latino group wants desert protected

Palo Verde Valley Times, 9/4/2015
Por La Creación

With news that Sen. Dianne Feinstein requested President Obama to use the office's authority under the Antiquities Act to designate three new national monuments - Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains - members of Por La Creación: Faith-based Alliance are urging the President to take action and protect the California desert.

"For many of us in Southern California, it can be easy to take our amazing desert lands - much of which is safeguarded for our children and grandchildren - for granted," said Pastor Frank Ruiz of the Indio Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Coachella Valley and co-founder of Por La Creación.

"It won't always be that way, however, if we don't take steps to further protect them and foster our Latino youth's passion and involvement in caring for the outdoors."

The California desert is facing many threats - proposals to export groundwater from desert aquifers, air pollution, rapid community development and encroachments from renewable energy developments - that risk the future of this region and could have irreversible consequences.

Feinstein has sought greater protections for the desert for several years and in February introduced the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act.

The Antiquities Act provides new possibilities, as Congress has yet to act on the legislation.

"As a pastor, I believe that all of the designations made by presidents under the Antiquities Act protect beautiful landscapes and historic sites where we can connect with our past and our faith," said Pastor Raul Velazquez of New Beginnings Christian Center in Victorville and member of Por La Creación. "President Obama now has the opportunity to protect these special, inspiring places in the desert."

The Antiquities Act is an important tool to preserve open space, natural treasures and historical sites in the U.S. While it only permits Presidents to designate new national monuments from existing public lands, it has been used to create over 130 national monuments and also provided the original protection for Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks.

Since being established by Congress in June, 1906, it has been used by 16 Presidents - eight Republicans and eight Democrats.

"I applaud Senator Feinstein's leadership and respectfully urge the President to act," said Velazquez. "Without taking further steps to protect the natural resources, cultural heritage, quality of life and economic benefits the California desert provides, future generations will not be able to enjoy it as we do today."

California members of Por La Creación have been active in educating their communities

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Letters: No capitulation on desert conservation

Orange County Register, 9/3/2015
Sen. Dianne Feinstein

Re: "Prospective monuments to executive overreach" [Opinion, August 28]: Your editorial rightly notes that I sent a letter to President Obama asking him to use his executive authority to designate three national monuments in the California desert. However, this doesn't mean that I want to cede congressional authority or that I am forgoing my efforts to pass legislation.

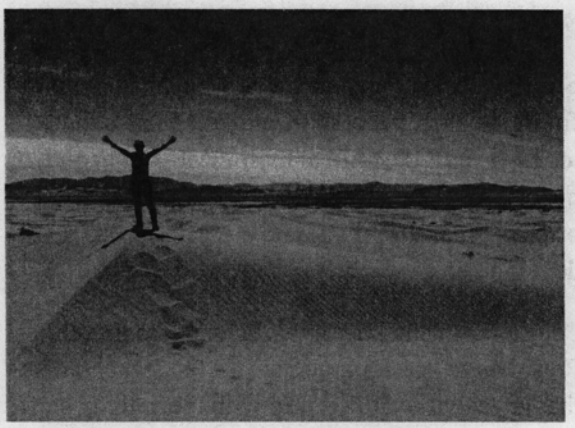
My goal has always been and remains to have Congress pass the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act. It's in the desert's best interests that this legislation, which includes many key provisions beyond national monuments, is signed into law. I am seeking a hearing in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as soon as possible and I urge your readers to push for the same.

But the fact of the matter is that the Senate has not acted, and the House hasn't even introduced companion legislation. Thus, I am forced to pursue a dual-track strategy: pushing for both executive action and the full legislation. Executive action is not my preferred route, but it is one way we can get at least some of the bill's provisions enacted. In the face of congressional inaction, I am not willing to capitulate. The desert is too special of a place to give up on.

Dianne Feinstein
San Francisco
United States Senator

http://www.ocregister.com/articles/desert-680648-executive-legislation.html

and in years to come." said Danielle Segura, Executive Director of the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT).



There are approximately 2,450 native plant species in the desert, and approximately 250 species of migrating and breeding birds, mule deer, desert bighorn sheep, mountain lions, black bears, raccoons, bobcats, coyotes, and numerous reptiles and amphibians.

"Mojave Trails National Monument contains high quality habitat for rare and endangered species. Two Recovery Units for the threatened desert tortoise overlap and are connected by the proposed Monument. The aforementioned bighorn sheep corridor in the Hidden Valley area is also part of the proposed monument area. The areas proposed for monument status also include rare plants like Harwood's eriastrum and the Borrego milk vetch, which supports wild populations of honey bees," said the MDLT spokesperson.

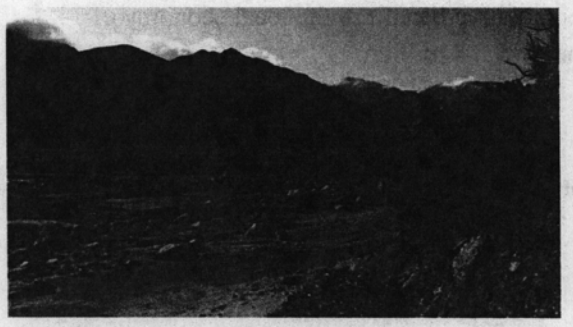
A study from Washington State University found the desert is also an invaluable help in the fight against Climate Change. According to professor R. Dave Evans, deserts like the Mojave can absorb between 4% and 8% of current emissions.

" They are a major sink for atmospheric carbon dioxide, so as CO2 levels go up, they'll increase their uptake of CO2 from the atmosphere. They'll help take up some of that excess CO2 going into the atmosphere. They can't take it all up, but they'll help." said R. Dave Evans, a WSU professor of biological sciences specializing in ecology and global change.

Historic Value

Feinstein's letter mentioned the area's historic value, to which the MDLT spokesperson added:

" Route 66 and other corridors provide a peek into key historical moments, including the great western migration that resulted from the Dust Bowl in the 1920s and was memorialized in the literary classic "The Grapes of Wrath." By adopting the Mojave Trails National Monument, this snapshot into American history will be forever preserved for future generations. It would also leave intact lands that once held the Pacific trade route and other sacred trails for Native American tribes along the Mojave River, ensuring protection of fragile cultural resources.



"Within the proposed Sand to Snow monument, Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa contain approximately 1,700 petroglyphs and other important cultural sites within this area, which are threatened by potential energy development. In addition to the Native American and WWII-related history in this region, the proposed Castle Mountains monument is home to the historic mining town of Hart, which in the early 1900's had up to 1,500 residents; relics from the township can still be found on these lands."

A Thriving Tourist Industry

Hi-Desert Star
Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1957

Letters: Endorse call for national monuments

Hi-Desert Star, 9/2/2015
Peter Spurr

I enthusiastically approve of Senator Dianne Feinstein's call for President Obama to designate Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains as national monuments. These designations will protect important natural resources as well as strengthen our regional economy. Joshua Tree National Park serves as a fine example of how desert wilderness conservation greatly benefits wildlife, nature enthusiasts and local residents alike.

As a longtime Joshua Tree real estate broker, I have seen firsthand how the park directly contributes to the local economy. A record-breaking 1.6 million people visited JTNP in 2014, up from 1.4 million in 2013, when tourists spent an estimated $63 million dollars in surrounding communities. I've had the privilege of working to find vacation retreats and full-time homes for legions of desert wilderness lovers whose enchantment with the area began with a visit to the national park.

Not only do these home buyers stabilize residential property values, many of them invest in and contribute to our local commercial economy. New businesses pop up all the time, further enhancing the vitality of our community.

I wholeheartedly support the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, and while I remain committed to its broader array of designations, I believe immediately granting monument status to three important desert wilderness areas, as Senator Feinstein is requesting, will protect fragile natural ecosystems and bring tremendous economic benefits to surrounding communities. I, thus, encourage President Obama to take swift action in making Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains our nation's newest national monuments.

Peter Spurr, Joshua Tree

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_6ba87d0c-51ca-11e5-af19-67c8b93de7b6.html

For hikers, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts, the Sand to Snow National Monument would be a dream destination. This proposed national monument goes from the floor of the Sonoran Desert to Southern California's tallest peak, Mount San Gorgonio. A visit to this national monument might include hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

Finally, Castle Mountains National Monument offers majestic rocky peaks for hiking and impressive vistas all the way to Nevada's Spirit Mountain, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

By designating these special places as national monuments, the lands would be forever protected and help contribute to our economy. I urge President Obama to act on Sen. Feinstein's request and designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains national monuments. Let's make sure these scenic desert lands are protected for those seeking more unspoiled natural beauty.

Scott White is the president and CEO of the Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau. He can be reached at swhite@palmspringsoasis.com.

http://www.desertsun.com/story/opinion/contributors/2015/08/31/another-view-white-feinstein-monuments/71485868/

• Castle Mountains monument within the Mojave National Preserve on the Nevada border.

It's too bad the only way to get things done in Washington these days is to bypass Congress. But I hope the president sees this as a worthwhile thing to include in his legacy.

http://www.pe.com/articles/feinstein-778559-mural-desert.html

After the rousing reception he got for his San Gabriel Mountains Monument last year, he should grab the opportunity to make this happen in the Inland deserts.

it comes to our public lands. Poll after poll shows a vast majority of Latinos support protecting these resources.

For instance, the 2015 Colorado College State of the Rockies Poll found that when it comes to specific environmental priorities, there is nearly unanimous Latino support for protecting and conserving natural areas for future generations (97 percent), protecting and conserving wildlife habitat (96 percent) and making sure that rangers have the resources they need to take care of public lands and provide services to visitors (96 percent).

As a pastor, I believe that all of the designations made by presidents under the Antiquities Act protect beautiful landscapes and historic sites where we can connect with our past and our faith. President Obama now has the opportunity to protect these special, inspiring places in the desert.

It is our moral obligation to protect the California desert. Without taking further steps to protect the natural resources, cultural heritage, quality of life and economic benefits the California desert provides, future generations will not be able to enjoy it as we do today.

I applaud Sen. Feinstein's leadership and respectfully urge the president to act.

Raul Velásquez is pastor of Iglesia Cristiana Iglesia Nuevos Comienzos in Victorville.

http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20150829/OPINION/150829644

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE PE com

Benefits of a national monument

The Press-Enterprise, 8/27/2015
Tom Kirk

Beginning with Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, our country has a rich history of protecting special places as national monuments, from the statue of liberty to the Grand Canyon. These are places with great natural beauty and cultural significance, and they are important symbols of our country's heritage.

In the Coachella Valley, we know well the importance of preserving our past. The California desert is a window into our region's history, with Native American archeological sites, ancient fossils and Route 66, a highway that John Steinbeck once dubbed "the Mother Road" for helping to create the fastest route across the country.

We also recognize the importance of planning for future generations to get outside and enjoy the wonders of our desert lands.

With such a rich history and important contributions to our quality of life, it's critical that we protect our desert public lands. The proposed Sand to Snow National Monument would not only provide that protection, but it would ensure cohesive management of the dramatic landscapes that provide the Coachella Valley with a scenic backdrop. That's why the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and leaders from across Riverside County have joined a diverse coalition of community leaders, veterans, clergy, sportsmen and business owners in supporting Sen. Dianne Feinstein's effort.

Sen. Feinstein recently sent a letter to President Obama asking him to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains National Monuments. All of these are special places worthy of protection, and the monument designation would complement the land conservation goals that the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission is spearheading.

The Sand to Snow National monument will be easily accessible for the residents of and visitors to the Coachella Valley and a draw with many offerings of outdoor recreation activities. To find it, look northwest from the Coachella Valley and continue on until you see the top of Southern California's tallest peak, Mount San Gorgonio.

Designating the Sand to Snow National Monument would be good for our economy, too. Already, public lands bring visitors to the Coachella Valley; these visitors stay in our hotels and shop in our businesses. The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument along with Joshua Tree National Park are key attractions for visitors to our region, with opportunities for sightseeing, hiking, viewing wildlife and enjoying nighttime skies filled with stars.

Visitors to Joshua Tree, as well as Death Valley National Park and the Mojave National Preserve, contributed $165 million to the economy and supported 2,000 jobs in 2013.

I'm glad the effort to designate these national monuments is underway. I believe it would highlight our region's history, protect great places to get outdoors and offer an opportunity to expand our economy. My thanks to Sen.

DAILY PRESS

Some locals wary of Feinstein plan

Victorville Daily Press, 8/26/2015
Peter Day

While some applaud the idea, several local elected officials disagree with U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's call for the President to establish by executive order a trio of national monuments in the California desert.

Feinstein on Aug. 3 wrote a letter to President Barack Obama requesting "your administration use its authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate three national monuments in the California desert." The three proposed are the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Those in favor of the national monuments plan agree with Feinstein that it will "ensure the protection of important natural and cultural resources." Some also see the designations as a way to bring additional tourist spending and new jobs into the region. They cite the millions of dollars being infused into the economy from visitors to Death Valley, Joshua Tree National Park, the Mojave National Preserve and the Santa Rosa San Jacinto National Monument.

Bill Vincent, a former Pasadena physician who currently is the president of the Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce, has seen first-hand that designating an area can be good for tourism and local businesses. Since Vincent moved to Joshua Tree three years ago, the park has seen an increase in visitors from 1.6 million to 2 million, and they come "from all over the world."

"Those people come down our road and get into our community to get in the park," Vincent said. "Recently I went to lunch in Joshua Tree, and I couldn't get a seat because it was packed with international people."

Feinstein's office points out that since 1906 eight Republicans and eight Democrats have used the Antiquities Act more than 140 times.

"The Antiquities Act is saving things for the future for people who might not be able to see these things otherwise," Vincent said.

But without the checks and balances provided by taking issues before Congress, a presidential executive order could result negatively on off-highway vehicle use and the mining industry, according to several elected officials.

"I've always been a proponent of multiple uses for our public lands, especially in the Mojave Desert," said Rep. Paul Cook (R-Apple Valley). "Unfortunately, use of the Antiquities Act to create national monuments in our desert falls short of the balanced approach that conservation proponents promised us."

First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood agreed.

"I have serious concerns about bypassing Congress to add more restrictions to the public's use of their public lands," Lovingood said. "I support a balanced, multiple-use approach to our desert. We have already set aside 11,000 square miles for desert protection. So it is only fair that we also give legal protection to existing off-road

HIGH DESERT DAILY
is a division of CATALYST FACTOR MEDIA

Local Leaders Applaud Senator Feinstein's Call to Designate California Desert National Monuments

High Desert Daily, 8/25/2015

Local leaders in the California desert are applauding Senator Feinstein's call to designate three national monuments in the region. Senator Feinstein wrote a letter to President Obama urging him to use the Antiquities Act to designate Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument, and Castle Mountains National Monument. National monument designations will mean that these special places will be forever protected and accessible.

"The lands of the proposed Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow National Monuments are incredibly valuable to the Joshua Tree Gateway Communities and other desert towns through conservation in their current state," said Bill Vincent, President of the Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce. "Permanently protecting these lands will provide support and opportunity for future economic development in the region by sustaining tourism and recreation for visitors and attracting retirees and other new residents who love the unique beauty of the California desert."

This push for national monument designations comes after nearly a decade of work by local leaders on legislative efforts to protect the California desert. Now, elected officials, business owners, veterans, local faith leaders, anglers, historians, conservationists and others are turning to President Obama and urging him to permanently protect these special places. In doing so, the President would be following in the footsteps of nearly every president since 1906 – 8 Republicans and 8 Democrats – who have used the Antiquities Act over 140 times.

"We have a moral responsibility to protect God's creation – the California desert," said Pastor Raul Velasquez from Centro Cristiano Nueva Comienza/New Beginnings Christian Center in Victorville, California. "These proposed national monuments are our legacy to pass onto the next generation. I participated in a hike of the desert earlier this year with a group of young people. This experience highlighted the need for our young people to be the stewards our lands, especially at a time of changing demographics. Nearly 50 percent of those living in the Inland Empire are Latinos – and we have a critical voice in the protection of our public lands. That's why I'm adding my support to this effort."

benefits to the region. Visitors to Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve contributed $165 million to the region's economy in 2013, supporting nearly 2,000 jobs. In San Bernardino County, visitors overall generated $52.5 million in local tax receipts in 2010, providing much needed revenue to the county and cities.

"Local residents and visitors from all over have long been drawn to the beauty of the California desert," said Jan Harnik, City of Palm Desert Council Member and Immediate Past Chair of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments. "The desert includes some of the most spectacular scenery in the nation and that has made tourism and recreation an important part of our local economy. The proposed Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow National Monuments offer great benefits to our region. We must protect these places for future generations to enjoy."

The Antiquities Act – Over 100 Years of Bipartisan Use by American Presidents

Since 1906, American presidents have been able to designate national monuments under the Antiquities Act so that future generations can experience our nation's wildlife, rivers, historic sites and open spaces. In using the Antiquities Act to permanently protect unique American places, President Obama would be following in the footsteps of nearly every president since Teddy Roosevelt designated Devils Tower, the Grand Canyon, and other American icons as national monuments in the early 1900s. Important American symbols such as the Statue of Liberty are special places in our nation's history that were also protected by national monument designations.

"The proposed Mojave Trails National Monument holds an important piece of American history – the most intact stretch of historic Route 66," said Jim Conkle, Former Chair of the Route 66 Alliance. "Dubbed 'The Mother Road' by John Steinbeck, Route 66 transformed the West as the shortest route across the country. The lands in the proposed Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow National Monuments also hold ancient fossil beds, Native American sites, and other wonders. National monument designations would protect these important pieces of our collective heritage."

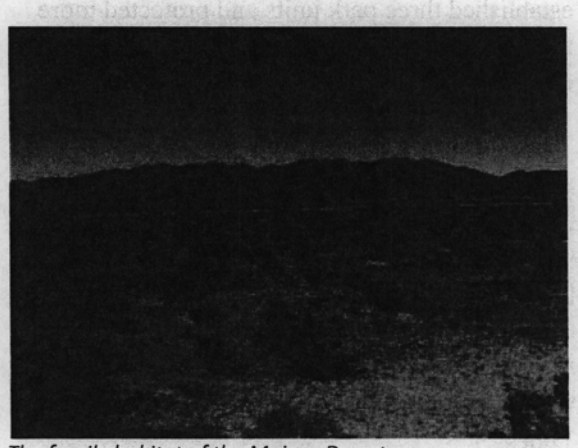
Continued Support for the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015

Local leaders also reaffirmed their support for the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015, legislation championed by Senator Feinstein and introduced earlier this year. This bill offers a balanced approach to protecting wilderness and ensuring the public's access for recreation and tourism activities.

"We remain committed to protecting all of the lands outlined in the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015," said Eva Soltes, Director of Harrison House Music, Arts and Ecology. "This legislation represents a balanced approach that was built from the ground-up by diverse stakeholders. The call for national monument designations is in line with this effort. We want to see every tool available used to protect these special lands for future generations – from national monument designation by President Obama to passing the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act by Congress."

http://highdesertdaily.com/2015/08/local-leaders-applaud-senator-feinsteins-call-designate-california-desert-national-monuments/

renewable energy development through the DRECP, we now also have an exciting opportunity – we are part of a diverse coalition that is turning to President Obama to designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments to ensure significant protections for these desert areas. We must protect these proposed monument lands and the lands in Pisgah Valley so that our desert wildlife can continue to survive and thrive in their native habitat into the future.



The fragile habitat of the Mojave Desert

National Monument designation is made possible through the Antiquities Act, which grants presidents the ability to proclaim "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures and other objects of historic or scientific interest" as national monuments. National monuments recognize and protect cultural and ecological wonders all over the United States and outlying territories and include such sites as mountains, deserts, bridges and statues. Many serve multiple conservation functions – for example, in addition to conserving critical areas for imperiled wildlife, the Mojave Trails National Monument would also protect the most intact stretch of historic Route 66.

California senator Diane Feinstein has agreed that the Golden State's golden sand deserts deserve protection, and she too, is encouraging President Obama to make that protection permanent.

Especially as we look to stem the impacts of climate change by decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels through renewable energy development, we must recognize that protection of intact habitat is key. The DRECP provides the Bureau of Land Management with an opportunity to do the right thing for wildlife: protect the remaining public land habitat for struggling species in the West Mojave, while the proposed Mojave Trails National Monument is an opportunity for the president to make a difference not only for wildlife, but for the many other values this area harbors. The wildlife, scenic vistas, mountains and waters in the California desert deserve permanent protection for all to be able to enjoy into the future.

http://www.defendersblog.org/2015/08/conservation-in-the-mojave-desert-is-monumentally-important/

Obama's biggest land-based monument yet, the 700,000-acre Basin and Range National Monument in southeast Nevada, was proclaimed last month after much behind-the-scenes nudging from Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2015/08/24/stories/1060023842

other provisions," Feinstein said in a statement Monday.

"But the bill has been introduced three times since 2009, and despite strong support from the many stakeholders in the desert – from conservation groups, off-road recreation supporters, counties, energy companies, water districts, business groups and tribes – we have not been able to move it in the Senate and the House has yet to introduce the version I'm told they have been working on for months," she said.

Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act in October when he designated the 541-square-mile San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

Myers said Sand to Snow would be the most diverse of all monuments because it includes two distinct deserts as well as pinyon pine forests, oak woodlands and coastal chaparral.

The larger proposed monument, Mojave Trails, would encompass 942,000 acres between the Mojave National Preserve and Twentynine Palms Marine Corps base. It would include about 200,000 acres that once belonged to the Catellus Development Corp., a former arm of the Santa Fe railway.

The Wildlands Conservancy paid $45 million in private funds to buy more than half a million acres of the unspoiled Catellus lands in 2004.

It involved 160-acre parcels laid out like a checkerboard along either side of the railroad tracks from Barstow to the Colorado River, the result of a grant from the government in the 1800s to spur development.

The conservancy donated the land to the government for protection and public use. Included in Mojave Trails would be "phenomenal land forms," Myers said, including the Amboy Crater, Pisgah lava flows, Cady Mountains and Bigelow Cholla Garden Wilderness. Feinstein also asked the president to include Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa in Sand to Snow, and the Cadiz Valley and Sacramento Mountains in Mojave Trails.

San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood has been critical of Feinstein's bill. An Antiquities Act designation would not protect existing off-road areas and would harm local jobs, he said.

Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks and Mojave National Preserve already have $351 million in deferred maintenance, so it doesn't make sense to add more to the system, Lovingood said.

Feinstein, however, said national monuments provide significant economic benefits. Citing a National Park Service report, she said visitors to the three parks last year spent $191 million in communities near the parks, which supported 2,751 jobs and had a cumulative effect to the local economy of $214 million.

Jim Conkle of Pinon Hills, who has fought for more than a decade to have the area around Route 66 protected, said the designation will help divert people from the interstate onto the old "Mother Road."

"It's a photographer's dream," he said. "Coming around some of those curves and seeing those vistas, those are 'ah' moments."

http://www.pe.com/articles/national-777933-feinstein-monuments.html

say the act has been abused by presidents of both parties to unreasonably deny the public the right to use the land in a multitude of ways.

Feinstein was encouraged to seek presidential action by conservation groups including The Wildlands Conservancy, the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Mojave Desert Lands Trust and Friends of the Desert Mountains.

Interested in the stories shaping California? Sign up for the free Essential California newsletter >>

The Obama administration did not respond to inquiries about Feinstein's request.

The proposed monuments are quite distinct from one another.

Mojave Trails National Monument would encompass 921,000 acres of federal land and former railroad property along a 105-mile stretch of old Route 66, between Ludlow and Needles, and protect wildlife corridors linking Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave National Preserve.

Sand to Snow National Monument, about 45 miles east of Riverside, would embrace about 135,000 acres of federal land between Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. The area includes roughly 24 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail and Big Morongo Canyon, a birding hot spot that was designated a federal Area of Critical Environmental Concern in 1982.

Castle Mountains National Monument would include a desert outback left out of the 1994 California Desert Protection Act due to an active gold mine that ceased operations in 2001. Located near the Mojave National Preserve, the area includes the historic mining town of Hart.

Much of the land under consideration was purchased more than a decade ago by private citizens and conservation organizations, then donated to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in anticipation that they would eventually come under protection of national monument status.

"We're among the California desert lovers who raised the funds to buy a big chunk of these lands," said David Myers, executive director of The Wildlands Conservancy. "So hats off to Senator Feinstein for trying to honor commitments that are now decades old."

Feinstein's request comes nearly a year after Obama designated much of the Angeles National Forest as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. That action came with no government funding.

Amy Granat, managing director of the California Off-Road Vehicle Association, was disappointed with Feinstein's action. "We believe the use of the Antiquities Act to designate any national monument is an overreach of executive authority," she said.

San Bernardino County Supervisor James Ramos, whose district includes much of the land targeted for monument status, expressed mixed feelings about Feinstein's request.

"We want this bill to proceed through the legislative process," Ramos said. "But if the administration moves forward with an executive action, we strongly support protection of existing mining rights in those areas."

Either way, he added, "the new national monuments could transform the California desert into a destination for the entire nation, if not the world."

DAILY PRESS

Opinion by Frazier Haney

Victorville Daily Press, 8/3/2015
Frazier Haney

After living and working in the California desert for 20 years, with its breathtaking vistas, iconic wildlife and priceless cultural artifacts, I know that it's a one-ofa- kind place. Residents and visitors to the desert can enjoy the oases in Big Morongo Canyon that draws migrating birds, hike around the striking 250-foot volcanic cone of Amboy Crater or hunt for fossils and geodes.

California desert public lands support important watersheds, as well as unique plants and animals like majestic bighorn sheep and Joshua trees that draw visitors from around the world. Our desert lands are also a fragile landscape, easily scarred and slow to heal.

California has a goal to obtain one-third of our energy from renewable energy sources by 2020. In the desert, we're seeing interest and urgency in developing new wind and solar farms. This new intensive land use is in addition to existing uses, like off highway vehicle use, mining and military training. With the fragile landscapes in our region it is incredibly important that we find a balance between the various uses of the lands. We need a plan to map out unique and important lands to set aside for conservation, and to designate locations for renewable energy development in areas with the least conflict.

That is the intention behind the DRECP, the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, which will affect over 10 million acres of California desert public lands.

The Bureau of Land Management is handling this process, and as a part of identifying places that will be developed for renewable energy, also has a mandate from Congress to designate public lands in our California desert as part of the National Conservation Lands. Across the U.S., these lands are a spectacular collection of landscapes, rivers and trails in which visitors can experience the American West.

The DRECP is not yet a done deal — indeed, there is still much to be decided. For one thing, it is very important that BLM designate the lands for conservation as permanently protected. This has not yet been confirmed — but was the original intention behind the Congressional mandate. It should be our legacy to pass on these lands to future generations to enjoy. A bipartisan poll conducted by FM3 and Public Opinion Strategies in June shows that by a ratio of 2 to 1, California desert residents support the planning effort, particularly if it avoids pristine landscapes and directs development towards already disturbed lands.

Furthermore, there are certain areas in the California desert that are important for mining. But the lands set aside for conservation in the DRECP should be managed as all other National Conservation Lands — protected from new mining. This action would not affect existing rights and interests, or the ability for rockhounds to collect on the surface inside existing limits. Based on the recent poll, by a margin of almost 2 to 1, local residents believe that mining should not occur on lands set aside for conservation. And, by that same margin, desert residents

Mohave Valley DAILY NEWS

Route 66 motorists advocate for national monument

Mohave Valley Daily News, 7/31/2015
Rodd Cayton

A group that passed through Laughlin earlier this week is pushing to ensure that travelers can still get their kicks on Route 66.

What better way to raise awareness of an effort to have a national monument named in the Mojave Desert than to hit the road?

The group spent much of July traversing the historic route, from Southern California to Chicago and back, seeking signatures on online petitions supporting the establishment of the Mother Road-Mojave Trails National Monument.

Or, one could just sign the van the group travels in.

Jim Conkle and other team members guess that the van, which they call a "traveling petition," now contains 2,500 to 5,000 signatures.

"We had a goal of getting a couple thousand," Conkle said. "We've exceeded that."

Many of the signatures, found everywhere on the vehicle except on the chrome and hubcaps, include short messages of support.

They read "good luck," "happy days ahead," and "support the road ... it lives on," among others.

Conkle said that a family from The Netherlands gave the group a pair of porcelain shoes on day one of the trip as a good-luck charm.

The group has a large number of members, but four made the cross-country drive: Conkle, Lucas Wilgers of The Wildlands Conservancy and volunteers Kimberly Hill and Esther Hollister.

The proposed monument would preserve 941,000 acres in San Bernardino County.

Conkle said that uses such as mining, ranching and open range would be grandfathered in where they now exist. He also said that the group doesn't wish to ban future solar and wind-power operations, but would like to work with authorities to make sure that such uses don't ruin the current vistas.

"They shouldn't be where they would ruin the viewscape or habitat," he said.

Also, he said, the monument would not mean the addition of "fences, gates or entry fees."

Conkle said that even though the proposed monument is in California, it has supporters nationwide.

THE SUN
San Bernardino County's Newspaper
WWW.SBSUN.COM

Desert renewable energy plan good for the state

San Bernardino Sun, 7/31/2015
Patrick Donnelly

Re "Polls show high support for desert plan on conservation, wind and solar power" (July 8):

As the The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan nears completion, it was reassuring to hear that in a new bipartisan poll, most desert residents support the plan.

The overwhelming majority of those polled want the DRECP to balance significant conservation designations with prudent decisions about renewable energy development.

The DRECP will determine the future of our scenic landscapes and iconic wildlife, and the shape of development in California desert communities. It will also affect the future of groundwater in the Amargosa Watershed, which is critical to the survival of humans and wildlife alike in our region.

This is our chance to choose the best path forward for our deserts for the next several decades. The iconic public lands set aside for conservation in the DRECP should be made permanent additions to the National Conservation Lands.

Our geological wonders, hidden oases and endangered species, such as the Amargosa vole, deserve lasting protection so that future generations will be able to experience them.

— Patrick Donnelly, Shoshone The letter writer is executive director of Amargosa Conservancy

http://www.sbsun.com/opinion/20150731/desert-renewable-energy-plan-good-for-the-state-letters

desert. They come to find adventure and solitude. In San Bernardino County alone, visitor-generated tax receipts totaled $52.5 million in 2010. In 2013, visitors to Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve pumped $165 million into the region's economy, supporting nearly 2,000 jobs. These numbers show that our public lands are an important part of our economic future and quality of life.

These days when I go to Deep Creek, I often bring my grandkids. I point out the moving sticks at the bottom of the stream that are actually aquatic insects in disguise, teach them the basics of angling, and wade with them in the cool waters. I hope these waterways and lands will be protected for them to enjoy many years into the future. I encourage all of our leaders, from local officials to Rep. Paul Cook and Senator Feinstein to the White House, to ensure these public lands will be there for future generations by supporting the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act.

William Reeves is a volunteer with the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps

http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20150710/OPINION/150719981/

public lands to Joshua Tree, Death Valley, and Mojave National Preserve, and designate 77 miles of precious California waterways as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

These lands contain Native American petroglyphs, mule deer, and the rugged desert vistas that our corner of the state is known for. I'm hopeful and inspired that future generations of children will have their own "Incredible Journeys" in these protected lands. I encourage our local legislators and congressmen Ruiz and Paul Cook to also be leaders on this important issue for our children.

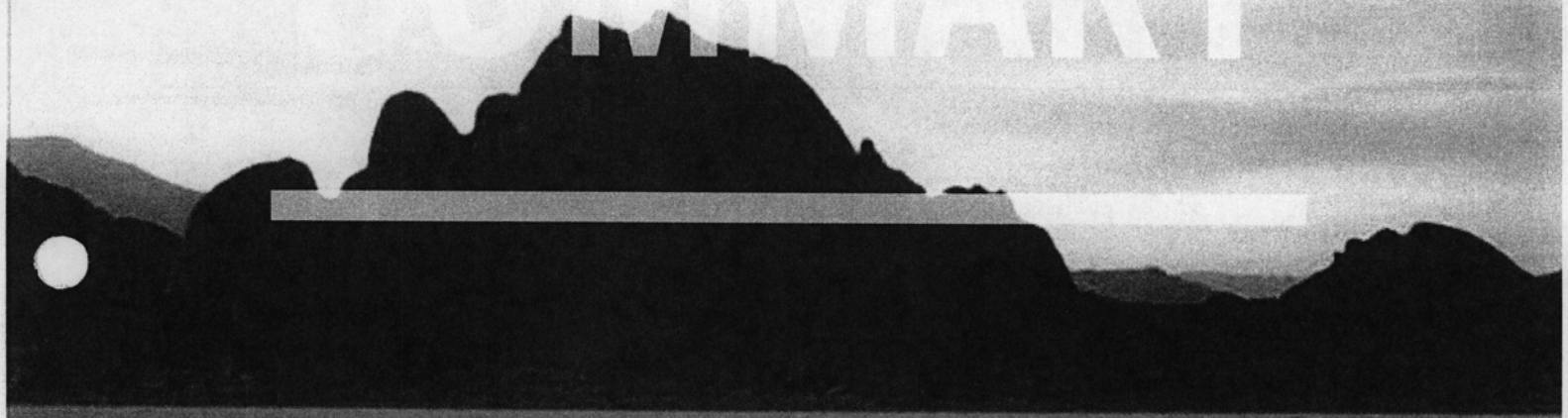
Scott Robinson is executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Cathedral City. Email him at srobinson@bgcccity.org.

http://www.desertsun.com/story/opinion/contributors/2015/05/14/valley-voice-robinson-parks-protection/27339581/

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

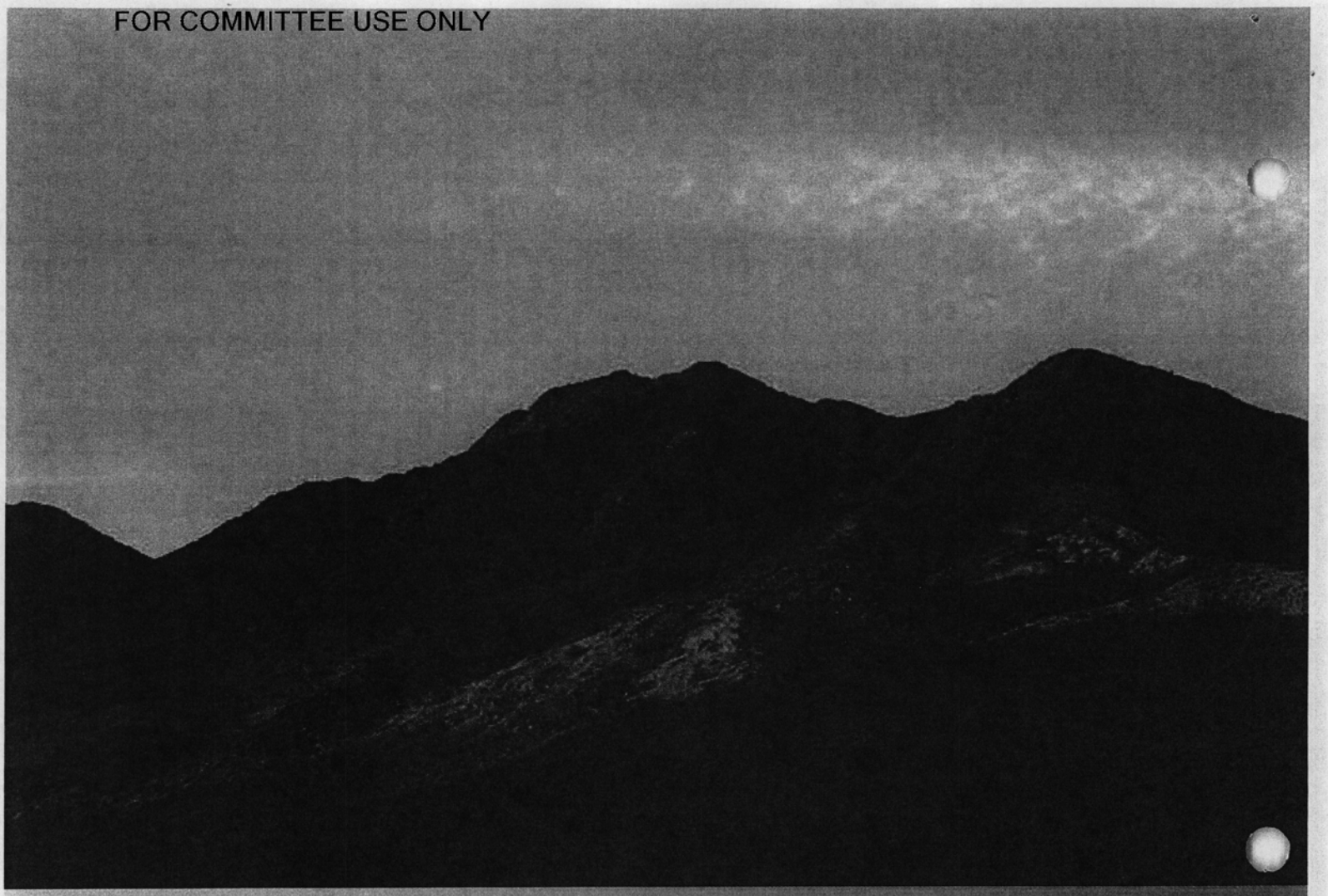
The Sonoran Institute

REPORT SUMMARY



The California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015: Impacts on Mining and the Regional Economy

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



INTRODUCTION AND KEY FINDINGS

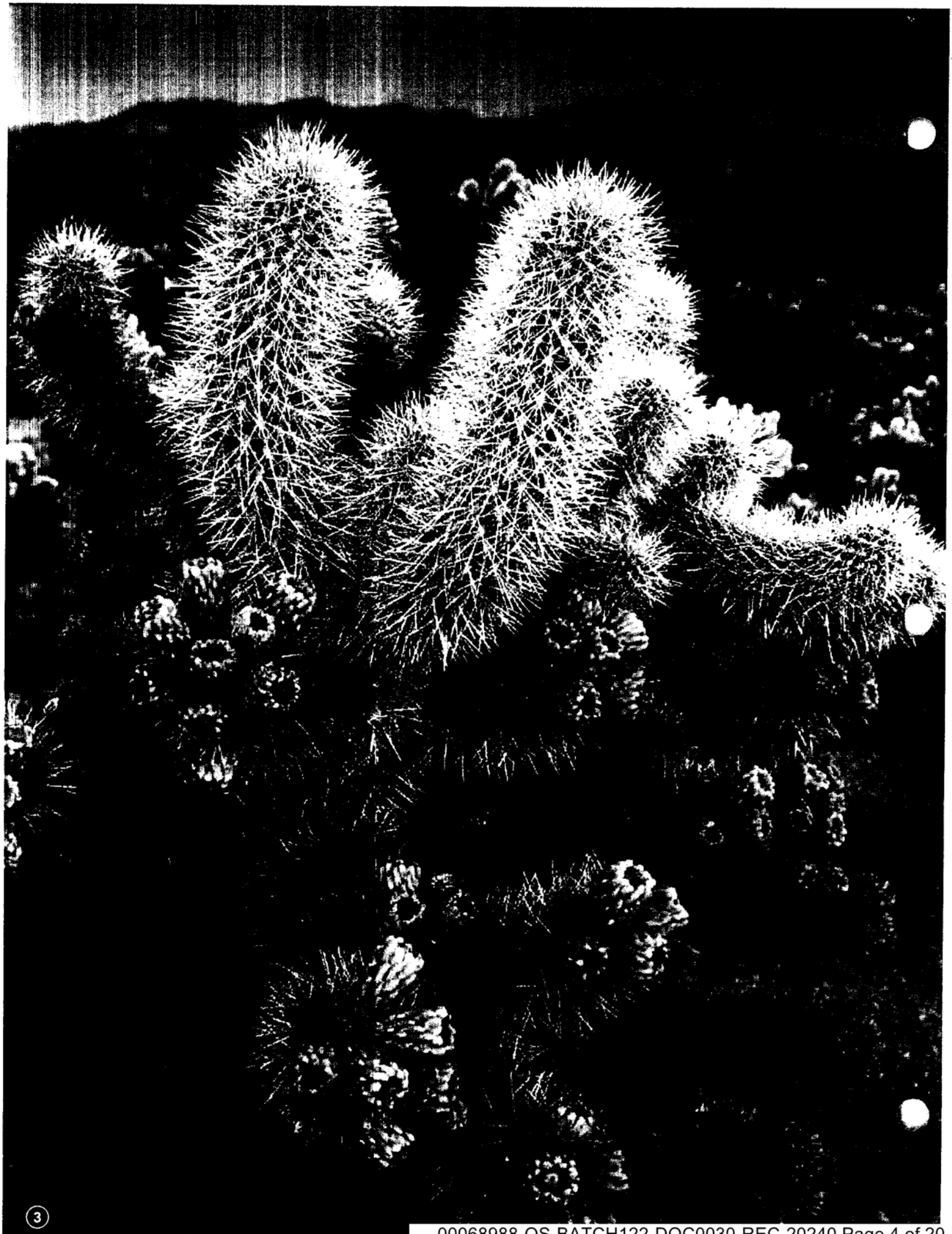
This report explores the economic contribution of mining in the California Desert and assesses the impact of the proposed California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (CDCRA) of 2015 on mining activities in the region. The report concludes that the legislation will have minimal impact on mining and builds on the natural and cultural attractions that have been significant drivers of the regional economy for the past four decades.

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0030-REC-20240 Page 2 of 20

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

AMONG THE REPORT'S FINDINGS

- Over the past four decades the California Desert has experienced steady growth in population, employment, and personal income. This growth is significantly driven by businesses and demographic changes that benefit directly from preserving the desert.
- Since 1970, mining has played a small role in total private employment. In the last 25 years, mining has contributed no more than 0.25% of the region's overall employment. Within the California Desert only 5 mining operations employ more than 100 employees.
- Current mining operations, existing mining claims, and future mineral development in areas of high potential are all preserved and excluded from the conservation areas within the legislation.



③

Background

The California Desert region covers approximately 20 million acres of southeastern California. The desert's wildness and remoteness are among its biggest assets, offering significant recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, rock climbing, hunting, horseback riding, exploring historical sites, and wildlife watching. These activities contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to local communities and the regional economy. The desert's natural splendor has also spurred development. The military makes use of the desert's vast undeveloped terrain to test new equipment and train combat forces.

The California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, introduced in 2015 by Senator Feinstein, builds on a 6-year legislative effort to protect spectacular desert lands and provide for recreation. This effort has included significant outreach and community input, and has garnered impressive support throughout the California Desert.

The CDCRA would create two new national monuments:

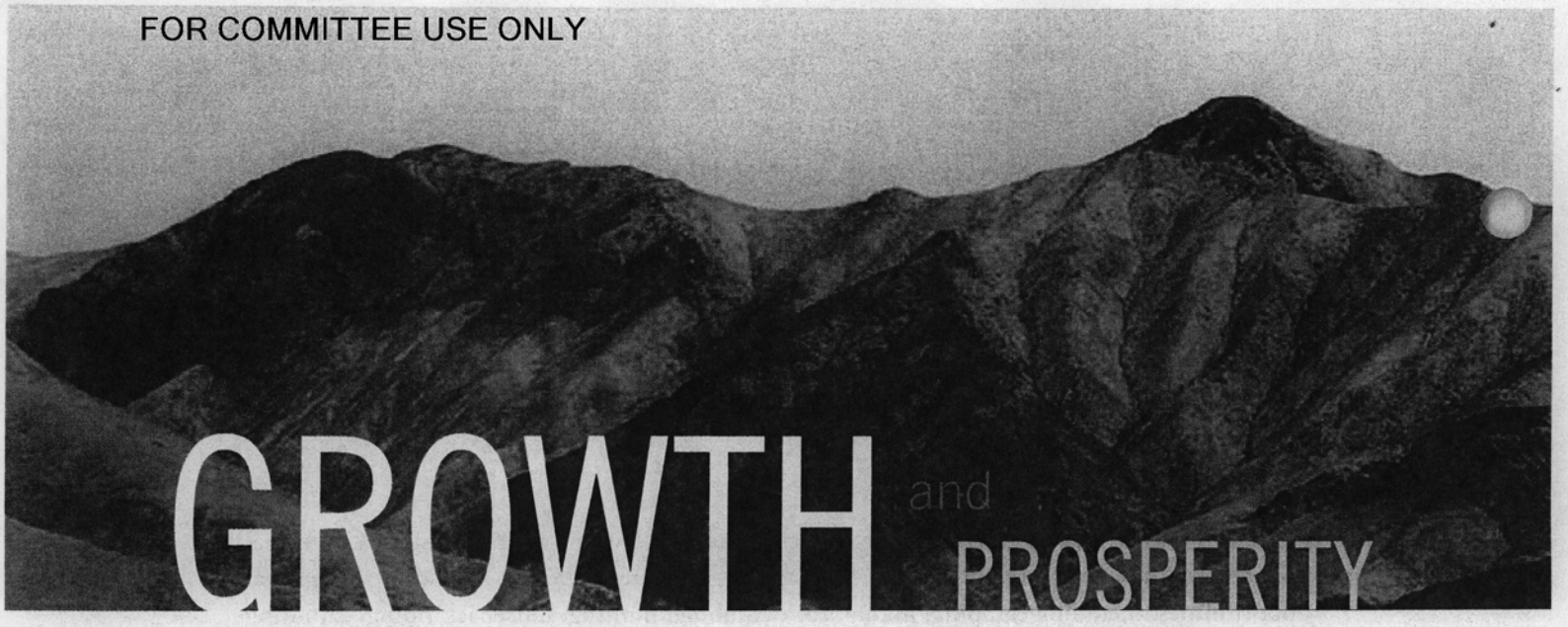
- **The Mojave Trails National Monument, which would encompass 965,000 acres of land, including the former Catellus-owned lands that were donated to the U.S. government with the intention of preservation.**

- **The Sand to Snow National Monument, which would encompass 135,000 acres of land from the desert floor of the Coachella Valley to the peak of Mount San Gorgonio.**

In addition, the proposed legislation would designate new Wilderness Areas, the Alabama Hill National Scenic Area, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and existing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Off-Highway Vehicle areas as permanent Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation areas. The CDCRA would also add existing public lands in the Castle Mountains to the Mojave National Preserve and other public lands to Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks.

This report looks at the economic contributions of mining in the California Desert region and the potential impact of the CDCRA on current and future mining activities. It is intended to inform ongoing general public discussions about the CDCRA and public lands conservation in the California Desert. It focuses on the 7 desert counties that are part of the California Desert Conservation Area: Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



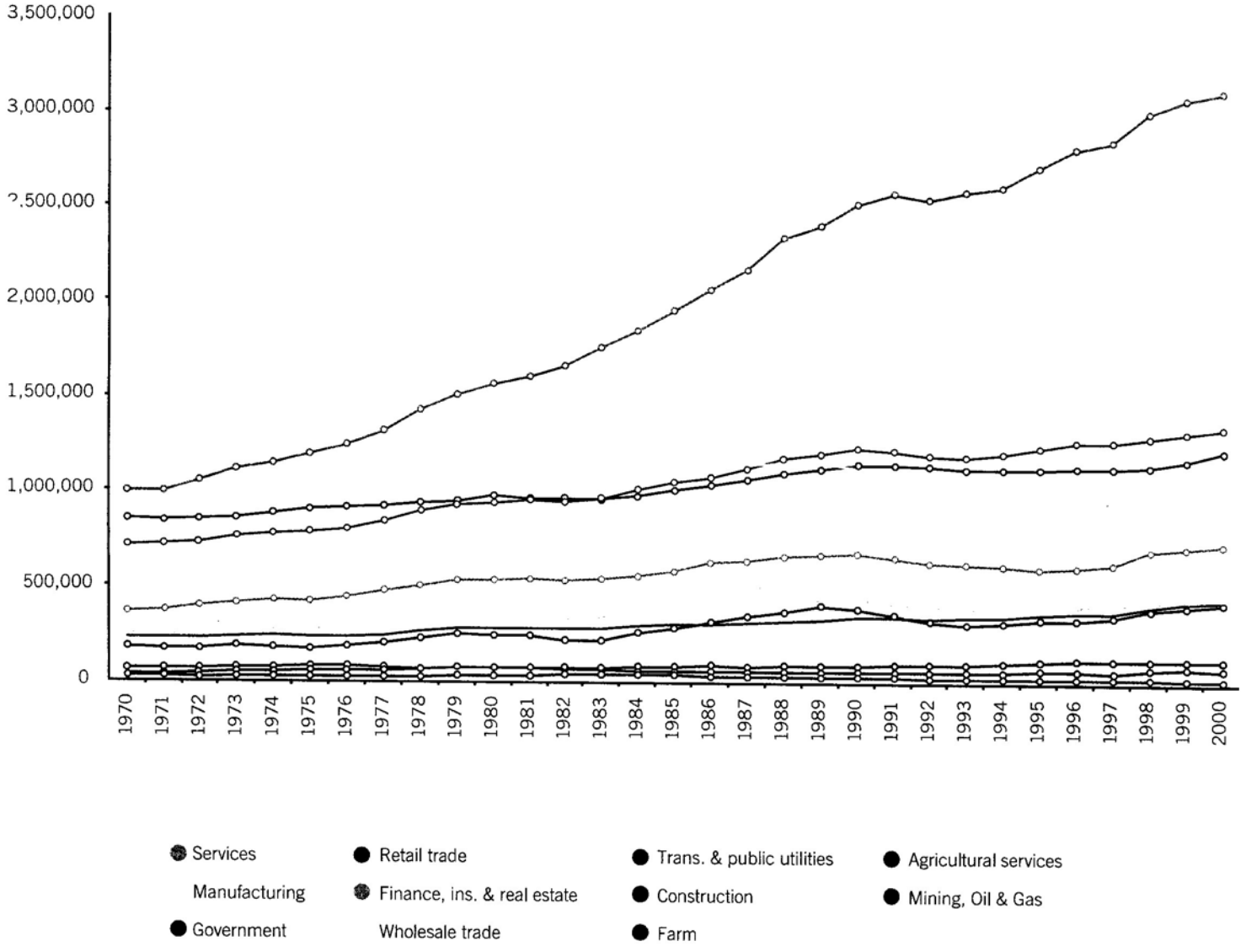
GROWTH and PROSPERITY

The Desert Economy and Mining

While the California Desert is sparsely populated relative to other areas, the region's smaller cities and towns have experienced significant population growth over the past 4 decades. Despite the region's growth, mining's contributions to the desert economy have been modest, with jobs in mining playing a small role in total private employment (see Figures 1 and 2). In the last 25 years, mining's contribution to total private employment in the 7 desert counties has not exceeded 0.25% (see Figure 3). Most recent total regional employment estimates (2013) range between 3,000 and 5,600 direct employees. At a local level, mining does provide a more significant contribution. In Kern and Inyo counties in 2013, employment in all mining (including oil and gas) represented 5.5% and 4.4% of total private employment; San Bernardino County had 0.2% of employment in mining for the same time period. For small communities, such as Lucerne Valley or Borrego Springs, mining operations that employ 25, 50, or 100 persons are considered major employers.

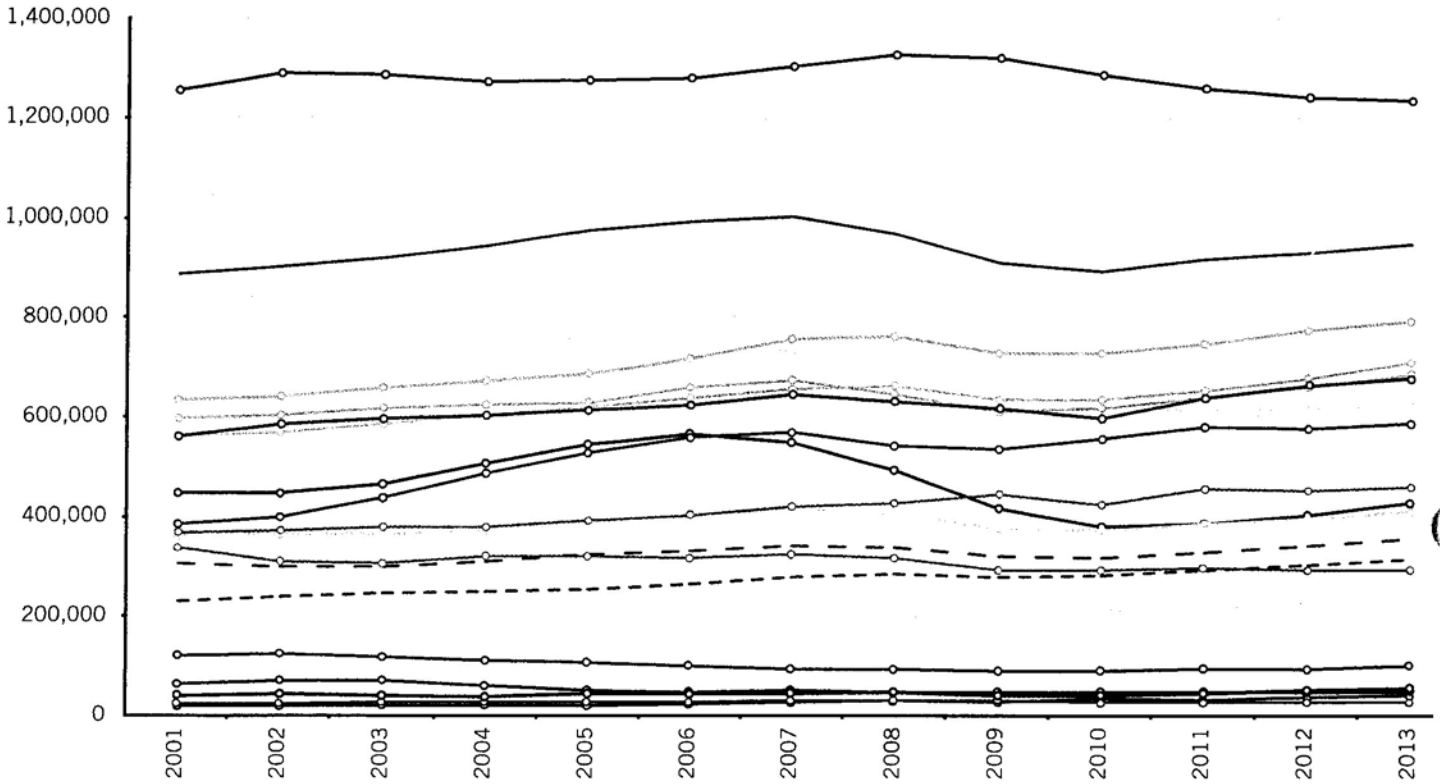
00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0030-REC-20240 Page 6 of 20

Figure 1. **Employment by Industry, 7 Desert Counties, 1970–2000**



Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Tables CA25 and CA25N.

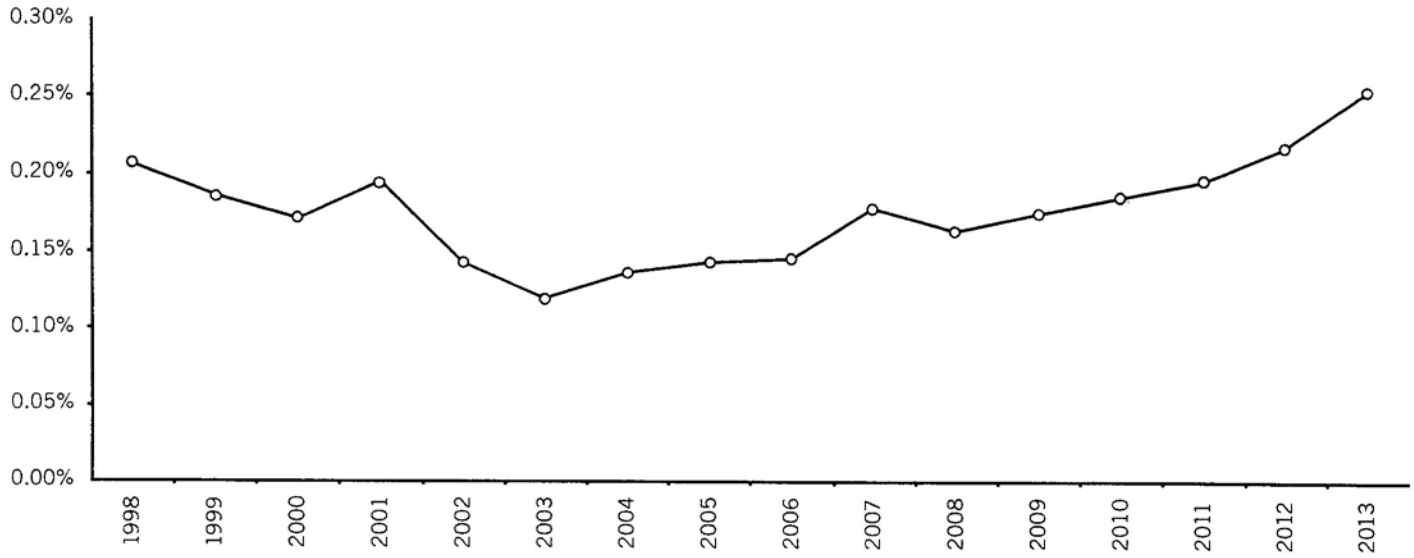
Figure 2. Employment by Industry, 7 Desert Counties, 2001–2013



- Government
- Retail Trade
- Manufact. (incl. forest products)
- Health Care, Social Assistance
- Professional, Scientific, Tech.
- Admin., Waste Services
- Other Services (excl. public admin.)
- Accommodation, Food Services
- Construction
- Real estate, Rental, Leasing
- Finance, Insurance
- Wholesale Trade
- Information
- Transportation, Warehousing
- Arts, Entertainment, Recreation
- Educational Services
- Management of Companies
- Farm
- Agric. Services, Forestry, Fishing
- Utilities
- Mining, Oil & Gas

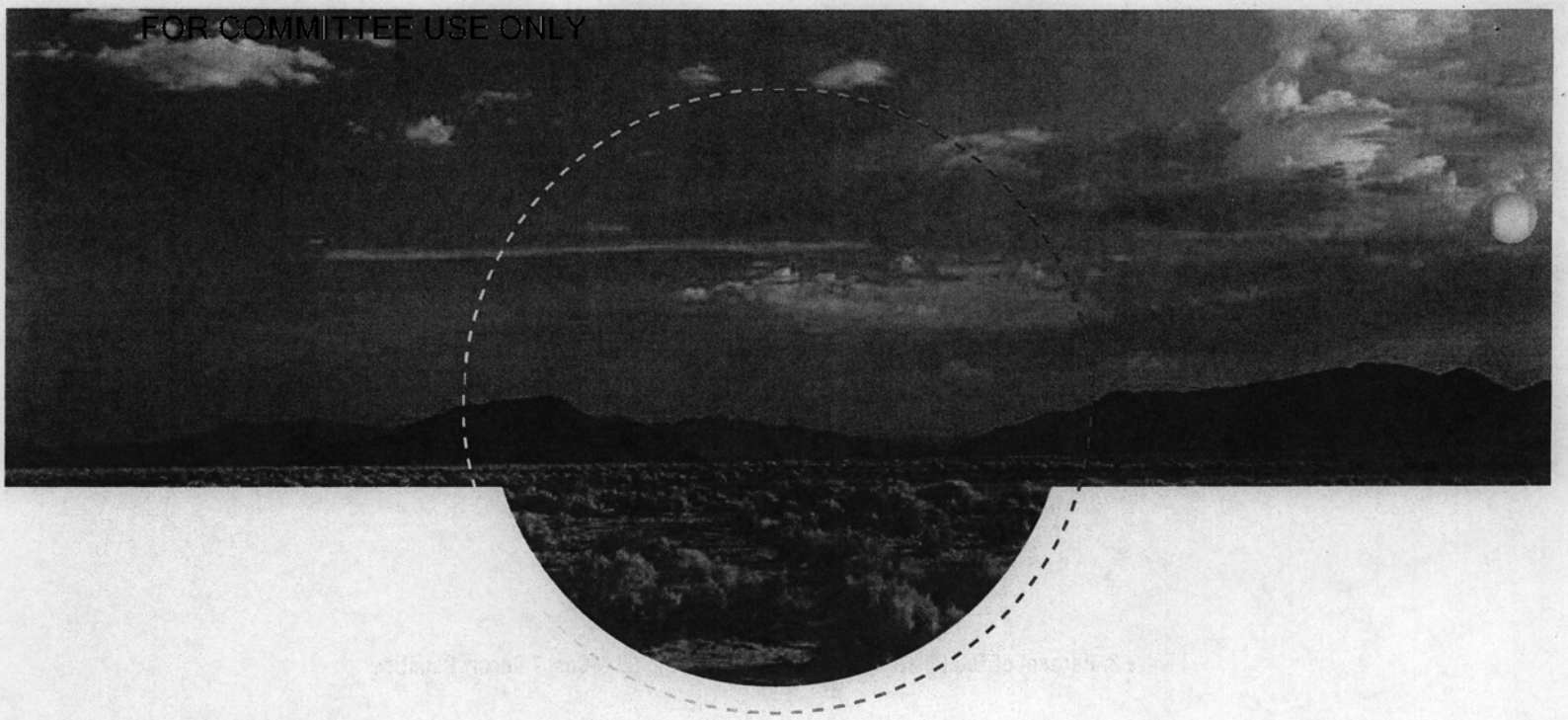
Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Tables CA25 and CA25N.

Figure 3. Percent of Total Private Employment in Mining, Oil & Gas, 7 Desert Counties



Source: US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, 2015.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



A reflection of its modest contribution to regional employment, mining's contribution (including oil and gas) to overall labor-related income is small in the desert region counties (see Figures 4 and 5). In 2013, the contribution of mining to overall labor-related income in the desert region was approximately 0.8%. Between 1970–2013, that contribution has fluctuated between 0.3% and 1.0%, with no defined trend, while overall labor-related earnings between 1970 and 2013 increased by 132%. Non-labor income increased by 287% in that time period.

Even when direct, indirect, and induced impacts on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are considered, the contribution of mining to nominal GDP in 2014 was estimated at between 0.04% and 4.12%. When only the desert portions of these counties are considered, the contribution of direct, indirect, and induced impacts on GDP due to mining activities were highest in Kern (25%), Inyo (8%), and San Bernardino (5%) counties. These impacts likely represent upper limits, as the multipliers used were developed for use at the state level and likely overestimate impacts at the county and sub-county level.

Mining activity is influenced by many factors, depending on the specific commodity. Industrial minerals currently being mined in the California Desert, such as construction aggregate and cement inputs, are influenced by local and regional demand and supply. Mining for most metals such as gold, base metals and rare earth elements is affected by global supply/demand factors. The availability of public lands for mineral exploration and mining has a much smaller influence on mining activity than regional and global economic forces have on mining activity.

THE DESERT ATTRACTS MILLIONS OF VISITORS

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0030-REC-20240 Page 10 of 20

MINING'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CALIFORNIA DESERT'S ECONOMY IS OVERSHADOWED BY GROWTH IN OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS THAT TRACK CLOSELY WITH ECONOMIC TRENDS THROUGHOUT THE INTERIOR WEST.

Mining's contribution to the California Desert's economy is overshadowed by growth in other economic sectors that track closely with economic trends throughout the interior West. These trends reflect the increasing importance of regional amenities, notably natural and cultural attractions, and are defined by growth in Services, Professional, and Government sectors, and Non-Labor Income. As the figures below indicate, these sectors and income sources have grown over the past 4 decades—serving as the key economic drivers throughout the region.

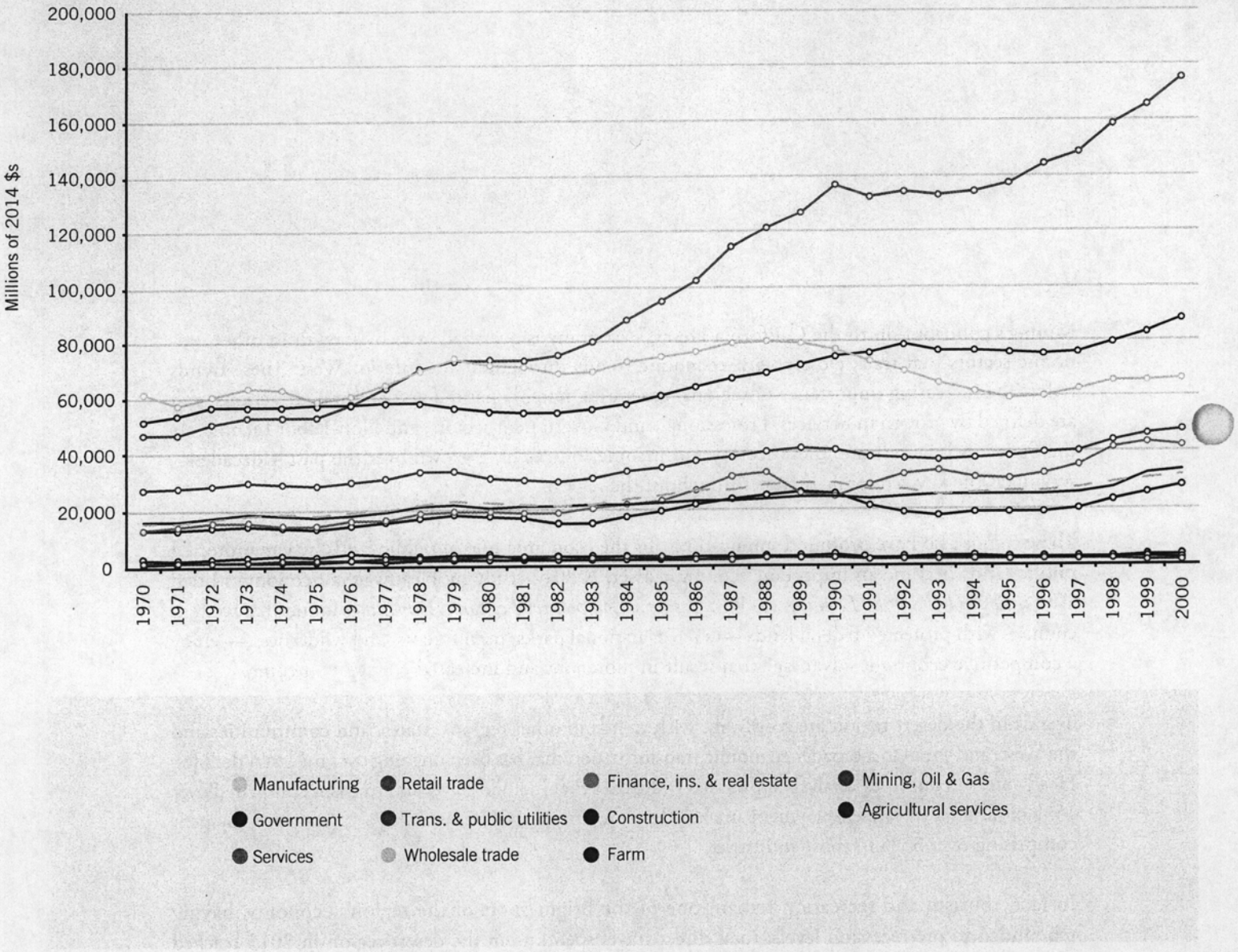
These trends also have profound implications for the economic role of public lands, where protected public lands become an important economic asset. A 2012 study by Headwaters Economics titled *West is Best: How Public Lands in the West Create a Competitive Economic Advantage* found that western counties with protected federal lands — such as national parks, monuments, and wilderness — enjoy a competitive economic advantage that result in more jobs and increased per capita income.

Trends in the desert region are consistent with trends in other regions, states, and communities and the West, and speak to a broader economic transformation that has been ongoing over the last 4 decades. Headwaters Economics' analysis shows that industries that include travel and tourism comprised over 15% of all total private employment in all 7 desert counties in 2013, with Inyo County employment comprising over 33% in those industries.

In fact, tourism and recreation remain one of the bright spots of the region's economy, having rebounded to pre-recession levels: total direct travel spending in the desert region in 2013 reached $6.2 billion. The desert attracts millions of visitors annually and local economies benefit from visitation to the area. In 2014, the area welcomed over 3.2 million visitors to the 3 desert national parks and almost 4.2 million visitors in 2013 to areas managed by BLM California Desert District Offices.

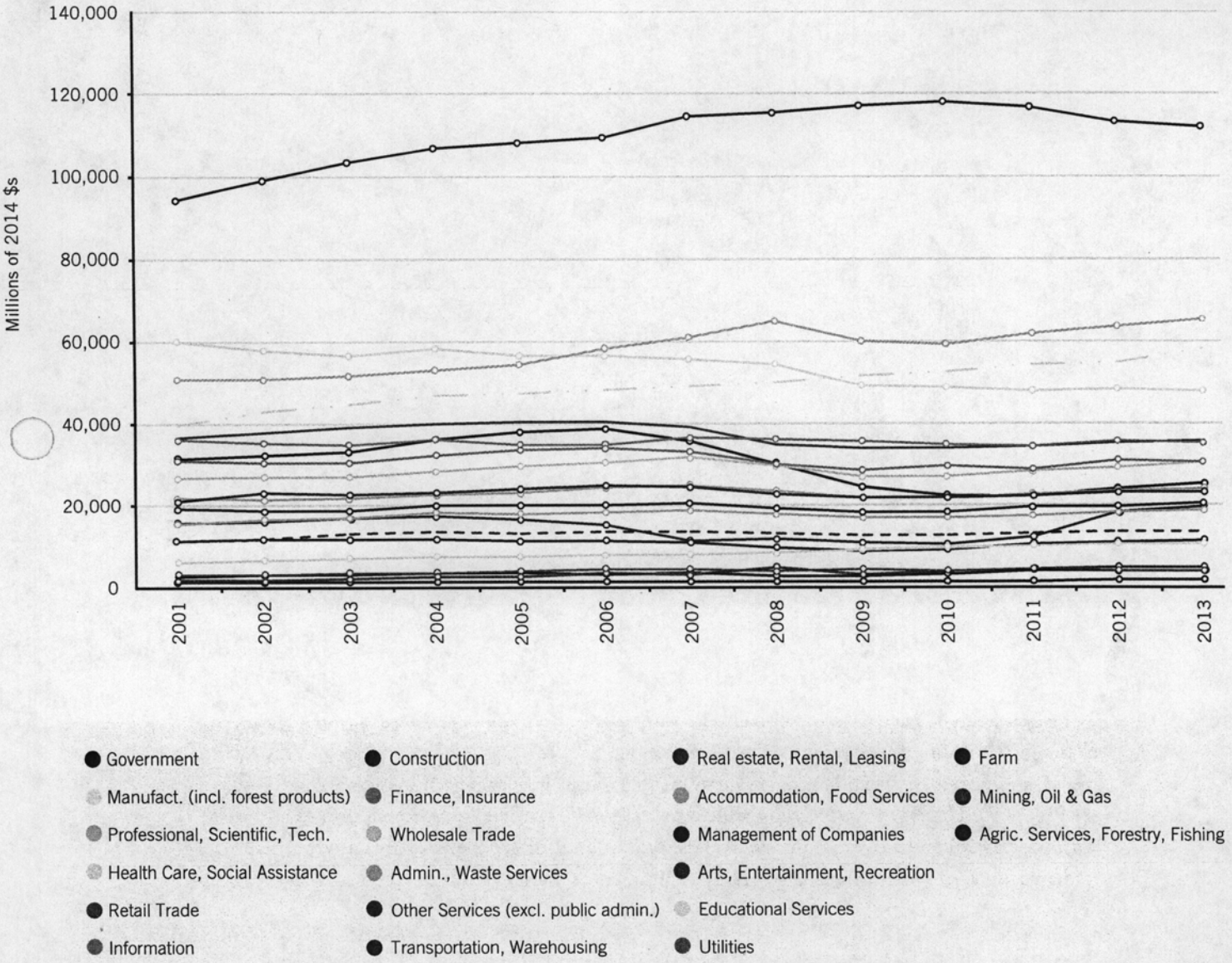
ANNUALLY AND LOCAL ECONOMIES BENEFIT FROM VISITATION TO THE AREA.

Figure 4. Personal Income by Industry, 7 Desert Counties, 1970–2000



Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts.

Figure 5. Personal Income by Industry, 7 Desert Counties, 2001–2013



Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

The California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act and Mining

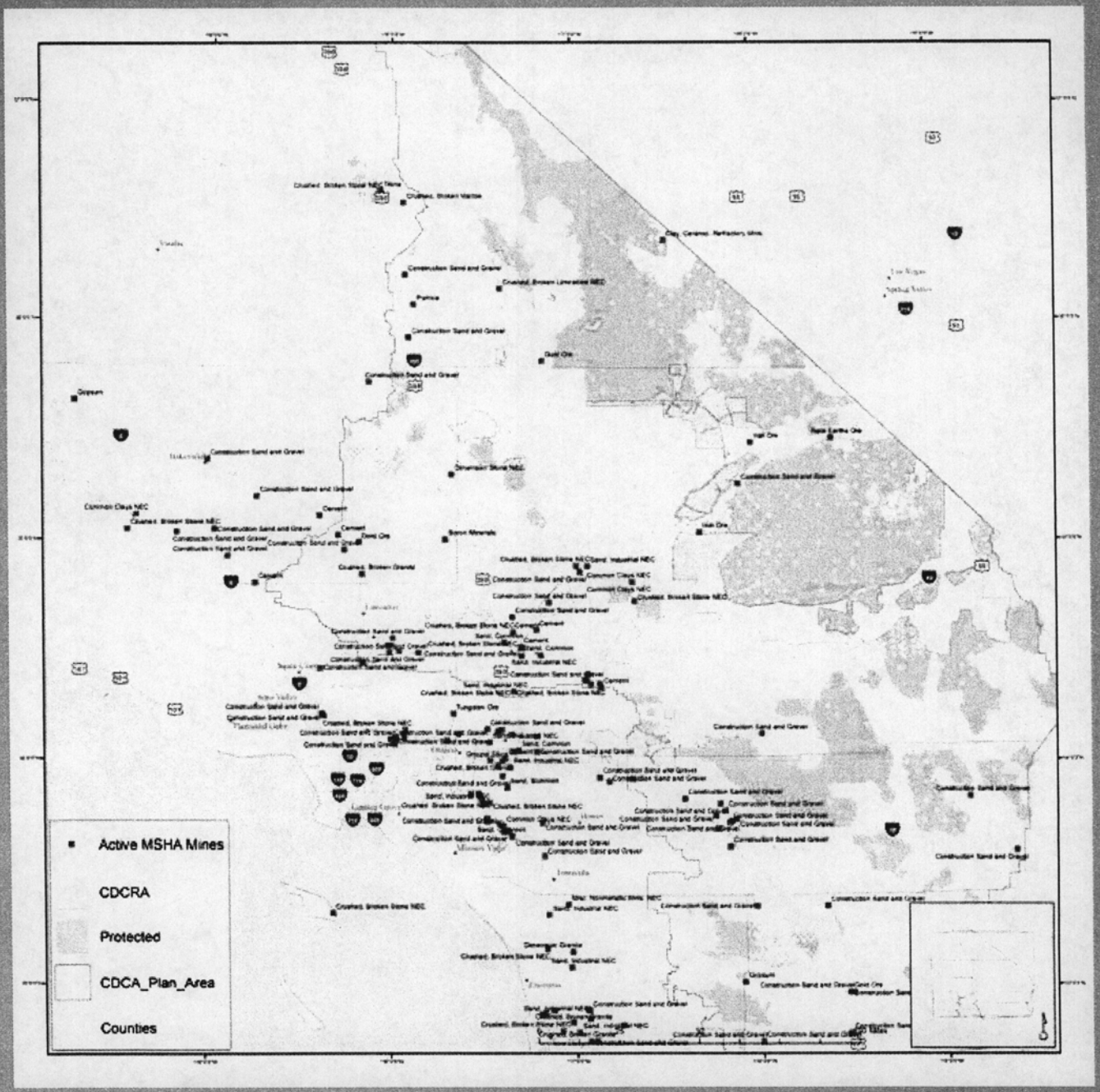
The California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015 is proposed legislation that would provide for conservation, recreation, and renewable energy development in the California Desert. Through its extensive conservation designations, the legislation seeks to preserve the region's natural and cultural attractions, which have fueled much of the region's growth and prosperity. Protected public lands such as designated wilderness, national parks, national preserves, and national monuments protect key amenities that serve as the foundation for the region's tourism and recreation businesses, military operations, real estate development, and other economic sectors.

As currently drafted, the legislation recognizes and protects existing mining claims and minimizes impacts on current mining operations. A careful screening of the location of current activities and operations indicates few impacts (see Figure 6). Any effort to address these impacts would need to take into consideration the broad range of resource values in these areas.

The legislation will have minimal impacts on future mining activities in the California Desert due to the existence of extensive mineral potential outside of the proposed boundaries and the Act's preservation of existing valid mineral rights (many coinciding with high mineral potential zones, see Figure 7). Uncertainty regarding additional mineral potential in the legislation juxtaposed with the clearly identified environmental and cultural values of these lands, demonstrates that the tradeoffs between these two sets of values in favor of conservation would be a wise societal choice.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

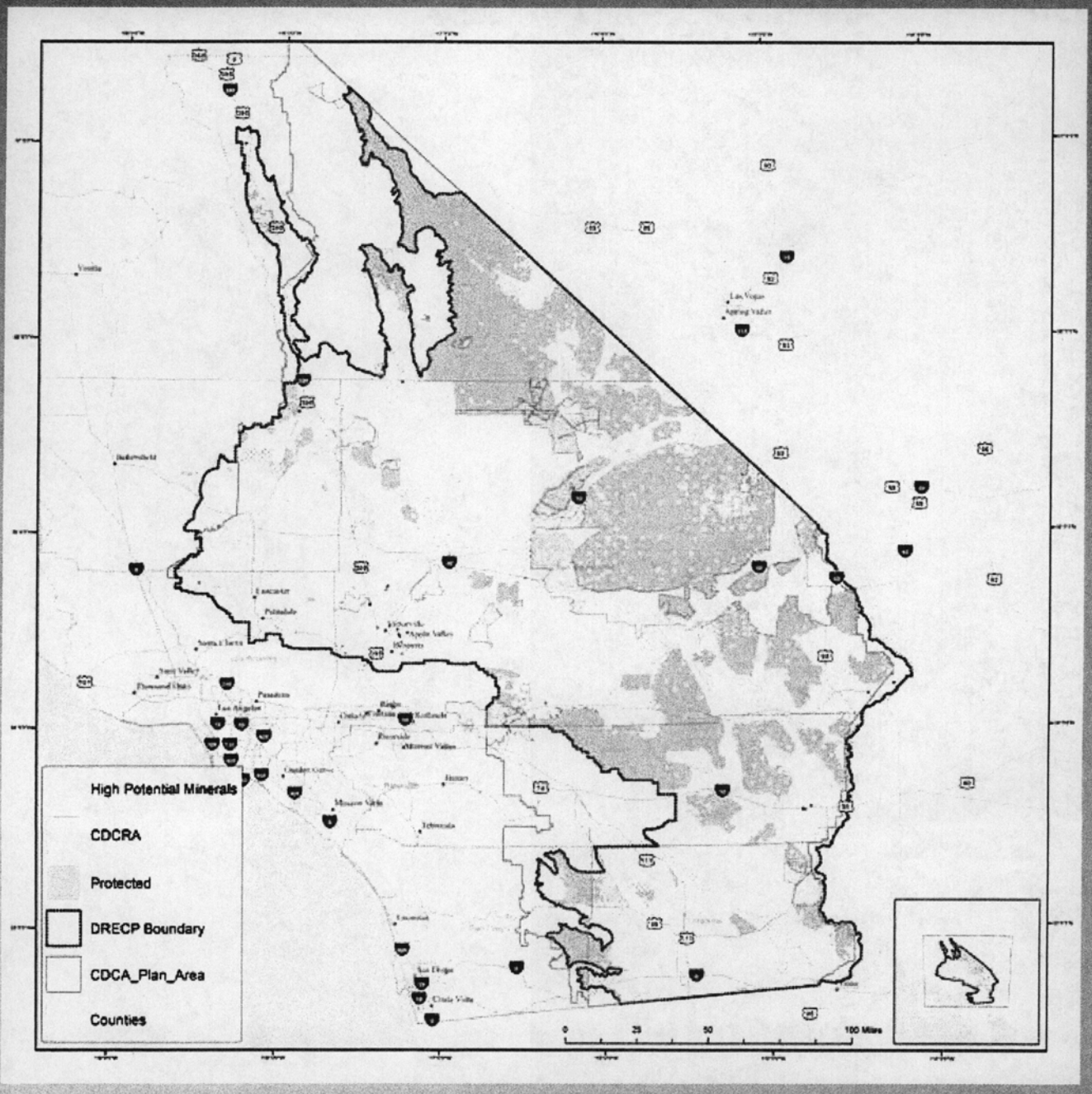
Figure 6. Current Mining Operations in 7 Desert Counties



Source: US Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration, http://www.msha.gov/OpenGovernmentData/OGIMSHA.asp.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Figure 7. Mineral Potential in 7 Desert Counties



Source: DRECP EIS analysis, Appendix R1.15, http://www.drecp.org/draftdrecp.

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0030-REC-20240 Page 16 of 20

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Conclusion

The study finds that mining plays a small economic role in the 7 desert counties of California and that role has remained relatively constant for the past 4 decades. Conversely, over the same time period, the California Desert has experienced steady growth in population, employment, and personal income. This growth is largely driven by businesses and demographic changes that benefit directly from preserving the desert.

The study concludes that the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015 is compatible with ongoing mining activities and allows for future development of critical and competitive mineral resources. Consequently, the protective designations proposed under the legislation likely represent the highest and best economic use of those public lands.

About the Sonoran Institute

Founded in 1990, the Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them. We work at the nexus of commerce, community, and conservation to help people in the North American West build the communities they want to live in while preserving the values that brought them here. We envision a West where civil dialogue and collaboration are hallmarks of decision making, where people and wildlife live in harmony, and where clean water, air, and energy are assured.

This summary is part of a study the Sonoran Institute prepared, *The California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015: Impacts on Mining and the Regional Economy*, which can be found at www.sonoraninstitute.org.

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES THAT NOURISH AND SUSTAIN THEM

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

SONORAN INSTITUTE OFFICES

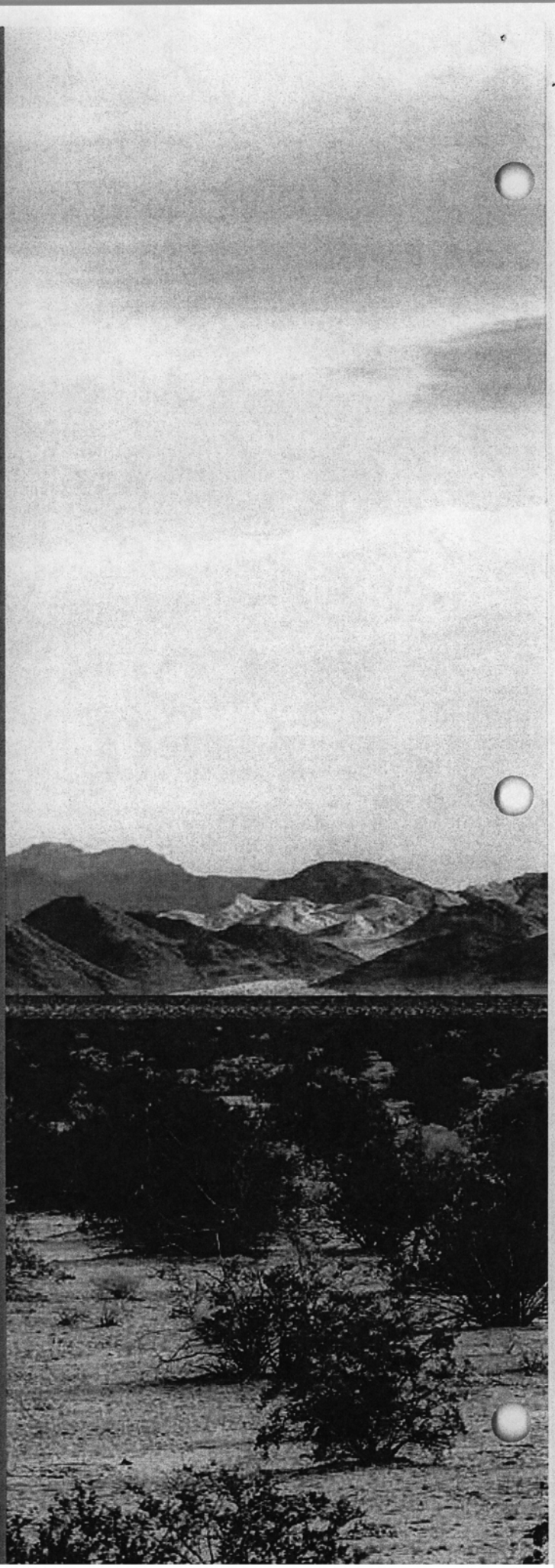
Main Office
44 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 350
Tucson, Arizona 85701
520.290.0828

Phoenix Office
11010 N. Tatum Blvd., Suite D101
Phoenix, Arizona 85028
602.393.4310

Bozeman Office
201 S. Wallace Ave., Suite B3C
Bozeman, Montana 59715
406.587.7331

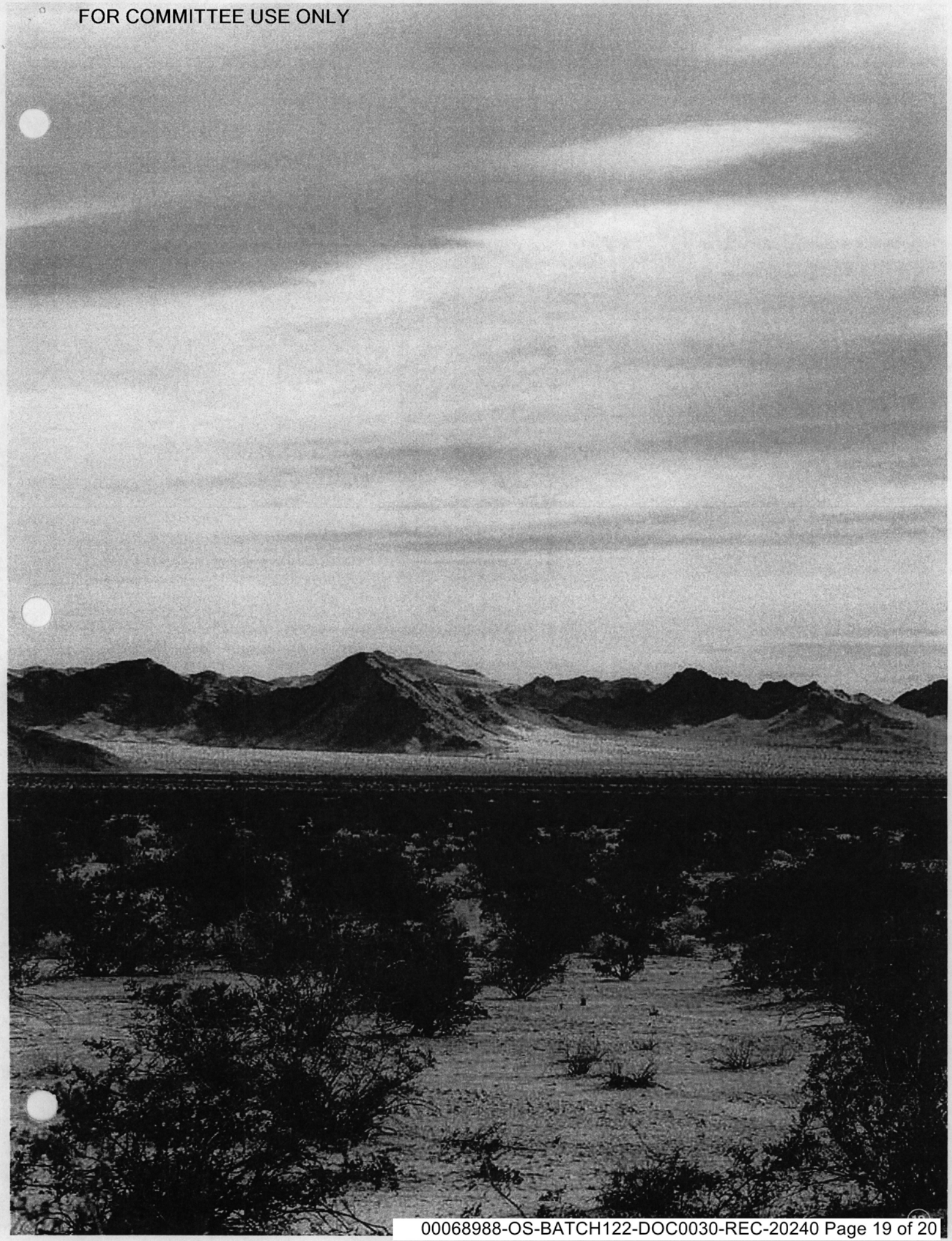
Glenwood Springs Office
817 Colorado Ave., Suite 201
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601
970.384.4364

Mexicali Office
Magisterio #627
Col. Profesores Federales
Mexicali, Baja California C.P.
21370 Mexico
011.52.686.582.54.3



Photo

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0030-REC-20240 Page 18 of 20



www.sonoraninstitute.org

DAILY PRESS

Print Page

By Shea Johnson
Staff Writer

April 29. 2015 5:13PM

Feinstein bill will boost economy, supporters say

Supporters of desert protections legislation introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said this week that the bill will bolster San Bernardino County's economy and represents little shift from Feinstein's historic 1994 California Desert Protection Act.

Monica Argandona, the Southern California conservation director for the California Wilderness Coalition, an organization focused on the state's wildlands, said she had been working on the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015 with Feinstein for eight years.

"There's always going to be opposition, there's always going to be people ideologically opposed to it," Argandona said, "but this will be a great economic benefit to San Bernardino County."

She said the bill essentially preserves lands that each year attract millions of visitors and generate large sums of revenue to the county and local cities.

In 2005, The Wilderness Society analyzed the financial impact to four counties, including San Bernardino, which were part of Feinstein's 1994 bill. The group found that wildlands in the desert generated $1.3 billion per year and nearly 3,700 jobs between the counties, and $557 million in this county alone.

According to Campaign for the California Desert — a coalition of conservationists and community and business leaders — visitors to Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve contributed $165 million to the region's economy in 2013, also supporting nearly 2,000 jobs.

Introduced in February, Feinstein's bill would create the Mojave Trails National Monument, designating protections to roughly 941,000 acres between Needles and Barstow. It is also expected to increase protections for approximately 1.6 million acres of desert landscape, and also create a second new national monument, while expanding Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve.

But Feinstein's legislation also has prompted questions from regional leaders, most recently county 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood, who said while portions of the bill had merit, the bill was destined to harm the local economy.

He said last week some lands would become off limits to development, mining, off-roading, grazing and military training, and the bill would hinder the multiple-use approach to public lands.

Argandona, however, called the bill "a balanced approach" that reflected the diversity of wildlands' stakeholders, including off-road enthusiasts, conservationists and the military. She said it would not impact major mining corporations.

Last week, a miners organization announced it was considering an economic boycott of Apple Valley after the Town Council showed support for the bill.

Rep. Paul Cook, R-Apple Valley, sent a federal land survey to constituents in March for feedback, weighing two sides in his letter: The bill's ability to protect the desert and its potential to curtail economic activities.

While Argandona said she expected Cook to be a "champion" for the cause, Lovingood said he looked forward to working with the 8th District Congressman on "alternatives that won't hamstring our economy and will promote the multiple-use approach to our desert."

Randy Banis, editor of DeathValley.com and member of the Bureau of Land Management Desert Advisory Council, said the bill, ultimately, "is not really a whole lot of change."

"I would say this bill is a status quo bill in that it preserves the recreational opportunities that currently exist in these lands and the economic benefits there of," Banis said. "It preserves the current mining claims and protects their economic value and it protects viewsheds and undeveloped lands for public uses for generations to come."

Meanwhile, Latino faith leaders and youth in the Victor Valley plan to hike Big Morongo Canyon Preserve on Saturday. The hike is meant to allow participants to "explore the need to protect the California desert and how the Latino community can help lead the charge for its conservation," the group Por La Creacion: Faith-based Alliance said in a statement.

Feinstein's bill is expected to be discussed during the hike.

Shea Johnson may be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at @DP_Shea.

http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20150429/NEWS/150429700

Print Page

HESPERIA STAR

Print Page

By Shea Johnson
Staff Writer

April 23. 2015 5:57PM

Lovingood leery of Feinstein bill

Lovingood

San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood on Thursday expressed concerns about a proposal for desert protections, saying the federal government already owns 80 percent of lands in the county and further encroachment could squash local jobs.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., introduced the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015 in February. The bill would create the Mojave Trails National Monument, designating protections to roughly 941,000 acres between Needles and Barstow.

It is also expected to increase protections for approximately 1.6 million acres of desert landscape, and also create a second new national monument, while expanding Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve.

But while Lovingood believed that portions of the bill had merit, he suggested that it would lead to too many unintended consequences, including harming jobs and the economy, and hindering the multiple-use approach to public lands.

Under Feinstein's bill, he said some lands would become off limits to development, mining, off-roading, grazing and military training.

Referring to the county's "world-class mining reserves," he said there was already an estimated 400 to 500 local mining jobs held back by backlogs in federal permitting, adding that sealing off strategic rare earth elements also holds implications for national security and new technologies.

Instead, he said he supported stand-alone legislation that would legally protect five existing off-highway vehicle areas, including El Mirage, Johnson Valley and Dumont Dunes.

Referring to Feinstein's 1994 desert bill, he said that a National Park Service report indicated that three areas covered in that bill (Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and Mojave National Preserve) "have a backlog of more than $351 million in deferred maintenance and needed repairs to roads, bridges, trails and other infrastructure."

"Since the federal government is not taking good care of what it currently has, it doesn't make sense for them to take over even more," he said in a statement. "I look forward to working with Congressman Paul Cook and my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors on alternatives that won't hamstring our economy and will promote the multiple-use approach to our desert."

Last month, Cook acknowledged that the bill had the potential to curtail economic activities, but he also noted the need to protect the desert. He sent a federal land survey to constituents, asking them for their opinion on whether they support the bill.

Earlier this week, the Daily Press reported a miners organization was considering an economic boycott of Apple Valley after the Town Council showed support for the bill.

Shea Johnson may be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at @DP_Shea.

Print Page

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DAILY PRESS

Print Page

By Shea Johnson
Staff Writer

April 29. 2015 5:13PM

Feinstein bill will boost economy, supporters say

Supporters of desert protections legislation introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said this week that the bill will bolster San Bernardino County's economy and represents little shift from Feinstein's historic 1994 California Desert Protection Act.

Monica Argandona, the Southern California conservation director for the California Wilderness Coalition, an organization focused on the state's wildlands, said she had been working on the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015 with Feinstein for eight years.

"There's always going to be opposition, there's always going to be people ideologically opposed to it," Argandona said, "but this will be a great economic benefit to San Bernardino County."

She said the bill essentially preserves lands that each year attract millions of visitors and generate large sums of revenue to the county and local cities.

In 2005, The Wilderness Society analyzed the financial impact to four counties, including San Bernardino, which were part of Feinstein's 1994 bill. The group found that wildlands in the desert generated $1.3 billion per year and nearly 3,700 jobs between the counties, and $557 million in this county alone.

According to Campaign for the California Desert — a coalition of conservationists and community and business leaders — visitors to Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve contributed $165 million to the region's economy in 2013, also supporting nearly 2,000 jobs.

Introduced in February, Feinstein's bill would create the Mojave Trails National Monument, designating protections to roughly 941,000 acres between Needles and Barstow. It is also expected to increase protections for approximately 1.6 million acres of desert landscape, and also create a second new national monument, while expanding Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve.

But Feinstein's legislation also has prompted questions from regional leaders, most recently county 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood, who said while portions of the bill had merit, the bill was destined to harm the local economy.

He said last week some lands would become off limits to development, mining, off-roading, grazing and military training, and the bill would hinder the multiple-use approach to public lands.

Argandona, however, called the bill "a balanced approach" that reflected the diversity of wildlands' stakeholders, including off-road enthusiasts, conservationists and the military. She said it would not impact major mining corporations.

Last week, a miners organization announced it was considering an economic boycott of Apple Valley after the Town Council showed support for the bill.

Rep. Paul Cook, R-Apple Valley, sent a federal land survey to constituents in March for feedback, weighing two sides in his letter: The bill's ability to protect the desert and its potential to curtail economic activities.

While Argandona said she expected Cook to be a "champion" for the cause, Lovingood said he looked forward to working with the 8th District Congressman on "alternatives that won't hamstring our economy and will promote the multiple-use approach to our desert."

Randy Banis, editor of DeathValley.com and member of the Bureau of Land Management Desert Advisory Council, said the bill, ultimately, "is not really a whole lot of change."

"I would say this bill is a status quo bill in that it preserves the recreational opportunities that currently exist in these lands and the economic benefits there of," Banis said. "It preserves the current mining claims and protects their economic value and it protects viewsheds and undeveloped lands for public uses for generations to come."

Meanwhile, Latino faith leaders and youth in the Victor Valley plan to hike Big Morongo Canyon Preserve on Saturday. The hike is meant to allow participants to "explore the need to protect the California desert and how the Latino community can help lead the charge for its conservation," the group Por La Creacion: Faith-based Alliance said in a statement.

Feinstein's bill is expected to be discussed during the hike.

Shea Johnson may be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at @DP_Shea.

Print Page

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DESERT DISPATCH

Print Page

By William Reeves

July 10. 2015 6:05PM

Valley Voices: Feinstein bill will protect streams and rivers, too

Earlier this year, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (CDCRA) of 2015, which would increase protections for roughly 1.6 million acres of public lands in our desert region. Amongst its provisions, the CDCRA would establish the Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow National Monuments and protect 77 miles of streams and rivers. These vital waterways, mountain peaks, cactus gardens and wide open vistas are an important part of our local heritage. That's why a broad base of elected officials, outdoor enthusiasts, business leaders, and veterans across the desert is rallying behind this legislation.

There's one other voice that also is stepping out in support of this effort: anglers. Protection for public lands, especially rivers and streams, is near and dear to any fisherman's heart. My family has had a summer home six miles from Deep Creek since 1933. For decades, my family has fished in the waters of Deep Creek, which runs north from the San Bernardino Mountains to feed into the Mojave River. Here you can find rainbow trout, brown trout, bass and crappie.

It's not just the waters that are special, but the lands around them too. There's a Native American site with a chair like rock and a metates bowl carved into stone for grinding acorns — you can sit there and imagine that hundreds of years ago it was used to make acorn flour. Beavers still make their homes here, and deer congregate in certain spots on the river.

In my life, I've seen how special places and lands have been degraded. That's why I support the protections and resources Senator Feinstein's bill will bring to these lands — resources such as proper facilities for people, so we can visit without over-impacting the land.

Anglers often see challenges to our streams and rivers far before other sportsmen. For the 77 miles of freshwater streams and rivers being considered for protection in Feinstein's bill, including Deep Creek, aquatic insects like caddisflies are the foundation of the food chain. These insects need pure, clean water to survive. And without those insects, you can't have trout or other fish.

Healthy fish support larger animals in the food chain from large birds to bears — and also anglers enjoying a day on the river. If the water isn't clean enough for the fish, it isn't clean enough for the rest of us either. That's why a number of anglers and other sportsmen formed the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps over 20 years ago. We monitor the health of rivers and streams in our region to help prevent degradation.

Beautiful lands and clean streams bring in rich economic benefits to the region. Sportsmen and tourists come from all over the world to see the scenery and animal life unique to the California desert. They come to find adventure and solitude. In San Bernardino County alone, visitor-generated tax receipts totaled $52.5 million in 2010. In 2013, visitors to Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve pumped $165 million into the region's economy, supporting nearly 2,000 jobs. These numbers show that our public lands are an important part of our economic future and quality of life.

These days when I go to Deep Creek, I often bring my grandkids. I point out the moving sticks at the bottom of the stream that are actually aquatic insects in disguise, teach them the basics of angling, and wade with them in the cool waters. I hope these waterways and lands will be protected for them to enjoy many years into the future. I encourage all of our leaders, from local officials to Rep. Paul Cook and Senator Feinstein to the White House, to ensure these public lands will be there for future generations by supporting the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act.

William Reeves is a volunteer with the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps.

http://www.desertdispatch.com/article/20150710/OPINION/150719981

Print Page

TWEETREACH SNAPSHOT FOR

#BasinAndRange

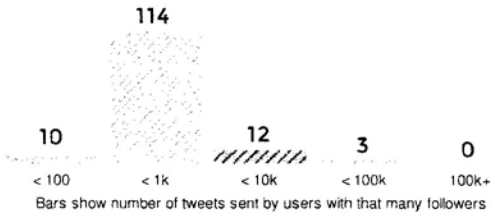
ESTIMATED REACH

53,029

ACCOUNTS REACHED

EXPOSURE

127,258 IMPRESSIONS



Bars show number of tweets sent by users with that many followers

ACTIVITY

139 TWEETS

41 CONTRIBUTORS

8 DAYS

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

22.8k IMPRESSIONS — @LCVoters

30 RETWEETS — @ProtectNevada

30 MENTIONS — @ProtectNevada

MOST RETWEETED TWEETS

4 Protect Nevada @ProtectNevada
Caller thanks @repdinatitus for her support of public lands specifically #BasinAndRange and #protectgoldbutte on @KNPRnews

4 ProtectBasin&Range @basin_and_range
Largest private employer in #NV urges @WhiteHouse to protect #BasinAndRange: shar.es/1rz1SF #MonumentsForAll http://t.co/taw32qO8Ao

4 Jeff scheid @Jlscheid
A view of Garden Valley in proposed #basinandrange monument. @RefriedBrean bit.ly/1iTxyrV #lvrj http://t.co/p2bacY1QRu

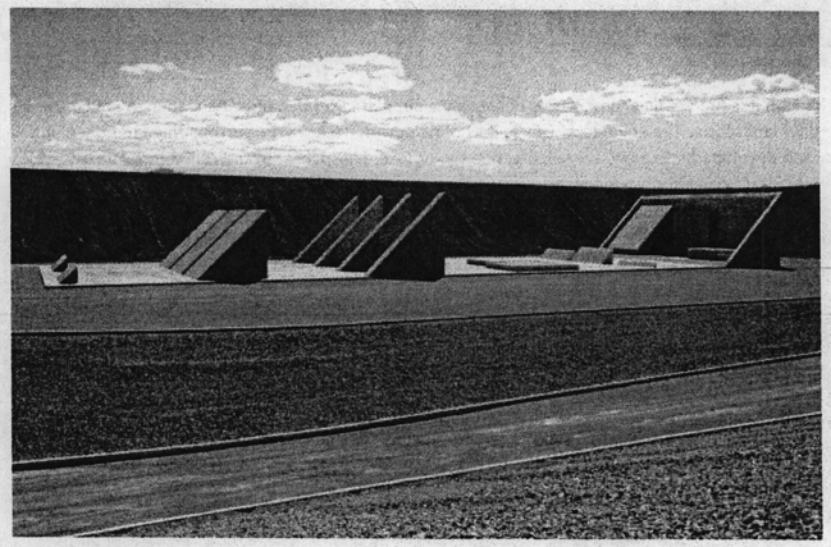
FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

UNFRAMED (/)

APRIL 23, 2015

LACMA statement of support

Unframed is supported in part by LACMA's Director's Circle.



City by Michael Heizer. Photos: Tom Vinetz/© Triple Aught Foundation

Protect Michael Heizer's "City"

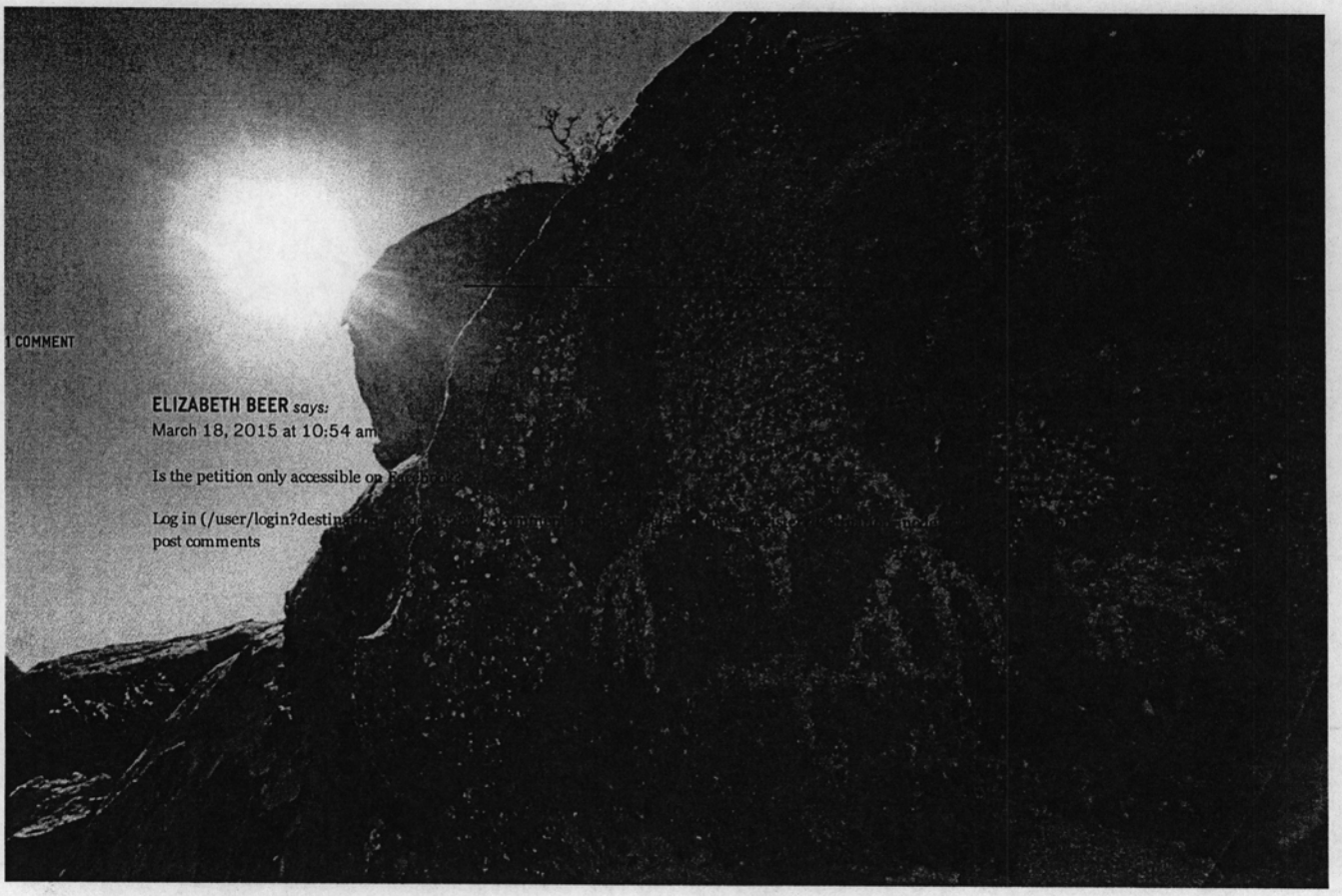
MARCH 18, 2015

Scott Tennent (/blog-search?keys=Scott%20Tennent), *Director of Executive Communications*

There has been an ongoing campaign in Nevada in the past few years to get a stretch of land, known as Basin and Range (http://www.protectbasinandrange.org/), designated with Monument status. This would preserve the land—which has been threatened in the past—and keep it from being developed into a missile site, a location for oil and gas exploration, and a nuclear waste rail line. While the outcome of this issue has clear meaning to residents of the state and defenders of the environment, it also has significant *cultural* impact, concerning objects both ancient and contemporary.

Located in Garden Valley, Nevada, Michael Heizer's *City* is one of the most significant works of art in the United States. Begun by Heizer in 1972, the project is now in its final stage of completion. It will, in the future, be accessible by the public. Heizer of course has some special significance to Los Angeles, as two significant works belong to L.A. museums. Heizer's incredible *Double Negative*, which exists in another part of the Nevada desert, is in MOCA's collection. (MOCA director Philippe Vergne recently visited the work and shared his experience on Instagram (https://instagram.com/p/OEHHWUuRzW/)). LACMA installed *Levitated Mass (http://collections.lacma.org/node/424258)* in 2012, as so many people witnessed firsthand when we moved "the rock" from Jurupa Valley to LACMA (now the subject of a feature-length documentary (http://www.thelacmastore.org/products/levitated-mass-dvd)). Beyond Los Angeles, Heizer is simply one of the most significant living artists in the world, thanks to his pioneering work in what became known as Land Art.

Sign the petition to protect Michael Heizer's *City* and the Basin and Range. (http://bit.ly/CITYpetition)



(/sites/default/files/attachments/heizer-city-3.jpg)
Land around *City*, photo by Tyler Roemer

For almost 20 years, as director of both Dia Art Foundation and LACMA, Michael Govan has tried to educate people about *City* and bring this not only to the attention of the wider public but also to Washington D.C., as the land surrounding Heizer's property is all public land. As the possibility for protecting Basin and Range comes close to a reality, LACMA and other museums around the country are hoping to bring attention to the positive cultural impact protecting this land would have. Please take a few moments to sign this petition (https://www.facebook.com/protectbasinandrange?app_data=%7B%22organization_id%22%3A3125%2C%22referring_action_id%22%3A6579%2C%22fb_referrer_uid%22%3Anull%2C%22source%22%3Anull%7D to voice your support for protecting this land.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

M-Basin & Range

Conservation Lands Foundation | The Wilderness Society | The Pew Charitable Trusts
Sierra Club | League of Conservation Voters | Natural Resources Defense Council
Progress Now Nevada | Outside Las Vegas Foundation | Nevada Conservation League
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

March 11, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Support for Basin and Range Conservation Proposal

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We write to convey our strong support for the permanent protection of Basin and Range in Lincoln and Nye Counties, Nevada. The Basin and Range conservation proposal consists of a complex of eight major mountain ranges and two valleys that together represent one of the last, intact examples of the Great Basin. Protection of the proposed area is a unique conservation opportunity. Many valleys in the Great Basin region have been significantly impacted by the development of roads, mining projects, power lines, and other industrial uses of the landscape. The Obama Administration should ensure that some representation of undisturbed Basin and Range country is passed on to future generations.

We also wish to express our gratitude for the Department of Interior's participation in Senator Reid and Representative Titus's February 18, 2015, public meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, to discuss the protection of the Basin and Range area, along with nearby Gold Butte. As Deputy Secretary Connor heard firsthand, Nevada's residents cherish their public lands and open spaces, and overwhelmingly want to see these areas permanently protected.

The Garden and Coal Valleys are distinguished by their remoteness and pristine condition. The value of this area in sustaining the ecological processes and large contiguous landscapes that support high levels of biodiversity, resilience to climate change, and connectivity across jurisdictions is significant, and these inherent values justify the area's permanent protection. Basin and Range also includes important habitat for pronghorn and elk, the Greater Sage-grouse, Pygmy rabbits, the White River Catseye plant—a species that is at risk and found only in Nevada – and almost two dozen other sensitive wildlife species.

Cultural resources also abound throughout the Basin and Range area, including numerous Native American trails, rock shelters, lithic scatters, and a site that could yield important new information about early peoples in the Great Basin; the White River Narrows Archeological District (in 1976 this petroglyph-rich area was added to the National Register of Historic Places); and 19th Century settlement locations along with ranching and mining sites.

We support the steadfast efforts of Senator Reid and Representative Titus to protect this area legislatively via permanent mineral withdrawal legislation (S. 196 / H.R. 857). After several years of unsuccessful attempts to move legislation, we believe that Nevadans, and all Americans, cannot afford to wait to see the important ecological, cultural, and geographic areas of Basin and Range protected. We, therefore, urge you to recommend to President Obama that he use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect Basin and Range as a national monument.

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting America's public lands and heritage, and for ensuring that all Americans are afforded the opportunity to visit and enjoy these areas.

Sincerely,

Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director,
Conservation Lands Foundation

Jamie Williams, President,
The Wilderness Society

Joshua S. Reichert, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, Environment
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Michael Brune, Executive Director,
Sierra Club

Gene Karpinski, President,
League of Conservation Voters

Peter Lehner, Executive Director,
Natural Resources Defense Council

Annette Magnus, Executive Director
Progress Now Nevada

/s/
Mauricia M.M. Baca, Executive Director
Outside Las Vegas Foundation

/s/
Robert Buntjer, Chairman of the Board
Nevada Conservation League

/s/
Bob Fulkerson, State Director and Co-Founder
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

CC:

Brian Deese, Senior Advisor to the President
Michael Boots, Acting Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

POR LA CREACIÓN
FAITH-BASED ALLIANCE

September 25, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Por la Creación Faith-based Alliance, which unites Latino faith leaders to develop stewards of God's creation by educating and engaging this generation to leave a legacy for the future, respectfully encourages you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the California desert and designate three new national monuments – Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails, which includes 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity, the largest land gift of its kind in American history, is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife and includes unspoiled desert vistas and important Native American cultural sites. Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities. The Castle Mountains protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The California desert is facing many threats — proposals to export groundwater from desert aquifers, air pollution, rapid community development and encroachments from renewable energy developments — that risk the future of this region and could have irreversible consequences. As pastors from the California desert, we appreciate not only the natural beauty that surrounds our communities, but we also acknowledge the need to care and protect these areas for future generations.

Our clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. Our land, water, and wildlife are gifts from God, and it is our moral responsibility to care for these gifts. We should respect and live in harmony with all of God's creation.

POR LA CREACIÓN
FAITH-BASED ALLIANCE

The California desert is crucial to the majority of local economies, to the health and quality life of Latinos, to our cultural heritage, and to the spiritual well-being of the community. This is why we have been active in educating our communities about protecting this region. In the past two years, we have led hikes, events and camping trips for Latino community leaders, youth and families at Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, San Jacinto Mountains and The Living Desert.

Mr. President, you have the opportunity to protect these special, inspiring places in the desert and help our nation fulfill its moral responsibility in protecting God's creation.

Thank you,

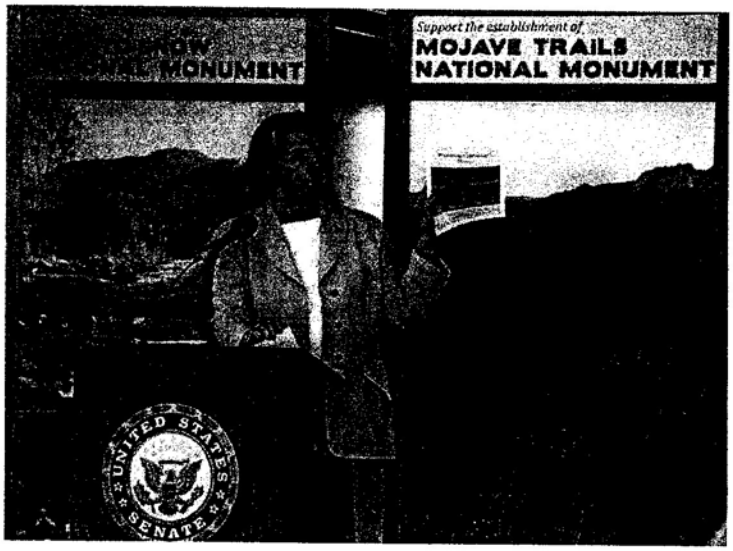
Frank Ruiz, Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church, Indio, CA
Enrique Orellana, Sr. Pastor, Fuente de Vida Christian Center, Coachella, CA
Jesse Villarreal, Sr. Pastor, Templo La Hermosa, Coachella, CA
Dr. Francisco Colop, Regional Vice President, Alianza de Ministerios Evangelicos Nacionales, Austin, TX
Steven Morales, Pastor, Calvary Chapel, El Sereno, CA
Raul Velazquez, Pastor, El Nuevo Comienzo, Adelanto, CA
Javier Moreno, Co-Pastor, Monte de Zion, Victorville, CA
Raymundo Ortiz, Pastor, Iglesias Amiavi, Victorville, CA
Cecilia Ruano, Pastor, Rosa de Saron Asembla de Dios Church, Caldwell, ID
Dr. Sergio Navarette, Superintendent, Southern Pacific District of the Assemblies of God
Jorge Quintanilla, Pastor, Iglesia Divino Salvador, Reseda, CA
Juan Manuel Almanza, Pastor, Centro de Adoracion Familiar, Las Vegas, NV
Joseito Velasquez, Sr. Pastor Healing Waters Family Center, Denver, CO
Martin Martinez, Youth Pastor, Impacto Juvenil, Covina, CA
Absalon Duran, Pastor, Monte de Zion, Victorville, CA
Hector Manzo, Centro Cristiano de Fe, Victorville, CA

CC: Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein
Honorable Interior Secretary Sally Jewell
Honorable US Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack
Christina Goldfuss, Acting Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

National monument supporters in California get antsy

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

DailyNews.com



Sen. Diane Feinstein announces new a new bill to set establish the Sand to Snow and the Mojave Trails National Monuments on the 20th anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act at the Whitewater Preserve near Banning, Thursday, November, 6, 2014. File photo by Eric Reed

Details about proposed national monuments in California

The proposed national monuments include:

— Mojave Trails National Monument: 965,000 acres. The land sits along historic Route 66 in southeastern California and contains fossil beds, extinct volcanoes and serves as a home for bighorn sheep and desert tortoises.

— Sand to Snow Mountain National Monument: 135,000 acres extending from the Sonoran Desert to the peak of Mount San Gorgonio, elevation 11,503 feet.

— Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument: 360,000 acres stretching north from near Lake Berryessa, a major recreation reservoir, to just beyond the Mendocino National Forest's Snow Mountain Wilderness.

— Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument: 5,800 acres eight miles north of the city of Santa Cruz. The property had been closed to the public for almost 100 years and includes redwood trees and picturesque views of Monterey Bay.

Source: Associated Press

WASHINGTON >> California lawmakers and advocacy groups are ramping up efforts to win national monument designation for four scenic vistas in the state, from vast stretches of the Mojave Desert to redwood stands along the Pacific Coast Highway to canyons and mountains near the state's famous wine country.

The designation typically takes lands already owned by the government and walls them off from new mining, roads and power lines. Recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and horseback riding are commonly allowed, though each national monument has its own dos and don'ts.

Supporters of the proposed monuments in California are pursuing two paths. The first is

through legislation. Many Republicans are wary, though. So, supporters are also placing greater emphasis on Plan B: Executive action from President Barack Obama. The narrowing window for that option is adding urgency to their efforts.

Presidents have the authority to designate new national monuments through the Antiquities Act, and Obama has approved 16 so far, including three more last week. California groups took notice.

"We think that's exciting, and we merit the same consideration in the near term," said Bob Schneider, senior policy director for Tuleyome, a conservation group that seeks to preserve 360,000 acres in northern California as a national monument.

The group has worked with Democratic U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, who has filed bills in three consecutive congressional sessions calling for what would be named the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. In December, he brought in Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for a tour and to hear from local residents.

"The majority party is not willing to participate in the debate," Thompson said. "If the president is willing, I'm all for him protecting the land through an executive order."

Many of the communities in Thompson's district support his efforts. One local chamber of commerce projected that a national monument designation would generate an additional $50 million in economic activity in the subsequent five years though increased visitors. But another local chamber has fretted that a national monument designation could impose additional requirements on already overburdened agencies with no guarantee of additional resources.

Advertisement

Any national monuments legislation moving through the House would likely have to go first through a subcommittee chaired by Republican U.S. Rep. Tom McClintock of California. He's clearly skeptical.

"The Republicans want to preserve and enhance the public's right to enjoy the public's land. Democrats are seeking to further restrict public access," McClintock said. "That's the fundamental, core issue."

Like Thompson, Sen. Dianne Feinstein also is getting restless. She first proposed legislation in 2009 calling for two new national monuments in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts and reintroduced a version of the bill in early February. Feinstein favors legislative action, but she said in an emailed statement that executive action may be necessary if the bill stalls.

Feinstein, a Democrat, said she would prefer the legislative route because an executive order would simply create two new national monuments while her legislation includes more land for national parks, wilderness and off-highway recreation. Numerous compromises crafted over the years would be lost.

The Wildlands Conservancy helped the federal government acquire large segments of both

proposed monuments in Feinstein's bill through donations of money and land. The group was delighted when Jewell visited the proposed Sand to Snow National Monument last year and a vehicle in her security detail had to stop to let a bighorn sheep cross the road.

"You can't beat that," said David Myers, the organization's executive director.

Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw declined to directly answer whether Jewell has recommended that the president use his executive authority on any of the four California projects. But she said Jewell regularly briefs the president on her travels and has talked to him about "the local vision for conservation around the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region."

Kershaw also noted that the Obama administration has testified in favor of Feinstein's legislation back in 2010 and Thompson's legislation in 2013.

McClintock says an executive order creating any monuments in California would be "a complete overreach" by the president and an abuse of the Antiquities Act, which was designed to protect small archaeological sites from looting.

The newest and smallest of the proposed national monuments is in Silicon Valley's backyard, near Santa Cruz. The 5,800 acres were acquired by various foundations and donated to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management just last year.

At a public rally two weeks ago, nearly 1,500 people showed up, stunning organizers who called the event the launch of their campaign, not the conclusion.

Bruce Babbitt, the former Interior secretary under President Bill Clinton, was the guest speaker.

"Half the town was there," Babbitt said. "It seemed to me an excellent statement to President Obama of community support. Congress has a chance to act. If it doesn't, all the more reason for President Obama to step in."

Print Close

California lawmakers seeking national monument designations for landscapes

Published March 01, 2015 | Associated Press

WASHINGTON – California lawmakers and advocacy groups are ramping up efforts to win national monument designation for four scenic vistas in the state, from vast stretches of the Mojave Desert to redwood stands along the Pacific Coast Highway to canyons and mountains near the state's famous wine country.

The designation typically takes lands already owned by the government and walls them off from new mining, roads and power lines. Recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and horseback riding are commonly allowed, though each national monument has its own dos and don'ts.

Supporters of the proposed monuments in California are pursuing two paths. The first is through legislation. Many Republicans are wary, though. So, supporters are also placing greater emphasis on Plan B: Executive action from President Barack Obama. The narrowing window for that option is adding urgency to their efforts.

Presidents have the authority to designate new national monuments through the Antiquities Act, and Obama has approved 16 so far, including three more last week. California groups took notice.

"We think that's exciting, and we merit the same consideration in the near term," said Bob Schneider, senior policy director for Tuleyome, a conservation group that seeks to preserve 360,000 acres in northern California as a national monument.

The group has worked with Democratic U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, who has filed bills in three consecutive congressional sessions calling for what would be named the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. In December, he brought in Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for a tour and to hear from local residents.

"The majority party is not willing to participate in the debate," Thompson said. "If the president is willing, I'm all for him protecting the land through an executive order."

Many of the communities in Thompson's district support his efforts. One local chamber of commerce projected that a national monument designation would generate an additional $50 million in economic activity in the subsequent five years though increased visitors. But another local chamber has fretted that a national monument designation could impose additional requirements on already overburdened agencies with no guarantee of additional resources.

Any national monuments legislation moving through the House would likely have to go first through a subcommittee chaired by Republican U.S. Rep. Tom McClintock of California. He's clearly skeptical.

"The Republicans want to preserve and enhance the public's right to enjoy the public's land. Democrats are seeking to further restrict public access," McClintock said. "That's the fundamental, core issue."

Like Thompson, Sen. Dianne Feinstein also is getting restless. She first proposed legislation in 2009 calling for two new national monuments in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts and reintroduced a version of the bill in early February. Feinstein favors legislative action, but she said in an emailed statement that executive action may be necessary if the bill stalls.

Feinstein, a Democrat, said she would prefer the legislative route because an executive order would simply create two new national monuments while her legislation includes more land for national parks, wilderness and off-highway recreation. Numerous compromises crafted over the years would be lost.

The Wildlands Conservancy helped the federal government acquire large segments of both proposed monuments in Feinstein's bill through donations of money and land. The group was delighted when Jewell visited the proposed Sand to Snow National Monument last year and a vehicle in her security detail had to stop to let a bighorn sheep cross the road.

"You can't beat that," said David Myers, the organization's executive director.

Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw declined to directly answer whether Jewell has recommended that the president use his executive authority on any of the four California projects. But she said Jewell regularly briefs the president on her travels and has talked to him about "the local vision for conservation around the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region."

Kershaw also noted that the Obama administration has testified in favor of Feinstein's legislation back in 2010 and Thompson's legislation in 2013.

McClintock says an executive order creating any monuments in California would be "a complete overreach" by the president and an abuse of the Antiquities Act, which was designed to protect small archaeological sites from looting.

The newest and smallest of the proposed national monuments is in Silicon Valley's backyard, near Santa Cruz. The 5,800 acres were acquired by various foundations and donated to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management just last year.

At a public rally two weeks ago, nearly 1,500 people showed up, stunning organizers who called the event the launch of their campaign, not the conclusion.

Bruce Babbitt, the former Interior secretary under President Bill Clinton, was the guest speaker.

"Half the town was there," Babbitt said. "It seemed to me an excellent statement to President Obama of community support. Congress has a chance to act. If it doesn't, all the more reason for President Obama to step in."

Print Close

URL

http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/03/01/california-lawmakers-seeking-national-monument-designations-landscapes/

Home | Video | Politics | U.S. | Opinion | Entertainment | Tech | Science | Health | Travel | Lifestyle | World | Sports | Weather

Privacy | Terms

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. © FOX News Network, LLC. All rights reserved. All market data delayed 20 minutes.

IVI - Basin & Range

Las Vegas Review-Journal • Friday, February 20, 2015 • Page 13A

THANK YOU

Senator Reid
Congresswoman Titus

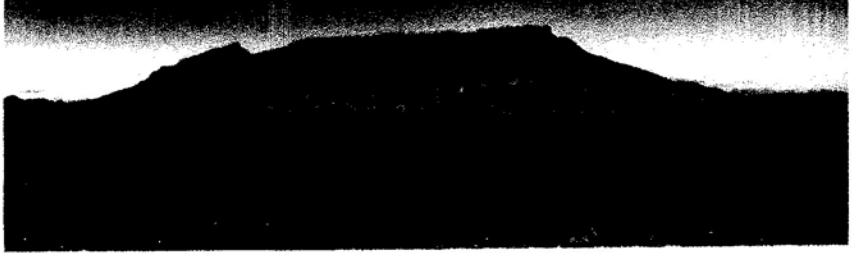
and the

Department of Interior

Thank you for hearing the voices of Nevadans who value public lands like Gold Butte, Basin and Range, and others. Protections for these places are crucial for their enjoyment by all Nevadans, and for our economic future.

Follow the action at #ProtectNV

Paid for by ProgressNow Nevada



FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Audubon California ~ Amargosa Conservancy ~ California Native Plant Society
CalWild ~ Center for Biological Diversity ~ Defenders of Wildlife
Natural Resources Defense Council ~ Sierra Club ~ The Wilderness Society

September 12, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

James G. Kenna
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825
jkenna@blm.gov

Re: Recommendations for the Final Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA)

Dear Jim:

We are writing to you to follow up on the September 8, 2015, meeting with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff and some of our organizations to provide the discussed recommendations in writing. As you know, we fully support of the efforts by the BLM and partner agencies and their staff to identify areas suitable for utility-scale wind development, and to develop a plan to balance renewable energy generation with conservation of large intact landscapes and species' habitats. We believe the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP or Plan), which builds upon the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States (Solar PEIS),) can help California transition to renewable energy without sacrificing the high quality habitat, key wildlife linkages and important conservation and wilderness values on public lands in the California desert.

To ensure this important energy transition directs development to lower conflict areas, while providing lasting and comprehensive conservation for desert wildlife and landscapes, we have identified below a set of outstanding issues, with associated recommendations, for the BLM to incorporate into the final DRECP. These recommendations mirror those made our recent meeting as well as in a June 3, 2015, letter to you.

- **BLM must ensure that lands in the West Mojave expected to safeguard and provide climate refugia for desert species are designated for conservation**: Climate research funded by the California Energy Commission has shown that the lands in the West Mojave are likely to provide important climate refugia for many desert species, including the threatened desert tortoise.[1] It is critical therefore that land included in the DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) conservation designations safeguard not only species'

[1] Davis F, Soong O, Stoms D, Dashiell S, Schloss C, Hannah L, Wilkinson W, Dingman J. 2015. Cumulative Biological Impacts Framework for Solar Energy Projects in the California Desert. California Energy Commission. Forthcoming.

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0041-REC-20240 Page 1 of 5

conservation, but their ability to adapt to climate change. We believe that the following areas that were identified in the draft DRECP as potentially open for renewable energy development must be designated as conservation lands:

- Rose Valley: This proposed Development Focus Area (DFA) should be significantly reduced in size to match the County of Inyo's Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment approved by the Board of Supervisors earlier this year. All other public lands should be designated for conservation, including those modeled as containing suitable habitat for the Mohave ground squirrel (MGS), desert tortoise and other imperiled species, and protection of the important cultural and archeological values of the area..

- North of Kramer Junction: This Special Analysis Area included lands also identified as a proposed MGS Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The proposed MGS ACEC should be adopted and conflicting designations, such as DFA, should be rejected for these lands in the final plan.

- Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTRNA) and Fremont Valley: The entire DTNA including adjacent lands in Fremont Valley within the Western Rand Mountains ACEC should be designated as conservation lands (National Conservation Land (NCL)/ACEC) – dual protective designations that capture different and important aspects for conservation.

- Indian Wells Valley: The public lands in this area should not be considered as a DFA and should instead be designated for conservation.

- Silurian Valley: The entire valley previously identified as a Special Analysis Area should be designated as conservation lands.

- Soda Mountain: This area was identified in the preferred alternative as a mix of ACEC and Undesignated lands. This area should be designated as conservation lands (NCL/ACEC) in the final DRECP LUPA as it was identified by The Nature Conservancy as "biologically core" habitat. It also contains land critical to the continued expansion of desert bighorn sheep populations in the area and future conservation efforts to restore movements of sheep north and south across Interstate 15.

- The "Future Assessment Area" in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains should be eliminated. This area is a key Pacific flyway thread for migratory birds, supports numerous desert golden eagle territories, and provides habitat for numerous imperiled terrestrial plants and animals. It is also headwaters to numerous west-east running waterways that hydrate this edge of the western Mojave desert. It is a key area as climate refugia for species as the effects of climate change manifest.

- All existing Conservation Areas as designated in the existing West Mojave Plan should be retained as such. All existing federally designated critical habitat should be included as conservation in the LUPA.

- Pahrump Valley: This proposed Development Focus Area (DFA) should be significantly reduced in size to match the County of Inyo's Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment approved by the Board of Supervisors earlier this year. All public lands should be designated for conservation, including management for desert tortoise, bighorn sheep connectivity and other imperiled species.

- "Future Assessment Area" directly adjacent to the Mojave National Preserve should be eliminated, because projects in this area would have direct impacts on the Preserve, as well as the local wildlife including bighorn sheep, and a variety of raptors.

- **Undesignated Lands should have sufficient management prescriptions and, if previously excluded from development in the Solar PEIS, should have sufficient analysis to justify inclusion as areas potentially open to development.** Lands identified in the draft LUPA as Undesignated, but having scenic, biological, cultural and natural qualities, including previous designation as Unique Plant Assemblages and Wildlife Habitat Management Areas, should be protected through conservation designation in the Final DRECP. Further, undesignated lands in the DRECP that were previously excluded from development in the Solar PEIS should remain excluded from development unless there is sufficient analysis to support their removal from exclusion. Finally, any lands left as "Undesignated" must have sufficient and clear prescriptions to provide guidance in how these lands are to be managed in their new designation.

- **The DRECP must clearly articulate that NLCS lands are not subject to removal through future land use planning**: The designation of lands as part of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) is an important outcome of the final plan. As part of this system, these lands are intended to be permanently protected. The final plan should clearly state that these lands are not subject to adjustment or removal in any future land use planning process and will remain part of this system. Further, the DRECP should provide a clear pathway for withdrawing these lands from mineral entry.

- **The DRECP should retain ACEC designations and names:** The Final LUPA should retain ACEC designations where they overlap with NCLs. If previously designated ACECs are to be subsumed in new NLCS designations, the existing ACEC name, plans and other management requirements should be retained.

- **The BLM should ensure that subsequent Land Use Plans are compatible with the final Plan:** The BLM should ensure that subsequent regional BLM plans within the desert, such as the West Mojave Plan amendments, are based upon and compatible with the conservation designations and actions of the final DRECP LUPA.

- **The BLM must maintain existing compensatory mitigation requirements for habitat loss for the following species.** The draft DRECP encompassed conservation on both public and private lands, which resulted in lower mitigation requirements due to the increase in lands available for conservation for declining species. Without any final plan in place involving legally-binding conservation commitments on private lands, the DRECP LUPA

may only rely on the conservation value provided by BLM commitments. Therefore, the DRECP LUPA should include the following mitigation requirements:

- Desert tortoise (5:1 ratio) in ACECs for desert tortoise conservation (currently Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA)).
- Mohave ground squirrel (5:1 ratio) in the Mohave ground squirrel conservation area.[2]
- Flat-tailed horned lizard (FTHL) in the management areas identified in the Rangewide Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Strategy. Additional conservation will likely be required for the FTHL based on its updated State status as a candidate for listing under the California Endangered Species Act ("CESA")..

It is also essential that, upon issuance of the final DRECP LUPA, the BLM clearly commits to integrating its plan with the county renewable energy and conservation plans currently under development, as well as articulates its role and responsibilities in the ongoing implementation of Phase 2 of the DRECP. In particular, the BLM should commit to continue its coordination with local and state agencies after the final plan is issued to ensure integration of the LUPA with county plans and the final Plan-wide conservation strategy. We strongly suggest that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the California Energy Commission, the BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of Defense renew and update the 2011 DRECP Memorandum of Understanding in which the agencies set forth the next steps to carry out the DRECP on non-federal lands as well as continuing the commitment to the DRECP Conservation Strategy and the coordinate of monitoring and assessment currently ongoing in the desert.

Finally, we understand that the BLM and CDFW are close to finalizing a statewide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the use of BLM lands to help provide durable mitigation. The agreement must provide mechanisms for durable conservation on BLM land that would meet statutory conservation standards for ACECs and NCLs, clarify how the proposed actions will provide additional mitigation value, whether the public land mitigation is being utilized only after considering whether higher priority private land mitigation opportunities are available, and how it would facilitate effective mitigation of impacts from projects through compensatory mitigation to meet the NCCP Act and CESA standards. Further, data and activities related to the implementation, monitoring and funding of any use of a durability agreement to meet mitigation requirements must be made transparent to the public to provide for ongoing engagement by the public, and these agreements must ensure adequate and assured funding for monitoring and reporting to ensure all obligations are met long-term.

---

[2] It is particularly important that habitats supporting known MGS core populations and the key linkages that connect them remain fully functional and in excellent ecological condition. Indeed, the USFWS relied heavily on sufficient protections for MGS on BLM lands, including the 5:1 mitigation ratio, to reject a petition to list the MGS under the Endangered Species Act, given the lack of protection for MGS on private lands. In light of the lack of any final private land conservation plan/permit under the DRECP, the BLM lands must be the primary means to achieve lasting protection of the MGS and its habitat.

Thank you for considering these important recommendations as the BLM finalizes the DRECP LUPA.

Sincerely,

Garry George
Audubon California

Patrick Donnelly
Amargosa Conservancy

Greg Suba
California Native Plant Society

Ryan Henson
CalWild

Ileene Anderson
Center for Biological Diversity

Kim Delfino
Defenders of Wildlife

Helen O'Shea
Natural Resources Defense Council

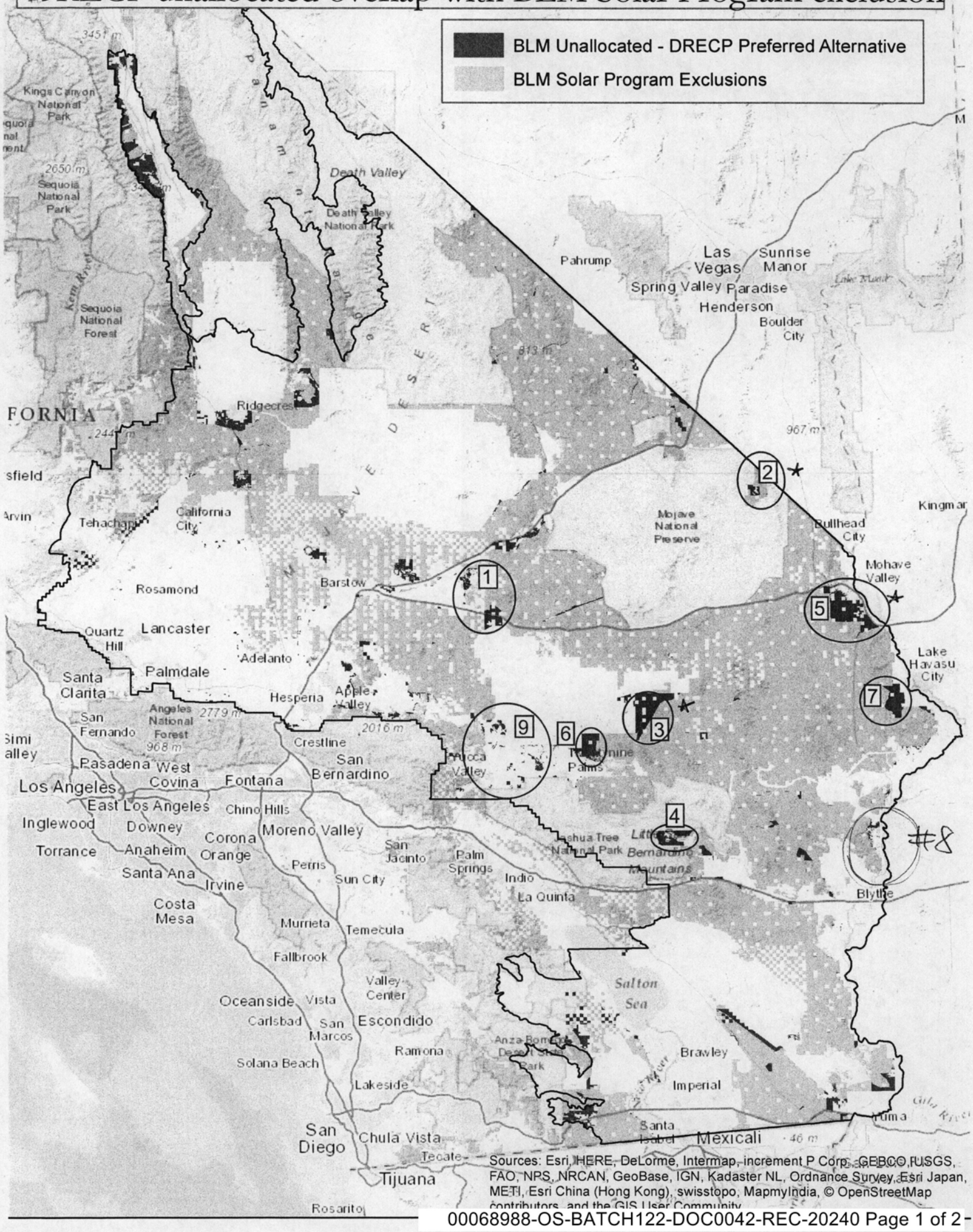
Barbara Boyle
Sierra Club

Sally E. Miller
Sally Miller
The Wildness Society

cc: Commissioner Karen Douglas, California Energy Commission
Charles Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ren Lohoefener, Regional Director, Region 8, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DRECP unallocated overlap with BLM Solar Program exclusion



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Undesignated Areas with high conservation values:

1. Pisgah Valley – proposed western expansion area to Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM) and areas to the south of proposed expansion area to the south across I-40.

✓ 2. Castle Mountains – proposed Castle Mountains National Monument; also overlaps with Unusual Plant Assemblages per the CDCA plan

3. South of Bristol Dry Lake near Cadiz Valley – wildlife habitat management area per the CDCA ✓ plan and within the proposed southern addition to MTNM; this area was a new exclusion area between the supplement and the final.

2 4. Eagle Mountain – proposed boundary adjustment to include eagle mountain as part of Joshua Tree NP

✓ 5. Sacramento Mountains – proposed eastern expansion of MTNM

6. East of Cleghorn Lakes – this area was a new exclusion area between the supplement and the final.

7. Chemehuevi Valley – this area was excluded because it is designated as Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA); just outside of the Chemehuevi Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA)

Other unallocated public lands of concern (outside BLM exclusion areas)

8. Colorado River corridor – the unallocated lands along the CO River corridor also overlap with a number of UPAs per the CDCA plan

9. Morongo Basin – the unallocated public lands in Homestead & Johnson Valley overlap with a large Unique Plant Assemblage area per the CDCA plan

Black Top? → proposed ACEC not on map

~~Cadiz Valley?~~

~~Sacramento MNMs?~~

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

The Components of a Phased DRECP

A proposal by The Nature Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife and Center for Biological Diversity

Final DRECP Plan-Wide Conservation Strategy

Establishes the conservation vision for the California desert including the map of conservation on public and private lands, an understanding of how those lands need to be managed for the species, and an agreement that protecting and managing those lands will achieve plan-wide biological goals and objectives.

County, Region or Subarea Plans (e.g., NCCPs, HCPs, general plans, RAMPs) developed

Including adoption of conservation frameworks that establish private land components of the DRECP conservation strategy, a mechanism for Counties or Regions to engage in the overarching governance and implementation of the DRECP, and upon approval allow participating Counties or Regions to access public lands mitigation tools.

1. **BLM Implementation of the LUPA**
2. **Counties and Local Governments Continue Planning Efforts**
3. **Inter-Agency Team Continues DRECP Development & Implementation**
   a. Develop, refine and update **Plan-Wide Conservation Strategy** (e.g., BGOs) and refine per public comments on DRECP draft. Integrate new county-specific data, iterate and refine.
   b. Continue Interim Project Review Process
   c. Implement Governance Structure
   d. Adaptive Management Team to implement DRECP monitoring, data & reporting program

BLM LUPA Completed	**Executed BLM/DFW Durability Agreement**
Establishes the foundation for conservation and renewable energy development on BLM lands	*Establishes the tools for public lands mitigation*

California/Federal MOU - Revised (2015)

Establishes the framework and creates enabling conditions and commitments for completion of Phases I and II

Phase I | *Bridge Phase* | *Phase II*

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Defenders of Wildlife ~ Natural Resources Defense Council ~
Center for Biological Diversity ~ Sierra Club ~ National Parks Conservation Association
California Native Plant Society ~ The Wilderness Society ~ CalWild

June 3, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

James Kenna
State Director, California State Office
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: Recommendations essential for completing DRECP Phase I (Bureau of Land Management Land Use Plan Amendment)

Dear Jim:

Thank you for meeting with us to discuss the BLM's current approach to the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). We are writing to set forth recommendations that we believe are essential for completing Phase 1 of the DRECP – the Bureau of Land Management's Land Use Plan Amendment (BLM LUPA). Our organizations strongly support the concept of the DRECP as a way to facilitate responsible and sustainable renewable energy development in order to meet state and federal renewable energy mandates and needs while simultaneously providing lasting conservation for species, natural communities and ecological processes on public and private lands in the California deserts. For this reason, we continue to dedicate substantial resources toward achieving this outcome for the DRECP. This letter sets out recommendations on a number of issues that our organizations agree are critical to the success of the DRECP. We included these issues in our comments on the Draft DRECP and reserve the right to comment further on these and other issues relevant to the DRECP as individual organizations. .

We appreciate the tremendous amount of work done by the BLM, partner agencies and their staff to develop a plan to balance renewable energy generation with conservation of large intact landscapes and species' habitats. We believe the DRECP can help California transition to renewable energy without sacrificing the high quality habitat and key wildlife linkages on public lands in the California desert.

Thank you for considering the following recommendations as the BLM develops its LUPA for the DRECP.

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0044-REC-20240 Page 1 of 9

Durable Conservation

- Provide mechanisms for durable conservation on BLM land consistent with statutory conservation standards for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and National Conservation Lands (NCLs) that will facilitate effective mitigation of impacts from projects through compensatory mitigation to meet the NCCP Act and CESA standards. (We can provide recommendations for durable conservation mechanisms upon request.)
- Keep Plan-wide BGOs in the final DRECP LUPA. These Plan-wide BGOs should be revised based on environmental stakeholder public comment received on the DRECP Draft EIS and with specific information incorporated from the Step-down BGOs. We appreciate the analysis that BLM did to determine what was necessary for protecting species in the Step-down BGOs and that work should not be lost.
- Utilize the overarching DRECP conservation strategy (informed by revised Plan-wide BGOs) as the basis for a stand-alone reserve design to be included the BLM's LUPA.
- Commit to apply the Avoidance and Minimization Conservation Management Actions (CMAs) to all activities in the DRECP LUPA area, and clearly articulate how the CMAs will be used to administer and manage public lands in the DRECP LUPA.
- Ensure that the conservation management prescriptions for the existing ACECs and those lands proposed to be designated as ACECs and NCLs in the DRECP remain in the BLM LUPA. BLM must apply the management prescriptions and conservation management actions in these areas to limit all incompatible uses, not just renewable energy and transmission.
- Until state and federal endangered species permits for the DRECP are finalized, BLM should maintain existing compensatory mitigation requirements for habitat loss the following species:
    - Desert tortoise (5:1 ratio) in ACECs for desert tortoise conservation (currently Desert Wildlife Management Areas or "DWMA");
    - Mohave ground squirrel (5:1 ratio) in the Mohave ground squirrel conservation area;
    - Flat-tailed horned lizard in the management areas identified in the Rangewide Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Strategy. Additional conservation will likely be required for the FTHL based on its updated State status.
- Maintain the existing development caps in the conservation areas. Development and disturbance acreage in these areas must accrue from the time the original conservation areas were designated.
- Clarify how BLM proposes that public lands in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) will be managed based on the new activity-level plans for specific areas; also clarify how BLM's proposal to eliminate the Multiple Use Class (MUC) designations would affect earlier designations not proposed to be included in the DRECP LUPA (e.g. WHMAs, areas proposed to be dropped from ACECs, etc.).

Coordinated Planning with Counties

- Coordinate with the State and counties on their renewable energy plans to ensure alignment in location and size of DFAs and of lands designated for conservation necessary to meet statutory federal and state requirements.
- Construct the LUPA such that it is consistent with the concept of ecoregional and county-level plans that incorporate conservation and renewable energy elements, which will continue to proceed, but may be completed after the finalization of the LUPA.
- Coordinate with the state and federal DRECP agencies and counties after the completion of the DRECP LUPA in order to integrate the final Plan-wide conservation strategy and county-level plans.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

- Retain all existing ACECs and designate new ACECs including ACEC additions as proposed in the draft DRECP in support of Plan-wide biological goals and objectives and for protection of important non-biological resources and values.
- Retain ACEC status for the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTRNA).
- Retain ACEC designations where they overlap with NCLs. Where previously designated ACECS are to be subsumed in new NLCS designations, retain the existing ACEC name, plans and other management requirements.
- Ensure any activities authorized within the boundary of existing ACECs and any new ACECs designated in the final LUPA are consistent with the statutory protection requirements for conservation lands in the CDCA and their resources as described in FLPMA. The BLM should analyze authorized or allowed uses, including casual use, within each ACEC to determine if such use would adversely impact the specific resources for which the ACEC has been designated. If such use is determined to adversely impact those resources, then the BLM must reduce and/or prohibit that use to protect those resources.

National Conservation Lands (NCLs; a.k.a. NLCS)

- State in the final LUPA that the NCL areas are not subject to adjustment or removal in a future land use planning process. BLM's authority for identifying NCLs comes from the 2009 Omnibus and not from this land use planning process.
- Identify, pursuant to BLM's authority in the Omnibus Act of 2009, the NCLs in the CDCA and incorporate them into the DRECP as part of the existing baseline conservation. NCLs consist of all public lands in the CDCA administered by BLM for conservation purposes at the time the Act was signed into law in 2009 as well as other lands that meet the criteria provided in the Omnibus Act of 2009.

- Since NCL designation by the BLM is based on criteria provided in the Omnibus Act of 2009, the designation of NCL is not linked to the amount of public land acreage of DFA in the final LUPA.
- Identify all NCLs recommended by CalWild and TWS in their comment letter on the draft DRECP.
- Commit to pursuing recommendations for mineral withdrawal for all NCLs in the LUPA.
- Ensure any allowable disturbance within NCLs is consistent with the statutory protection requirements for these lands and their resources as described in the 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act and FLPMA. The BLM should analyze authorized or allowed uses, including casual use, within each NCL to determine if such use would adversely impact the specific resources for which the NCL has been designated. If such use is determined to adversely impact those resources, then the BLM must reduce and/or prohibit that use to protect those resources.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

- Inventory all public lands in the DRECP planning area for LWC.
- Recognize all LWC recommended by CalWild and manage these lands to protect those values and/or designating these lands as NCLs, and removing them from DFA, variance, or FAA designations.

Development Focus Areas (DFAs)

- Re-assess the need for the overall DFA acreage in light of existing and in-the-pipeline renewable energy generation capacity to ensure that energy planning efforts are informed by an accurate baseline of current development, and intact public lands in California are not unnecessarily developed with utility-scale renewable energy. The assessment should take into account the following:
    - BLM lands in California deserts are already committed to provide 4,812 MW from solar projects that have been built or are under construction, and another 1,763 MW of projects are in the pipeline for review and not subject to DRECP.
    - The President's goal of 20,000 MW by 2020 is a multistate goal and California uses only 40% of the region's electricity.
    - To account for uncertainties, the draft DRECP incorporated additional megawatts above what was calculated as necessary to achieve 2040 state carbon reduction goals, acknowledging that its 20,000 MW planning assumption is purposely conservative. Across public and private lands in the DRECP planning area, our calculations indicate that more than 50% of the DRECP planning assumption for renewable energy is already built, permitted or approved.

- Consistent with specific recommendations by our organizations in our draft DRECP comment letters, finalize the identification of least conflict DFAs, selecting the most appropriate lands from the alternatives presented in the Draft DRECP and ensuring the acreage of DFA is minimized to avoid unnecessary and irretrievable commitment of sensitive public land resources.
    - Even with the changes we recommend to DFAs, there should still be enough geographically diverse and sufficiently large parcels for BLM public lands to make a significant contribution to both the renewable energy goals for California and the President's goal of an additional 10,000 MW from Federal public lands.
    - BLM-managed lands have already contributed substantially to utility-scale renewable energy projects in the California Desert.
- Consistent with specific recommendations by our organizations in our draft DRECP comment letters, refine the DFAs in the Draft DRECP Preferred Alternative to reduce conflicts, and ensure that they :
    - Do not preclude meeting DRECP plan-wide biological goals and objectives and that they are consistent with the overarching DRECP conservation strategy.
    - Allow for a climate change refuge for species and natural communities, specifically in the West Mojave, Amargosa River region and the Riverside East SEZ.
    - Do not encompass significant areas of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.
    - Minimize known cultural resource conflicts.

  Specific recommendations for DFA refinement (Note: these are examples, and not inclusive of all recommendations. Please see comment letters from Defenders, CNPS, CBD and others for all specific recommendations):
    - Refine DFAs in Rose Valley to be consistent with recent Inyo County renewable energy plan decisions.
    - Modify the DFA in the McCoy Wash Valley to remove lands with microphyll woodland, which has yet to be mapped at a finer project-level scale required to meet the Plan requirements for avoidance and minimization of impacts.
    - Remove DTRNA from all proposed DFAs.
    - Modify Lucerne and Johnson Valley DFAs to exclude mapped wildlife linkages, golden eagle nests with appropriate buffers based on the best available science, and large areas with dense creosote rings.
    - Identify and establish the north-south wildlife corridors in the Riverside East SEZ as required in the Solar PEIS.
- Analyze the need for utility-scale wind development on public land in light of progress toward goals and given the potential for avian impacts and land fragmentation resulting from wind energy development.
    - Once lands that conflict with the various Department of Defense installations are taken out, the remaining public lands in the desert with high-value (Class 6 or 5) wind resources outside of the Tehachapi/West Mojave and Eastern Slopes area have

significant ecological, cultural or wilderness conflicts. Examples include Upper McCoy Valley, Granite Mountains, and south of Chocolate Mountains.

- Our analyses suggest that there may not be much need for new wind development on public lands in the desert to meet California's aggressive renewable energy goals. Since 2010 (the baseline year used in the draft DRECP), our data indicate that there have been approximately 3700 MW of new wind projects approved or built in the Plan area. The lion's share of this has occurred in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Eco-region. This Eco-region has seen nearly 2000 MW of new projects built and another 1300 MW approved and permitted, with significant potential for additional infill and build-out, as well as incremental energy from future re-powers of existing wind farms. The area is well on track to meet or exceed the No Action Alternative's forecast of 4400 MW of new wind capacity.
- The LUPA should independently quantify this progress toward meeting DRECP's planning assumptions for wind, and re-assess the need for opening up new wind development areas on public land in light of it.
- Only the No Action Alternative assumes that 4400 MW of new wind capacity will likely be built in the Tehachapi/West Mojave and Eastern Slopes area post-2010. All action alternatives must also assume this level of wind development, thus minimizing the need for new wind development areas elsewhere.

- Clarify how the process for streamlining permits in the DFAs will occur in the LUPA. BLM should consider providing a specific example of how coordination, prioritization and tiering could work for a hypothetical project proposed in a DFA vs. a project proposed outside of a DFA.
- Emphasize the opportunities to prioritize processing of projects in DFAs, which will occur both by BLM devoting resources to addressing projects in DFAs (including staff with expertise on analyzing renewable energy projects and time for other specialists) and by BLM putting applications in DFAs "first in line" for processing.
- Clarify the benefits of tiering to the analysis in the DRECP LUPA EIS, in terms of what types of analysis will be deemed completed as part of the LUPA EIS and mitigation opportunities available under the DRECP LUPA.

Transmission

- Confine future transmission projects to existing designated corridors to prevent further loss and fragmentation of natural communities and impacts to listed and special status species, scenic landscapes and roadless areas.

Undesignated Lands

- Protect through conservation designation (NCLs and/or ACECs) the Undesignated Lands that have scenic, biological, cultural and natural qualities. Many of the public lands identified

in the draft DRECP alternatives as Undesignated have a high degree of ecological intactness and particularly in the eastern portion of the plan area there are large expanses of Undesignated Lands with sensitive resources that should be preserved.

- Clarify BLM's reasoning for leaving some lands as Undesignated in the DRECP LUPA; clarify how these lands will be administered and the process by which decisions will be made on these lands. Renewable energy applications should not be accepted in undesignated areas unless and until there is sufficient analysis to determine the need for additional development areas and an amendment to the land use plan.
- Analyze the potential impact of additional foreseeable renewable energy development on Undesignated lands that may be available for exchange for California State Lands managed by the California State Lands Commission or any other entity.

Variance Lands

- Conserve and exclude from solar energy development any BLM solar variance lands that BLM finds are necessary to meet Plan-wide BGOs or have high resource conflicts. Per the BLM solar energy program, the BLM is responsible for further analyzing the variance lands within the DRECP area as part of the DRECP LUPA and making a determination as to whether those lands are to be made available for solar energy development or for conservation.
- Review the DRECP variance lands and revise the designations based on biological, cultural and wilderness values. As our comments on the Draft DRECP explain, we have found that many of the proposed DRECP variance lands (open for solar, wind, geothermal) support natural communities and sensitive, threatened and endangered species that should be designated for conservation purposes in order to contribute to the Plan-wide biological goals and objectives.
- Provide a clear explanation for the process whereby renewable energy projects would be permitted in DRECP variance lands if any remain in the final LUPA and clarify how the DRECP variance process relates to the Programmatic BLM solar energy variance process.

Special Analysis Areas (SAA)

- Designate for conservation and remove from consideration for renewable energy development the entire SAA in the Silurian Valley and the northern portion of the SAA north of Kramer Junction that overlaps the existing Mohave ground squirrel conservation area.

Recreation

- Prioritize conservation land management prescriptions when they are overlapping with recreation areas.

- Prohibit expansion of open OHV areas throughout the DRECP planning area.

Travel Management Planning and Route Designation within the DRECP

It is vital that travel planning and route designation that occurs within the DRECP, both in the ongoing Western Mojave (WEMO) plan and future efforts, is consistent with and furthers the conservation that is incorporated in the DRECP. The proposed DRECP management prescriptions defer to existing and future travel planning efforts regarding motorized vehicle route designation and management of those routes. However, in the ongoing WEMO planning we are already seeing proposals for vastly increasing motorized routes, creating inconsistencies with the DRECP that will completely eviscerate conservation of species, lands with wilderness characteristics, and units of the National Landscape Conservation System (National Conservation Lands or NCLs). We recommend the following points be addressed in the DRECP LUPA:

- Ensure revisions to areas and routes available for use by motorized vehicles under the CDCA Plan (e.g., WEMO Plan area) are consistent with biological goals, objectives and conservation management actions under the DRECP, including but not limited to measures designed for conservation of animal and plant species, lands with wilderness characteristics and units of the National Conservation Lands.
- Prohibit any increase in route density and overall route length within the boundary of any designated conservation area within the DRECP. Ensure that area designations cannot be adopted or changed to prioritize motorized recreation over conservation.
- Encourage and/or require reductions in route density and use intensity on all NCLs and other conservation lands under the DRECP where existing motorized vehicle use is inconsistent with protection of resources and their values.
- Prioritize conservation over motorized vehicle use within all lands designated for conservation under the DRECP LUPA (NCL, ACEC, lands with wilderness characteristics). Any motorized vehicle use must be consistent with the conservation goals and objectives established for each designated area.
- Ensure that the components of the National Conservation Lands are managed to protect the conservation values in each area, including, where appropriate, prohibiting uses that are in conflict with those values, consistent with Secretarial Order 3308 (Management of the National Landscape Conservation System). Reevaluate existing motorized vehicle access and route designations within the plan area to determine if changes are needed to ensure that the plan-wide biological goals and objectives of the DRECP can be achieved and that NCLs and their resource values are protected as per Secretarial Order 3308.

As the BLM continues to develop the DRECP BLM LUPA, we urge you to consider these recommendations that consolidate many of the points from our individual comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") for the DRECP and address the agencies' new proposal to phase the DRECP. We believe it is important for BLM to carefully consider each of the above

points as the DRECP Phase 1 process moves forward on public lands. As stakeholders to the DRECP, we intend the recommendations in this letter to assist in strengthening the DRECP. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the above recommendations are incorporated into DRECP Phase 1. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kim Delfino
California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Helen O'Shea
Director, Western Renewable Energy
Natural Resources Defense Council

Barbara Boyle
Senior Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign
Sierra Club

Lisa Belenky
Senior Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity

David Lamfrom
Associate Director, California Deserts
National Parks Conservation Association

Greg Suba
Conservation Director
California Native Plant Society

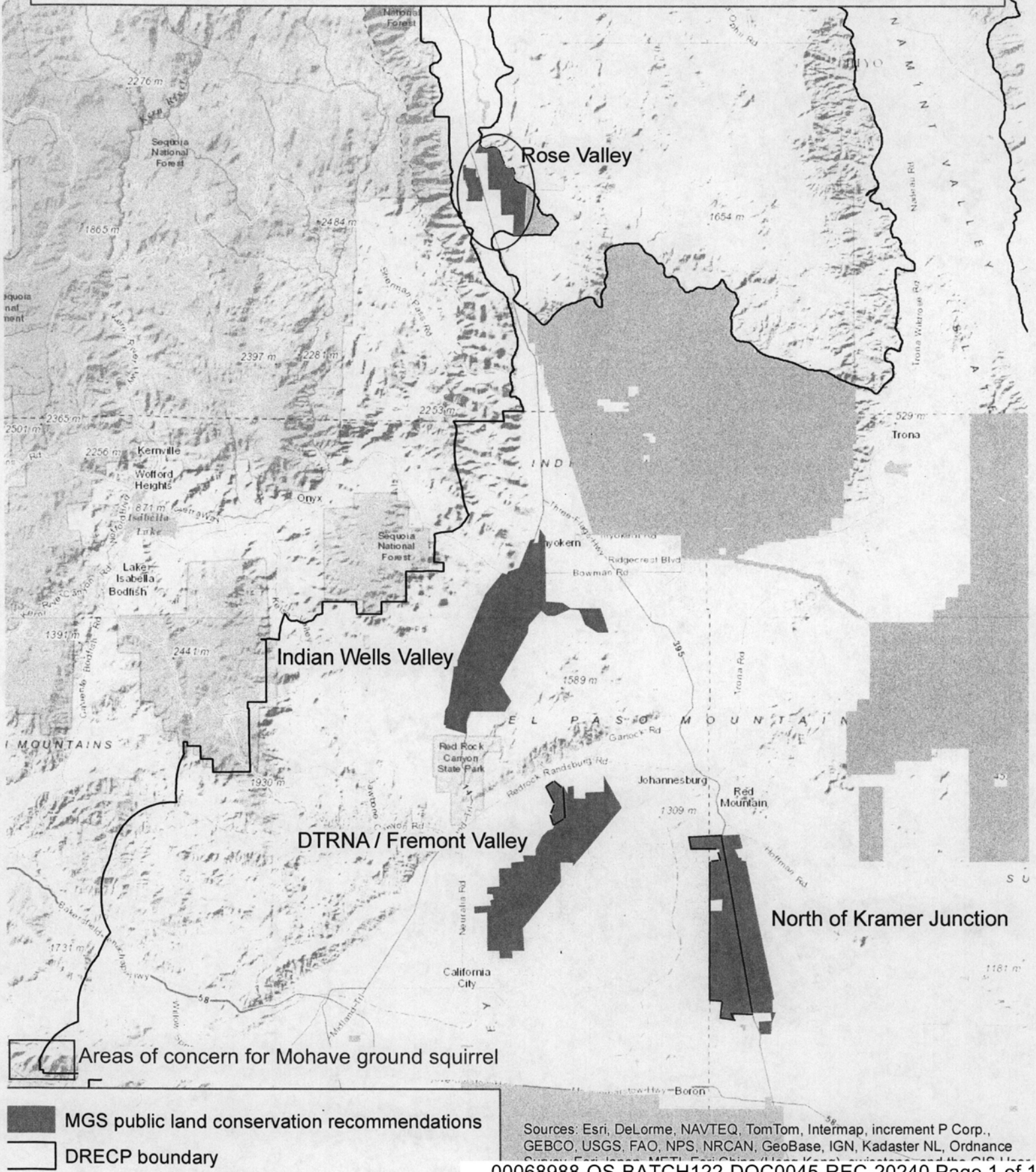
Nada Culver
Senior Counsel and Director, BLM Action Center
The Wilderness Society

Ryan Henson
Senior Policy Director
CalWild

CC:
Chris Beale, Director, Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
Commissioner Karen Douglas, California Energy Commission
Charles Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ren Lohoefener, Regional Director, Region 8, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

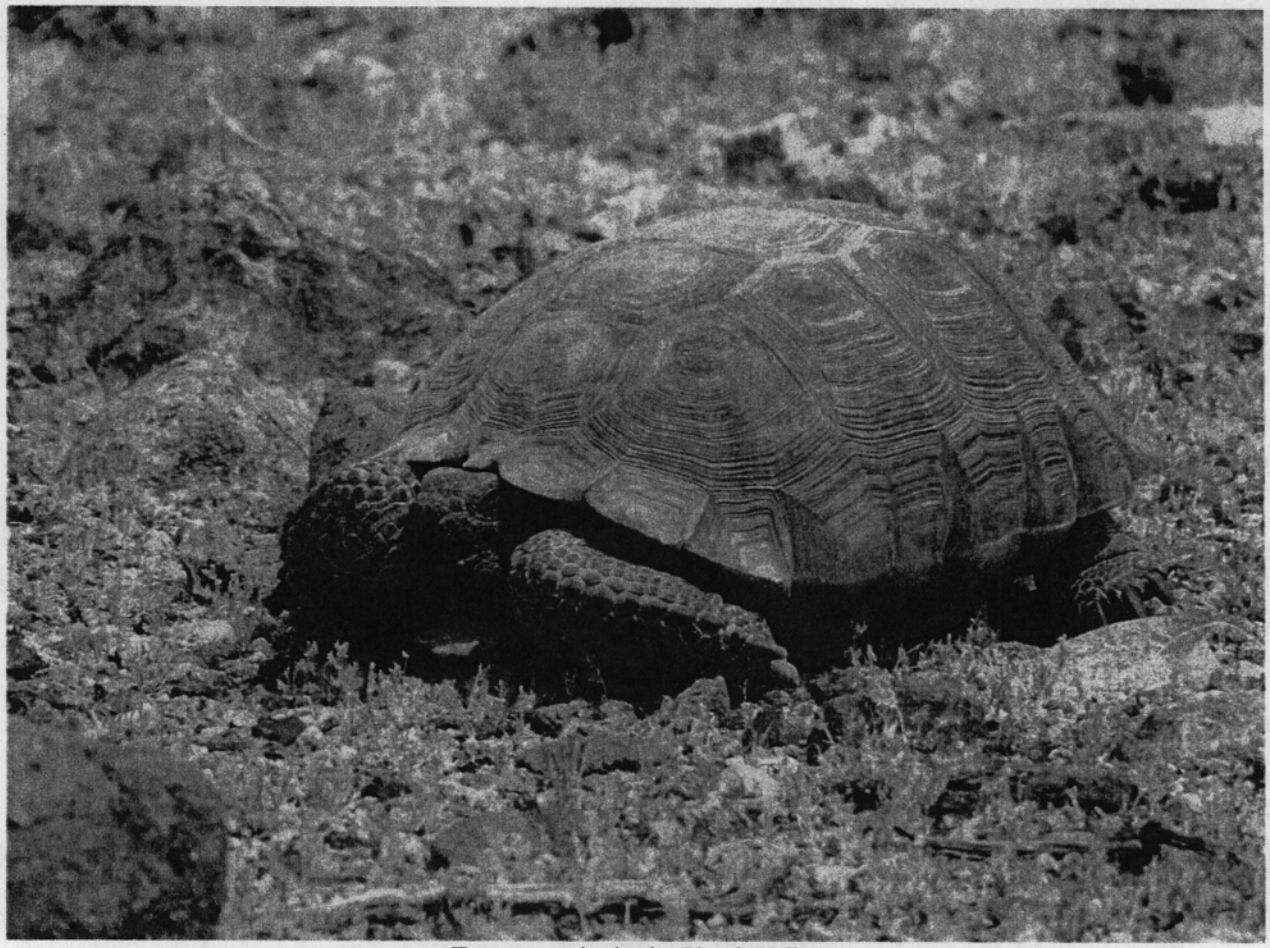
Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Additions on public land in the West Mojave Recommendations from Defenders of Wildlife



FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

The Pisgah Valley

Proposed Addition to the Mojave Trails National Monument
California Desert



(Desert tortoise in the Pisgah Valley)

Prepared by:

Defenders of Wildlife

Sierra Club

Center for Biological Diversity

August 2015

The Pisgah Valley

Proposed Addition to the Mojave Trails National Monument

California Desert

Introduction

The Pisgah Valley is located in the Central Mojave Desert and links the Western Mojave and Eastern Mojave regions of the California Desert. Located east of Barstow, it is comprised primarily of large expanses of undeveloped federal public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and totals approximately 90,000 acres (Map 1). These lands are valued for their scenic, biological, recreational and historic resources and values. As such, they warrant inclusion into the Proposed Mojave Trails National Monument. The general landscape of the Pisgah Valley is largely unspoiled and highly scenic, especially during the spring when wildflowers carpet the valley (Photograph 1).

Conservation History

Past conservation actions in and near the Pisgah Valley have contributed to the conservation of sensitive resources and habitats:

- The Mojave Desert Land Trust acquired 3,330 acres in Hidden Valley in 2010, located just inside the Cady Mountains WSA, for tortoise, bighorn and golden eagle conservation using $2.7 million from the Renewable Energy Resources Fee Trust Fund administered by California Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Approximately 6 square-miles of land acquired for conservation by BLM with funding provided by The Wildlands Conservancy and the Land and Water Conservation Fund;
- U.S. Army acquisition of grazing privileges on the 167,000 acres of the Cady Mountain allotment and removal of livestock in 1994;
- BLM designation of the 20,000 acre Pisgah Crater Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in 2006;
- BLM designation of the Manix and Mojave fringe-toed lizard ACECs in 2006;
- Designation of U.S. Route 66 as State Historic Highway Route 66 in 1990;
- BLM designation of the 17,000 acre Pisgah Lava Flow Research Natural Area in 1980.

Sensitive Biological Resources

Recent field studies have proven that the lands within the Pisgah Valley have very important sensitive biological resources, largely unknown or overlooked when the California Desert Conservation Area Plan was finalized in 1980; when desert tortoise critical habitat was designated in

1994; and when the West Mojave Plan was approved in 2006. These newly documented sensitive resources include rare plants; a robust and widespread desert tortoise population; golden eagle foraging areas; and one of the largest and fastest growing herds of desert bighorn sheep; and others. Details of these sensitive resources are described below.

Rare Plants: Four special-status plant species are known from the Pisgah Valley - Emory's crucifixion-thorn (Photograph 2), small-flowered androstephium (Photograph 3), white-margined penstemon (Photograph 4) and an unnamed species of lupine, recently discovered south of the Cady Mountains by Dr. Jim Andre of the University of California.

Emory's crucifixion-thorn is a robust, leafless shrub native to the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, considered rare in California by the California Native Plant Society and threatened by renewable energy development and expansion of military bases. It is known from only a few widely scattered locations in California and populations are generally small. It occurs in the Pisgah Valley in low numbers and is associated with desert washes and ephemeral drainage channels.

Small-flowered androstephium is ranked by the California Native Plant Society as rare, threatened or endangered in California. As of 1996 it was known in California from only four herbarium specimens and a photograph. Since then additional populations have been discovered, mostly through field studies associated with military base expansion and renewable energy projects. This plant was found at 52 locations on the bajada south of the Cady Mountains during field surveys for the former proposed Calico solar project. Additional plants were found on public lands to the west and east, including many in the Pisgah ACEC. Although it is a cryptic species that is difficult to detect, over 1,500 individual plants were observed on the lower badaja of the Cady Mountains during surveys in 2010.

White-margined penstemon, also called white-margined beardtongue, is very limited in California and known only from the Pisgah Valley south of the Cady Mountains, near Hector, Lavic, and Ludlow, and most of its geographic range is in and around the Pisgah lava flow that includes the Pisgah ACEC. According to Dr. Jim Andre, and expert on this species, there are only about 4,000 individual plants inhabiting the area.

Other plant species of interest, which are more common and widespread, include the common fish-hook cactus, which occurs on gravelly soils. Although relatively small and inconspicuous, it produces rich-colored flower displays during years of adequate rainfall (Photograph 5).

Animals: Several species of special status species of animals and other more common species occur in the Pisgah Valley:

The desert tortoise, a state and federally listed threatened species, is widespread and abundant in the Pisgah Valley (Photographs 6 &7). The area has a relatively high density of desert tortoises and excellent quality habitat. The habitat suitability is of the highest quality in the range of the desert tortoise based on the field-tested and highly reliable USGS habitat model developed in 2009. Based on field surveys for this species on the 8,200 acre site of the former proposed Calico solar project,

the desert tortoise population was estimated at 174 adults and juveniles, significantly greater than the average density estimated in the various critical habitat units in the Western Mojave. Based on this density, the tortoise population in the Pisgah Valley is estimated at over 1,000 individuals.

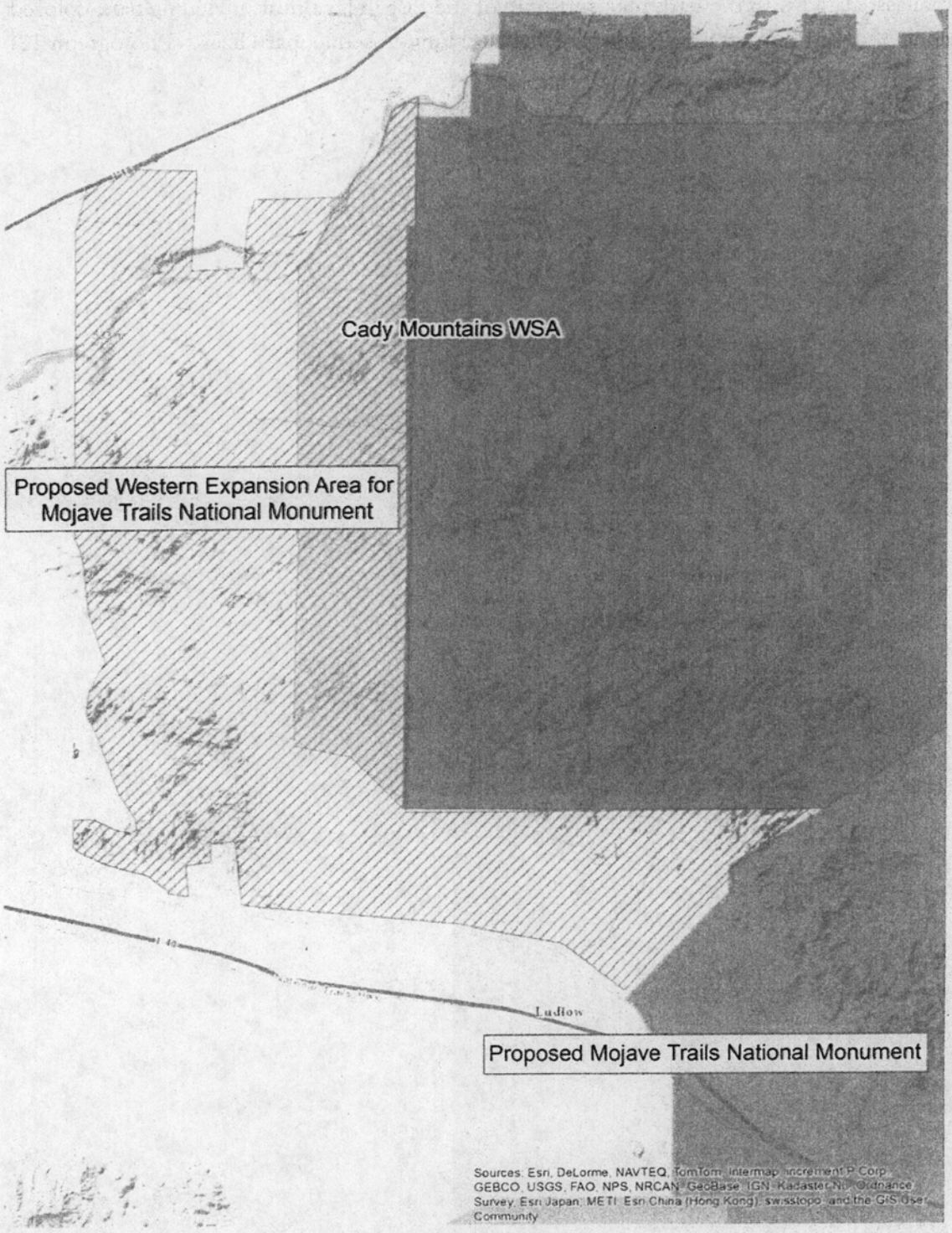
Mojave fringe-toed lizards occur throughout the Pisgah Valley in small patches of sand deposited by water and wind, but are most abundant along the west slope of the Cady Mountains and north of the Pisgah Crater lava flow. The primary source of wind-blown sand in the area is the Mojave River. Secondary sources are small stream channels draining the Cady Mountains. This species is endemic to the Mojave Desert and only occurs in sand habitats. Their body color and pattern closely matches the color of the sand in which they live, concealing them from predators.

Golden eagles nest in the Cady Mountains and nearby Newberry and Rodman Mountains. Eagle nest surveys conducted for the BLM in 2012 documented approximately 10 nest sites in the Cady and 18 in the Newberry and Rodman Mountains. Nesting eagles have large territories surrounding their nest sites in which they hunt for food, primarily black-tailed jackrabbits. Golden eagles are long-lived and very sensitive to human activities near their nests. The most important conservation measures for this species are protection of nesting sites and foraging habitat. They repeatedly return to their individual nesting and foraging territories over the span of their lifetime. Golden eagles are designated as a sensitive species by the BLM and are fully protected under state and federal law. The Cady Mountains is regarded as a Key Raptor Area by the BLM and designated the Cady Mountains as a habitat management area for breeding raptors in 1980.

Desert bighorn sheep inhabit the Cady Mountains and have expanded over the past 10 years to become one of the largest herds in the California Desert, now estimated at approximately 400 individuals based on recent surveys by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The tremendous expansion in the herd population coincided with the removal of cattle when the U.S. Army acquired the grazing permit in 1994 as part of the impact mitigation requirements for the expansion of Fort Irwin. The removal of grazing, and eventual cancellation of the allotment by BLM (which has yet to occur) was intended to benefit the threatened desert tortoise, but the benefit to bighorn sheep was rapid and unexpected. The expansion of the herd coincided with the recolonization of the South Soda Mountains, which now supports a herd of approximately 75 individuals. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, have developed water sources in the Cady Mountains for bighorn sheep and other native species, which are monitored and maintained annually by volunteers. The lower slopes and washes of the Cady Mountains provide forage for bighorn during the late winter and early spring season, which is critically important for successful reproduction by ewes. Bighorn are fully protected in California under state law, and there are opportunities for limited hunting of mature rams in selected mountain ranges, depending on population condition and trend. The Cady Mountains was recently approved as an approved hunting zone by the Department of Fish and Wildlife because of the robust and healthy herd of bighorn.

Other species of interest include distinct morphological variations of several reptile and small mammal associated with the dark rock substrate of the Pisgah lava flow, including dark-colored variations of desert horned lizard, side-blotched and long-nosed leopard lizard (Photograph 12).

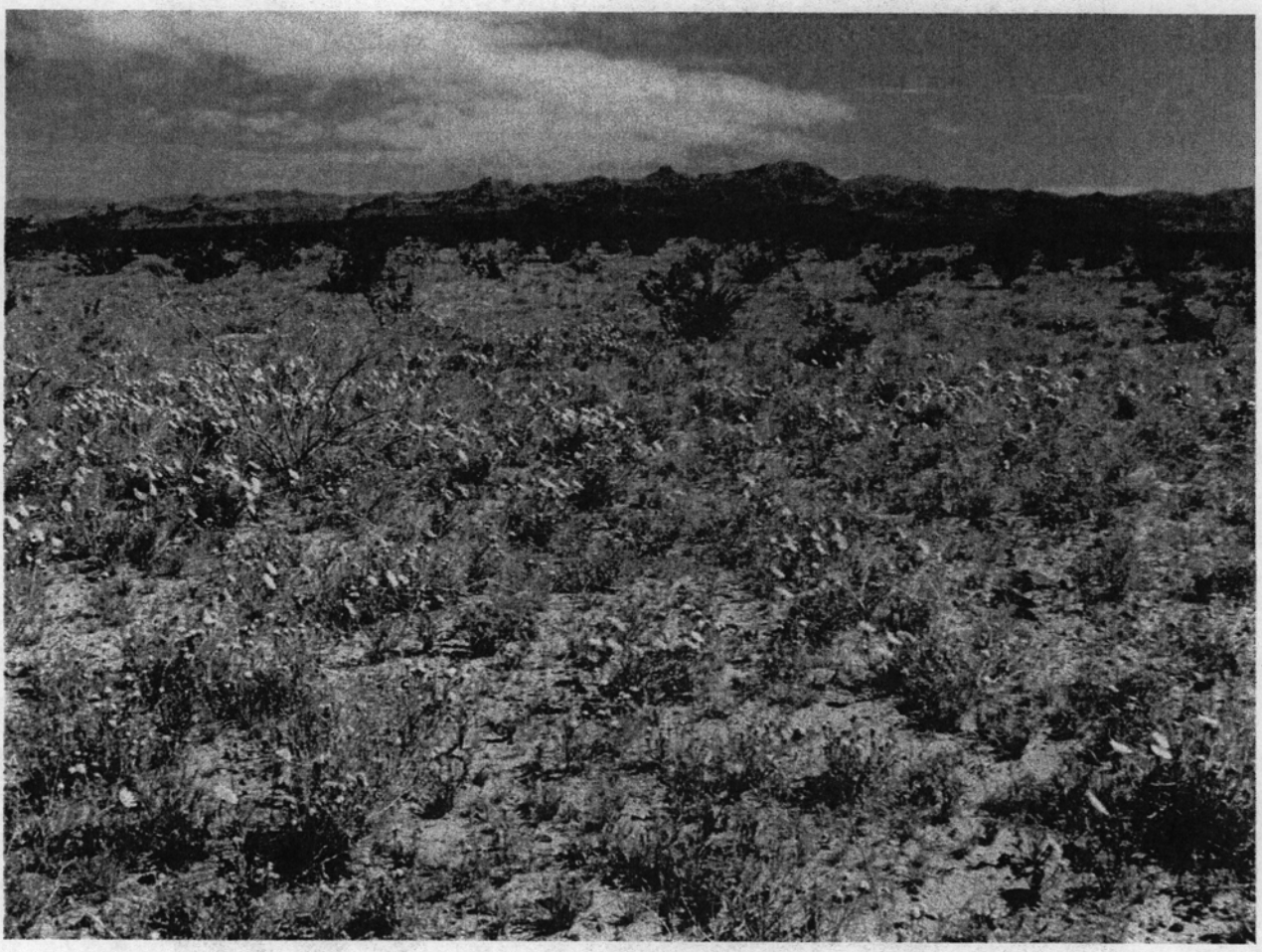
Map 1



The proposed western expansion area for Mojave Trails National Monument with 1,000 ft. buffers around SCE's transmission ROW and the BNSF railroad.

Photograph 1

General landscape of the Pisgah Valley

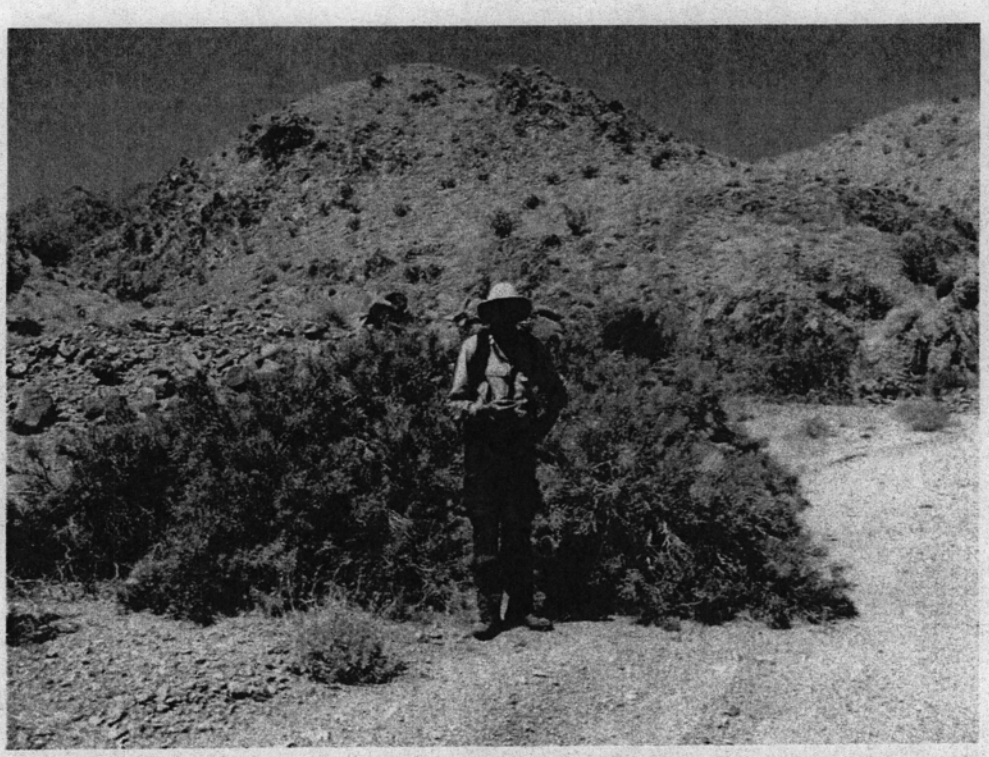


Pisgah Valley covered with wildflowers with the Cady Mountains in the distance.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

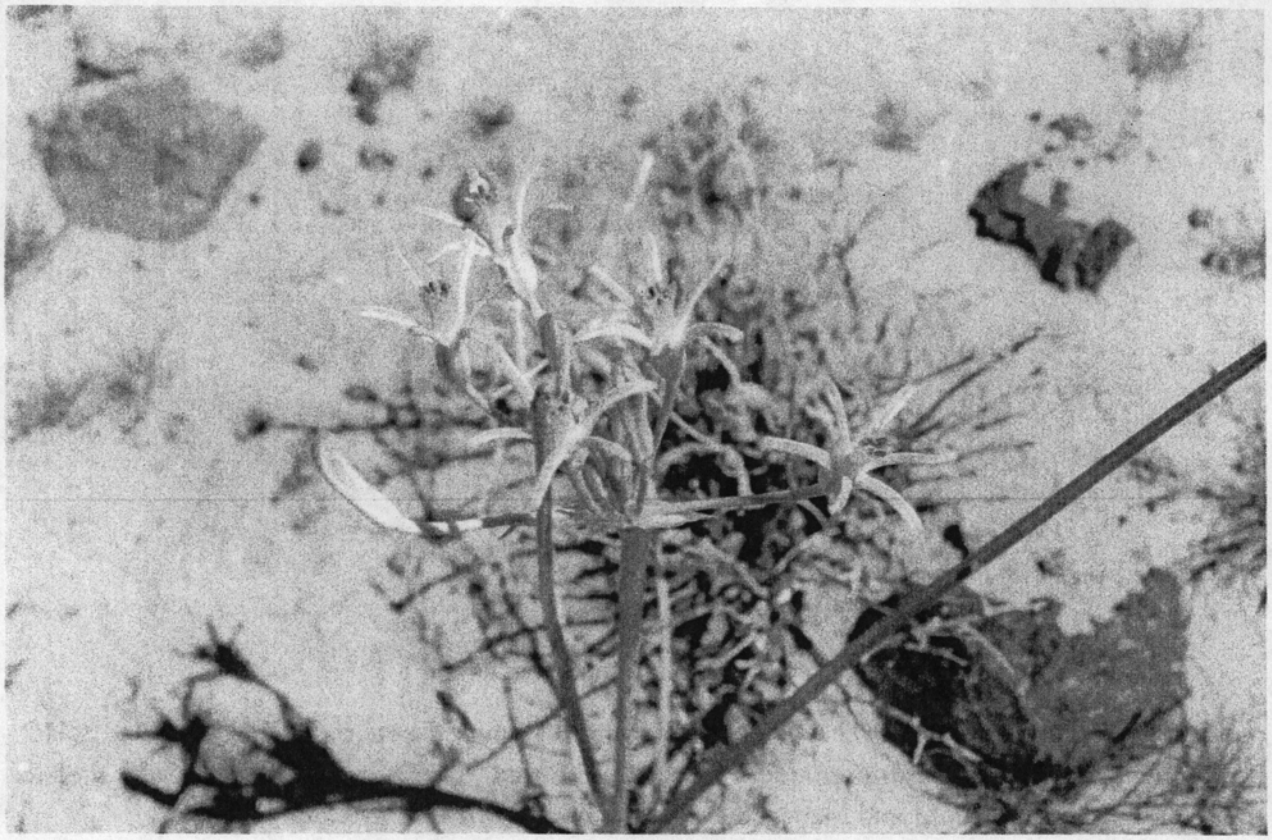
Photograph 2

Emory's crucifixion-thorn near the southern slope of the Cady Mountains



Photograph 3

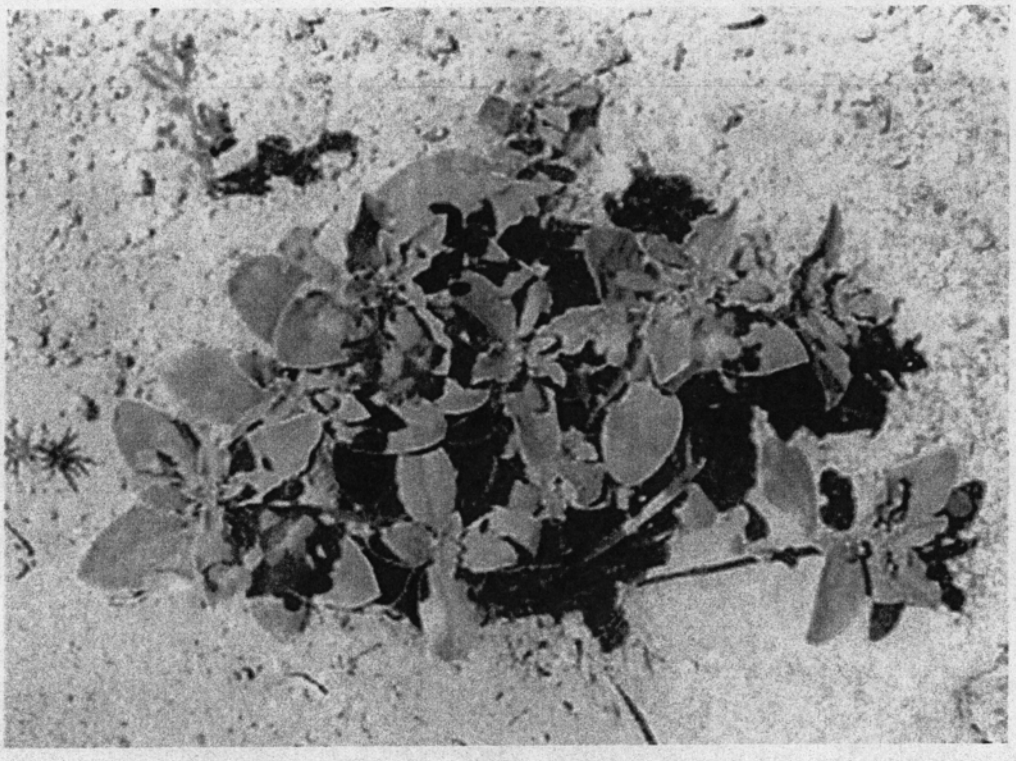
Small-flowered androstephium in the Pisgah Valley south of the Cady Mountains



Courtesy of Basin and Range Watch.

Photograph 4

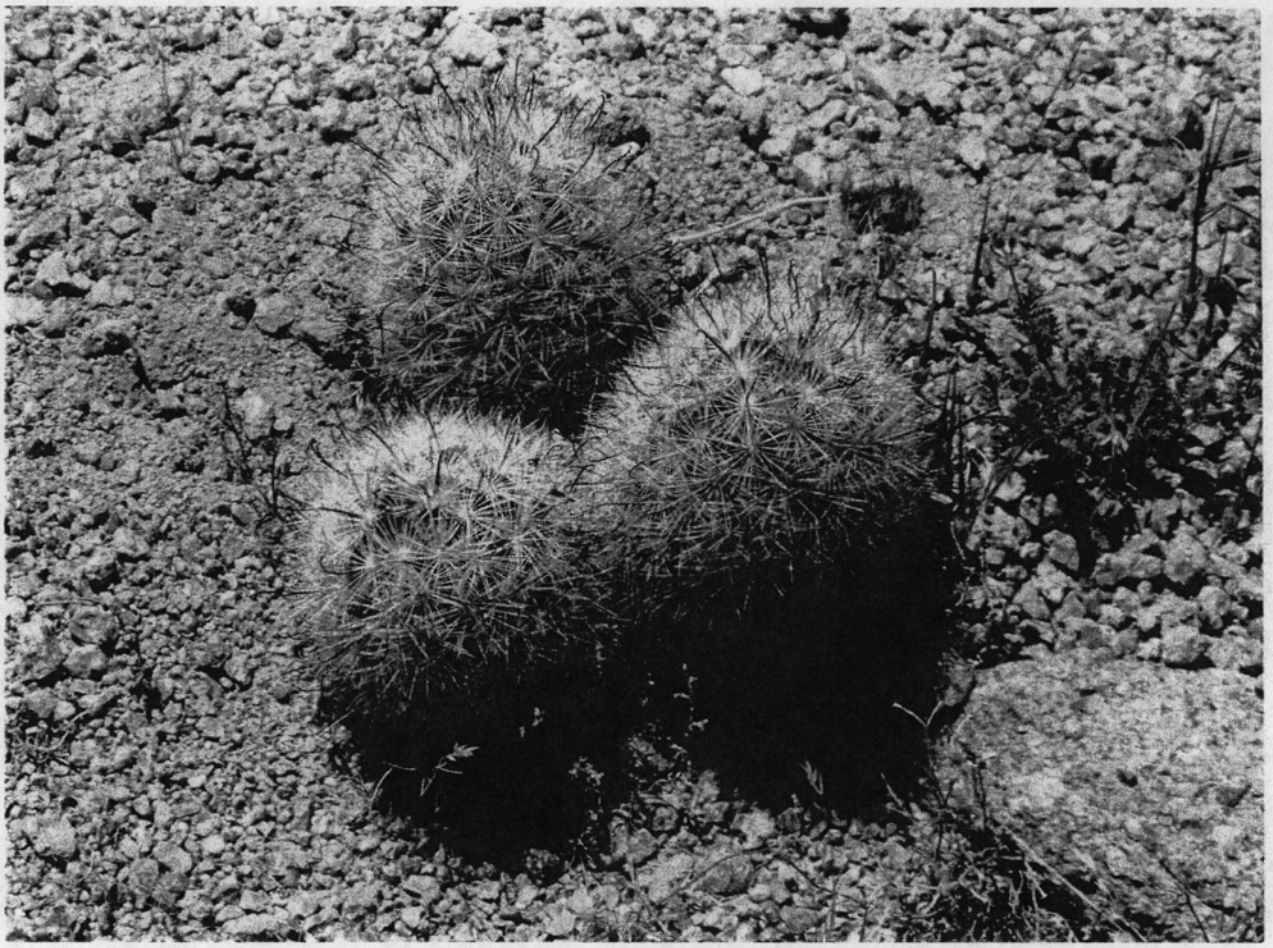
White-margined penstemon in the Pisgah Valley south of the Cady Mountains



Source: URS Corporation. 2009. Biological Resources Technical Report for the Solar One Solar Power Generating Facility, San Bernardino County, California. San Diego, California. Submitted to the Bureau of Land Management and the California Energy Commission.

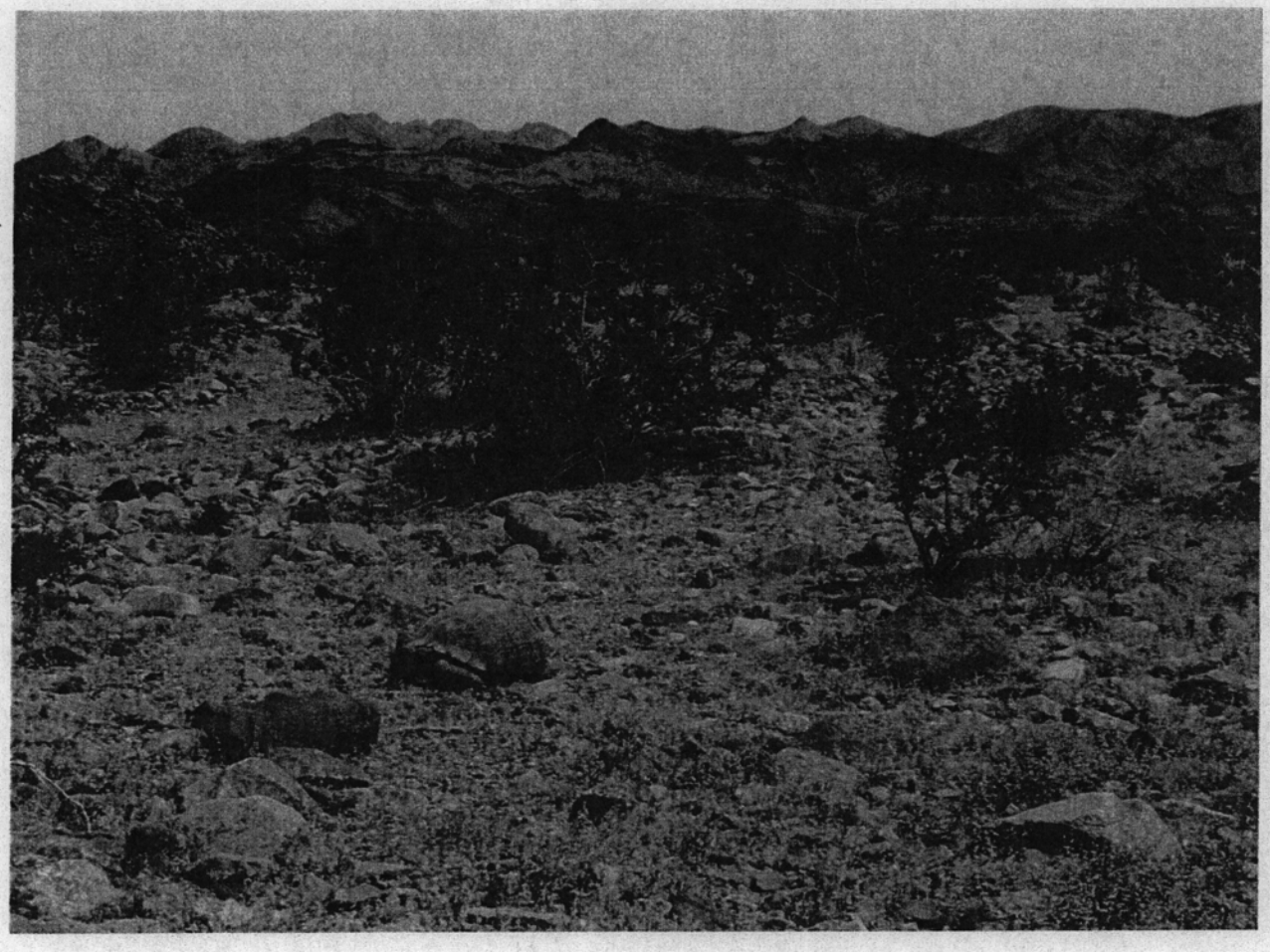
Photograph 5

Fish-hook cactus in Pisgah Valley south of the Cady Mountains



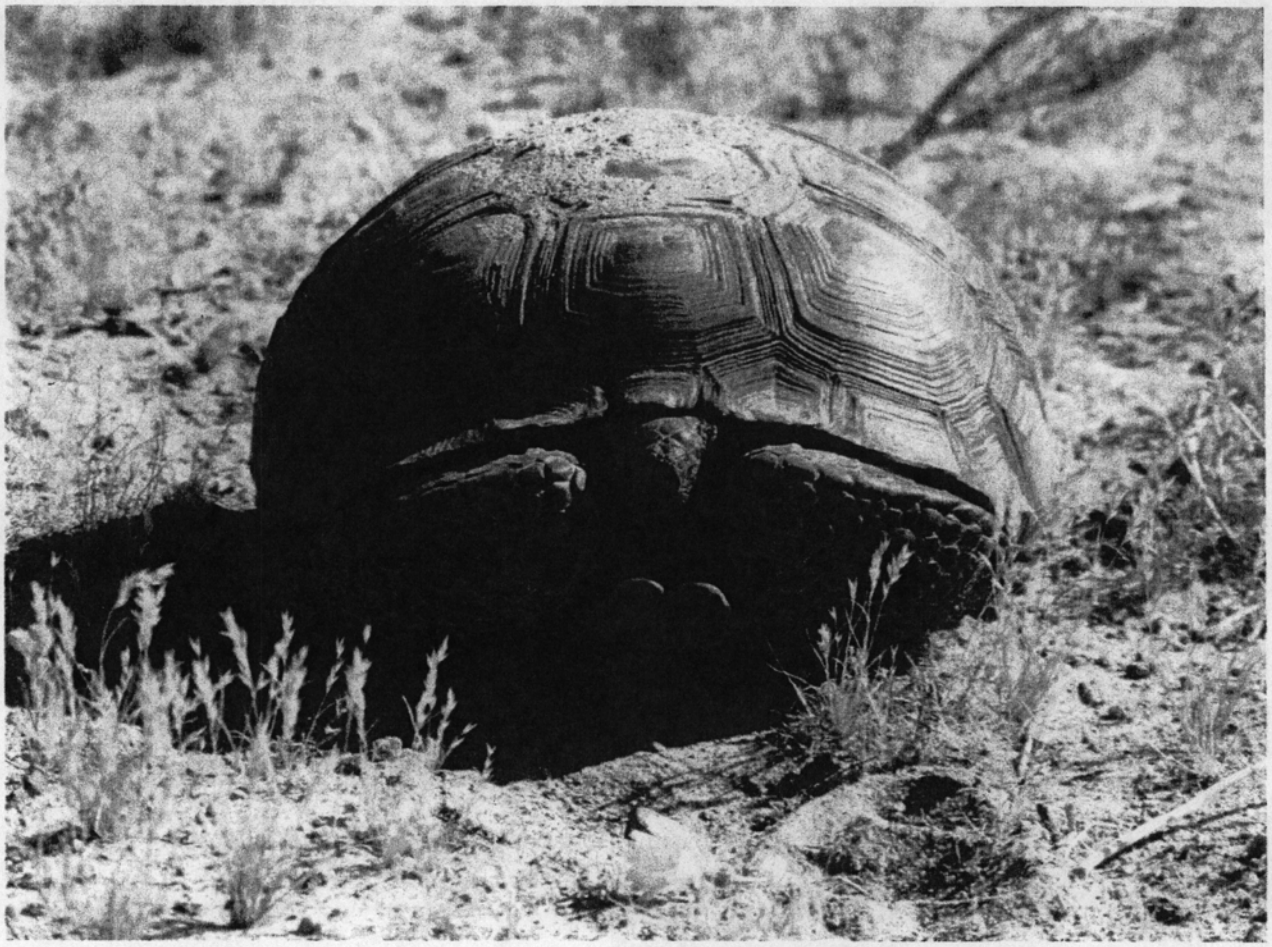
Photograph 6

Desert tortoise in the Pisgah Valley south of the Cady Mountains



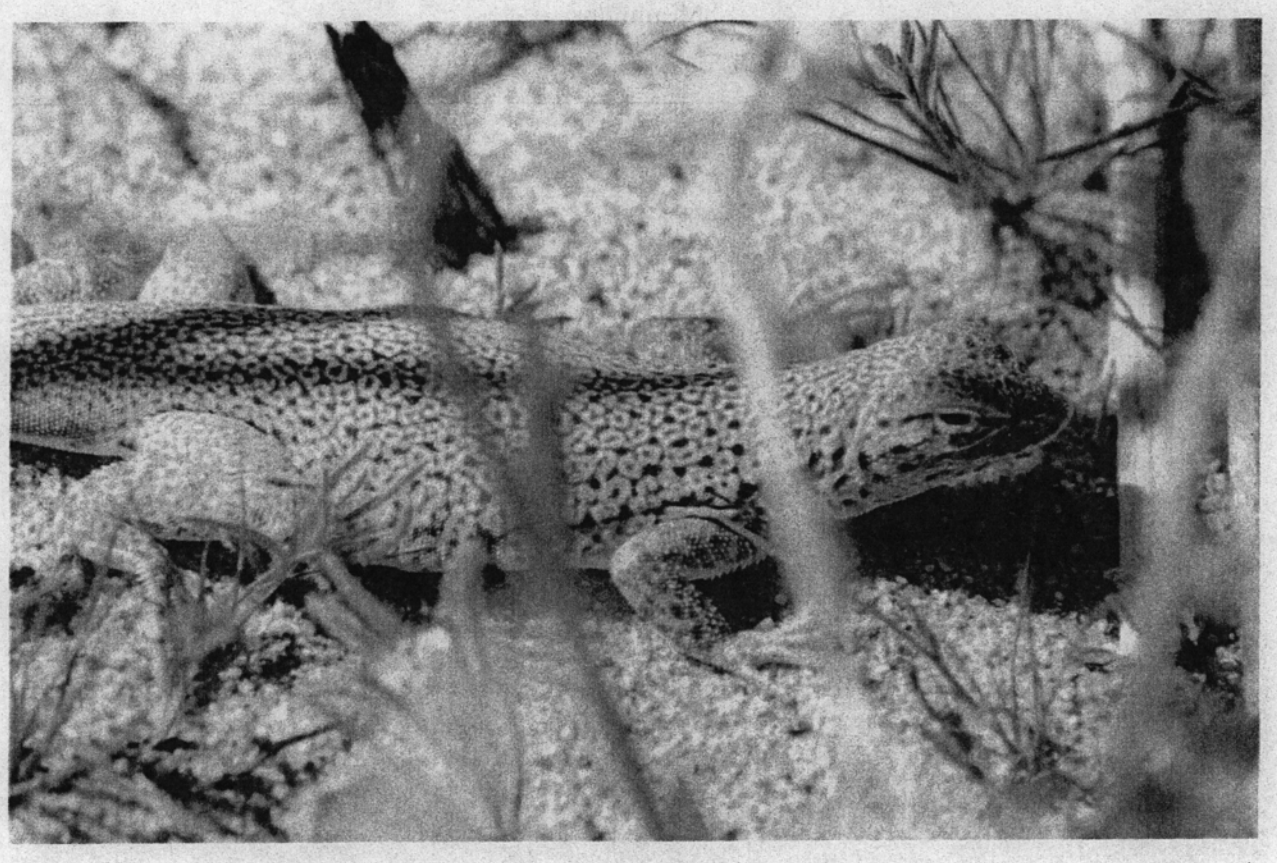
Photograph 7

Desert tortoise recently emerged from hibernation burrow in the Pisgah Valley south of the Cady Mountains



Photograph 8

Mojave fringe-toed lizard in the Pisgah Valley south of the Cady Mountains



Courtesy of Basin and Range Watch

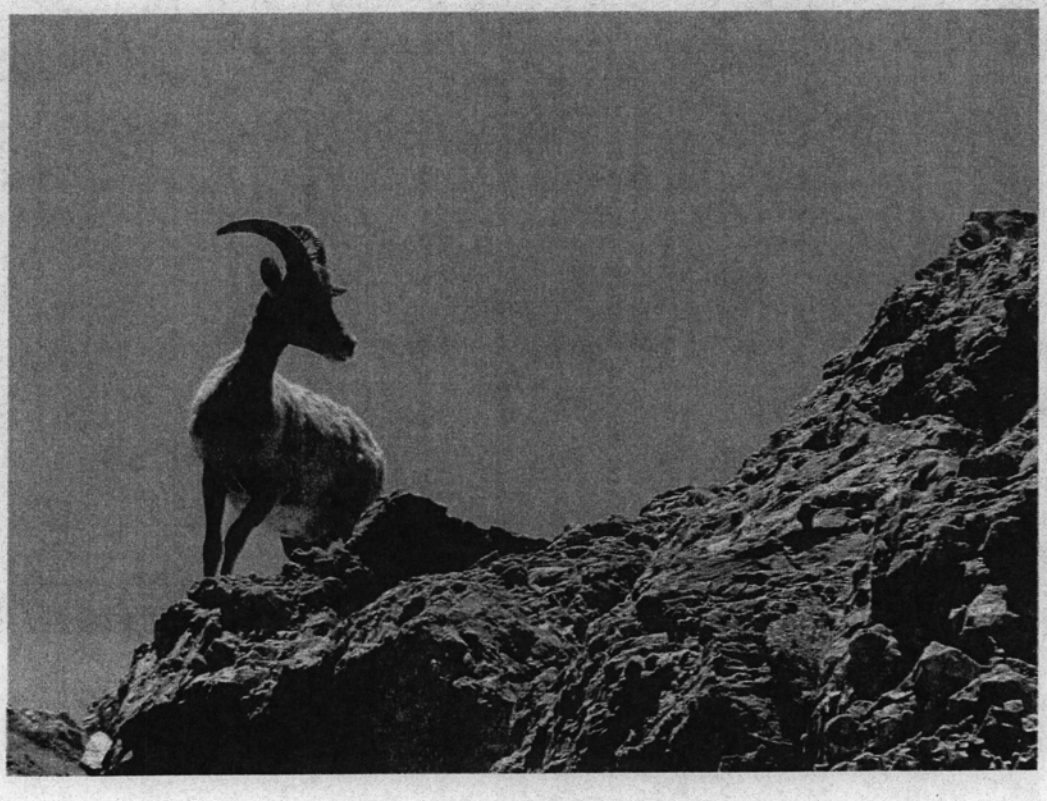
Photograph 9

Golden eagle

Courtesy of Basin and Range Watch

Photograph 10

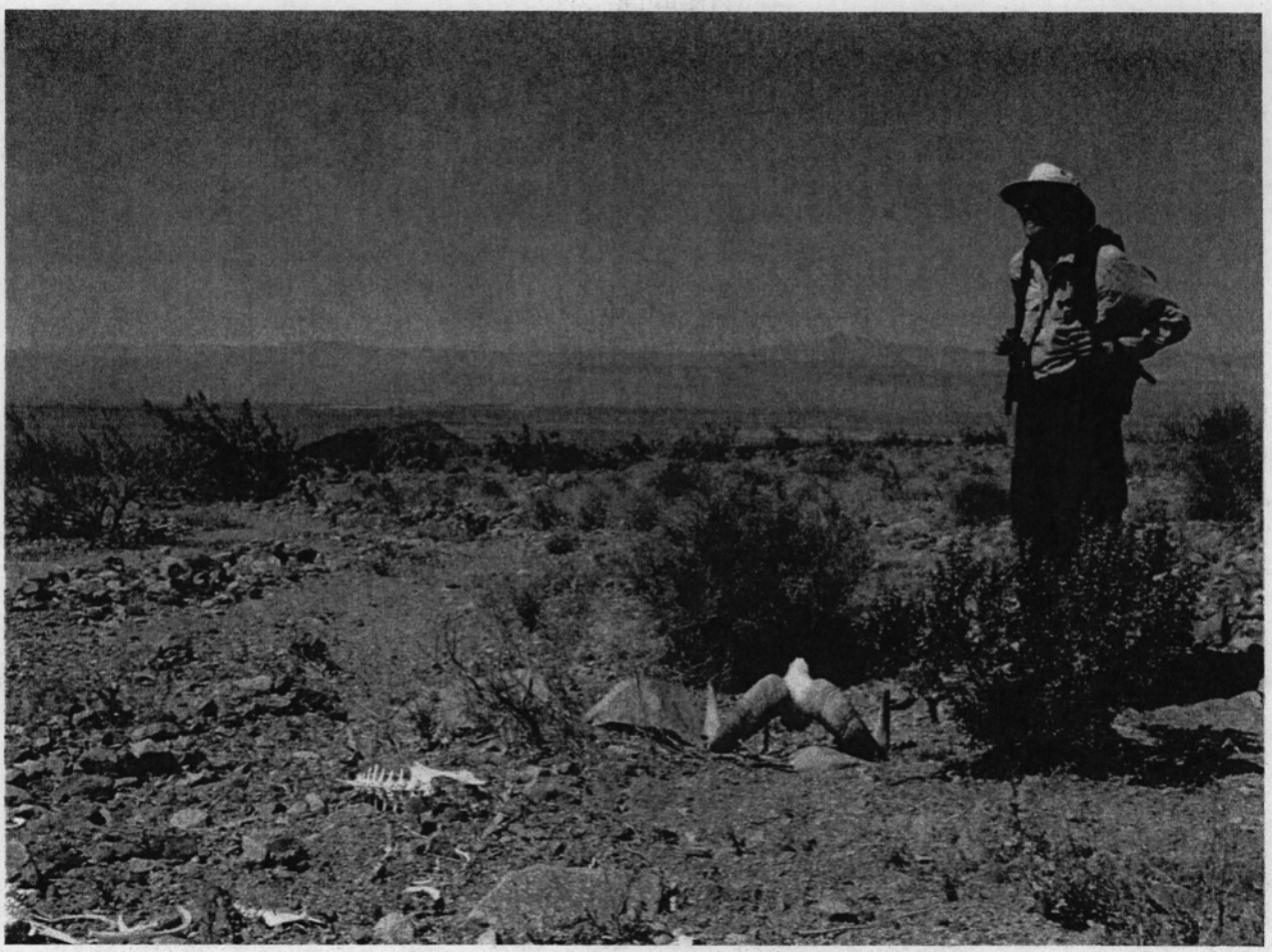
Desert bighorn sheep



Courtesy of Basin and Range Watch

Photograph 11

Remains of male desert bighorn sheep in the Pisgah Valley south of the Cady Mountains



Photograph 12

Long-nosed leopard lizards in the Pisgah Valley north of the Pisgah Crater lava flow, showing variation in color.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

California Office
1303 J Street, Suite 270 | Sacramento, CA 95814 | tel 916.313.5800 | fax 916.313.5812
www.defenders.org

May 15, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

James G. Kenna, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825
Via email: jkenna@blm.gov

Re: Mohave ground squirrel recommendations for the DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment

Dear Jim:

On March 10, 2015, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced a change in the direction of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). At that time, the BLM stated that it was going to move forward with finalizing a Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) before the completion of any part of a DRECP decision document or permits involving private land development and/or conservation and federal and state endangered species permitting. We are writing to provide the BLM with recommendations for the conservation of the Mohave ground squirrel (MGS) on public lands under a final DRECP LUPA. Copies of this letter will be concurrently sent to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the California Energy Commission (CEC).

Background

Defenders has supported conservation of the MGS for many years primarily through protection of its habitat. Due to ongoing concerns over cumulative loss of its habitat due to human land use activities, Defenders petitioned the Secretary of the Interior to have the species listed including designation of its critical habitat in 2005. In response to that petition, in 2010, the USFWS found the petition contained new information indicating the species may warrant listing and announced a 12-month status review. However, in October 2011, the USFWS determined that the species did not warrant listing "at this time."

In making that unwarranted listing determination in 2011, the USFWS relied, in large part, on the West Mojave (WEMO) Plan and its Mohave ground squirrel conservation provisions. BLM adopted alternative B of that plan in the 2006 Record of Decision (ROD), which amended the California Desert Conservation Area Plan and resulted in the designation of the MGS Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) (sometimes referred to as the MGS Conservation Area), which is comprised of approximately 1.7 million acres of public land. Although multiple land uses were allowed, BLM adopted a conservation framework under which the agency allowed for a maximum

National Headquarters
1130 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-4604
tel 202.682.9400 | fax 202.682.1331

habitat loss limit of 1% during the 20 year life of the plan and a 5:1 compensatory mitigation requirement for each acre of habitat lost due to land use activities. (WEMO Plan, Chapter 2, pages 1, 204).

In making its unwarranted listing determination in 2011, the USFWS relied on the BLM's commitments under the WEMO Plan for MGS conservation, and specifically the 1% habitat loss limit and the 5:1 compensatory mitigation requirement. (76 Federal Register at 62231, 62233, 62235 (October 6, 2011)).
We have verified this based on a review of documents obtained from the USFWS through a Freedom of Information Act request. (Email from L. LaPre, BLM, to J. Hohman, USFWS, 5/27/2010; Email from J. Hohman, USFWS, to M. McCrary, USFWS, 5/29/2010).

The USFWS also referred to the DRECP in their finding that listing of the MGS was unwarranted. They expected that the conservation measures currently in place for the MGS (1% habitat loss limit and 5:1 compensatory mitigation) would be included in the DRECP as a continuation of the policy in place through the WEMO Plan amendments of 2006. (76 Federal Register at 62231, 62233, and 62234).

Interestingly, the federal programmatic solar plan (commonly referred to as the Solar PEIS) provided strong conservation measures for the MGS relative to solar energy development on public lands. The Solar PEIS ROD, including a clarification statement, signed in 2012 by the BLM Director, described certain public land areas as Exclusion Areas where solar project applications would not be accepted and development not allowed. Exclusion Criteria #7 excludes the following areas from solar energy development: "*Sage-grouse core areas, nesting habitat, and winter habitat; **Mohave ground squirrel habitat**; flat-tailed horned lizard habitat; fringe-toed lizard habitat; and all other areas where the BLM has agreements with state agency partners and other entities to manage sensitive species habitat in a manner that would preclude solar energy development.*" (emphasis added).

Recommendations for MGS Conservation in the Phase 1 DRECP

Defenders has carefully reviewed the Draft DRECP and developed several recommendations for MGS conservation on public lands that we believe are needed in a final DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment in order to be consistent with and achieve the stated biological goals and objectives for this species. While under the previous DRECP Framework, the conservation value of private lands proposed for protection in a final DRECP could potentially be "counted" as providing conservation for MGS beyond the conservation provided by BLM lands, the new Phase 1 Framework cannot rely on private lands as providing sufficient protections for MGS. Instead, until any future Natural Community Conservation Plans or Habitat Conservation Plans are adopted within MGS range on private lands, BLM lands provide the last, best areas for the continued existence of MGS and where conservation management actions will have the greatest benefit with the least cost.

Therefore, in order to ensure adequate protections for MGS on BLM lands within the DRECP planning area, Defenders makes the following recommendations that we strongly believe the BLM should include in a final DRECP LUPA:

1. **Conservation Designations**: The final proposed DRECP LUPA should include additional public lands as part of the MGS Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Attached is a map illustrating those additions.

A. Rose Valley: Rose Valley is within the existing MGS WHMA in addition to the Rose Valley WHMA established in the original CDCA Plan of 1980.

Recommendation: This proposed DFA should be significantly reduced in size to match the County of Inyo's Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment approved by the Board of Supervisors earlier this year. All other public lands should be designated for conservation, including management of Mohave ground squirrel.

B. North of Kramer Junction: Most of the public lands north of Kramer Junction are within the existing MGS WHMA except for several sections in a checkerboard pattern closer to Kramer Junction. During the 1990s BLM, in cooperation with Edwards AFB, acquired many sections of land in this area through the West Mojave Land Tenure Adjustment Project for the purpose of conserving habitat for several species including the Mohave ground squirrel. These acquisitions consolidated lands into public ownership which were previously in a checkerboard ownership pattern.

Recommendation: BLM lands within the MGS WHMA on both the east and west side of Hwy. 395 should be designated as part of the MGS ACEC, and the proposed development areas should be rejected.

C. Desert Tortoise Natural Area (DTNA) and Fremont Valley: Designated as an ACEC for conservation of the desert tortoise and its habitat in 1980, the DTNA is an invaluable conservation area for tortoise as well as the MGS. Additionally, the lands to the north and east of the DTNA in the Fremont Valley and surrounding Koehn Dry Lake is important habitat for the MGS.

Recommendation: The entire DTNA including adjacent lands in Fremont Valley within the Western Rand Mountains ACEC should be retained in full.

D. Indian Wells Valley: The area located between the western Indian Wells Valley extending south to Red Rock Canyon State Park supports the Little Dixie Wash core population for the MGS.

Recommendation: This area should not be considered as a development area in the Final EIS for the DRECP LUPA and should instead be designated for conservation.

We are aware that BLM worked to eliminate overlapping conservation land designations (ACEC and National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)) in the proposed draft plan. As a result, the proposed MGS ACEC occurs in several isolated blocks of public land. We recommend, however, that BLM expand the proposed MGS ACEC and the other associated conservation areas that would, in combination, comprise the overall MGS conservation strategy, to include all the public lands within the existing MGS WHMA.

2. **Management Prescriptions/Conservation Management Actions**: The proposed Conservation Management Actions for the MGS in the draft plan (Avoidance and Minimization

Measures, and Compensatory Mitigation requirements) should be adopted and be applicable to all multiple land use activities and not simply limited to the DRECP's "Covered Activities." However, the Compensatory Mitigation ratio in the draft plan (2:1) should be increased to a 5:1 ratio to be consistent with BLM's intention in the 2006 WEMO Plan amendments. It is particularly important that habitats supporting known MGS core populations and the key linkages that connect them remain fully functional and in excellent ecological condition. Indeed, as explained above, the USFWS relied heavily on sufficient protections for MGS on BLM lands, including the 5:1 mitigation ratio, to reject the petition to list the MGS under the ESA, given the lack of protection for MGS on private lands. In light of the uncertainty of any final private land conservation plan/permit under the DRECP, the BLM lands again bear the significant responsibility of providing sufficient protection of the MGS.

In addition, BLM is concurrently planning to revise off-road vehicle use designations and livestock grazing allocations in the WEMO Plan area. Because these two allowable land uses overlap and impact the MGS and its habitat, we recommend BLM adopt strong impact and avoidance and minimization measures for off-road vehicle use and remove livestock grazing from not only the overall MGS conservation lands, but also all desert tortoise Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA) and ACECs.

Lastly, the final DRECP LUPA should specify that renewable energy projects are not allowed within the overall MGS conservation area and that proposed transmission projects are restricted to existing designated corridors.

We would be pleased to discuss our recommendations with you and your staff at your convenience, and to answer any questions.

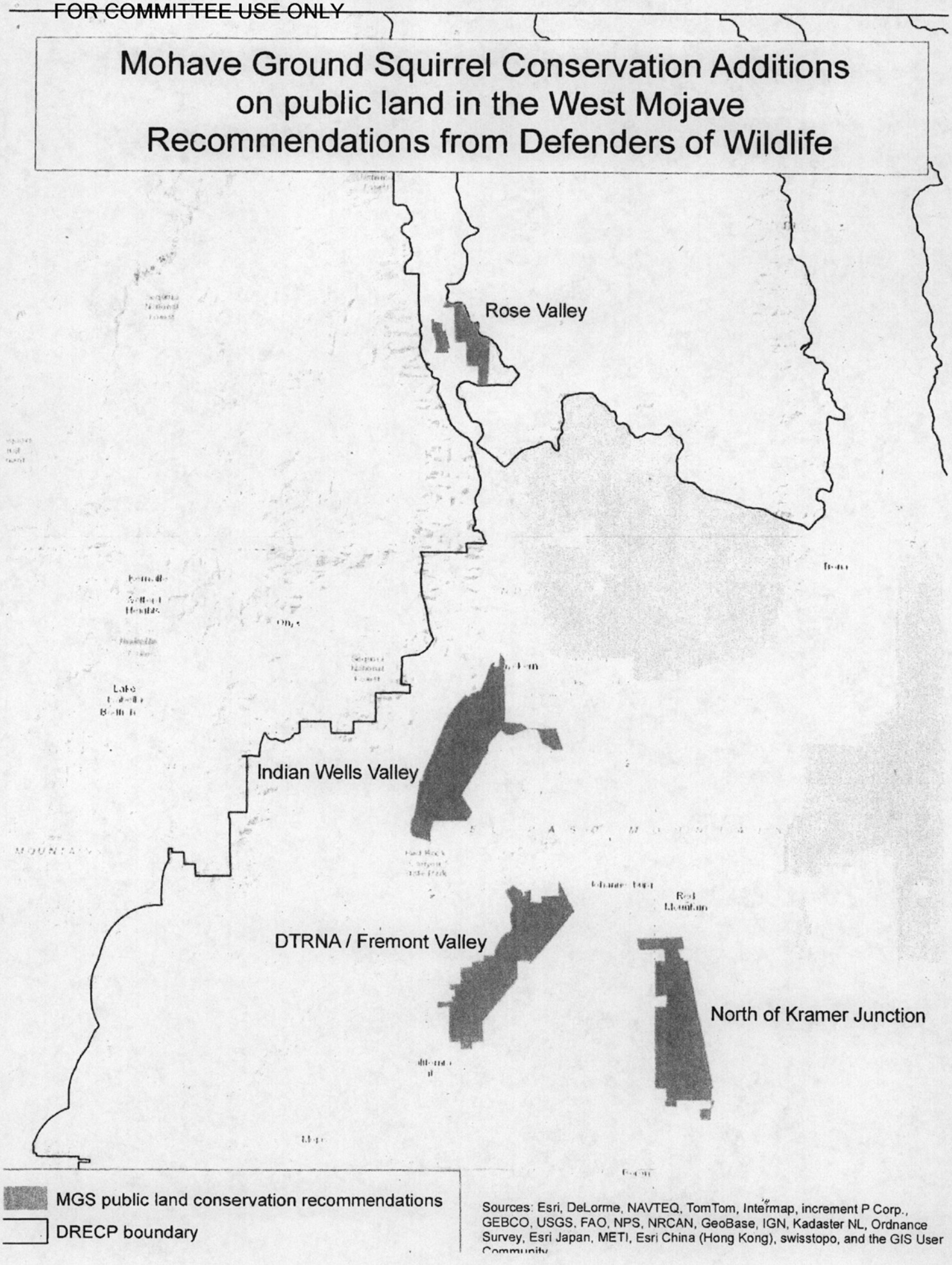
Sincerely,

Kim Delfino
California Program Director
kdelfino@defenders.org

cc:
Kevin Hunting, Deputy Director, CDFW
Alex Pitts, Deputy Regional Director, Region 8, USFWS
Mike Fris, Assistant Regional Director, Region 8, USFWS
Karen Douglas, Commissioner, California Energy Commission

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Additions on public land in the West Mojave Recommendations from Defenders of Wildlife



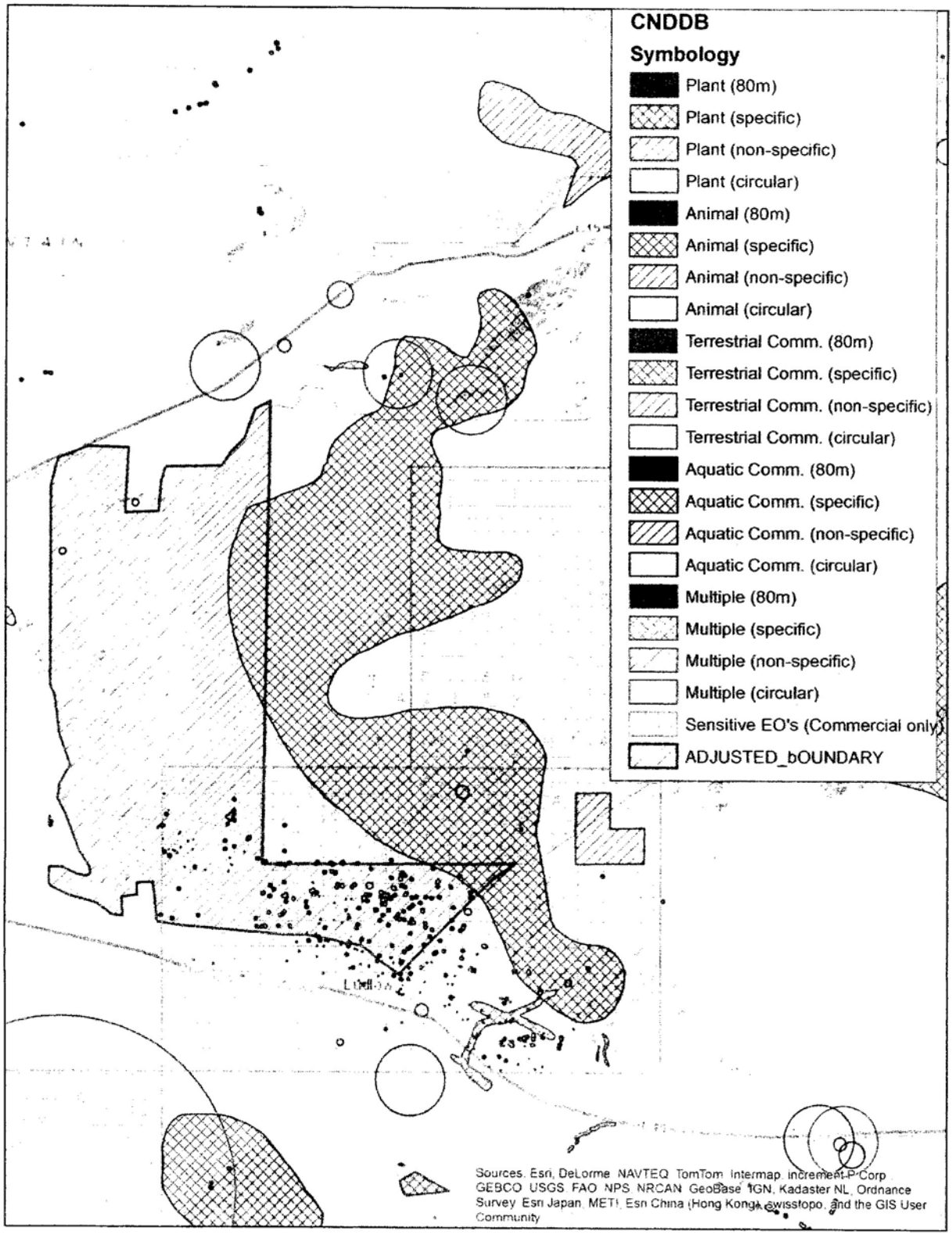


Figure 1. August 2015 CNDDB element occurrences and the western expansion area for MTNM. The red polygon is desert bighorn sheep, the brown rectangle is prairie falcon, the red points are desert tortoise occurrence and the green points are rare plant occurrences.

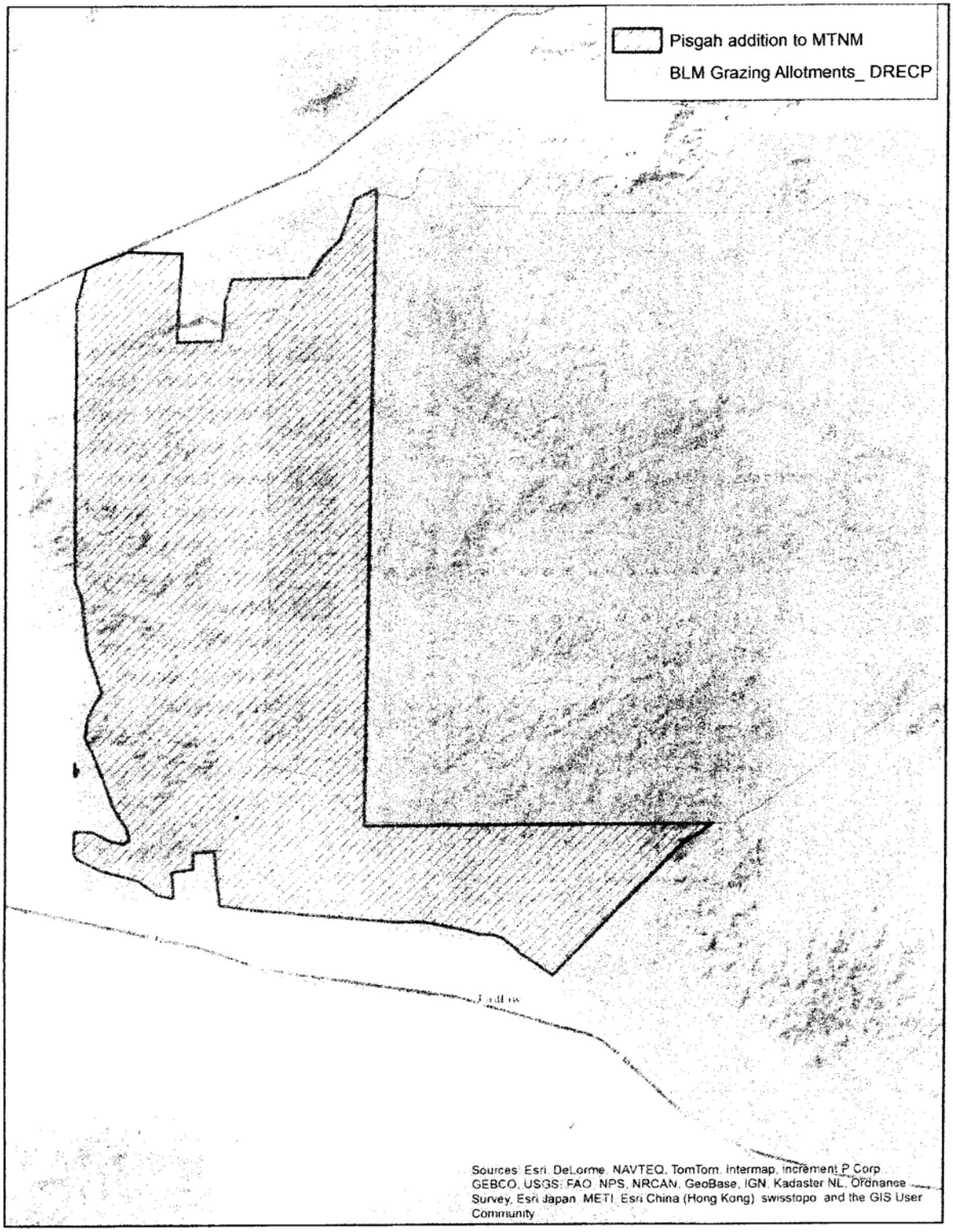


Figure 2. Cady Mountains grazing allottment boundary. This grazing allottment was purchased by Ft. Irwin as mitigation for their expansion. Grazing has been retired in this area as requested by Ft. Irwin to increase habitat value for wildlife and plants.

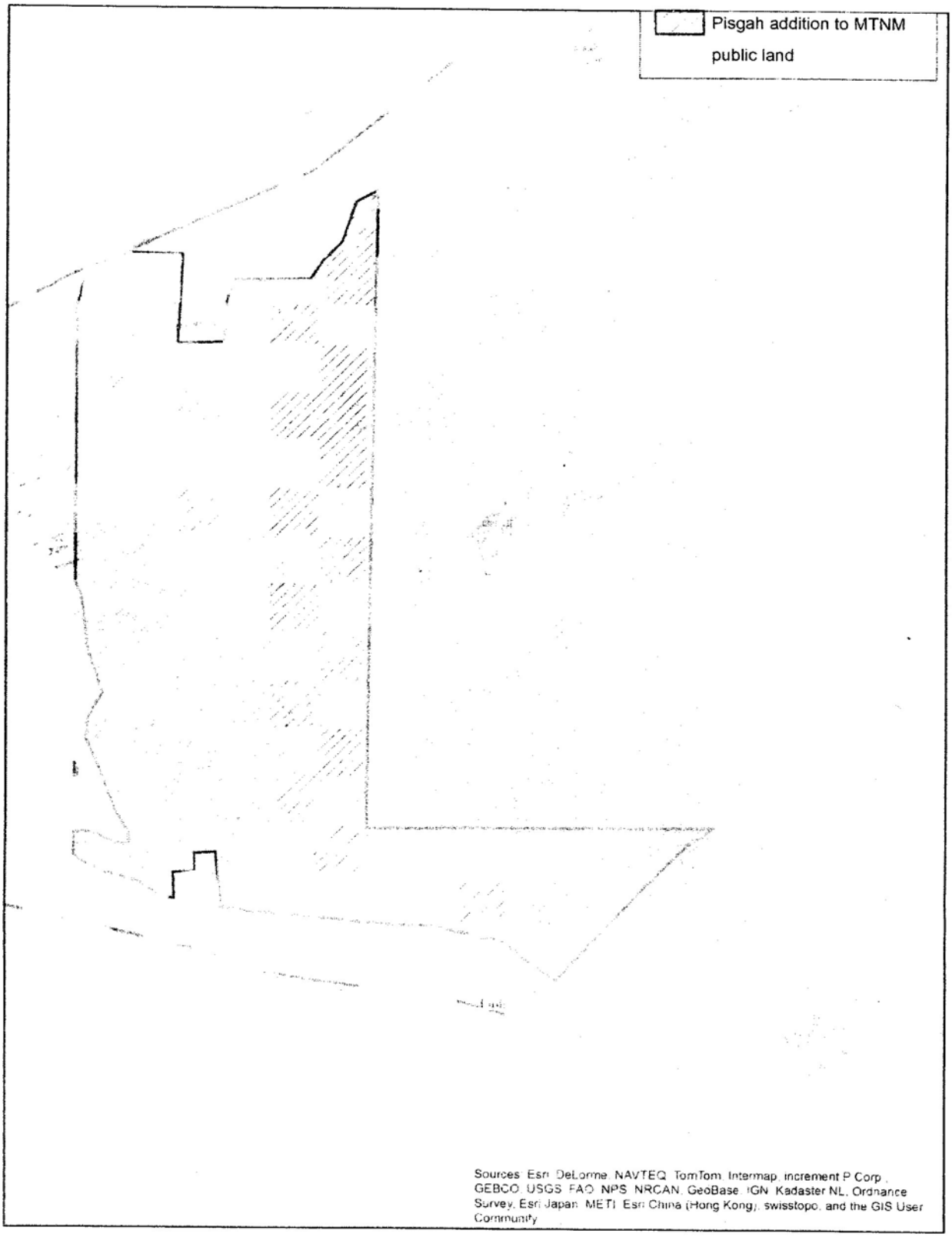


Figure 3. Western Expansion area and public land. There are private inholdings in the area but many are pristine and excellent targets for conservation acquisitions.

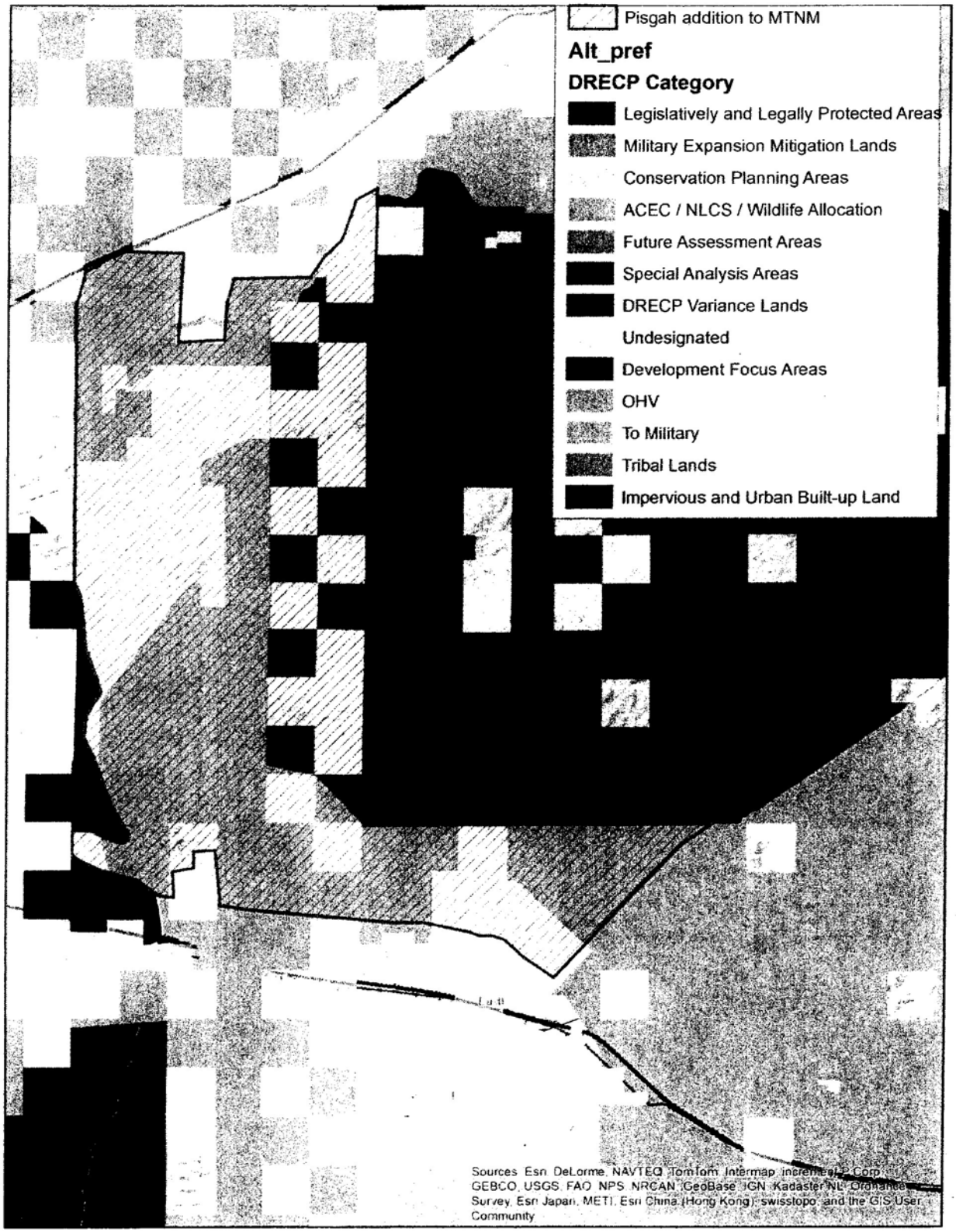


Figure 4. Western expansion area and DRECP preferred alternative for the BLM LUPA. Most of the area is proposed as ACEC or NCL.

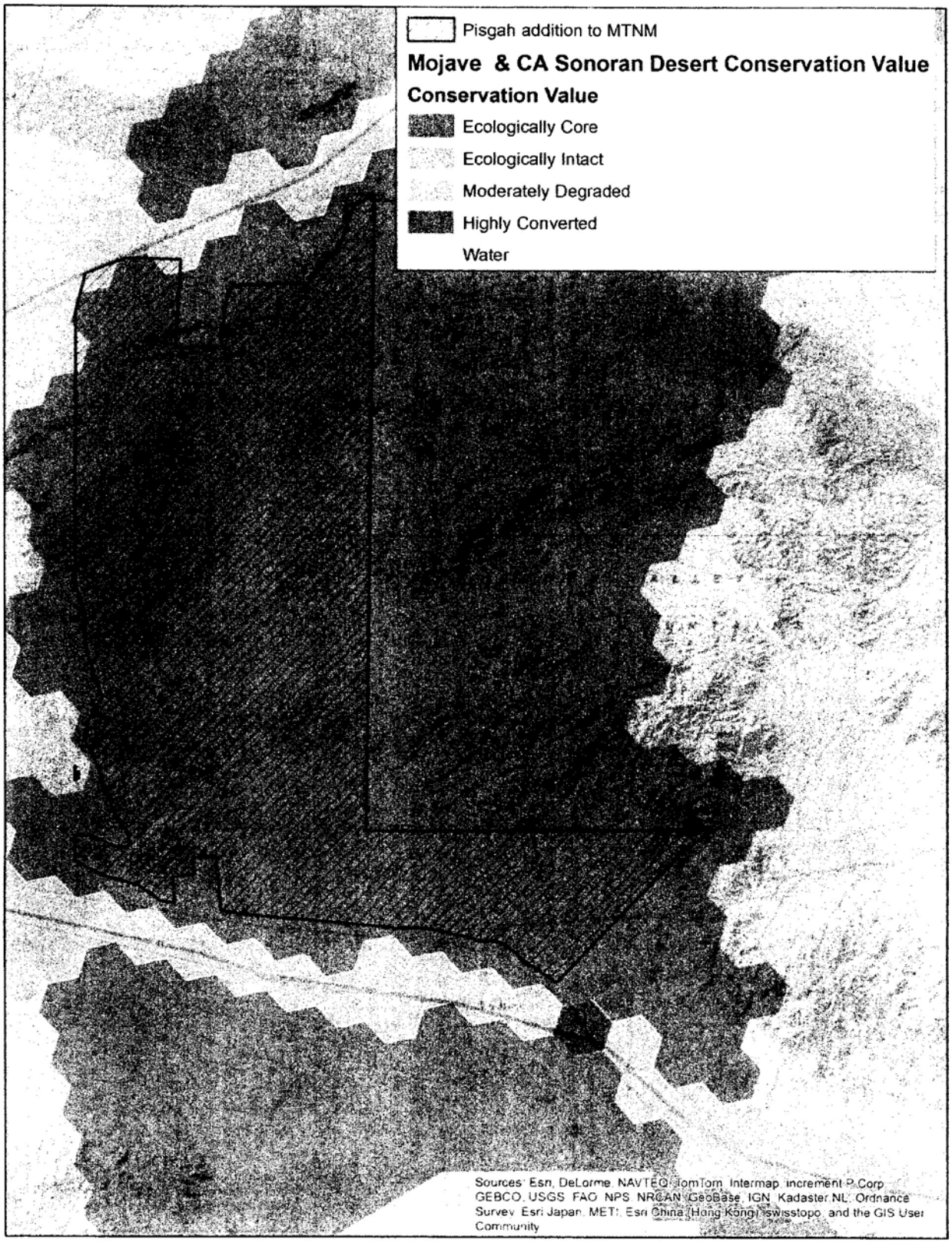


Figure 5. TNC has identified the western expansion area as Ecologically Core, the highest level of conservation priority for protection.

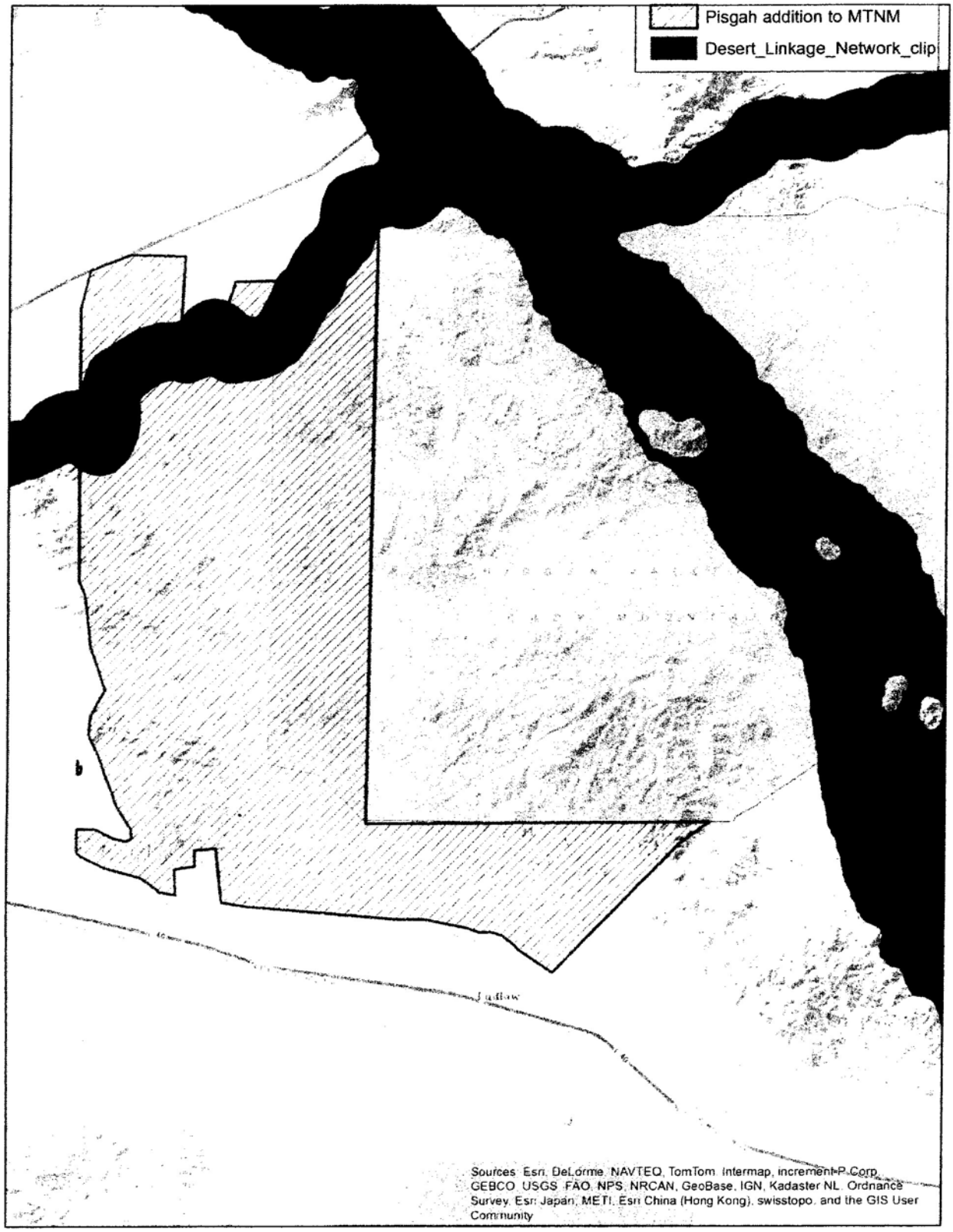


Figure 6. SC Wildlands has identified a wildlife corridor along the Mojave River which runs through the northern poriton of the proposed western expansion area.

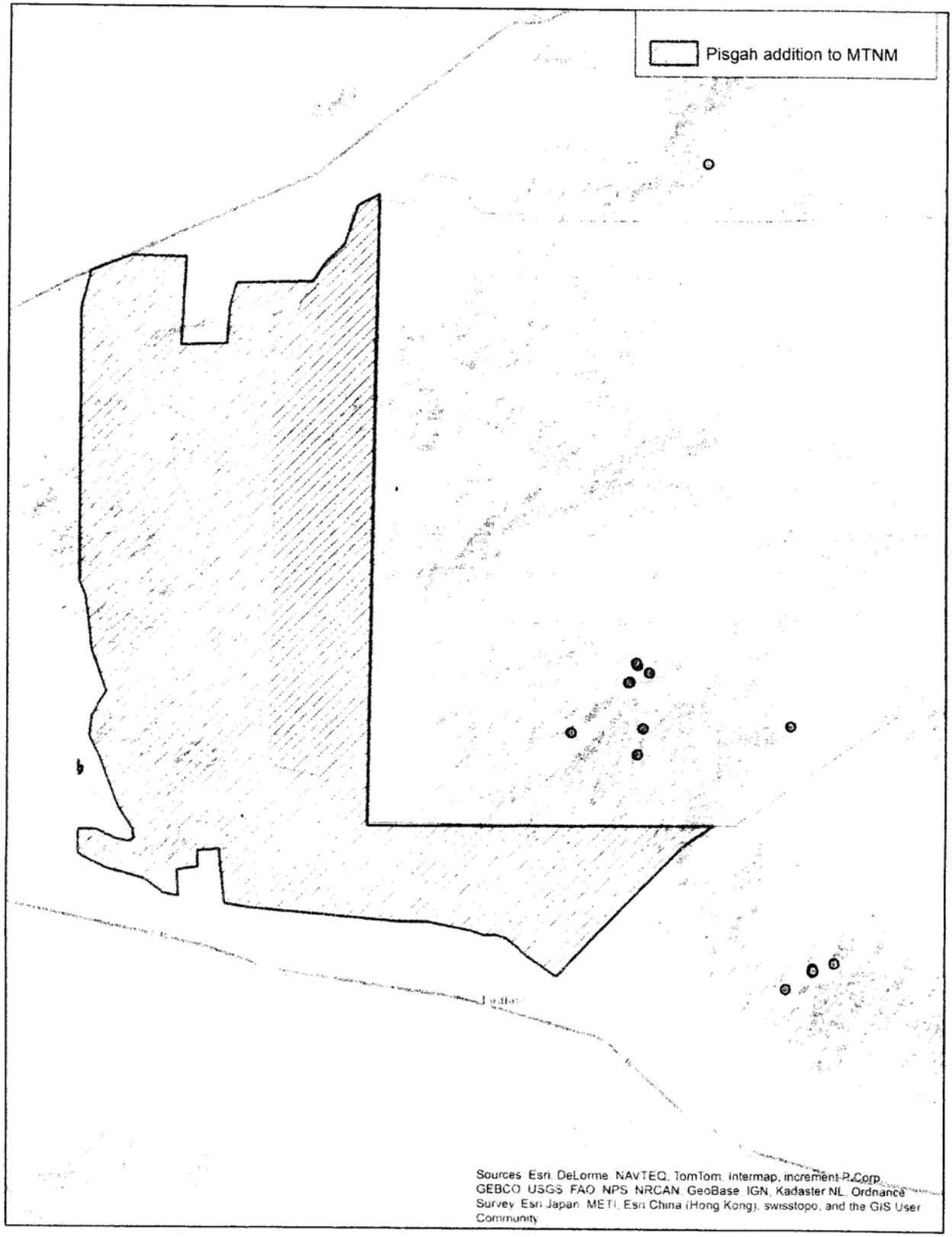


Figure 7. Golden eagle nests in the area are displayed as brown dots in this map. Golden eagles typically forage within a large radius from their nests - up to 50 or 100 miles.

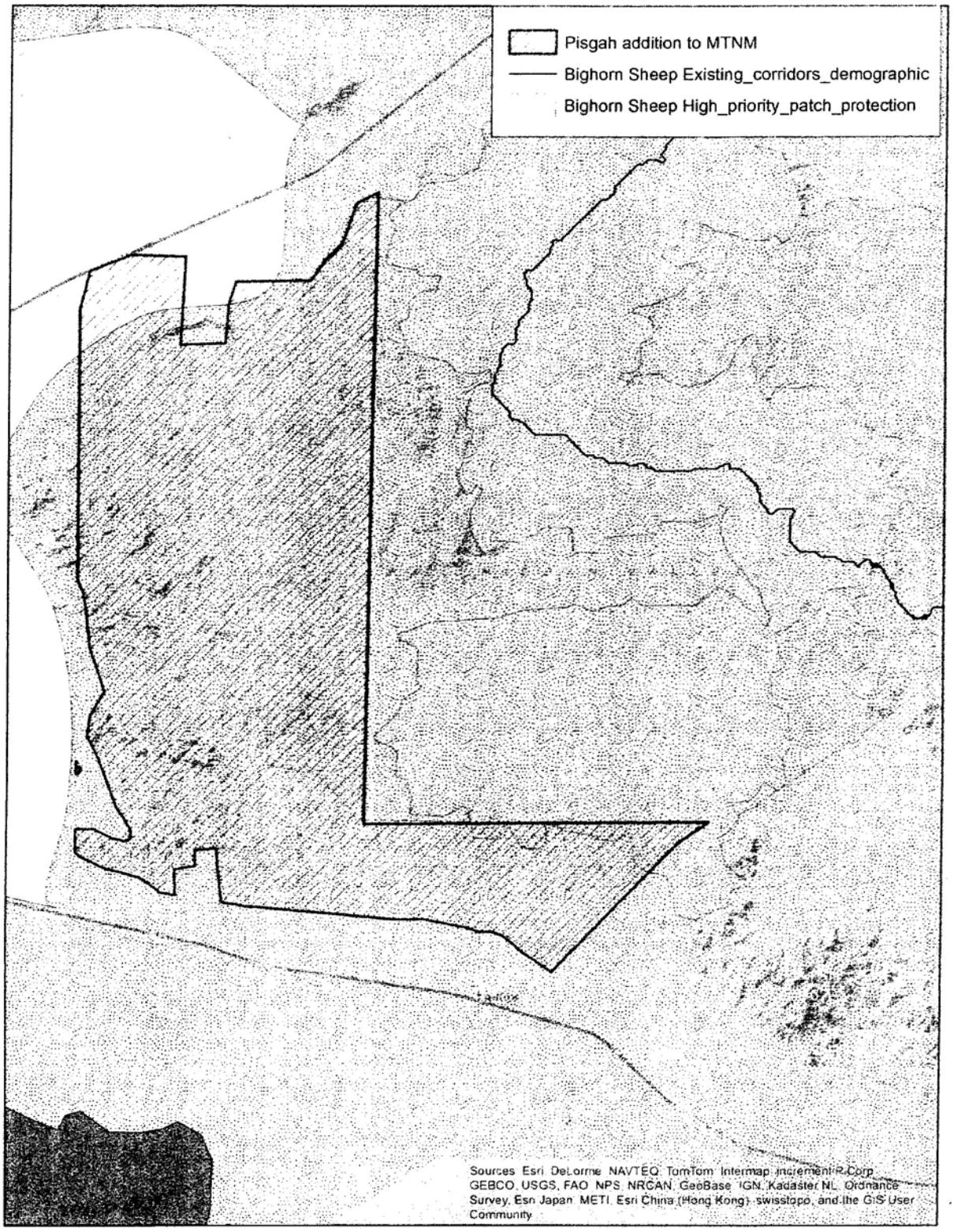


Figure 8. A healthy population of bighorn sheep live in the Cady Mountains and have been identified as a priority for protection. This area has also been identified as intermountain habitat for bighorn sheep by California Dept of Fish and Wildlife (blue dots).

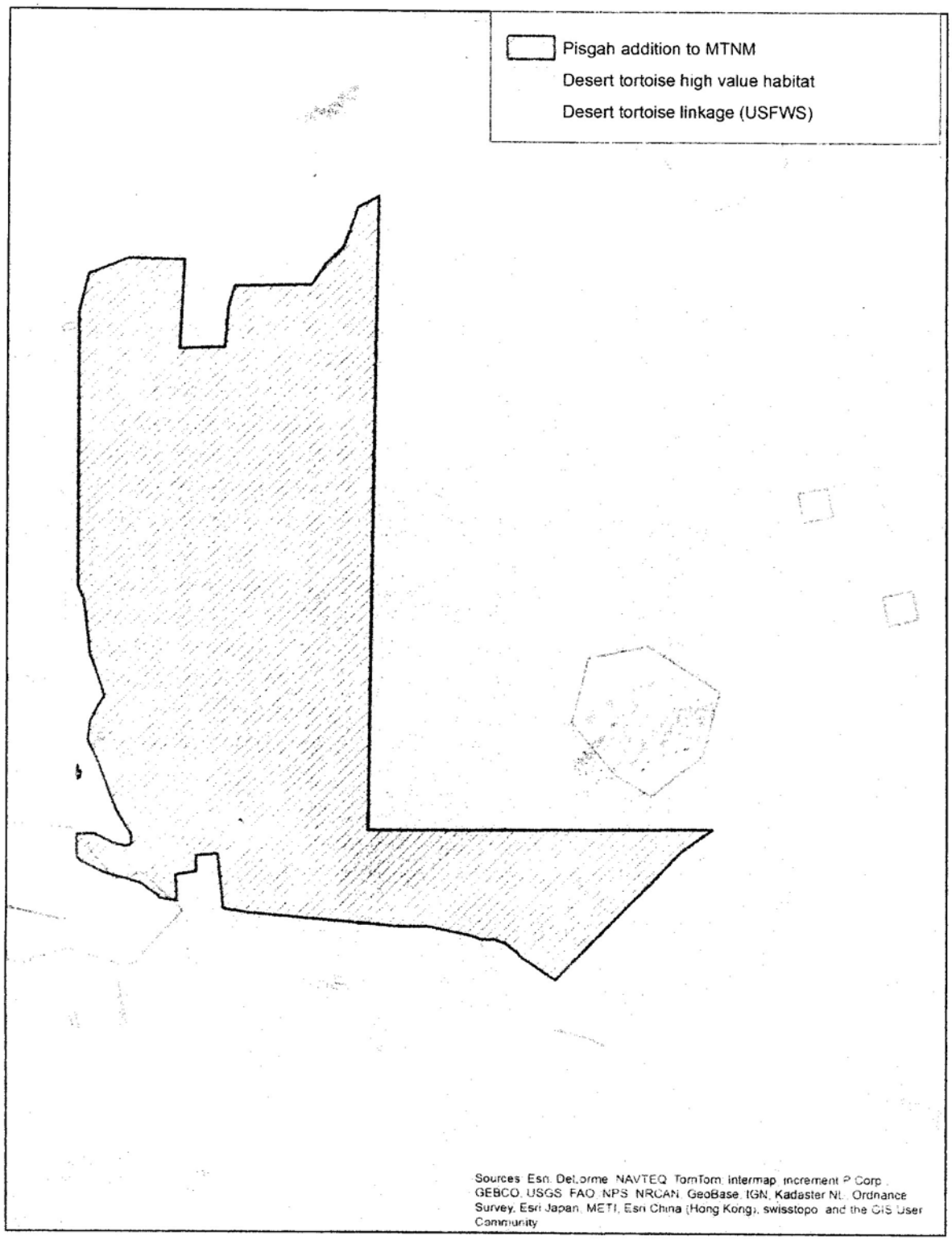


Figure 9. This area has been identified by the U.S. FWS as high value habitat for desert tortoise (tan dots). The Desert Tortoise Recovery Office has also identified an important desert tortoise linkage through the Pisgah Valley (tan).

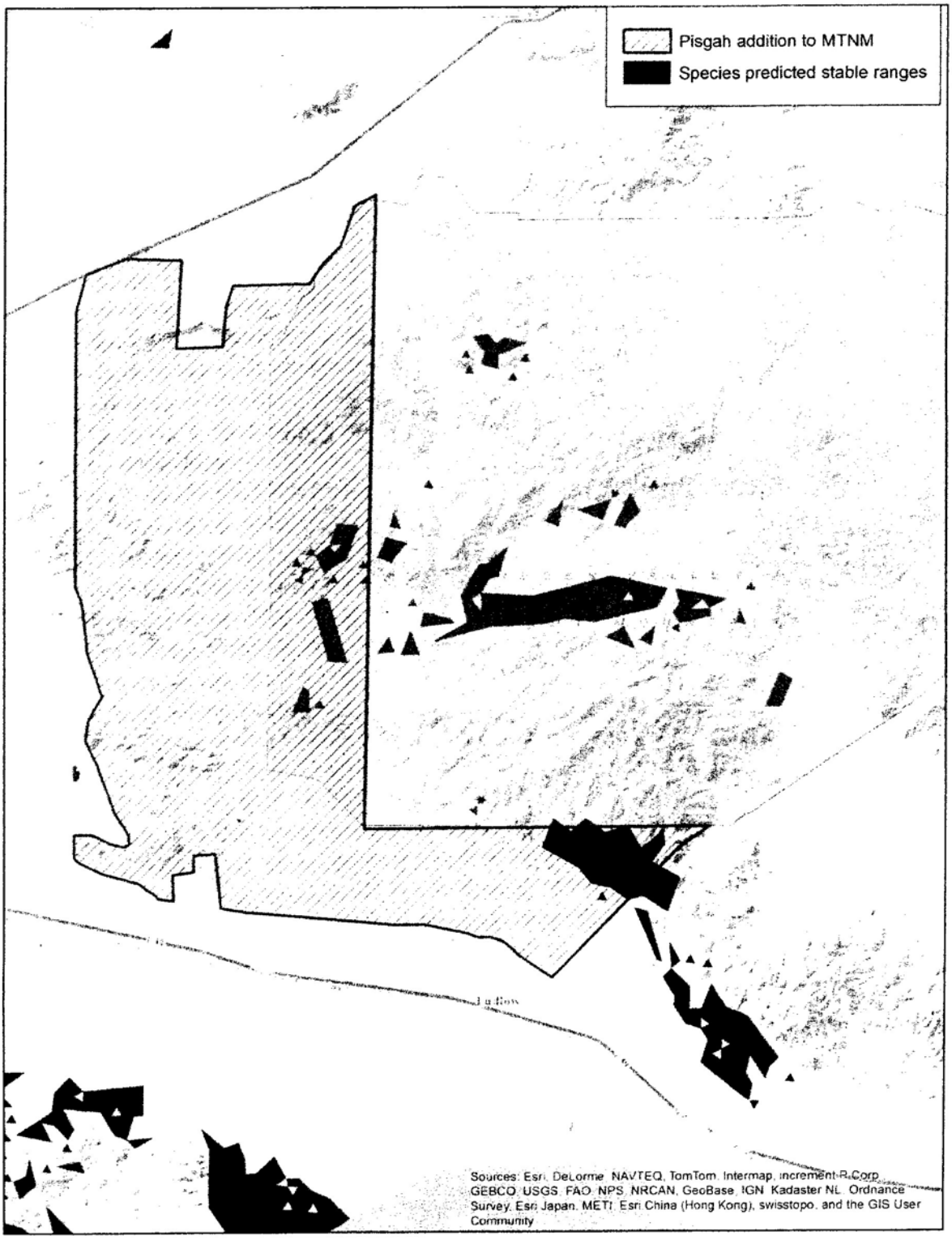


Figure 10. We have used predictive modeling techniques to model the "climate refugia" for multiple species under climate change conditions. The green areas show where these predicted climate refugia are in relation to the western expansion area for MTNM.

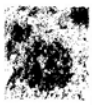
DESERT WILDFLOWERS

Each winter many wait in anticipation of what Mother Nature has in store for spring in the desert. If plentiful winter and spring rains are followed by warm days, the desert will be awash in every color of the rainbow.

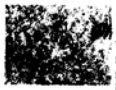
Thousands of people will flock to the desert to witness the transformation from browns and grays to every hue that can be imagined. Hoping to be first in line to see the brilliant yet short lived show. Those that daily will have to wait at least a year, maybe more for the show to return and awe us once more. Good luck on your quest and may this cycle never stop

The **Desert Five-Spot** is one of the most beautiful flowers that grows in the desert. This annual herb, a member of the Mallow Family (Malvaceae), grows 4 to 24 inches high. Its sparse leaves are round to heart shaped, with scalloped margins up to 2 inches wide. The color of the leaves is green and often red with short, bristly hairs. When light passes through the delicate petals of the flower, the globe resembles a glowing lantern. For this reason, the Desert Five-Spot is also known as the Lantern Flower and Chinese Lantern.

Desert Primrose (*Onagraceae*) are a bushlike, sweet-scented annual is most often a grayish green, creeping dune plant growing 2 to 18 inches high and spreading as wide as 40 inches. Sparse, pale green, hairy leaves grow as long as 4 inches, mostly on the ends of stalks emerging from a dense basal resette. The long, wide leaves are often lobed, toothed, grooved or [illegible]. Blooms are, white, 4-petaled flowers [illegible] as sauter, turn yellow toward the center. They bloom 1 1/2 to 3 inches wide. Flowers [illegible] in the early evening and close in [illegible]

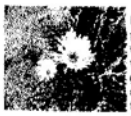


Beavertail Cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*) are succulents growing up to two 2 feet tall 4 feet spread green or slightly purplish segments 3.2 to 5.6 inches long 1.6 to 4 inches wide slightly pleated during the dry season. The Beaver-tail Cactus is a smaller prickly pear cactus, and it will often start blooming when it has only two pads.

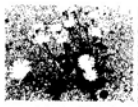


Mojave Indigo Bush (*Psorothamnus*) are shrubs. They are generally thorny, thickly branched, strong scented bushes. The species bear bright purple legume flowers and gland-rich pods.

Desert Chicory (*Rafinesquia neomexicana*) Grows up to 20 inches tall;showy white flowers with pink violet stripes on the underside of petal. Often seen growing up through the branches of other shrubs and using them as nurse plants for support. Prefers gravelly and sandy desert soils common in creosote bush scrub and joshua tree woodland.

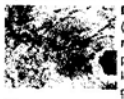


MoJave Aster Many purple-to-lavender narrow rays surround yellow disks with the overall flowerhead growing up to 2 inches in diameter. This member of the Sunflower Family (Asteraceae) is a shrubby perennial growing up to 30 inches high. It contains many long, gray-green stems with hairy, 3-inch leaves growing from the base. The stems tend to remain leafless near the top. Each plant may bear as many as 20 flowers.



Desert Dandelion (*Malacothrix californica*) Bright yellow flowers on branched stems bloom March through June. A single plant can have many flower heads, which are 1 to 1-1/2 inches wide. This member of the Sunflower Family grows 6 to 14 inches high with 3- to 5-inch leaves. Fruit is seed-like and topped with soft bristles. In springs following wet winters, this bright wildflower will form broad, brilliant patches of gold across the sandy desert floor.

Desert-Mallow (Sphaeralcea ambigua) is a perennial with woody lower stems that grows to three feet tall. It is conspicuous when in bloom in the spring as these plants may be covered with peach-red blossoms that may be up to one and one-half inches in diameter.

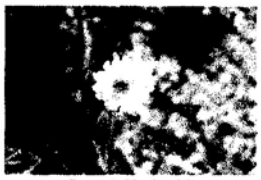


Desert Paintbrush (Schrophulariaceae) the most common of the dry paintbrushes, is but one of a large, easily recognizable genus of early bloomers. Numerous erect stems with bright, red-to-orange blossoms. It grows 4 to 16 inches high and has leaves that are 1 to 2 inches long, the upper being divided into as many as 5 narrow lobes.

Phacelia is an annual shrub of the Waterleaf Family (Hydrophyllaceae). It often grows up through other shrubs to a height of from one to 3 feet. Green, finely-haired, fern-like leaves and the coiled, scorpion tail arrangement of the flowers are characteristic of this species. This species is know by another of other common names, including Wild Heliotrope and Scorpionweed.

MOJAVE DESERT WILDFLOWERS

BLM



Desert Marigold

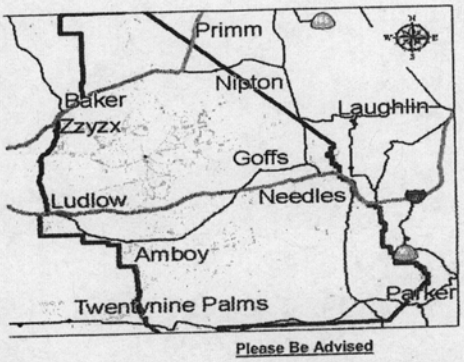
A Flower picked is a hundred lost.
A photo last for years,
A memory forever.

Needles Field Office
1303 South U.S. Hwy 95
Needles, CA 92363

Phone: (760)326-7000
Fax: (760)326-7099
www.blm.gov/ca/needles

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



-IV Use

f-highway vehicles (OHVs) provide fun, tertainment, and discovery. However, ny of the desert's most attractive and gile resources can be destroyed if vehicle cess is not properly controlled. Re- urces, cultural and natural, can be unin- tionally damaged or destroyed by uncon- lled vehicle use. We all have the respon- sibility for the proper use of vehicles, so ease remember to TREAD LIGHTLY on blic and private lands. Stay on signated routes of travel only.

NO CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL

Please Be Advised

Military explosives can be found most anywhere in the desert. Large areas of the desert were and still are used for bombing ranges and maneuvers by the U.S. Armed Forces. There may be unexploded devices that can cause serious bodily injury or death if handled. Report any such devices to the Federal Interagency Communications Center toll free at (888) 233-6518 or call 911.

The Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center borders the western edge of the Needles Field Office Area of responsibility. This is a live bombing range. **DO NOT** enter the bombing range!

Desert Safety

- Summer temperatures routinely exceed 110° Fahrenheit. Each year people are lost, injured, and sometimes die while visiting desert areas. Take precautions to prevent finding yourself in an emergency situation.

- Always tell someone your plans, or leave a visible note on the dash of your vehicle with your expected route, destination, and time of return. Stick to your itinerary.

- Carry plenty of water. Drink at least a gallon per day.

- Take food or snacks. In the heat, you may not feel hungry, but your body needs nourishment.

- Never go alone.

- Take a good map and compass.

- Carry a first aid kit, signal mirror, flashlight and matches.

- Take a CB radio or cellular phone.

- Wear sunscreen and sunglasses.

- Dress in light colored, loose fitting clothes. Long-sleeves, long pants, a hat, and sturdy shoes will help protect you from the sun, coarse volcanic material, and sharp, spiny vegetation.

- Bring a jacket with you, as evening temperatures may drop 30 degrees or more.

- Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition. Check your tires, spare tire, jack, lug wrench, and fluid levels. Always start with a full tank of gas and try not to let it fall below half a tank before filling up again.

- If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle. Don't panic. Your vehicle is easier to spot than a person walking. Lift your hood. Attempt to signal for help using a mirror or by using newspapers to make an X on the ground.

- Watch for snakes, spiders, and scorpions among the rocks.

News Bytes

Subscribe to News.bytes a FREE Weekly email Newsletter www.blm.gov/ca

In Case of Emergencies Contact the Federal Interagency Communications Center (FICC) at (888)233-6518 or call 9-1-1.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

At first glance the Mojave Desert seems to have little in the way of wildlife, actually home to large, diverse populations. Desert animals have adapted to their environment, and each fills an important niche in this harsh and forbidding ecosystem.

Some animals live only in the Mojave Desert, and are classified as *endemic* species. Some animals live throughout all the southwestern desert areas and some are merely passing through during annual migrations. Regardless, whether they live permanently in the Mojave, stay only seasonally or fly through, all these species have adapted to the extreme climate of cold, heat and lack of water.

The **Desert Bighorn Sheep** (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) occurs in the desert Southwest regions of the United States and in the northern regions of Mexico. Characteristics and behavior of Desert Bighorn Sheep generally follow those of other Bighorn Sheep, except for adaptation to the lack of water in the desert: bighorn sheep can go for extended periods of time without drinking water.

The **Mule Deer** (*Odocoileus hemionus*) is the

deer of the Mojave Desert. It's name is derived from its large mule-like ears.

Mule deer prefer "edge" habitats where the trees meet the grass, and they tend to move up or down elevations seeking preferred foods. Mule deer rarely travel far from water or forage, and tend to bed down within easy walking distance of both. Young mule deer tend to forage together in family groups while bucks tend to travel alone.

The **Bobcat** (*Lynx rufus*) is of the cat family, The Bobcat is an adaptable predator that inhabits, desert, as well as urban edge environments. It persists in much of its original range and populations are healthy.
Though the Bobcat prefers rabbits and hares, it will hunt anything from insects and small rodents to deer. Prey selection depends on location and habitat, season, and abundance. Like most cats, the Bobcat is territorial and largely solitary.

The **coyote** (*Canis latrans*), also known as the *prairie wolf*, are found throughout North and Central America. Unlike its cousin the grey wolf, which is Eurasian in origin, the coyote evolved in North America, alongside the Dire Wolf. Coyotes typically grow to 30–34 inches in length and on average, weigh from 15–46 pounds

Mojave Green Rattle Snake
(Crotalus scutulatus) is a venomous pitviper found in the Mojave. It is perhaps best known for its potent venom which is both a neurotoxin and hemotoxin.

Horned lizards (*Phrynosoma*) is popularly called a **"horned toad,"** "horny toad", or "horned frog," but it is neither a toad nor a frog. The popular names come from the lizard's rounded body and blunt snout, which make it resemble a toad or frog. The spines on its back and sides are made from modified scales, whereas the horns on the heads are true horns.

The **desert tortoise** (*Gopherus agassizii*) is a species of tortoise native to the Mojave desert and Sonoran deserts. This tortoise may attain a length of 10 to 14 inches with males being slightly larger than females. Their shells are high-domed, and greenish-tan to dark brown in color. Desert tortoises can grow from 4–6" in height and weigh 8–15 lb. The front limbs have heavy, claw-like scales and are flattened for digging. Back legs are stumpy.

The **Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is a medium-sized bird of prey. A male Red-tailed Hawk may weigh from 1.5 to 3.5 pounds and measure 18 to 22 in, while a female can weigh between 2 and 4.4 pounds and measure Body size, 18 to 26 in Wingspan, is about 20 to 26 in. in length.

The **Turkey Vulture,** (*Cathartes aura*), is found throughout most of the Americas. With a wingspan of 68–72 in and an average weight of (3.1 lb), the Turkey Vulture is a large bird. purplish-red head and neck; and a short, hooked, ivory-colored beak.

Gamble's Quail, named after William Gamble. The males are grey with rust colored feathers on their wings and the top of their head which is edged in white. Their stomach's are a dull yellow with a large black spot of feathers on their underbelly. The females are smaller and their coloring, although similar, is not as bright. They both have top-knobs of a single feather. The plume of a male is larger than that of a female

MOJAVE DESERT WILDLIFE

BLM

Needles Field Office

Antelope Ground Squirrel

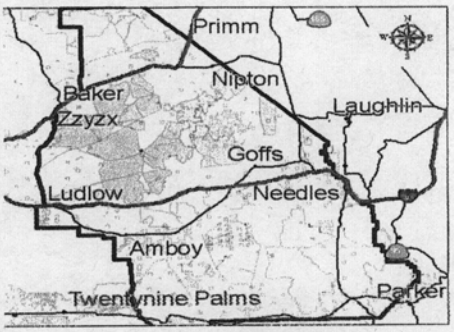
Desert water is a very precious.

Save it for wildlife!

Needles Field Office
1303 South U.S. Hwy 95
Needles, CA 92363

Phone: (760)326-7000
Fax: (760)326-7099
www.blm.gov/ca/needles

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



OHV Use

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) provide fun, entertainment, and discovery. However, many of the desert's most attractive and fragile resources can be destroyed if vehicle access is not properly controlled. Resources, cultural and natural, can be unintentionally damaged or destroyed by uncontrolled vehicle use. We all have the responsibility for the proper use of vehicles, so please remember to TREAD LIGHTLY on public and private lands. Stay on designated routes of travel only.

NO CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL

Please Be Advised

Military explosives can be found most anywhere in the desert. Large areas of the desert were and still are used for bombing ranges and maneuvers by the U.S. Armed Forces. There may be unexploded devices that can cause serious bodily injury or death if handled. Report any such devices to the Federal Interagency Communications Center toll free at (888) 233-6518 or call 911.

The Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center borders the western edge of the Needles Field Office Area of responsibility. This is a live bombing range. DO NOT enter the bombing range!

Desert Safety

- Summer temperatures routinely exceed 110° Fahrenheit. Each year people are lost, injured, and sometimes die while visiting desert areas. Take precautions to prevent finding yourself in an emergency situation.

- Always tell someone your plans, or leave a visible note on the dash of your vehicle with your expected route, destination, and time of return. Stick to your itinerary.

- Carry plenty of water. Drink at least a gallon per day.

- Take food or snacks. In the heat, you may not feel hungry, but your body needs nourishment.

- Never go alone.

- Take a good map and compass.

- Carry a first aid kit, signal mirror, flashlight and matches.

- Take a CB radio or cellular phone.

- Wear sunscreen and sunglasses.

- Dress in light colored, loose fitting clothes. Long-sleeves, long pants, a hat, and sturdy shoes will help protect you from the sun, coarse volcanic material, and sharp, spiny vegetation.

- Bring a jacket with you, as evening temperatures may drop 30 degrees or more.

- Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition. Check your tires, spare tire, jack, lug wrench, and fluid levels. Always start with a full tank of gas and try not to let it fall below half a tank before filling up again.

- If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle. Don't panic. Your vehicle is easier to spot than a person walking. Lift your hood. Attempt to signal for help using a mirror or by using newspapers to make an X on the ground.

- Watch for snakes, spiders, and scorpions among the rocks.

News-bytes

Subscribe to News.bytes a FREE Weekly email Newsletter www.blm.gov/ca

In Case of Emergencies Contact the Federal Interagency Communications Center (FICC) at (888)233-6518 or call 9-1-1.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Mission

The Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association's (MDHCA) mission is the preservation of the American history and culture of the Mojave Desert and surrounding area. The Goffs Cultural Center has become the repository of much of the history and antiquities of this region, and strives to preserve the written, oral and photographic heritage that is the Mojave Desert.

Restoration/Replication

A rare working stamp mill. A restored 1914 Schoolhouse. A replication of the Goff's Railroad Depot which houses the Dennis G. Casebier Library. These and many other outbuildings showcase the preservation spirit we hold so dear at the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association. Our many publications also assist in preserving the areas history.

Desert Archives

The additions of the library and personal papers have resulted in an archive of Mojave Desert history unsurpassed anywhere – 19 collections, a 6,000 volume library of published literature pertaining to the arid regions, 108,000 historical photographs, 6,000 maps of the region dating from earliest times, 3,000 loose subject files pertaining to individuals of interest and specific cultural sites, 1,300 oral histories, and an extensive collection of old area newspapers, periodicals and pamphlets.

Our Founder

The Mojave Road would have faded from sight except for the curiosity and perseverance of one man: Dennis Casebier, of Goffs. With his wife, Jo Ann, and innumerable friends, he has built a natural and historical center that is a gold mine of displays, photographs and reference materials in a library of more than 6,000 books.

Dennis came to the desert in 1954 as a young Marine stationed at Twentynine Palms. Born in Kansas in 1934, the desert was a new and different world. After his time in the Marines, Dennis Casebier (pronounced case-beer) returned to Kansas and went to college. He could hardly wait to return to the California desert, and upon graduating, he took a job as a Navy missile scientist at Corona in 1960. His passion for the desert grew, and his training as a scientist blended well with his other passions: curiosity, truth and history. These passions have created a national treasure in a body of work that will be a resource for generations to come.

"The eastern Mojave drew me," he said. "It was similar in elevation to Joshua Tree, but not as populated, and it interested me. Then I kept seeing references to 'Old Government Road' on the maps. This excited my curiosity and I wanted to know more about it." This excitement began a quest for knowledge that took him from the high desert to the National Archives in Washington and built a body of information that tells the exciting story of a 150-year-old wagon trail that had been passed over by time.

Artist courtesy of Jon Dilcox, Desert USA
Photo courtesy of Lorri Bartley, Desert Dispatch

Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association
37198 Lordsburg Road, G-15
Essex, CA 92332
760.730.4482
info@mdhca.org
www.mdhca.org

Friends of the Goffs Cultural Center

Take Your Place in History

Help us pave the way to the future

Into Perpetuity

Please assist us in funding the endowment to secure the future of the Dennis G. Casebier Library and the Goffs Cultural Center.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Take Your Place in History...Fund a Brick Today

Into Perpetuity—Our Endowment, *Your Brick*

Your donation to the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association (MDHCA) for a memorial brick will assist us in funding the endowment to secure the existence of the Dennis G. Casebier Library and the Goffs Cultural Center into perpetuity. Depending on your donation level, there are two sizes of bricks available; the 4" x 8" brick is $100, and the 8" x 8" brick is $175.

Each brick will be professionally laser engraved, ensuring it will endure for generations to come. After all, your decision to help fund the endowment into perpetuity should result in a memorial which offers the same outstanding quality. Laser engraving is a natural and permanent process which is environmentally responsible; no additives, all natural, and long lasting, just like the Mojave Desert itself.

The 4" x 8" brick is available with up to 3 lines of engraving and the 8" x 8" brick is available with up to 6 lines of engraving. Each line on the brick is limited to 18 characters, which includes punctuation and spaces. Please use the convenient form in this brochure for ordering your personalized memorial brick. In the boxes provided on the form, PLEASE PRINT NEATLY AND CLEARLY ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WISH ENGRAVED ON YOUR BRICK. A proof will be provided only if you supply us your email address. We must be able to read your information clearly and be able to engrave your brick correctly so your memorial is a proud reminder of your support for the MDHCA. Complete the remainder of the form and mail it along with payment to the address provided. Ordering your brick online is quick and easy at www.mdhca.org. On the website, hover over DONATE on the top center menu bar, then click Memorial Brick from the pull down menu, and follow the easy instructions to set-up and preview your brick. You'll also have an opportunity to order souvenir bricks and a donor certificate if you wish. Process your payment immediately via PayPay or by mailing a check.

The bricks have been installed (with lots of room for more) just north of the walkway leading to the Schoolhouse. Please make arrangements to visit and locate your brick. If you cannot get to the Goffs Cultural Center, be sure to continue to visit our website at mdhca.org for updates, news and photos. We mention all participants in the Mojave Road Reports. The MDHCA is a 501c3 organization, and donations are tax deductible as Federal law allows. Please consult your tax advisor. We whole heartedly thank you for your purchase of a memorial brick, and your support of the Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association.

Yes, I'll Fund a Brick!

Name:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Telephone:_____

Email* :_____

**Please provide your email address or we will be unable to provide you a proof of your brick.*

4" x 8" Brick $100

(Up to 3 lines/18 characters per line including punctuation and spaces)

Print inscription below as it is to appear on brick. USE CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY, with numbers and punctuation as desired.

8" x 8" Brick $175

(Up to 6 lines/18 characters per line including punctuation and spaces)

Print inscription below as it is to appear on brick. USE CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY, with numbers and punctuation as desired.

___My check is enclosed for $_____ (payable to MDHCA)

Please return this panel with payment to: MDHCA
37198 Lanfair Road, G-15 • Essex, CA 92332

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Rockhounding

Is one of many recreational pursuits on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Collecting small, noncommercial quantities of rock is allowed free of charge on lands managed by BLM. Commercial collecting for the purpose of sale or barter is not allowed without special permit. Only hand tools such as shovels and picks may be used.

Rockhounds are welcome to collect limited amounts of rocks, minerals, and gemstones from most federal lands, but there are some exceptions. Some lands are withdrawn or reserved for certain purposes such as outstanding natural areas, research natural areas, recreation sites, national historic sites, etc. Other lands are not open to collecting due to the presence of mining claims. The local BLM offices can provide information about collecting areas and areas that are closed.

Collecting Guidelines

1. Know whose property you are on.
2. Get permission when collecting on private property and mining claims.
3. Don't use blasting materials or mechanized earth moving equipment.
4. Limit excavation depth to four feet and fill in holes before you leave.
5. Collect only what you can reasonably use until your next trip.
6. Leave all gates as you found them.
7. Find out if any fire restrictions are in effect.
8. Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving area.
9. No vehicles or mechanized equipment are allowed in wilderness areas.

Collecting sites

There are a variety of areas available for collecting within the Needles Field Office Area. Most of these are best located and described on the appropriate BLM Desert Access Guide (DAG) maps.

1. TURTLE MOUNTAIN, Parker DAG
   Jasper, opalite, chalcedony rose and agate.
2. CHEMEHUEVI WASH, Parker DAG
   Agate, blue opal, jasper, geodes, chalcedony rose and agate.
3. VIDAL JUNCTION, Parker DAG
   Calcedony
4. FLAT TOP MOUNTAIN, Needles DAG
   Jasper
5. CHAMBLESS, Amboy DAG
   Hematite, magnetite, limestone with fossils.
6. MARBLE MOUNTAIN FOSSIL BED AND ROCK COLLECTING AREA
   Amboy DAG
   Imbedded Trilobites in limestone, epidote, dolomite, chrysocolla, chalcedony, serpentine, marble, garnet, hematite, kenatite, quartz crystals, and geodes.
7. SHIP MOUNTAINS, Amboy DAG
   Beautiful opalite in a variety of pastel colors.

PETRIFIED WOOD: Petrified wood is available for collection on a free basis in limited quantities as long as the collection is for personal, non-commercial purposes. According to Federal regulations (43 CFR 3622) free use collection weights are limited to 25 pounds plus one piece per day, not to exceed 250 pounds in one calendar year, and no specimen greater than 250 pounds may be collected without a special permit. The petrified wood must be for your personal use and cannot be sold or bartered. Special permits for commercial collecting can be obtained from the nearest BLM office. Mining claims may not be staked for petrified wood.

HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS AND FOSSILS
The Antiquities Act of 1906, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 prohibit the excavation, collection or destruction of any archaeological materials (including fossils) located on lands under federal jurisdiction. Artifacts, fossils, petroglyphs, human remains, and other materials are protected by law because their interpretation is critical to understanding past cultures.

CALIFORNIA

ROCKHOUNDING

General Information

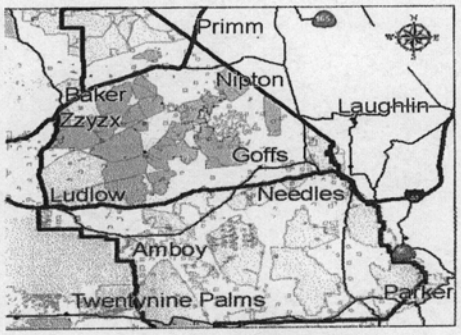
Needles Field Office
1303 South U.S. Hwy 95
Needles, CA 92363

Phone: (760)326-7000
Fax: (760)326-7099
www.blm.gov/ca/needles

Public Lands USA: Use, Share, Appreciate

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLM
Needles Field Office



OHV Use

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) provide fun, entertainment, and discovery. However, many of the desert's most attractive and fragile resources can be destroyed if vehicle access is not properly controlled. Resources, cultural and natural, can be unintentionally damaged or destroyed by uncontrolled vehicle use. We all have the responsibility for the proper use of vehicles, so please remember to TREAD LIGHTLY on public and private lands. Stay on open routes of travel

NO CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL

BLM/CA/GI-2009-017+8300

Please Be Advised

Military explosives can be found most anywhere in the desert. Large areas of the desert were and still are used for bombing ranges and maneuvers by the U.S. Armed Forces. There may be unexploded devices that can cause serious bodily injury or death if handled. Report any such devices to the Federal Interagency Communications Center toll free at (888) 233-6518 or call 911.

The Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center borders the western edge of the Needles Field Office Area of responsibility. This is a live bombing range. Do NOT enter the bombing range!

Desert Safety

- Summer temperatures routinely exceed 110° Fahrenheit. Each year people are lost, injured, and sometimes die while visiting desert areas. Take precautions to prevent finding yourself in an emergency situation.

- Always tell someone your plans, or leave a visible note on the dash of your vehicle with your expected route, destination, and time of return. Stick to your itinerary.

- Carry plenty of water. Drink at least a gallon per day.

- Take food or snacks. In the heat, you may not feel hungry, but your body needs nourishment.

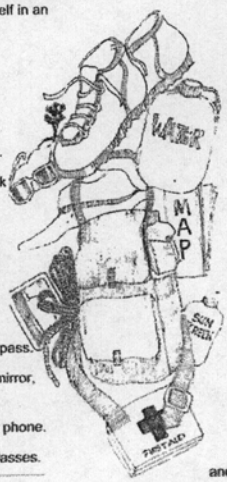
- Never go alone.

- Take a good map and compass.

- Carry a first aid kit, signal mirror, flashlight and matches.

- Take a CB radio or cellular phone.

- Wear sunscreen and sunglasses.



- Dress in light colored, loose fitting clothes. Long-sleeves, long pants, a hat, and sturdy shoes will help protect you from the sun, coarse volcanic material, and sharp, spiny vegetation.

- Bring a jacket with you, as evening temperatures may drop 30 degrees or more.

- Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition. Check your tires, spare tire, jack, lug wrench, and fluid levels. Always start with a full tank of gas and try not to let it fall below half a tank before filling up again.

- If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle. Don't panic. Your vehicle is easier to spot than a person walking. Lift your hood. Attempt to signal for help using a mirror or by using newspapers to make an X on the ground.

- Watch for snakes, spiders, and scorpions among the rocks.

News Bytes

Subscribe to News.bytes a FREE Weekly email Newsletter www.blm.gov/ca

In Case of Emergencies Contact the Federal Interagency Communications Center (FICC) at (888)233-6518 or call 9-1-1.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Historic U.S. Route 66

Officially established on November 11. 1926, US Route 66 began in Chicago, Illinois and terminated in Los Angeles, California a distance of 2,448 miles. It was one of the original highways in the US highway system, and probably the most famous.

Originally, there were no official roads crossing America. There were dirt trails used by settlers during the development of the west and there were railroads. Individual towns established themselves around these transportation routes. When someone wanted to travel to another town with their vehicle, they either took the established trail or used a frontage access road for the railroad. Since towns were situated on an existing railroad line or trail, the primary trading businesses were located on that route. That led to the term "Main Street" for a town's business. As traffic increased between towns, these "Main Streets" became connected into a continuous road. One of the nicknames of US 66 was "*The Main Street of America*". Of course, there were several other roads running throughout the west. Most of these also evolved from pre-existing trails or frontage service roads for nearby railroad routes.

Establishment of a highway system

In the early 1920s, there was recognized a need to formally develop, manage and fund a national highway system. Prior to this, individual towns maintained the streets within their jurisdictions and perhaps a short distance outside of their boarders, but certainly not to the next town.

What was unique about Route 66 was that it traveled diagonally from the northern mid-west to southern California thus connecting smaller rural towns along the route. Many roadside services such as service stations and diners established their business models as a result of this road. In fact, it has been stated that Route 66 led to the invention of the motel.

In the early 1930s work on the road was stopped due to the great depression. During that same period thousands of people from the mid west dust bowl region traveled to California in search of work and a better life. Work resumed on the road as part of President Roosevelt's *New Deal* using WPA resources. The entire distance of the road was paved by 1938.

Over the years there were several upgrades of the road necessitating realignment of certain sections. In any given area, it is not uncommon to have as many as five "original road" sections

Post war highs

After world war II, Route 66 prospered as tourism and motor commerce expanded westward. The US highway system reached its zenith in the early 1950s just before the Interstate Highway System was developed. When Interstates were completed, they often relegated the existing US route to secondary status. In the case of Route 66, several Interstate Routes –most notably I-40 in the southwest– completely supplanted it. US Route 66 was decommissioned in 1985.

Rebirth of a legend

Route 66 captures and represents the pioneering spirit of pilgrims set on coming west. It played a major role in the development of the United States in general ant the southwest in particular. Today, it is not possible to drive the original route from Chicago to Los Angeles. But several portions of the original route have been preserved and can still be driven on. Many of the downtown sections of towns and frontage roads are in fact original alignments. In the Needles area, the original road is known as *Arizona State Route* 66 and runs from Saligman, AZ through Kingman AZ (Andy Devine Blvd) southwest as a *BLM Scenic Backcountry Byway* to Topock, AZ at US 1-40. In California, the original 66 is known as *The National Old Trails Highway*. It runs from west of Needles, CA through Goffs, Essex, Amboy, Ludlow, Newberry Springs, then through Barstow on to L.A. Through numerous clubs, associations, and interested individuals the spirit and grandeur of a pioneer trail that helped to settle the west continues to live on.

CALIFORNIA ROUTE 66

"THE MAIN STREET OF AMERICA"

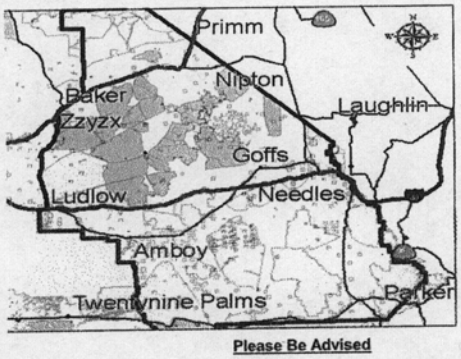
Needles Field Office
1303 South U.S. Hwy 95
Needles, CA 92363

Phone: (760)326-7000
Fax: (760)326-7099
www.blm.gov/ca/needles

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLM

Needles Field Office



OHV Use

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) provide fun, entertainment, and discovery. However, many of the desert's most attractive and fragile resources can be destroyed if vehicle access is not properly controlled. Resources, cultural and natural, can be unintentionally damaged or destroyed by uncontrolled vehicle use. We all have the responsibility for the proper use of vehicles, so please remember to TREAD LIGHTLY on public and private lands. Stay on open routes of travel

NO CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL

BLM/CA/GI-2009-018+8300

Please Be Advised

Military explosives can be found most anywhere in the desert. Large areas of the desert were and still are used for bombing ranges and maneuvers by the U.S. Armed Forces. There may be unexploded devices that can cause serious bodily injury or death if handled. Report any such devices to the Federal Interagency Communications Center toll free at (888) 233-651B or call 911.

The Twenty-nine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center borders the western edge of the Needles Field Office Area of responsibility. This is a live bombing range. Do NOT enter the bombing range!

Desert Safety

- Summer temperatures routinely exceed 110° Fahrenheit. Each year people are lost, injured, and sometimes die while visiting desert areas. Take precautions to prevent finding yourself in an emergency situation.

- Always tell someone your plans, or leave a visible note on the dash of your vehicle with your expected route, destination, and time of return. Stick to your itinerary.

- Carry plenty of water. Drink at least a gallon per day.

- Take food or snacks. In the heat, you may not feel hungry, but your body needs nourishment.

- Never go alone.

- Take a good map and compass.

- Carry a first aid kit, signal mirror, flashlight and matches.

- Take a CB radio or cellular phone.

- Wear sunscreen and sunglasses.

- Dress in light colored, loose fitting clothes. Long-sleeves, long pants, a hat, and sturdy shoes will help protect you from the sun, coarse volcanic material, and sharp, spiny vegetation.

- Bring a jacket with you, as evening temperatures may drop 30 degrees or more.

- Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition. Check your tires, spare tire, jack, lug wrench, and fluid levels. Always start with a full tank of gas and try not to let it fall below half a tank before filling up again.

- If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle. Don't panic. Your vehicle is easier to spot than a person walking. Lift your hood. Attempt to signal for help using a mirror or by using newspapers to make an X on the ground.

- Watch for snakes, spiders, and scorpions among the rocks.

News Bytes

Subscribe to News.bytes a FREE Weekly email Newsletter www.blm.gov/ca

In Case of Emergencies Contact the Federal Interagency Communications Center (FICC) at (888)233-6518 or call 9-1-1.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

PUBLICATIONS

Mojave Road Guide
The original interpretive road guide to the historic 140-mile wagon road along the 35th parallel from the Colorado River to Camp Cady. Many maps, including mileages.
By Dennis G. Casebier.
October 2010. $19.95

Tales of the Mojave Road: The Military
Stories of the military's involvement along the Mojave Road during the years of hostility with Native Americans.
By Dennis G. Casebier.
April 2007. $20.00

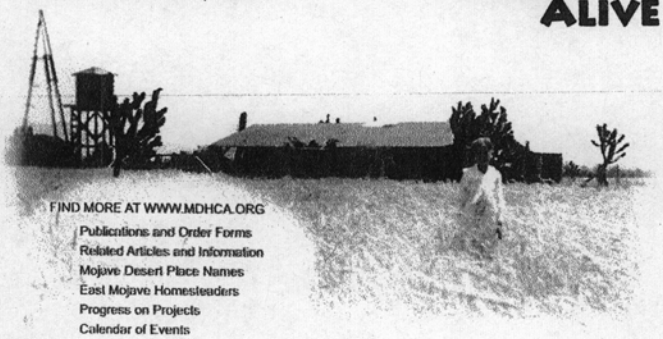
Maruba: Homesteading in Lanfair Valley
Maud Sharp's powerful and poignant personal family story of high desert homesteading.
By Maud Sharp and Margaret Sharp Moore.
October 2004. $17.50

Keepers Of The Caves
Jack and Ida Mitchell's fascinating story of their 20-year pioneering development of Mitchell Caverns as a Route 66 attraction.
By Jack Mitchell.
Foreword by Dennis G. Casebier.
October 2003. $17.50

Goffs and Its Schoolhouse
Located at the crossroads of Route 66 and two historic railroads, Goffs has a rich heritage preceding its modern role as a gateway to the Mojave National Preserve.
By Dennis G. Casebier.
October 1995. $20.00

STUDY THE PAST

The mission of the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association is to gather and preserve the natural and cultural history of the Mojave Desert. We accomplish this through operation of an archives and research center, restoration of significant structures, conservation of historic open space, interpretation of backcountry trails, and production of educational publications.



FIND MORE AT WWW.MDHCA.ORG

- Publications and Order Forms
- Related Articles and Information
- Mojave Desert Place Names
- East Mojave Homesteaders
- Progress on Projects
- Calendar of Events

Dates & Hours of Operation
Sat-Sun-Mon, Oct 1-Jun 30, 9 AM-4 PM
For other days and times, please call 760 733-4482 or email info@mdhca.org for an appointment.

Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association
37198 Lanfair Road G-15, Essex CA 92332
www.mdhca.org

The MDHCA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization
All donations are tax deductible

©2014 MDHCA

KEEP THE MOJAVE ALIVE

MOJAVE DESERT HERITAGE & CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

GOFFS – CALIFORNIA

CHOOLHOUSE

Goffs Schoolhouse is a one-room mission
: desert school built in 1914 by the County of San
ardino. It served as the local community center and
ich library through many of the 23 years it existed as
hool.

acted by a realignment of **Route 66**, the school closed
loors in 1937 and reverted to private ownership.
ring its country again during WWII as a canteen
U.S. Army troops training in the area, the building
sequently fell into disrepair and was nearly lost.

toration of the schoolhouse was one of the MDHCA's
or goals when it was formed in 1993. Membership
ations accomplished this dream in 1998. In 2001, the
fs Schoolhouse was listed on the National Register of
oric Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

ESEARCH ENTER

› MDHCA secured a $500,000 construction grant from
California Cultural and Historical Endowment to build
search and collections processing center in the image
he original **Goffs Depot**.

› **Santa Fe Railway** built the original depot in 1900.
erved the needs of homesteaders, cattle ranchers,
ers, the military, and merchants until 1956.

› **Mojave Desert Archives** research center is the new
me for the collections gathered together over the last
years for Mojave Desert historians.

PROGRAMS

The purpose of the MDHCA can be very simply stated: it is to gather together the history of the Mojave Desert in California, Nevada, and Arizona and to ensure its historical research collection will exist in perpetuity.

HERITAGE PRESERVED

Our collection of historical materials includes over 110,000 historical photographs, tens of thousands of pages of news clip files, more than 6,000 volumes of published works, over 6,000 maps, 2,000 subject files, 1,300 oral histories, an extensive collection of materials culled from federal records in the National Archives, and much more. We continue to gain momentum and add to this unique collection every day.

PUBLICATIONS

The MDHCA releases books through its **Tales of the Mojave Road Publishing Company**. To date, TOTMR has published over two dozen books related to the history of the East Mojave. Our five most popular publications are spotlighted here. Visit our store at www.mdhca.org to order from a more complete book list.

MEMORIES

Our Oral History Program records, transcribes and prints the memories of folks having firsthand knowledge of the Mojave Desert. When the shared experiences of many people are collected and combined, a more complete and accurate historical picture emerges. If you are a person with direct knowledge of the desert in earlier years, or if you know of such people, we would like to hear from you.

HOMESTEADS

We provide stewardship for nearly 800 acres of homestead heritage in the East Mojave. As a land trust, we are preserving the historical, cultural, and recreational values of Mojave Desert land for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public.

HELP SUPPORT OUR GOALS

To carry the lantern forward, the MDHCA needs your support. Join with us as we build upon these wonderful accomplishments into the 21st Century. Please use the handy tear-off card to communicate with us.

TEAR-OFF RESPONSE CARD

If you are interested in learning more about the MDHCA, purchasing a book, or finding out how you can contribute, please fill out the desired boxes on this form and return to us.

I would like to:

- ☐ Receive a complimentary copy of the *Mojave Road Report* newsletter.
- ☐ Become a member for $25.00, which includes receiving 10 issues of the *Mojave Road Report*.
- ☐ Make a cash contribution to the Goffs Depot / Library operational fund.
- ☐ Donate my desert property for a valuable tax deduction.

The MDHCA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

I would like to purchase a publication:

- ☐ **Mojave Road Guide** $19.95 ($1.60 CA sales tax)
- ☐ **Tales of the Mojave Road – The Military** $20.00 ($1.60 CA sales tax)
- ☐ **Maruba** $17.50 ($1.40 CA sales tax)
- ☐ **Keepers of the Caves** $17.50 ($1.40 CA sales tax)
- ☐ **Goffs and Its Schoolhouse** $20.00 ($1.60 CA sales tax)

Please add $4.00 shipping for 1st book and $0.50 shipping for each additional book. California residents please add indicated sales tax. Make checks payable to MDHCA.

Here is my address:

Name

Address

E-Mail (optional)

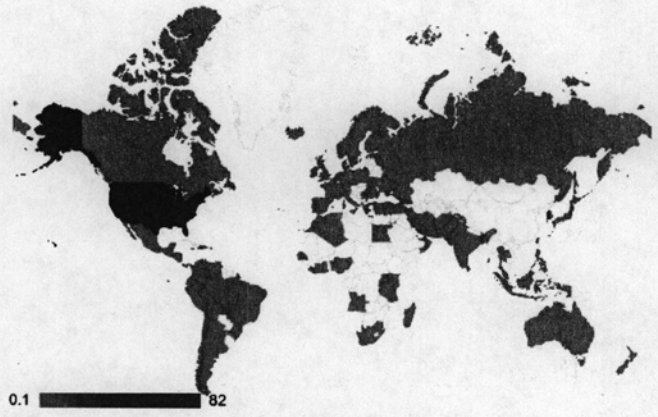
Tear off and mail this completed form to:

MDHCA
GOFFS SCHOOLHOUSE
37198 LANFAIR ROAD G-15
ESSEX CA 92332

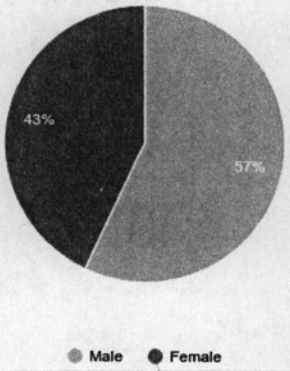
FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Location

World USA



Demographics

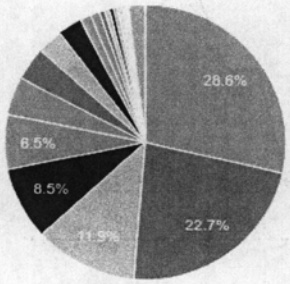


Topics

Hashtags A Keywords

Tip: Click on a keyword or hashtag to see related posts

Top Sources



Desktop/Web IPhone Android Twitterfeed Dlvr.it 1/5 ▶

KEYHOLE

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Every track is shareable → Share [close

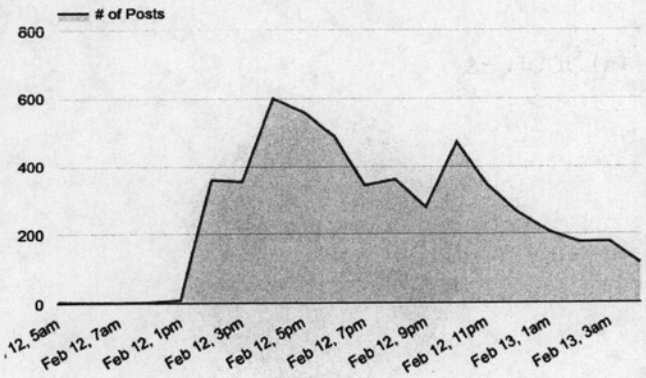
Real-time Tracker: california desert

Date Range

Feb 12 - Feb 12

5,128	4,401	51,763,962	60,817,092
posts	users	reach	impressions

Timeline



Top Posts

RTs/Likes | Klout | Recent

Tip: Click on a post's date to be taken to original post

U.S. Department of the Interior @usinterior Feb 12 — 18,090
Here's a gorgeous pic from #MojaveTrails National Monument -- one of three new #nationalmonuments that President Obama designated today. Mojave Trails is a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, a...

Design Milk @designmilk Feb 12 — 5,581
These #claehoffman x @americanragcie #sneakers were inspired by #California. We think they're handsome enough to wear from the ocean to the mountains to the desert and everywhere between.

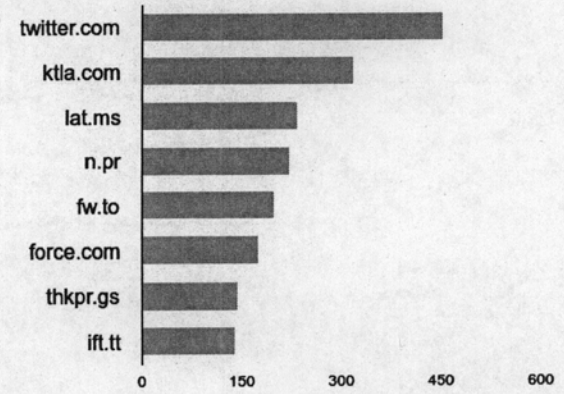
Bureau of Land Management @mypubliclands Feb 12 — 4,589
A little #weekendinspiration -- a beautiful photo of Sand to Snow National Monument in California, one of three new national monuments designated today! @whitehouse The Sand to Snow National Monument...

Josh Kurpius @kurpius Feb 12

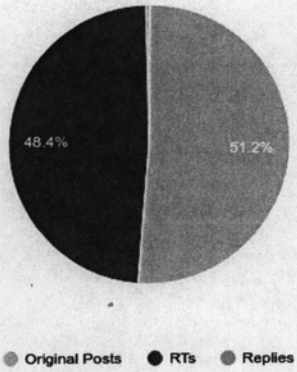
+ More

Top Sites

Domains | Pages



Share of Posts



Most Influential

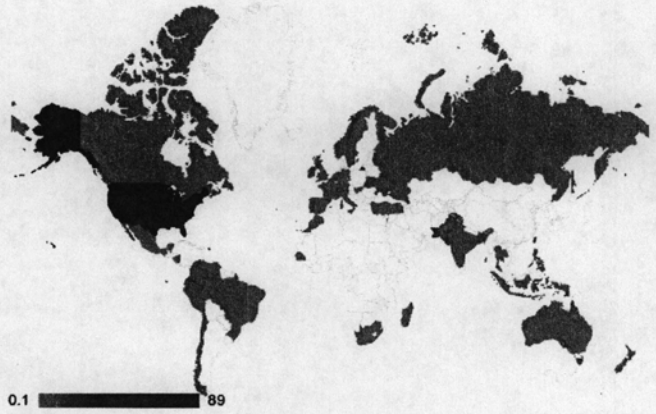
Recent Users

KEYHOLE

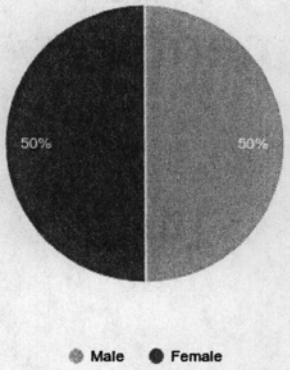
FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Location

World | USA



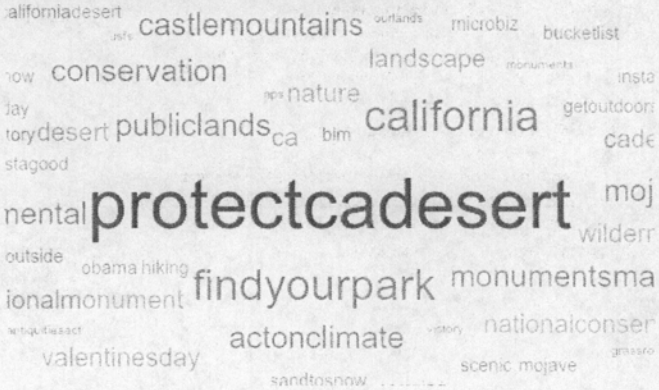
Demographics



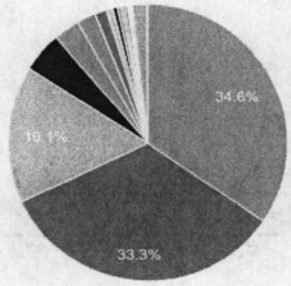
Topics

Hashtags | A Keywords

Tip: Click on a keyword or hashtag to see related posts



Top Sources



Desktop/Web | IPhone | Android | IPad | Buffer

1/4 ▶

KEYHOLE

M - Desert

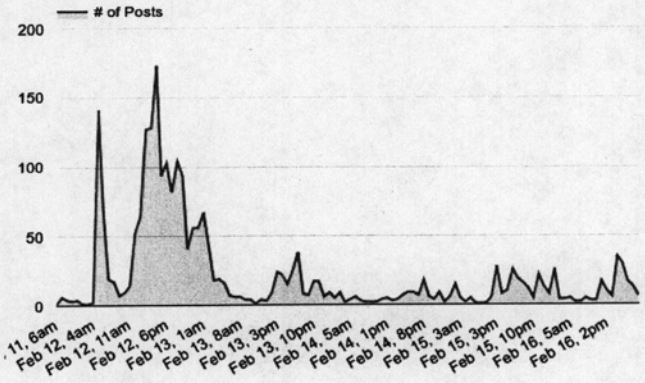
Every track is shareable → Share [close

Real-time Tracker: #MonumentsForAll

Date Range: Feb 11 - Feb 16

2,385	1,446	4,129,706	13,412,257
posts	users	reach	impressions

Timeline



Top Posts

RTs/Likes | Klout | Recent

Tip: Click on a post's date to be taken to original post

Bureau of Land Management @mypubliclands Feb 15 — 6,338
Take a walk – or hike – on the wild side this #valentinesday! Explore the Soda Mountain Wilderness, within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, just north of the California/Oregon border. The Pacif...

Bureau of Land Management @mypubliclands Feb 12 — 4,589
A little #weekendinspiration -- a beautiful photo of Sand to Snow National Monument in California, one of three new national monuments designated today! @whitehouse The Sand to Snow National Monument...

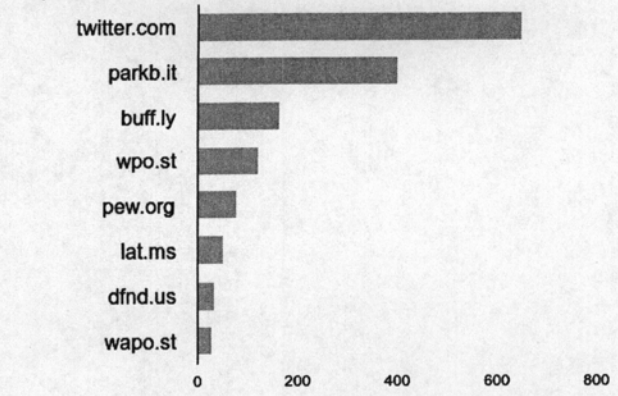
Bureau of Land Management @mypubliclands Feb 15 — 3,903
Happy Presidents' Day! Today we're recognizing the amazing national monuments designated by Presidential proclamation. Pictured here, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah -- the BL...

Eagles Nest Outfitters, Inc @enohammocks 5:53 pm

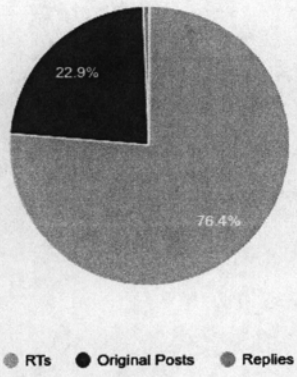
+ More

Top Sites

Domains | Pages



Share of Posts



Most Influential

Recent Users

KEYHOLE

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

ands

control in March
eriod he
desert area to
camps that
ed training. The
ecutive lodging
n favor of
st. He had a
sonally flew to
to monitor
hey were
radio contact
ers and often
le flying
on purchased
his own funds
lay music and
. Often, the
n to these
the troops

C a total of 6
August of 1942.
tched to North
inued to operate
commanders.
ame of the
nged to the
euver Area
ction of the war
/or in 1944, the

The Camps Today

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) now oversees the lands on which these camps lie. The agency is engaged in an effort to protect and interpret these sites.

At Camp Young, a private nonprofit organization has built the General George S. Patton Memorial Museum which opened in 1988. This facility provides information and displays legally collected artifacts related to the DTC. BLM supports this effort and provides technical assistance and general support. You can visit the museum located off Interstate 10 at Chiriaco Summit.

Looking Toward the Future

In an effort to preserve and interpret the remaining features of these camps, BLM has prepared the Desert Training Center Interpretive Plan.

Protecting and maintaining the present condition of the sites, restoring many of the remaining features, and interpreting the camps are the primary goals of the plan.

All of the camp sites are considered *Historical Period Archaeological sites* eligible for the National Register. The use of metal detectors and the collection of artifacts by individuals are prohibited.

World War II

Desert Training Center

California-Arizona Maneuver Area

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Needles Field Office
1303 South U.S. Hwy 95
Needles, CA 92363

Phone: (760)326-7000
Fax: (760)326-7099
www.ca.blm.gov/needles

America's Great Outdoors

A Promise to Future Generations

BLM
Needles Field Office

MAP 1

Map at left shows the area of the DTC-CAMA , the location of Headquarters at Camp Young, and the ten satellite training camps. This was the largest military training facility in the world.

OHV Use

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) provide fun, entertainment, and discovery. However, many of the desert's most attractive and fragile resources can be destroyed if vehicle access is not properly controlled. Resources, cultural and natural, can be unintentionally damaged or destroyed by uncontrolled vehicle use. We all have the responsibility for the proper use of vehicles, so please remember to TREAD LIGHTLY on public and private lands. Stay on open routes of travel

NO CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL

Please Be Advised

Military explosives can be found most anywhere in the desert. Large areas of the desert were and still are used for bombing ranges and maneuvers by the U.S. Armed Forces. There may be unexploded devices that can cause serious bodily injury or death if handled. Report any such devices to the Federal Interagency Communications Center toll free at (888) 233-6518 or call 911.

The Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center borders the western edge of the Needles Field Office Area of responsibility. This is a live bombing range. **Do NOT enter the bombing range!**

Desert Safety

- Summer tempera exceed 110° Fahre people are lost, inju die while visiting de precautions to prev an emergency situ

- Always tell some plans, or leave a vi on the dash of you with your expected destination, and tin return. Stick to you

- Carry plenty of w at least a gallon pe

- Take food or sna In the heat, you ma hungry, but your b nourishment.

- Never go alone.

- Take a good ma

- Carry a first aid k flashlight and matc

- Take a CB radio

- Wear sunscreen

News

Subscribe to News.byt
Weekly email News
www.blm.gov/

My Stories Browse Search Stories... New Story

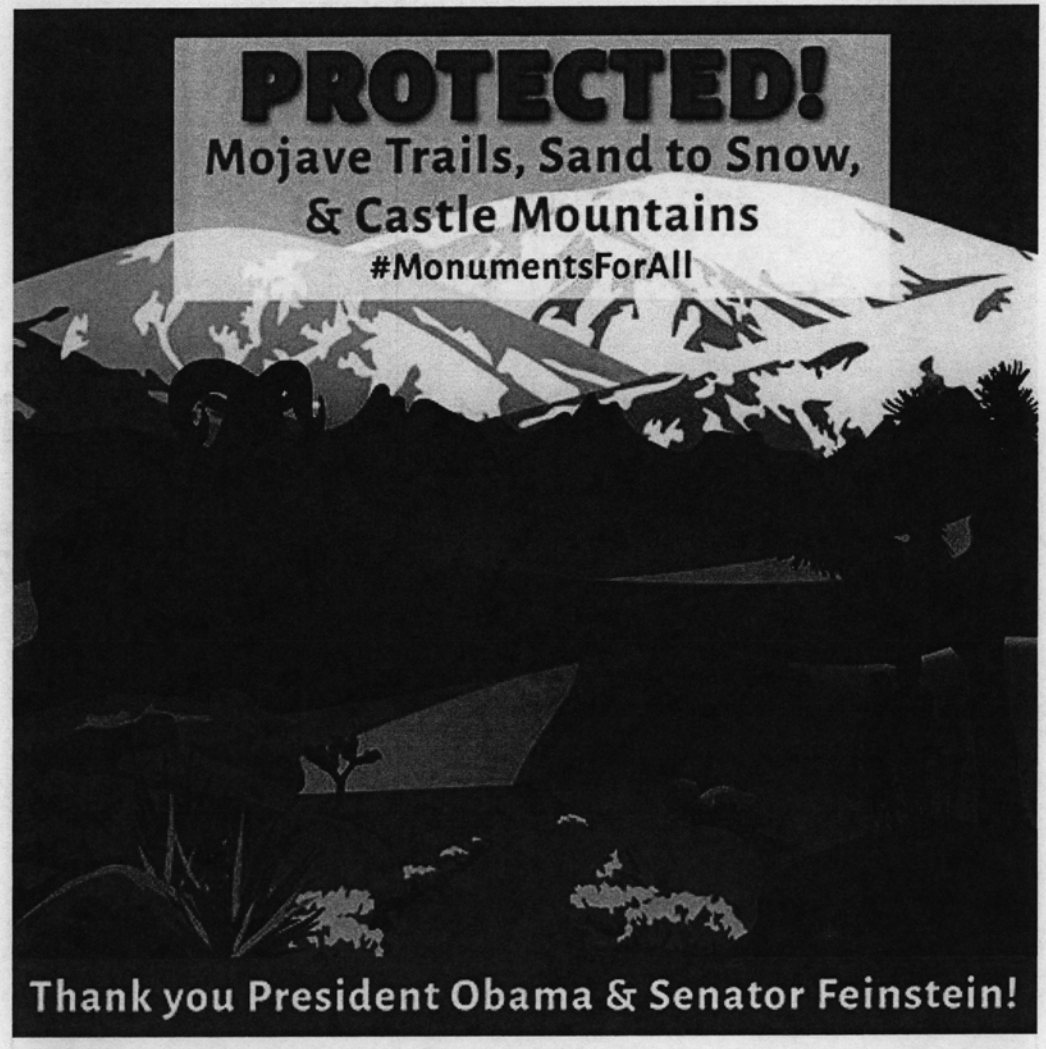
</> Embed

Celebrating California Desert #MonumentsForAll

February 2016

by California Desert a minute ago

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



Campaign for the California Desert
on Friday

WE DID IT! Thanks to you, to Senator Dianne Feinstein, to President Obama, and countless others from near and far, three amazing California Desert landscapes are now protected as national monuments. This historic action will ensure that Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains can be enjoyed by generations to come. Let's celebrate!

#MonumentsForAll #FindYourPark

734 **77** **579**

ELECTED OFFICIALS

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0056-REC-20240 Page 3 of 23

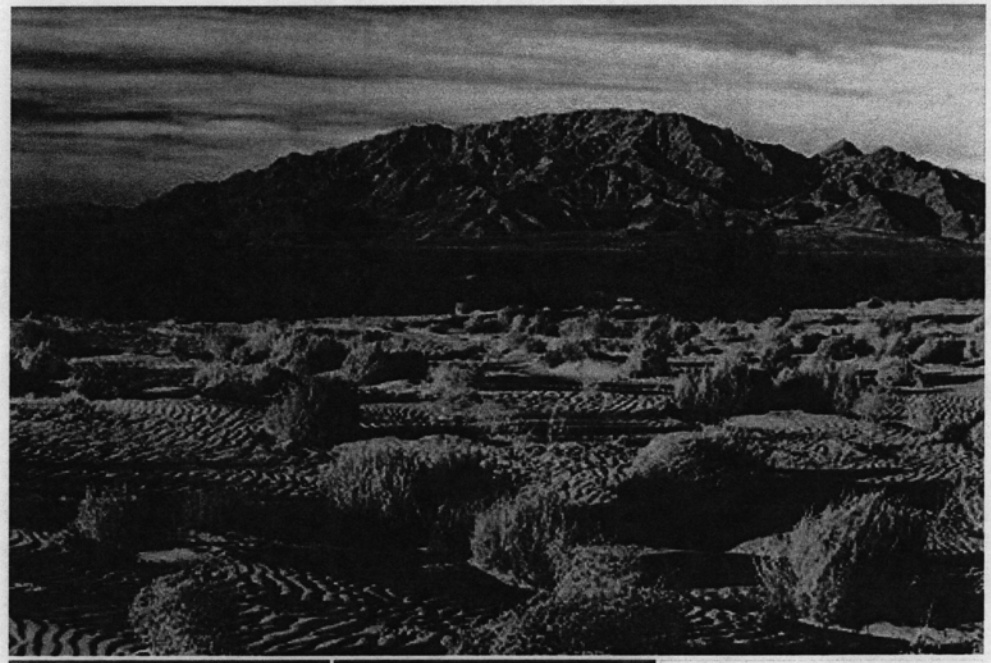
FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Senator Dianne Feinstein
on Friday

Wonderful news: President Obama has designated three new national monuments in the California desert!

Mojave Trails, Castle Mountains and Sand to Snow – for generations these monuments will remain as pristine as they are today.

The California desert, with its ruggedness and unique beauty, is nothing short of awe-inspiring. Whether it's the wildflowers or tortoises, the desert has so much unique wildlife and vegetation.... See More



+4

1,882 194 403

Raul Ruiz
@CongressmanRuiz

Follow

Monumental news: @POTUS designates 3 new @CalDesert #MonumentsForAll!

8:30 PM - 12 Feb 2016

16 14

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Martin Heinrich
@MartinHeinrich

Follow

Congrats @SenFeinstein & @SenatorBoxer. Mojave Trials, Sand to Snow & Castle Mountains in CA designated national monuments. #monumentsforall

5:57 PM - 12 Feb 2016

19 21

Greg Pettis
@GregPettis

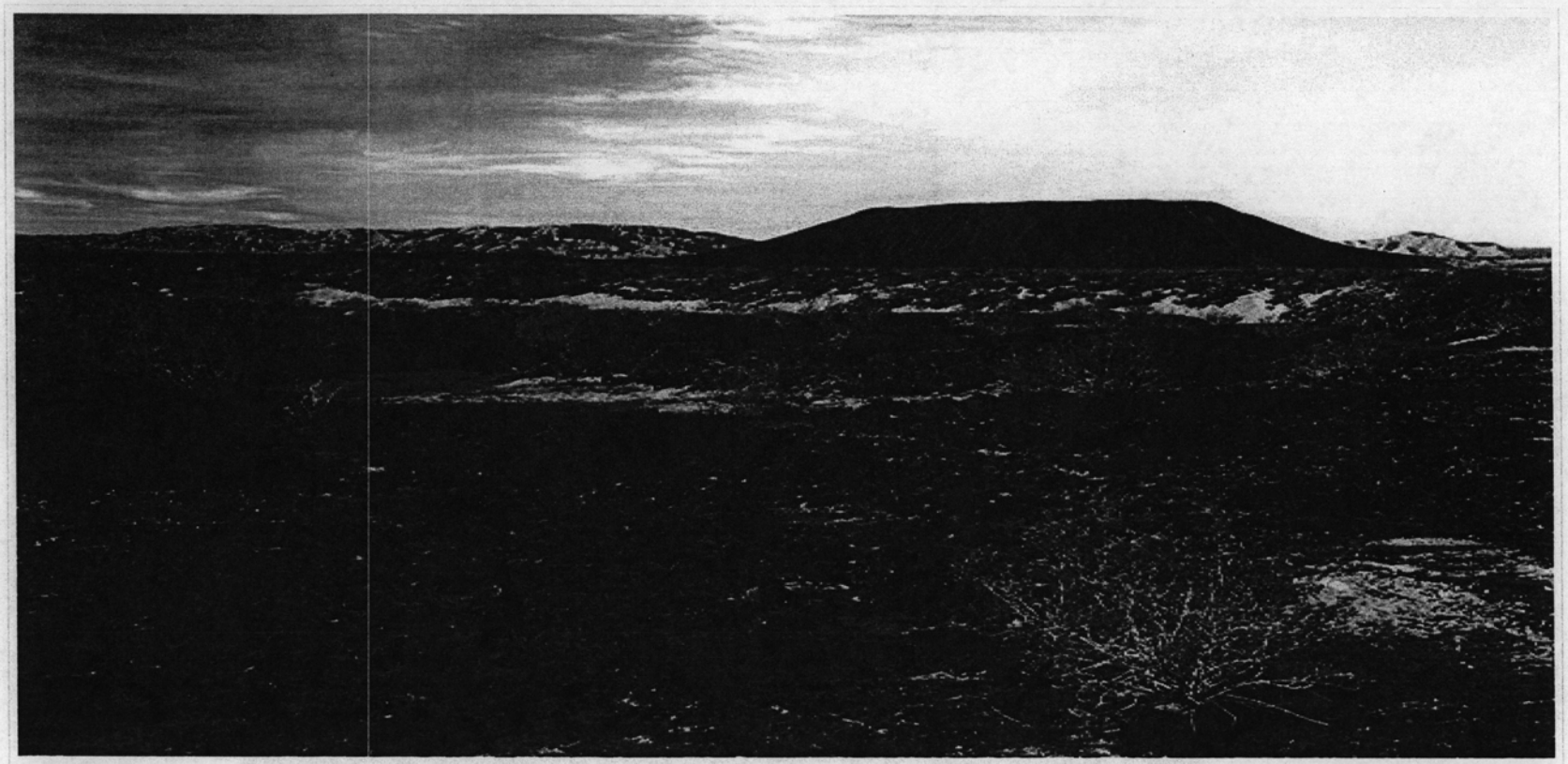
Follow

Huge thx to @SenFeinstein for years of @CalDesert leadership. New #MonumentsForAll are a legacy for the future. bit.ly/1TwbcRq

1:28 AM - 12 Feb 2016

3 9

BUSINESSES



Today is a victory for conservation. President Obama designates three new national monuments in the California desert to permanently protect 1.8 million acres of natural public lands. The President has protected more acres of land and water than any Administration in history. The new monuments will link Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve and fifteen wilderness areas preserving wildlife habitat and natural resources. 📷: Bob Wick, BLM

PATAGONIA · 4 DAYS AGO

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

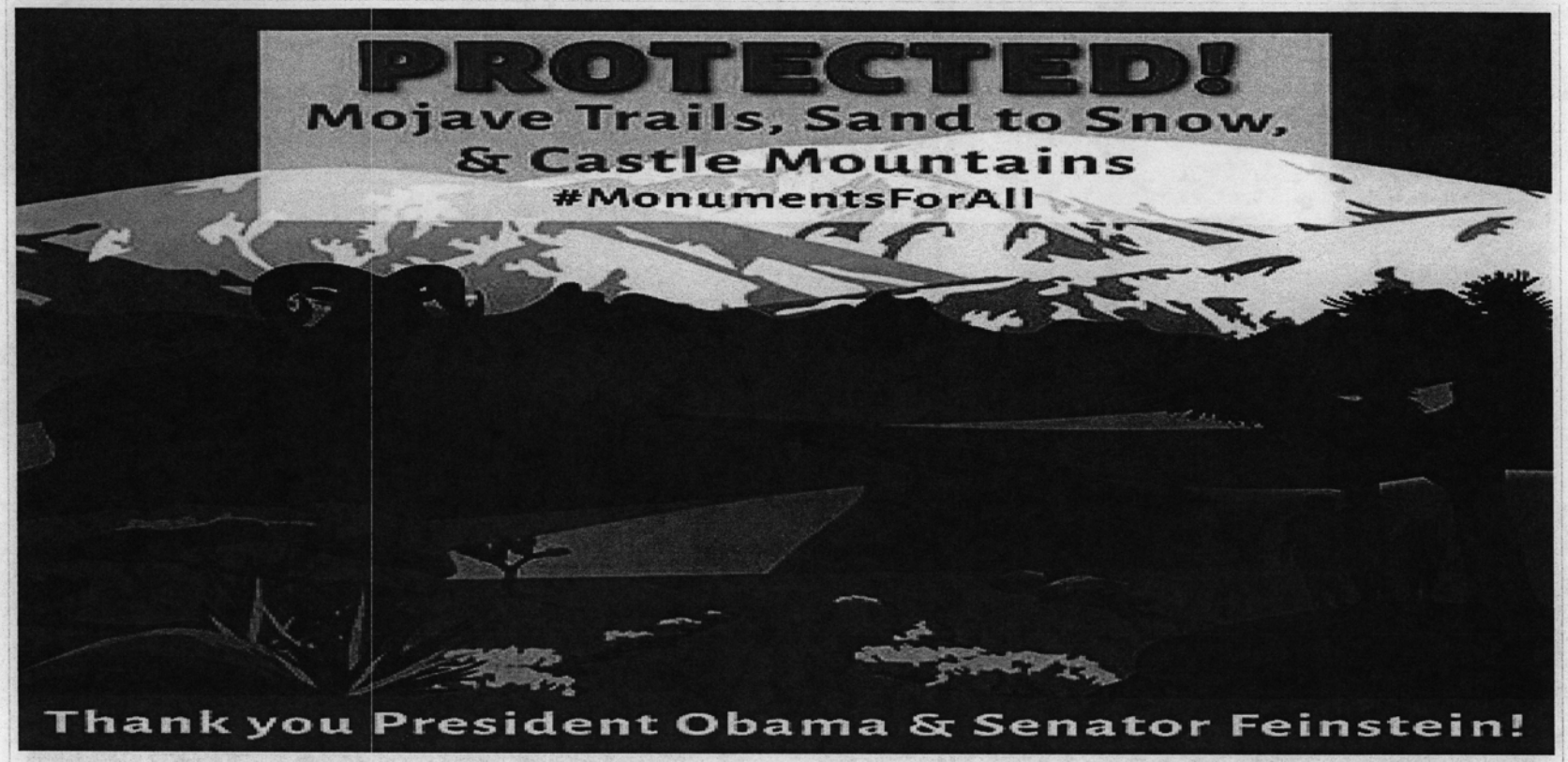
KEEN
@KEEN

Follow

A historic day worth celebrating. Cheers to Mojave Trails!
#livemonumental #monumentsforall

9:20 PM - 12 Feb 2016

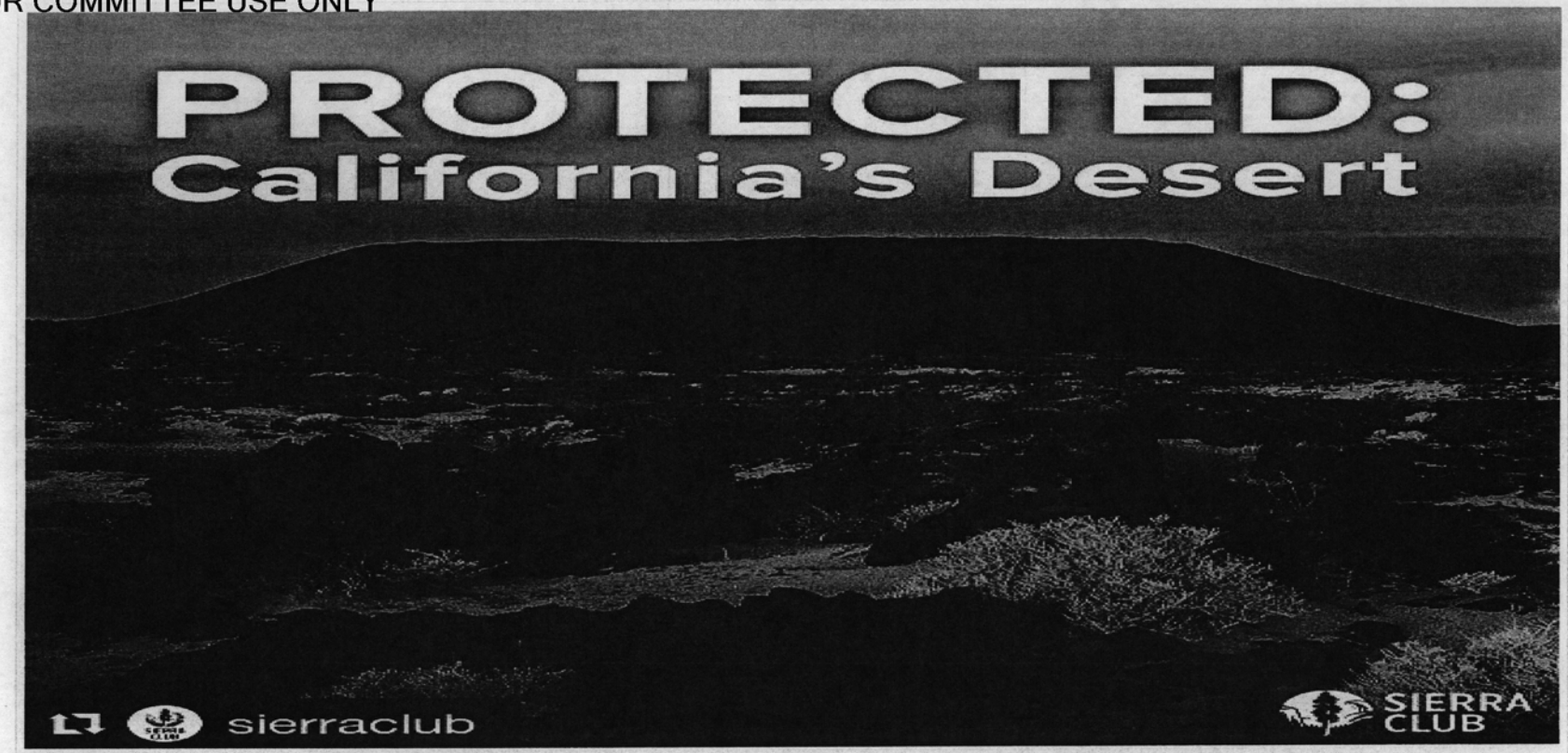
9 19



More protected lands! Thanks to you, to Senator Dianne Feinstein, to President Obama, and countless others from near and far, three amazing California Desert landscapes are now protected as national monuments. This historic action will ensure that Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains can be enjoyed by generations to come. Let's celebrate! #MonumentsForAll #FindYourPark

TWENTYNINE PALMS CHAMBER · 4 DAYS AGO

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



Fantastic news this morning - President Obama designates 3 new national monuments that will protect 1.8 million acres of our California desert! #sandtosnow #mojavetrails #castlemountain #ProtectCAdesert #californiadesert #monumentsforall 📷: @sierraclub

29 PALMS INN · 4 DAYS AGO

Outdoor Industry
@OIA

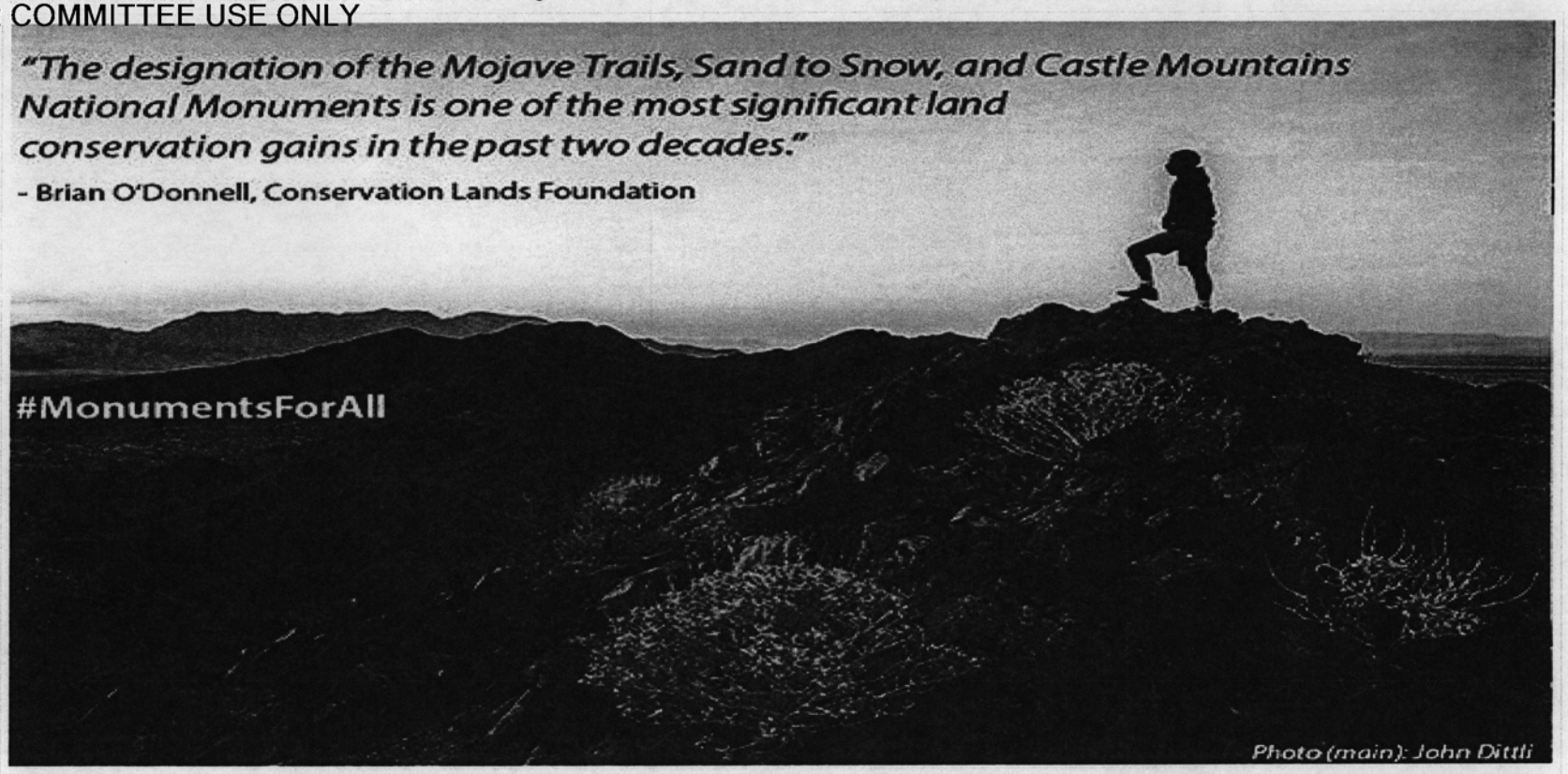
Follow

Great to see one of OIA's priority places protected! Check out our land designation policy: outdoorindustry.org/article/outdoo… twitter.com/whitehouse/sta…

4:26 PM - 12 Feb 2016

2 7

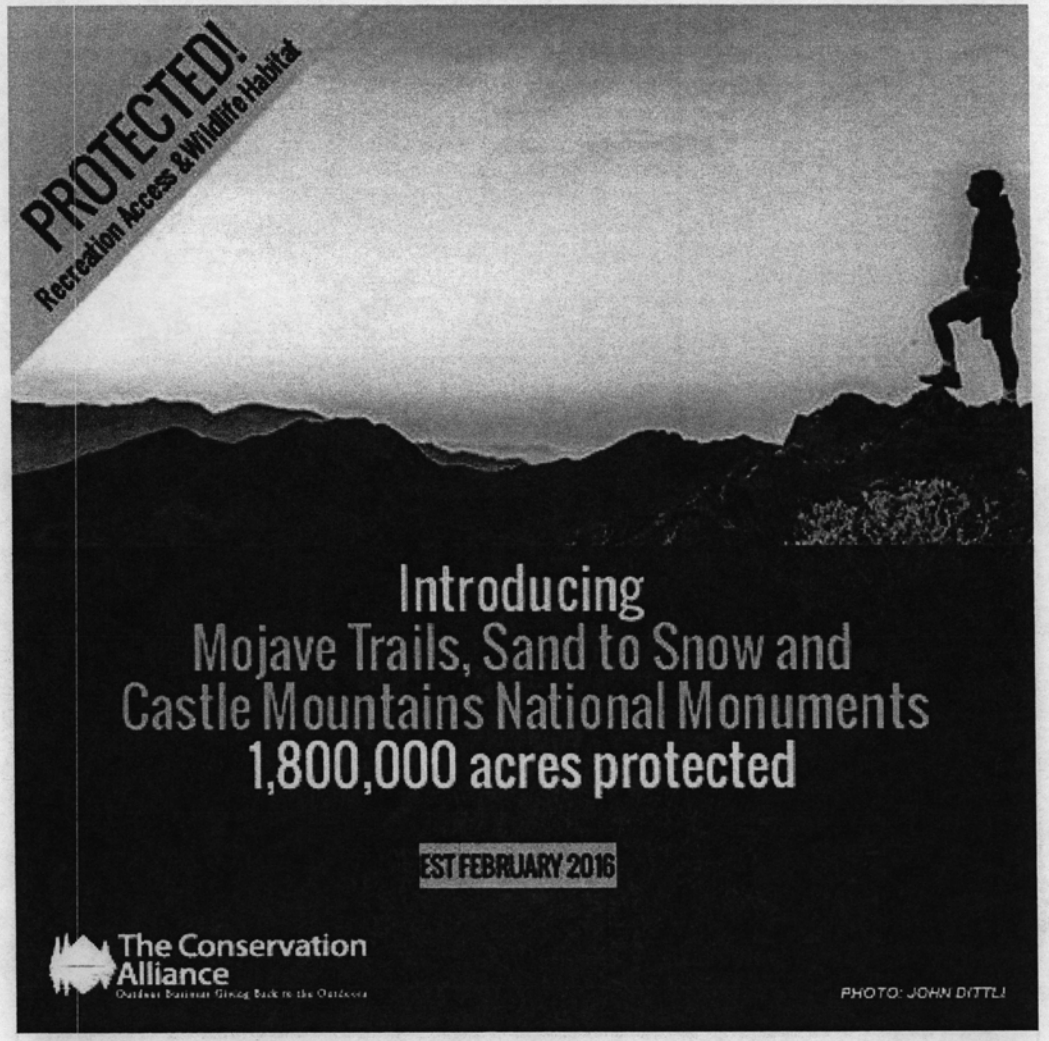
FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



We're thrilled about the recent news that President Obama has designated three new national monuments, #MojaveTrails #NationalMonument, #SandtoSnow NationalMonument and #CastleMountains National Monument, resulting in the protection of roughly 1.8 MILLION acres of BLM land in the California Desert. Bravo and thanks to all of the organizations and individuals who have been working tirelessly on the #MonumentsForAll initiative! 📷: @conservationlandsfoundation @johndittli

OSPREY PACKS · 3 DAYS AGO

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0056-REC-20240 Page 12 of 23



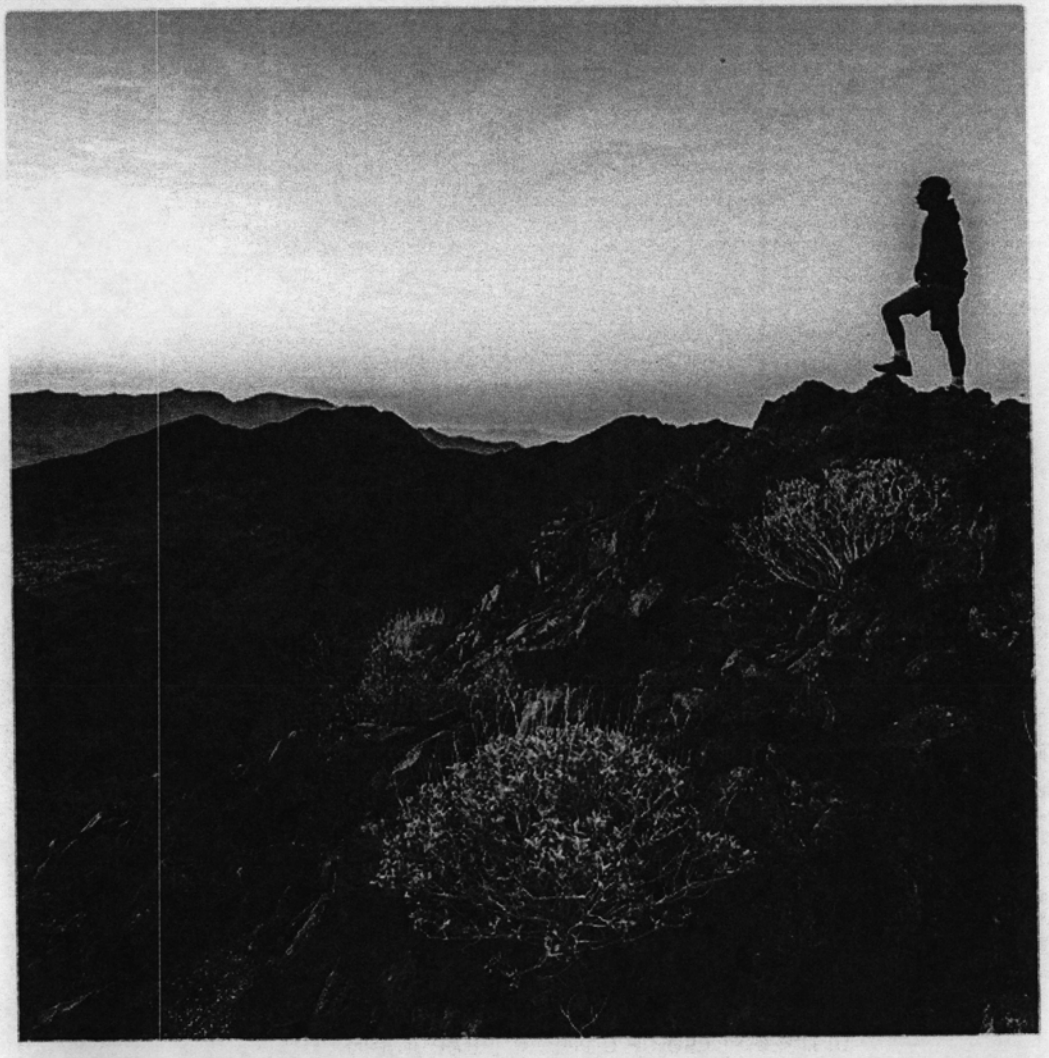
The North Face
20 hours ago

President Obama has designated three new national monuments, protecting roughly 1.8 million acres in the California Desert. The three monuments connect Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve to create the second largest protected landscape in the world. We proudly funded the effort to protect this landscape through our The Conservation Alliance membership.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

#MonumentsForAll

604	**11**	**63**



Eddie Bauer
@eddiebauer

Follow

Celebrating 3 new nat'l monuments in CA, totaling 1.8 million acres! Proud @conservationall member! #MonumentsForAll

8:00 AM - 16 Feb 2016

7 14

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

REI
@REI

Follow

We love the California desert too. Grateful to have more protected places to play. #optoutside wapo.st/1SoHgHE

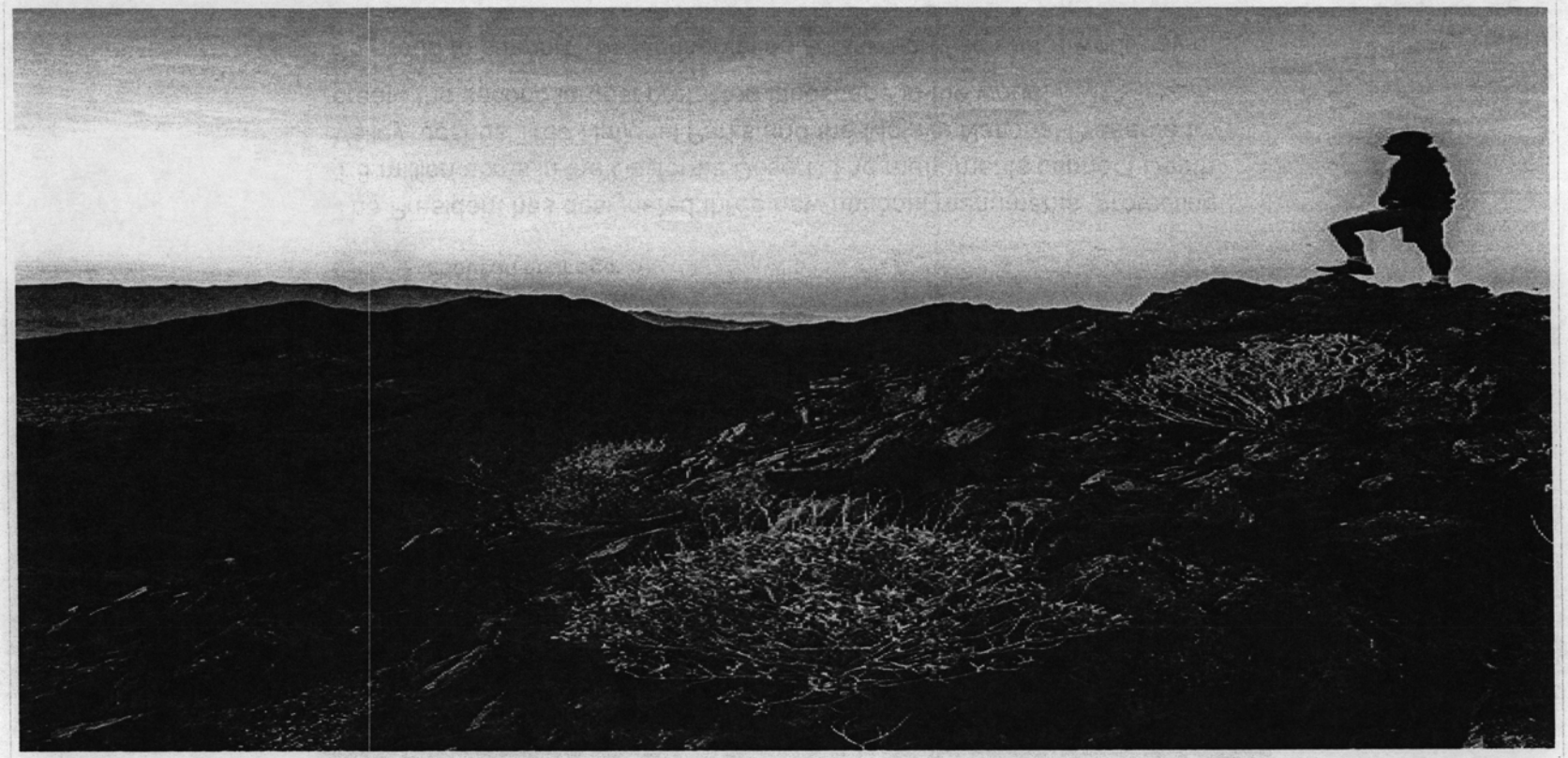
6:00 PM - 13 Feb 2016

Obama designates new national monumen...

More than 1.8 million acres of desert in California become three separate national monuments.

washingtonpost.com

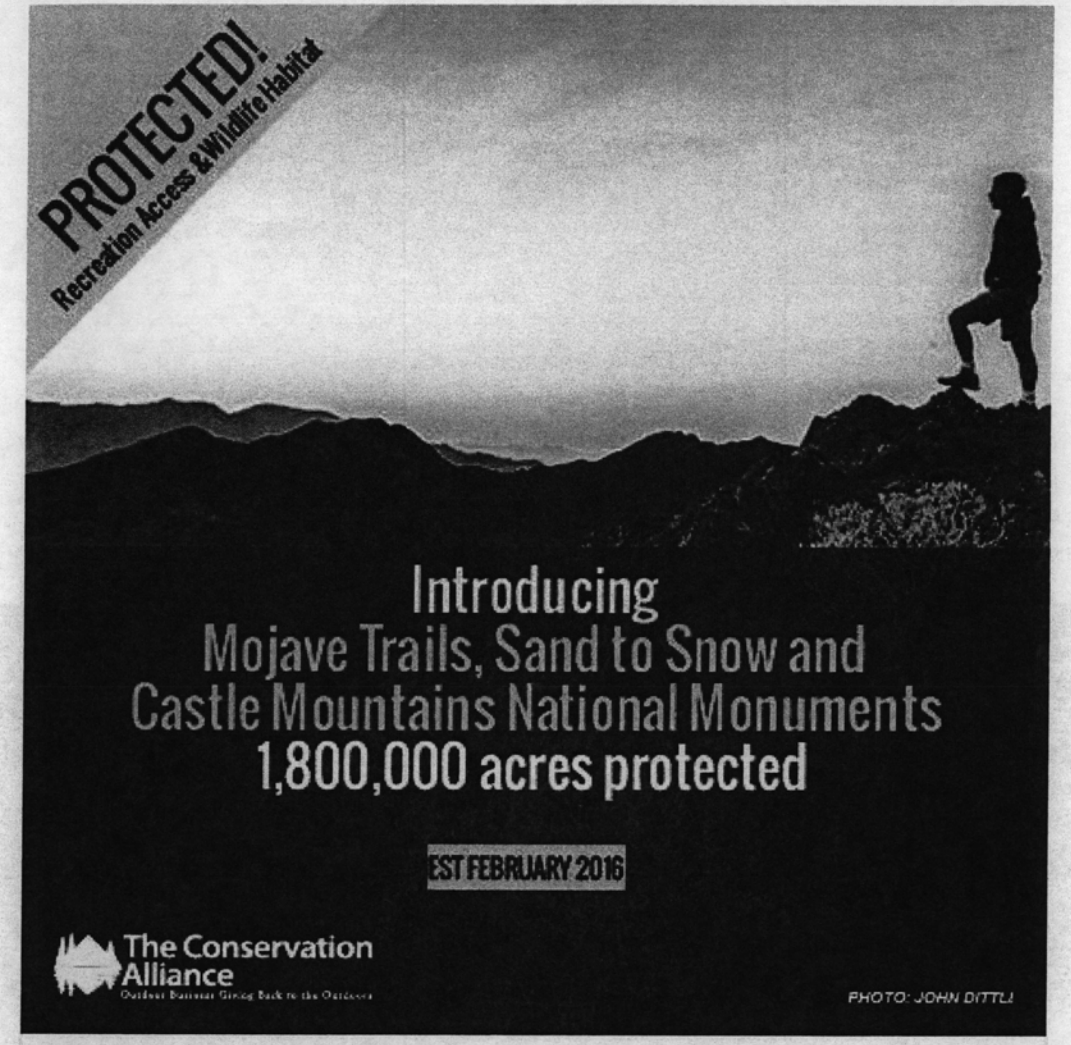
13 43



We're celebrating three new national monuments in CA, totaling 1.8 million acres! These monuments-Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument-connect Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve to create the second largest protected landscape in the world. We're proud to have funded the effort to protect this landscape through our @conservationalliance membership. #monumentsforall #explore #protect #repost Pic by John Dittli

ENOHAMMOCKS · 2 HOURS AGO

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



Mountain Hardwear
about an hour ago

The President has designated three new national monuments, protecting 1.8 million acres in the California Desert. The monuments connect Death Valley, Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve to create the second largest protected landscape in the world!

So proud to support The Conservation Alliance and see hard work pay off!!

Full Story: > http://...

Full Story -> http://oak.ctx.ly/r/4auka

75 2 11

Today we get to celebrate 3 new national monuments, protecting 1.8 million acres in the deserts of California. The new public lands will better link Joshua Tree and Death Valley Nationals Park with 16 surrounding preserves and wilderness areas in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, creating the second largest protected area in the world. Thanks to our friends @conservationalliance for their constant work in protecting these special lands! #findyourpark #mojavetrails #sandtosnow #castlemountains #myfreshair

YAKIMARACKS · 2 HOURS AGO

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

LBA
@LBA

Follow

Latin Business Association Applauds Establishment of New California Desert Monuments fb.me/47NprMMlq

6:33 PM - 12 Feb 2016

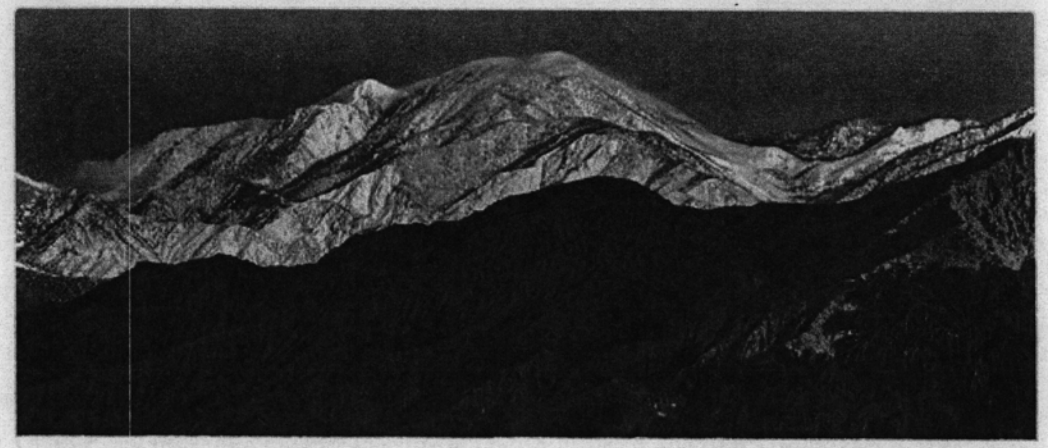
CAMEO
@CAMEOMicro

Follow

#MonumentsForAll will help preserve the desert's small & #microbiz dependent on tourism $$ wpo.st/wVsA1

2:05 PM - 13 Feb 2016

2 2



Blue Biz Council
@BlueBizCouncil

Follow

Welcome to #Cal's newest National Monuments; Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains! #ProtectWhatYouLove

11:38 AM - 12 Feb 2016 · San Bernardino, CA, United States

19 28

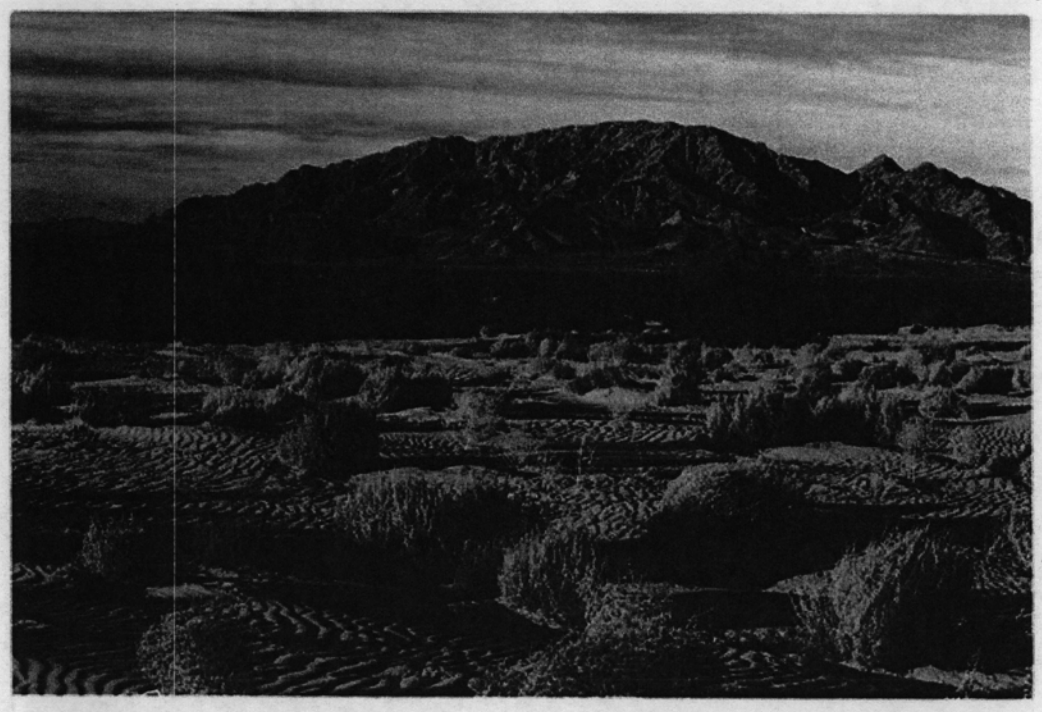
OTHER VIPS

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

#Regram #RG @whitehouse: Hey everyone, it's @USInterior here! President Obama just designated three new National Monuments- ensuring that Americans can enjoy the unique beauty of the California desert for generations to come, and to celebrate, we'll be taking over the White House Instagram account. Here's a gorgeous pic of one of these brand new national monuments: #MojaveTrails. Mojave Trails is home to a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows and spectacular sand dunes. Follow along for more incredible views of the public lands that President Obama has protected for future generations. Photo by Bob Wick, @mypubliclands. #FindYourPark

LEONARDODICAPRIO · 2 HOURS AGO

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0056-REC-20240 Page 22 of 23



Sen Dianne Feinstein
@SenFeinstein

Follow

Mojave Trails Nat'l Monument, on both sides of historic Route 66, has majestic mountains & valleys. #ProtectCADesert

12:47 PM - 12 Feb 2016

185 727

Like Share

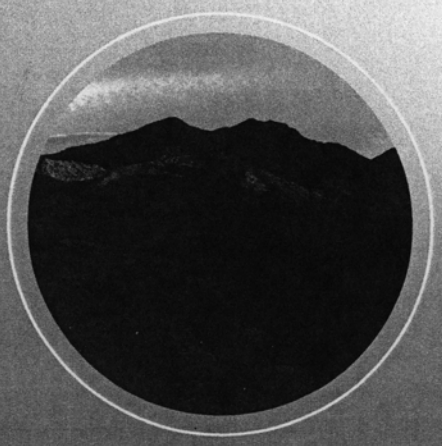
Need Help? Report Abuse Enterprise About Blog Jobs Tools API Terms Privacy

© 2016 Storify

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

IMPACTS ON MINING AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

The California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015



The Sonoran Institute

Research by the Sonoran Institute finds that the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (CDCRA) of 2015 will have minimal impact on mining operations in San Bernardino County. The legislation will also enhance the natural and cultural attractions that have been significant drivers of the regional economy for the past 4 decades.

POPULATION GROWTH

Over the past 4 decades, San Bernardino County has experienced steady growth in population, employment, and personal income. Between 1970–2013, the county saw a 206% population increase, the 2nd highest among the 7 desert counties: Imperial County, Inyo County, Kern County, Los Angeles County, Riverside County, San Bernardino County, and San Diego County.

EMPLOYMENT

Despite the county's growth, mining's contributions to the local economy have been modest, with jobs in mining playing a small role in total private employment. In 2013, San Bernardino County had 0.2% of employment in mining (around 1,400 employees). For small communities, such as Lucerne Valley, mining operations that employ 25, 50, or 100 persons are considered major employers.

Most of the county's growth is driven by businesses and demographic changes that benefit directly from preserving the desert. Between 1970–2013, most of the county's employment growth was in the Services, Retail, Government, Manufacturing, Farm, and Health Care/Social Assistance Sectors.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

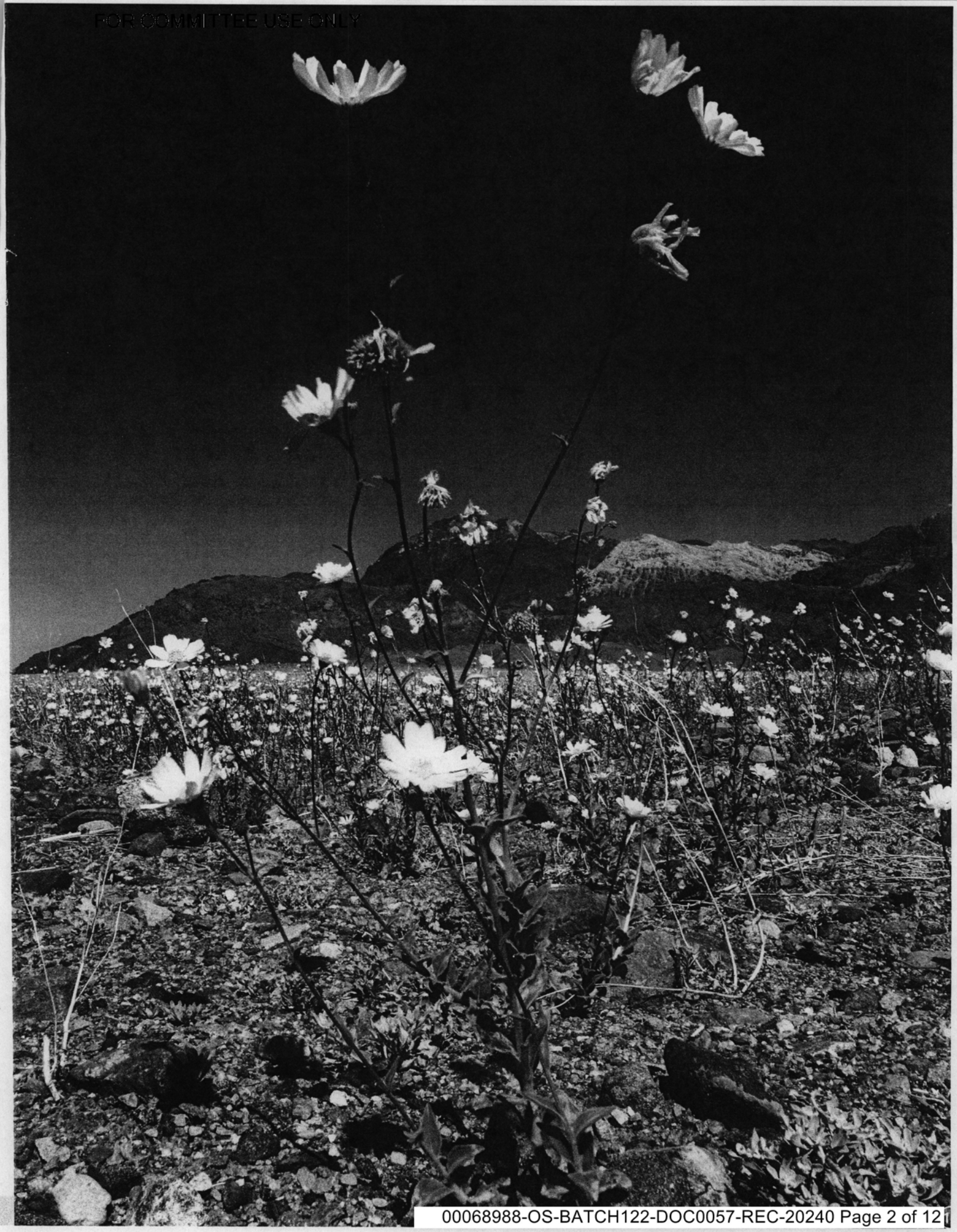
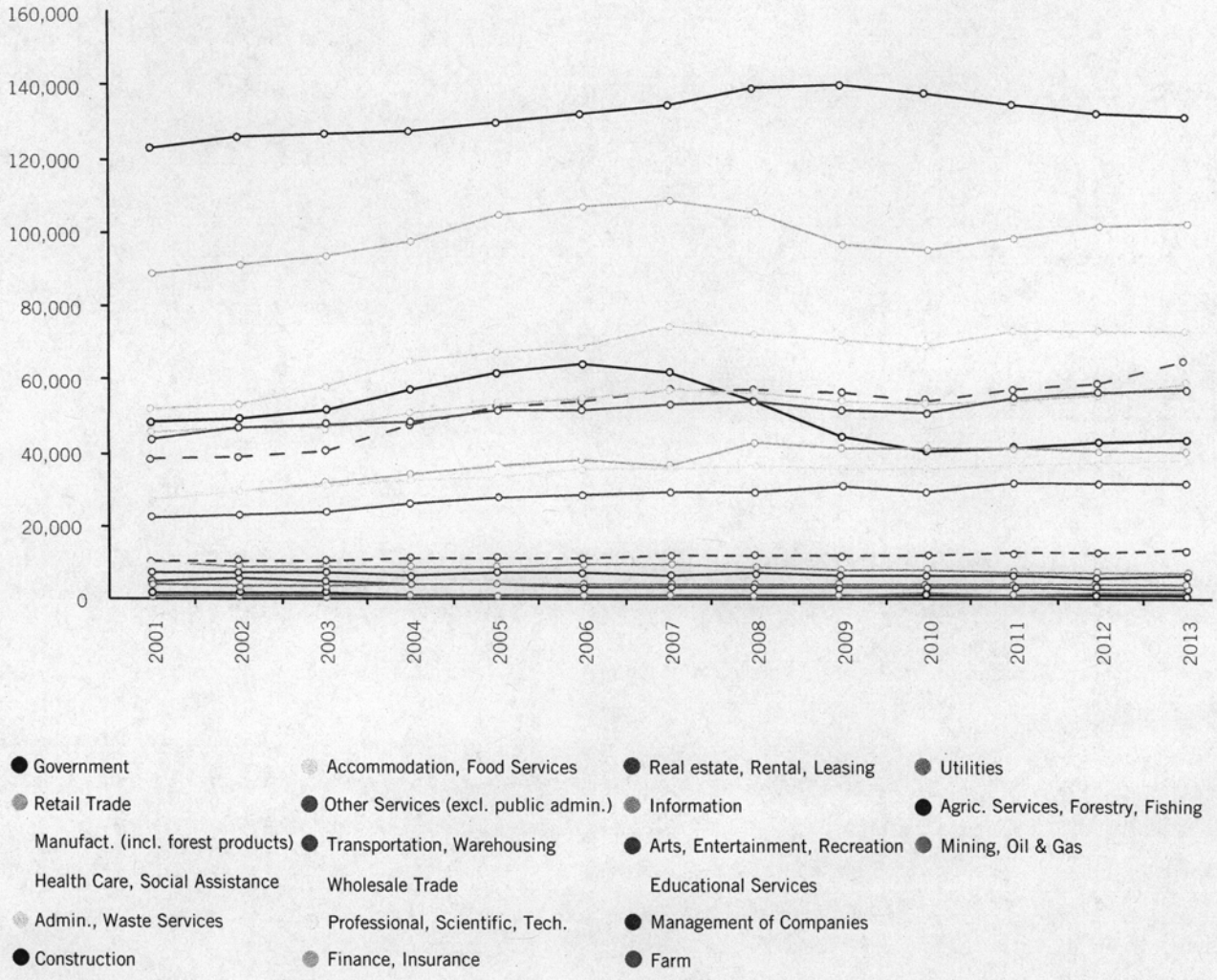


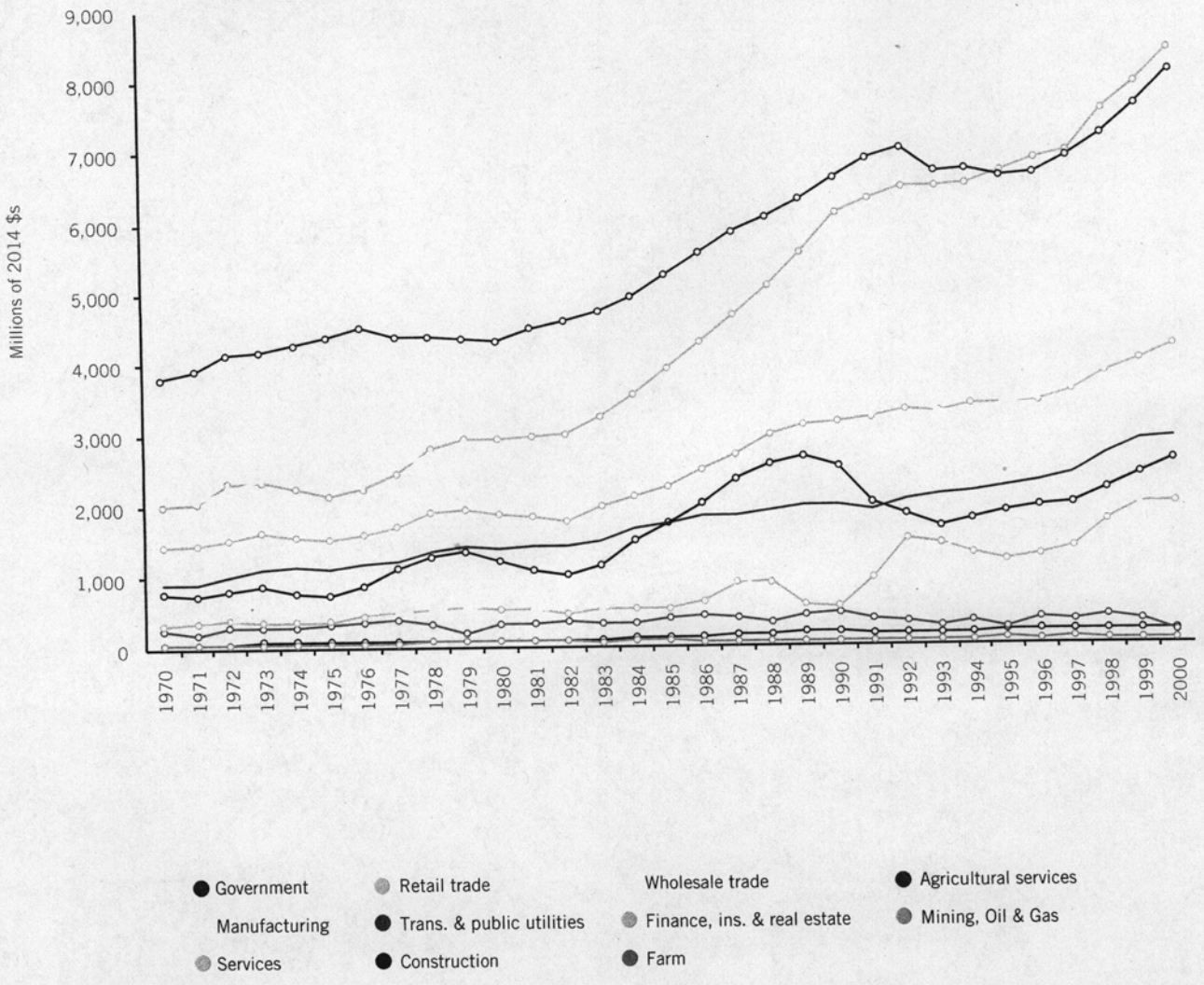
Figure 2. San Bernardino County Employment Trends, 2001–2013.



Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Figure 4. San Bernardino County Personal Income Labor Earnings, 1970–2000.



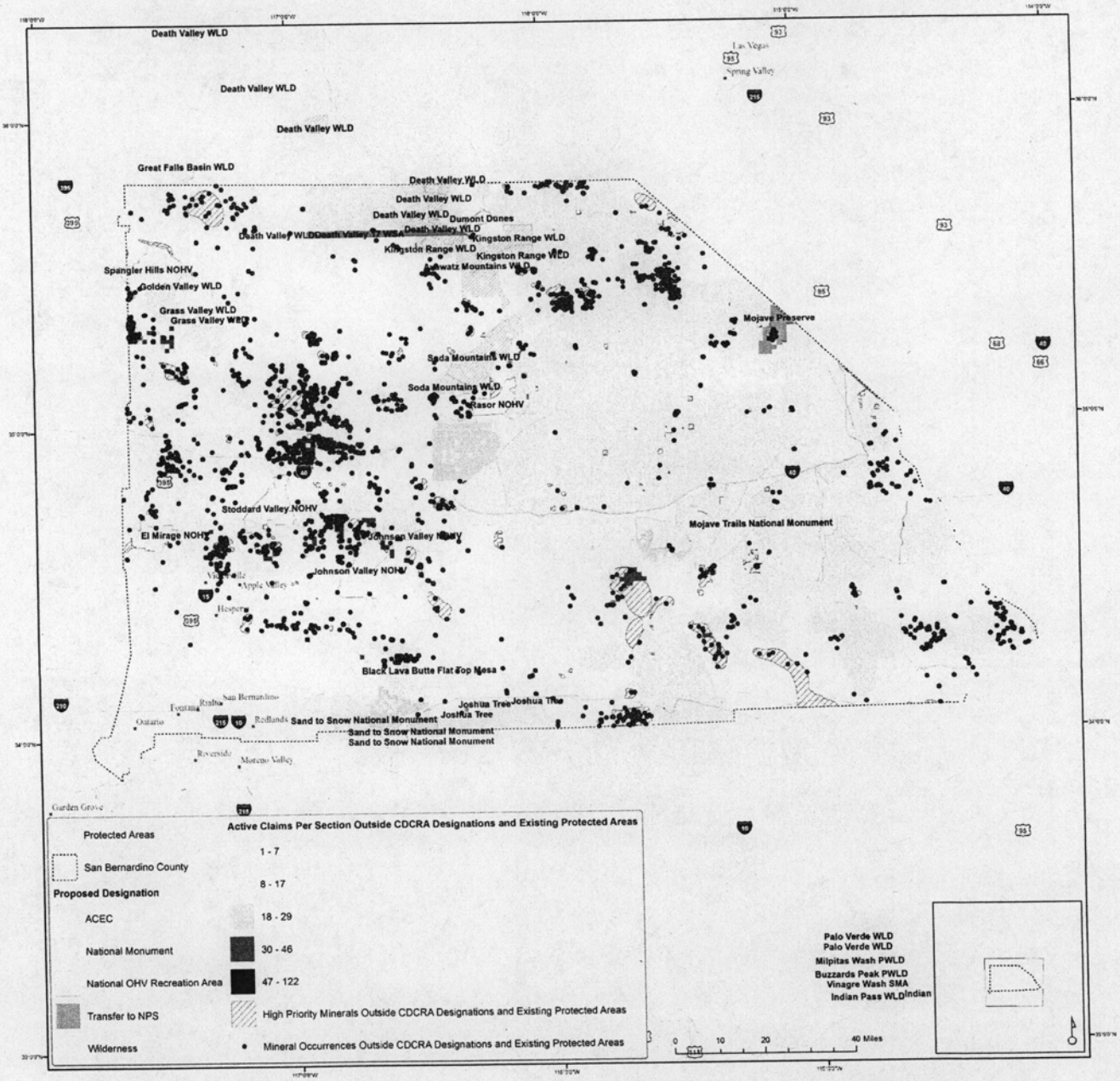
Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

FUTURE MINING IMPACTS

Potential impacts of the legislation on future mining activities in San Bernardino County are few, due to significant mineral development opportunities *outside* of the proposed conservation designations. These areas include: 3,001 instances of mineral occurrences; 8,803 active mining claims; and 392,773 acres of high mineral potential.

Figure 7. Active Mining Claims, Mineral Occurrences and High Potential Minerals, San Bernardino County.



Sources: Bureau of Land Management, Land & Mineral Legacy Rehost 2000 System, http://www.blm.gov/lr2000/; USGS Mineral Resources Data System dataset, http://mrdate.usgs.gov/mrds/; DRECP EIS analysis, Appendix R1.15, http://www.drecp.org/draftdrecp.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

OVERALL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

These trends reflect the increasing importance of regional amenities, notably natural and cultural attractions. This has profound implications for the economic role of protected public lands as an important economic asset. Tourism and recreation remains one of the bright spots of San Bernardino County's economy: total direct travel spending in the county in 2013 reached $4.4 billion, as reported by Dean Runyan Associates to the California Travel & Tourism Commission.

By comparison, when direct, indirect, and induced impacts on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are considered, mining's contribution to nominal GDP in 2014 is estimated at $1.2 billion, 1.5% of nominal GDP (nominal GDP is a Gross Domestic Product figure that has not been adjusted for inflation). In the desert portion of the county, mining's contribution may reach as high as 5%. These estimates likely represent upper limits, as the multipliers used were developed for use at the state level and likely overestimate impacts.

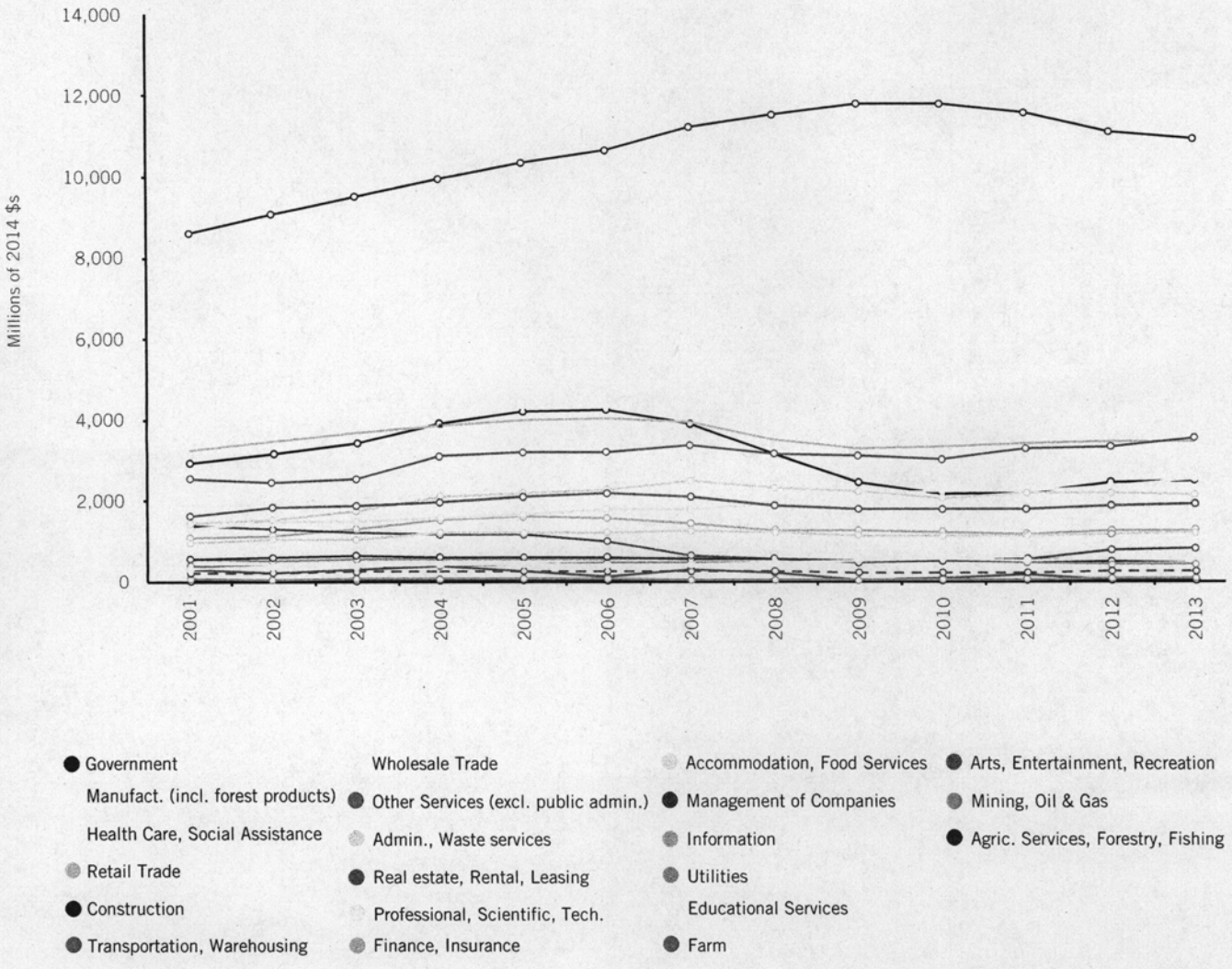
CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS

Through its extensive conservation designations, the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (CDCRA) of 2015 seeks to preserve San Bernardino County's natural and cultural attractions, which have fueled much of the region's growth and prosperity.

Proposed Designation in San Bernardino County	Designation Type
Avawatz Mountains WLD	Wilderness
Black Lave Butte Flat Top Mesa	ACEC
Death Valley 17 WSA	Transfer to NPS
Death Valley WLD	Wilderness Addition to NPS
Dumont Dunes	National OHV Recreation Area
El Mirage NOHV	National OHV Recreation Area
Golden Valley WLD	Wilderness Addition
Grass Valley WLD	Wilderness Addition
Johnson Valley NOHV	National OHV Recreation Area
Joshua Tree	Transfer to NPS
Kingston Range WLD	Wilderness Addition
Mojave National Preserve (inc. Castle Mountains)	Transfer to NPS
Mojave Trails National Monument	National Monument
Rasor NOHV	National OHV Recreation Area
Sand to Snow National Monument	National Monument
Soda Mountains WLD	Wilderness
Spangler Hills NOHV	National OHV Recreation Area
Stoddard Valley NOHV	National OHV Recreation Area

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Figure 5. San Bernardino County Personal Income Labor Earnings, 2001–2013.



Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts.

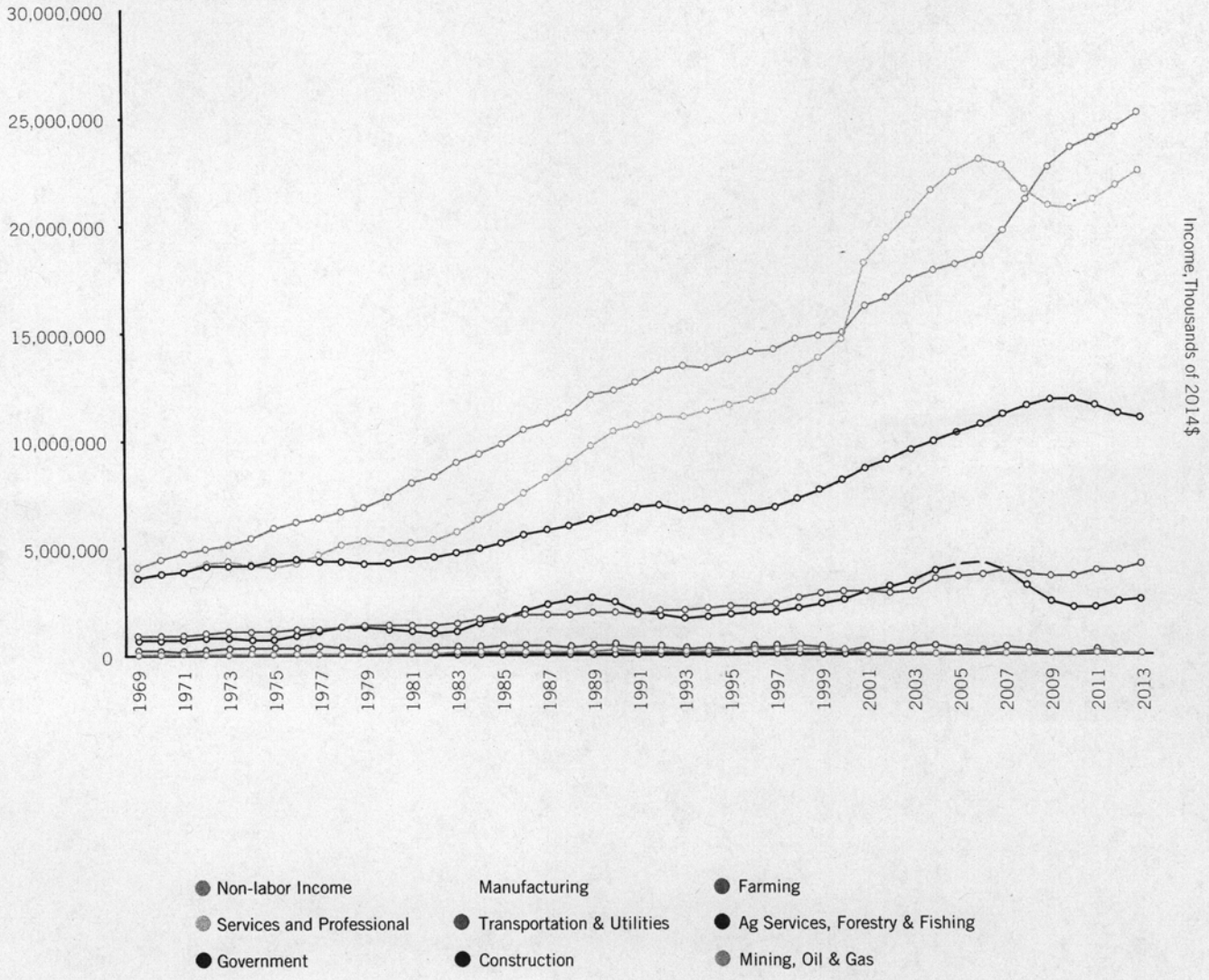
00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0057-REC-20240 Page 7 of 12

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

PERSONAL INCOME

In 2013, mining's contribution (including oil and gas) to overall labor-related income was small, approximately 0.20%. Between 1970-2013, contributions from mining operations to labor-related income fluctuated between 0.2% and 0.5%, with no defined trend. In contrast, the county's labor-related earnings between 1970 and 2013 increased by 559%. The county's non-labor income increased by 370% in that time period.

Figure 3. San Bernardino County Personal Income by Source, 1969–2013.



Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts.

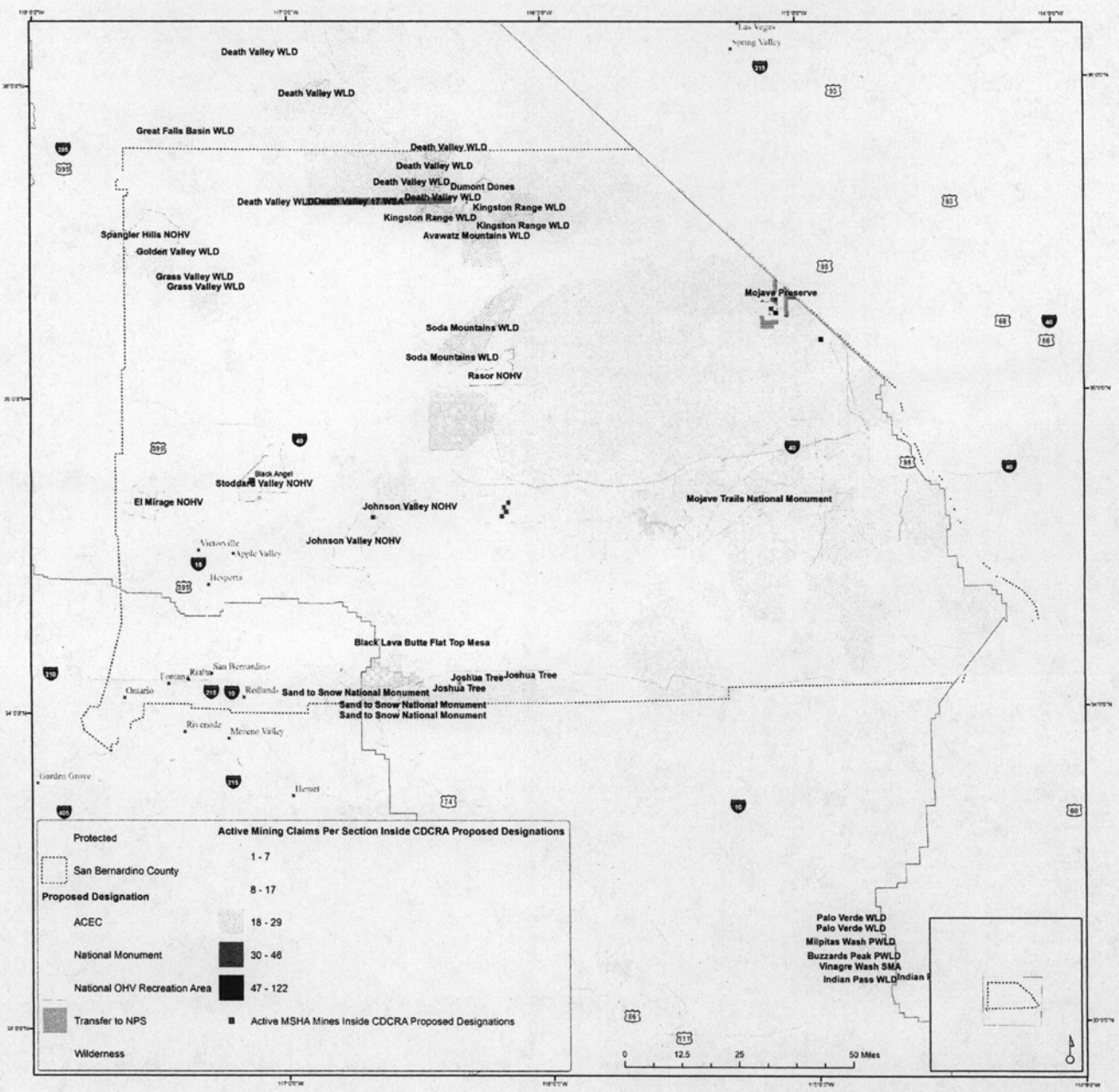
00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0057-REC-20240 Page 8 of 12

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

CURRENT MINING IMPACTS

As currently drafted, the legislation recognizes and protects existing mining claims and minimizes impacts on current mining operations. The county's major mining operations include Mountain Pass Rare Earth Mine and Mill (scheduled for closure in October 2015); the cement plants Cushenbury Plant, Oro Grande Quarry, Black Mountain Quarry and Victorville Cement Plant; and limestone from Lucerne Valley Plant and Quarry, and Omya California. The boundaries of the conservation designations have been drawn so as not to impact these and other operations.

Figure 6. Current Mining Activities Inside the Proposed Designations, San Bernardino County.



Sources: Bureau of Land Management Land & Mineral Legacy Rehost 2000 System (LR2000 System), http://www.blm.gov/lr2000/; US Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, http://www.msha.gov/OpenGovernmentData/OGIMSHA.asp; DRECP EIS analysis, Appendix R1.15, http://www.drecp.org/draftdrecp.

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0057-REC-20240 Page 9 of 12

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

CONCLUSION

The California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act is compatible with ongoing mining activities and allows for future development of critical and competitive mineral resources. Moreover, the protective designations proposed under the legislation likely represent the highest and best economic use of those public lands.

ABOUT THE SONORAN INSTITUTE

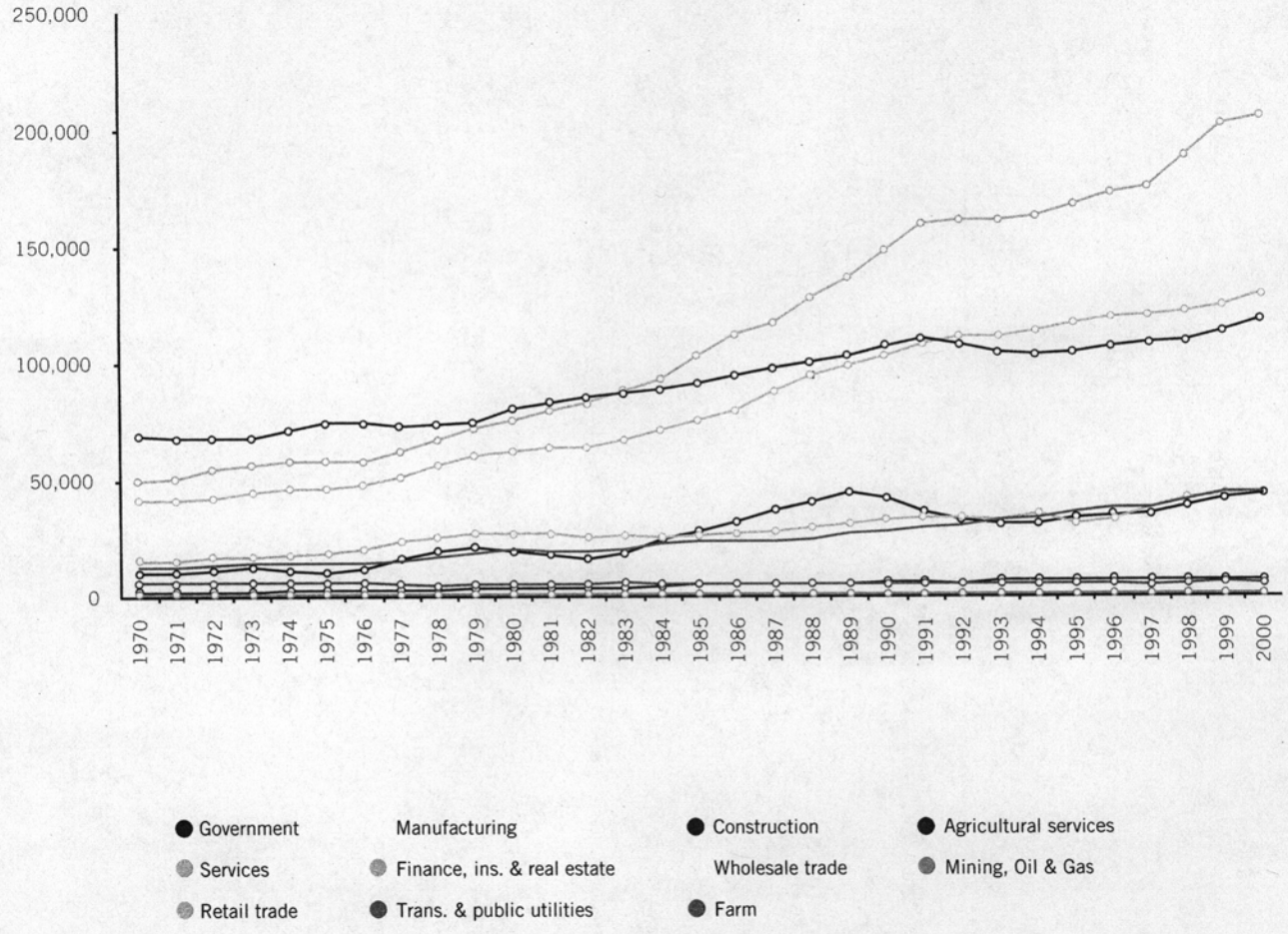
Founded in 1990, the Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them. We work at the nexus of commerce, community, and conservation to help people in the North American West build the communities they want to live in while preserving the values that brought them here. We envision a West where civil dialogue and collaboration are hallmarks of decision making, where people and wildlife live in harmony, and where clean water, air, and energy are assured.

This fact sheet is part of a study the Sonoran Institute prepared, *The California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015: Impacts on Mining and the Regional Economy*, which can be found at www.sonoraninstitute.org.

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0057-REC-20240 Page 10 of 12

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Figure 1. San Bernardino County Employment Trends, 1970–2000.



Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts.

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0057-REC-20240 Page 11 of 12

www.sonoraninstitute.org

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

JULY 2015

DESIGNATION PRESS

Compiled by Charlotte M. Orr
for Tuleyome

1. FRONT COVER
2. TABLE OF CONTENTS (FEATURED PRESS)
3. TULEYOME PRESS RELEASE
4. SF CHRONICLE FEATURE
5. SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMARY
6. KQED SCIENCE
7. THE PRESS DEMOCRAT
8. LOS ANGELES TIMES
9. PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE
10. CALIFORNIA REPORT
11. NAPA VALLEY REGISTER OPINION
12. SF WEEKLY
13.. PRESS DEMOCRAT EDITORIAL
14. LAKE COUNTY RECORD-BEE OP-ED
15. DAVIS ENTERPRISE/CHICO ER EDITORIAL NOTES
16. SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE EDITORIAL
17. KQED SCIENCE GEOLOGY OF THE BSM NATIONAL MONUMENT
18. HIGH COUNTRY NEWS LETTERS
19. DAVIS ENTERPRISE OP-ED BY JOSE GONZALEZ
20. PRESS RELEASES

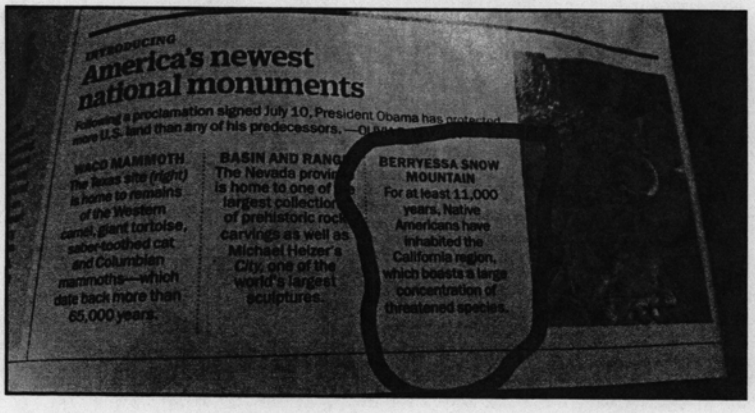
TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Andrew Fulks

MONUMENTAL RESPONSE

On Friday, July 10, the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument stole the show at http://www.whitehouse.gov



- It is estimated that our efforts reached over 6 million people in California from a story released by the Public News Service. This audio was picked up by over 460 news stations across the U.S.
- An article written by Josh Lederman with the Associated Press was picked up by over 500 news outlets across the country.
- #CelebrateBSM received more than 1.3 million impressions on Twitter.

<- PHOTO TO THE LEFT

BSM National Monument blurb in Time Magazine, July 27, 2015.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

607 North Street • Woodland, CA 95695 phone: (530) 350-2599 • fax: (530) 350-2729

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sara Husby, sdhusby@tuleyome.org 773-491-9716

New National Monument for Northern California

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - President Obama has declared the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in response to strong local support.

President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate three new national monuments including the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, Basin and Range National Monument, and Waco Mammoth Site National Monument.

"As a local business owner, I am thrilled to see President Obama take action to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument," said John Pickerel, owner of Buckhorn Steakhouse in Winters and Napa. "It will help our local economy and give local businesses more opportunities to thrive. Protecting these lands safeguards the region's natural resources and wildlife habitat and will enhance recreational opportunities for everyone. It will encourage tourism particularly along scenic Highway 128 from Winters to Napa and create a desirable place for people to live and work."

Local citizens, business owners, land owners, elected officials, and a variety of conservation and recreation groups have called on President Obama to permanently protect the 100-mile stretch of federal lands- from Berryessa Peak to Snow Mountain-to safeguard the areas water, wildlife habitat, and recreational resources. The remarkable plate tectonic geology, biological diversity, and Native American cultural history make this a special place under the Antiquities Act.

"The designation of this unique area as a national monument will help preserve the region's natural splendor for future generations," said California State Assemblymember, Bill Dodd. "The national monument will provide continued recreational opportunities and will bring enhanced visitation. This is a great example of how we can protect our environment and support our local economy."

These efforts were championed by Congressmen Mike Thompson, John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein. Efforts to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region through a Congressional designation have been made since 2012.

The new national monument includes parts of Yolo, Solano, Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Glenn, and Colusa Counties. The designation only pertains to existing federal public lands, and will not affect any private properties, or existing water rights.

"As a farmer, my livelihood depends on land and water," said local walnut farmer, Craig McNamara. Without either, I'm out of business, which is why it is especially important to me to do all I can to conserve. Healthy landscapes and clean water is part of what makes Northern California such a special place to live and work, which is why I support the new Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument."

Outdoors and wildlife groups are also applauding the Berryessa Snow Mountain designation, saying it will allow future generations to enjoy its spectacular hiking trails, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting and fishing, legal OHV use, and many other recreational uses.

"We are ecstatic that President Obama has recognized the importance of protecting these special lands," said Sara Husby, Executive Director for Tuleyome - the regional conservation organization that spearheaded the protection efforts. "Together with our congressional champions and the many, many supporters of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region we got this done. I am overjoyed."

###

For more information about the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, visit www.berryessasnowmountain.org

San Francisco Chronicle | SFGate.com

Obama gives monument status to 100-mile range in California

BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT, Calif. (AP) — As a stretch of gold and green coastal range spanning more than 100 miles became California's newest national monument on Friday, geologist Bob Schneider couldn't stop himself from jigging for joy.

"I'm doing little Snoopy dances," Schneider said just before the ceremony in Washington where President Barack Obama established the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument — 331,000 acres that cover inner-coast mountains, wetlands and waterways and are home to bears, otters, eagles and a host of other wildlife.

With the preservation from development that the designation as a monument brings, "I'm happy that my grandchild will be able to come here and visit this place" in decades to come, said Schneider, who has climbed the region's peaks for half a century.

Obama created the new California national monument Friday along with one in Texas and another in Nevada, altogether protecting more than 1 million acres.

With Friday's signing, Obama now has made 19 national monuments, using his executive powers after opposition from some Republican lawmakers slowed congressional designations of new conservation areas.

Schneider and other members of a Northern California preservation group called Tuleyome successfully campaigned for monument status — with broad support from federal lawmakers and local officials — in part by assuring hunters and others they would not push to limit recreational use of the area.

There's boating, kayaking, hiking, bird-watching, U.S. Rep. John Garamendi, a Democrat from Fairfield, said by telephone from Washington. "Just about every kind of recreation."

On Friday, gray fog hugged the range's ridges of summer-yellow grass and oak trees swathed in dried moss.

Climbing from reedy marshes to mountain peaks more than 6,000 feet above, the monument will give bears, badgers, otters, mountain lions, bald and golden eagles, and other wildlife room to move as climate change alters habitat, supporters said.

The monument designation excludes the landmark for which the area is best-known locally — Lake Berryessa, a reservoir created in the 1950s by damming Putah Creek. Photographers Dorothea Lange and Pirkle Jones chronicled the damming in a book called "Death of a Valley."

For some Californians who most associate the area with the manmade lake, ringed by signs advertising bingo, jet-ski rentals, and "mobile villas," the monument designation Friday was puzzling.

"Yes, we're in the country, we have animals, but to make us a monument?" asked Marcia Ritz, behind a counter at a general store on the edge of the reservoir. "What have we done to deserve that?"

Schneider, by phone, spoke of standing on the ridge where the North American and Pacific tectonic plates meet, and of 12,000-year-old Indian sites that the public could now more easily learn about.

"When you designate something like this, you create a sense of place," he said. "This isn't about Yosemite. It doesn't have that grandeur like Half Dome and El Capitan. But it does have incredible places. And there are stories here."

In Putah Creek on the new monument's far edge, first-time visitor Rick Grant, 62, reeled in fish after fish Friday, releasing them each time.

"I got the two largest trout I ever got in my life," Grant said, and pointed at another one lurking in water a few feet away. "They're beautiful."

Friday's monument designation was news to Grant. He was good with it, on condition, he said.

"I like some areas being left the way they are," unbuilt, he said. "As long as people can visit them."

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

KQED Science

Berryessa-Snow Mountain Becomes California's Newest National Monument

President Obama used his own authority on Friday to make it official: A vast and varied expanse stretching from just northeast of Napa, into Mendocino County, will become the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument.

The designation, under the 1906 Antiquities Act, could create California's biggest national monument–slightly edging out the recently-designated San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in Southern California. Initial announcements carried conflicting versions of the monument's size, from just under 331,000 acres to nearly 360,000.

The action caps nearly a decade of work by supporters who had pursued both congressional and presidential action to get monument status for lands.

"I'm ecstatic," said Bob Schneider, policy director at Tuleyome, the Woodland-based group that has been leading the charge. At least two bills by Representative Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena) had stalled in congress. He sounded almost more relieved than ecstatic in a statement.

"After years of tireless work by countless numbers of people, the Berryessa snow mountain region is finally getting the permanent protection it deserves," said Thompson.

Proponents call the region a "largely undiscovered national treasure." Michael Brune, the national head of the Sierra Club, agrees.

"It goes up about a hundred miles to the north to Snow Mountain and in between you've got got beautiful wintering habitat for bald eagles," Brune told me at a spot along Highway 128, overlooking Putah Creek, in a 2013 interview.

The apparent confusion over the size is not entirely surprising. Far from being a neatly outlined tract, the new monument is a loose patchwork of various federal lands managed by different agencies. If the Interior figure of 330,780 acres stands, San Gabriel would remain California's largest national monument.

Brune threw his weight behind the move to set aside the Berryessa expanse. "Tule elk are here," he added, "You've got beautiful rolling hills on the western part of the valley. It's a place that is close to Sacramento, close to the Bay Area, but very wild," said Brune.

The Snow Mountain Wilderness Area lies near the north end. At the south end is Lake Berryessa, a 16,000-acre reservoir and recreational magnet that had originally been proposed as part of the monument, but was excluded in Thompson's most recent bill, the presumptive template for Obama's action.

Berryessa's not a natural lake. It was created in 1957 when the Bureau of Reclamation penned up Putah Creek with the 300-foot-high Monticello Dam. Some area residents wary of special protections for the region cited the "man-made" lake in their arguments against a monument designation. The Antiquities Act reserves special status for "objects of historic or scientific interest." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell conceded that could be an obstacle to inclusion of the lake.

National Monument designation has often been a precursor to areas becoming national parks, as was the case with the recently upgraded Pinnacles National Park, south of the Bay Area. As a monument, Berryessa-Snow Mountain will be managed jointly by the federal Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.

Craig Miller
KQED

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

The Press Democrat

White House Declares Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

President Barack Obama is designating the Berryessa Snow Mountain area as a national monument, permanently protecting the rolling mountainous region that runs through Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Solano and Yolo counties.

Federal protections announced early Friday in Washington for the Berryessa-Snow Mountain area cover 331,000 acres. The move, hailed as a major win for environmental activists and Northern California lawmakers who have long pushed for conservation measures in the region, is expected to preserve sensitive plant and animal habitat, as well as spur millions of dollars a year in economic activity.

"It deserves to be protected for future generations," said Sara Husby-Good, executive director of Tuleyome, a nonprofit aimed at protecting the lands. "It's a really great area."

Other conservation groups have applauded efforts to preserve the region, including the Wilderness Society, a national conservation group, describing the "sweeping oak-dotted hills, creeks and meadows" as "premier wildlife habitat that has rapidly disappeared in California."

Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, has also praised future economic benefits, pointing out that its protection will "help boost tourism, grow the local economy, improve recreation opportunities and protect species."

The White House highlighted economic and ecosystem benefits that come with federal protections, saying that the national monument will "boost local economies by attracting visitors and generating more revenue and jobs for local communities."

Two other areas also received protection, including the Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas and the Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada.

The Berryessa-Snow Mountain designation is expected to generate $26 million to $50 million in local economic activity over the next five years, according to estimates by the Winters Chamber of Commerce. Tourism is also expected to rise 20 to 30 percent.

Bald eagles, black bears and mountain lions roam the region, which also affords humans places for hiking, mountain biking, camping and whitewater rafting. Hunting and fishing would continue to be allowed in the national monument, along with existing grazing and motorized vehicle trails, officials said.

The site, which was already owned by the federal government, will be jointly managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Angela Hart
Press Democrat

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Los Angeles Times

Berryessa Snow Mountain will become national monument Friday

The White House plans to designate a 331,000-acre swath of rivers, rocks, mountains and diverse species habitats in California's inner Coast Range as a national monument, one of several actions President Obama has taken during his second term to bolster his environmental legacy without cooperation from Congress.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain is one of three monuments Obama plans to anoint Friday, along with the Waco Mammoth Site in Texas, which includes remains of 22 Columbian mammoths, and the Basin and Range area in Nevada, which includes rock art dating back 4,000 years, according to a White House memo.

The Berryessa designation follows a campaign from a Northern California preservation group called Tuleyome, which built support from hunters, off-road vehicle users and other interest groups by promising they would not advocate new restrictions on the recreation area.

"It's really a unique treasure that deserves to be protected for current and future generations," said Sara Husby-Good, the group's executive director. "We want people to explore it and enjoy it."

Husby-Good said the key benefit to monument status would be prompting the two federal agencies that oversee the area — the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service — to cooperate on a specific preservation plan to combat the effects of climate change and other environmental threats, including the northern migration of plant life.

She said she hoped the designation would spur more visitors to Berryessa, which connects three wilderness areas and is a popular winter habitat for bald eagles.

Because of its proximity to Sacramento and the Bay Area, Berryessa is a popular spot for hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding, mountain biking and rafting.

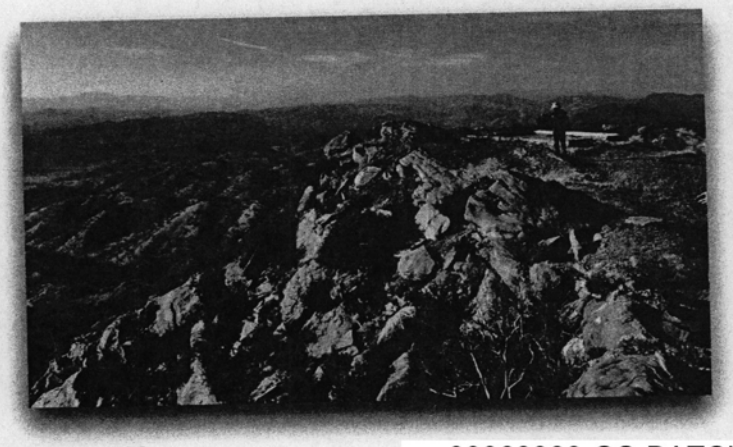
Federal designation also will protect cultural sites of Native Americans, who lived in the area for at least 11,000 years.

Tuleyome had initially sought congressional action to designate a conservation area, but could not get the bills to move beyond committee. The group saw an opportunity with Obama's promise to expand his use of executive authority, a tactic that has drawn criticism from Republicans who say he is thwarting the congressional process.

Obama has been unbowed. The three newest designations will place more than 1 million acres under monument status.

The White House memo, which outlined the most recent plans, said that Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 19 national monuments. Among them: 350,000 acres of national forest land designated in October as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

Noah Bierman
LA TIMES



FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

public news service
NEWS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Big Day for Berryessa Snow Mountain Region

Public News Service - CA | July 2015 | Download audio
| Environment | Energy Policy | Endangered Species & Wildlife | Budget Policy & Priorities
| Water | Public Lands/Wilderness

PLAY

PHOTO: California has a new national monument today: The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, as designated by President Barack Obama. Photo of Berryessa Lake courtesy of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

July 10, 2015

WINTERS, Calif. - Big news today for the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. President Barack Obama designated about 330,000 acres as a national monument. The plan has been years in the making, designed with local input and seen as a way to grow the economies in the region.

The monument is less than 100 miles from the Bay Area and city of Winters Mayor Cecilia Curry says the stunning mountain views will now be saved from being turned into skyscrapers.

"It's really for the kids. It's really for the future. It's a game-changer for Winters, Clear Lake, and Williams, and the whole region."

She says Winters will soon see its first hotel, built in anticipation of additional tourism. The president named three monuments; the others are the Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada, and the Waco Mammoth archaeological site in West Texas.

Mike Matz, director of The Pew Charitable Trusts' U.S. public lands program, says the Berryessa region is already noted for whitewater rafting, hiking, fishing, camping, hunting and horseback riding and there's another lesser-known treasure.

"Berryessa's renowned for its wintering population of bald eagles," says Matz. "The only other winter habitat with more bald eagles is in Alaska. It's quite a distinction for Californians."

Obama's designation is done with the authority of the Antiquities Act.

Support for this reporting was provided by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Deborah Courson Smith/Deb Courson Smith, Public News Service - CA

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Audio Archive

Search for guests or keywords:

Search

Episodes by Date

July 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Also From California Report

STATE OF Health

A window into health in California.

« Full episode for Fri, Jul 10, 2015

Tweet Share Email

Berryessa-Snow Mountain Becomes California's Newest National Monument

00:00 / 00:00 embed

Download audio (MP3)

President Obama will announce today that he's designating the Berryessa Snow Mountain as a national monument. The monument encompasses about 350,000 acres from the northeast tip of Napa, all the way up to Mendocino County. It will be California's twelfth, and largest national monument. *Reporter:* Craig Miller

Get the Podcast

Never miss an episode of The California Report.

→ Subscribe via NPR

→ Subscribe via iTunes

Comments for this thread are now closed.

0 Comments The California Report 1 Login

Recommend Share Sort by Best

This discussion has been closed.

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Privacy DISQUS

Please ensure that all comments adhere to our community guidelines. We reserve the right to edit or remove comments that do not follow these guidelines.

Napa Valley Register

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument: what comes next?

It's too early to say how soon the region might feel the effects of the newly created Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, federal official's say. Friday's declaration of the monument status begins a long process of creating a new management plan for the federal lands included it its boundaries.

"You're talking about 330,000 acres," Bureau of Land Management spokeswoman Martha Maciel said on Friday. "You're dealing with multiple jurisdictions, multiple cities, multiple counties. You're dealing with two federal agencies, tribal interests."

Hours earlier, President Barack Obama gave two federal agencies their marching orders to protect environmental and historic resources and promote recreational opportunities in newly created monument.

Obama created the national monument by proclamation, issued in an Oval Office ceremony. The monument covers 330,780 acres—515 square miles—of existing federal lands from Snow Mountain Wilderness extending 100 miles south to the hills between Napa and Solano counties.

This is a diverse landscape that includes pine-covered mountain peaks in Mendocino National Forest and the chaparral-covered hills Napa County. Despite its name, the monument includes neither Lake Berryessa nor its immediate shoreline, though there are several pockets of land included on nearby hills.

The new region includes only lands currently owned by the federal government. It does not affect private property, and did not expand the federal acreage.

"This changes the degree of protection and makes it permanent" on existing federal lands, Maciel said.

Next, the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management must develop a management plan. The agencies will gather input from nearby towns and hold public meetings.

Not only is it premature to say how long the process will take, Maciel said, it's not even clear when the agencies will begin.

"We got the news today along with everybody else," Maciel said. "Our next step will be to get together with our Forest Service counterparts and kind of lay that out."

Obama talked about Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument during the Oval Office ceremony that also saw him create national monuments in Texas and Nevada.

"Once covered by ocean waters, it's a landscape that is shaped by geological forces that are unique, and it has been a refuge for Native American inhabitants for 11,000 years — so that gives you a sense of the time scales that we're working off of with some of these national monuments," Obama said.

The management plan is to protect the resources identified by Obama in his seven-page proclamation.

Berryessa Snow Mountain has prehistoric and historic legacy and scientific resources, the proclamation says. Among the many examples it lists are insects such as western sulfur butterflies, mammals such as black bears, Napa County's 3,000-acre stand of Sargent Cyprus and foundations of mineral springs resorts.

"This dramatic and diverse landscape is a biological hotspot providing refuge for rare plants and animal species and showcasing the human history of north-central California," the proclamation says.

In addition, the area is important for ranching and provides outdoor recreation that includes hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding in a fast-growing region, it says.

A national monument is not the same thing as a national park. For one thing, national parks prohibit hunting. But BLM Field Manager Rich Burns said he expects hunting and off-highway vehicle use to continue in the local Knoxville Recreation Area managed by his agency.

In fact, Burns talked about improving the off-highway vehicle road-and-trail system, an undertaking that would take money. He said national monument status could help.

"It elevates the profile," Burns said. "It allows for greater opportunities to do exactly that."

On the map, Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument appears long and narrow as it takes in a swath of coastal hills.

While much of the lands are contiguous, that's not the case with the land in eastern Napa County. For example, Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area is an island of national monument amid private lands.

A Napa County Board of Supervisors report from November said the eastern county contained 62,000 acres of the then-proposed national monument. It was unclear Friday whether Obama's designation includes this much land, given the decision to leave out Lake Berryessa. County officials were uncertain.

Acreage reports for the monument as a whole have shifted. A press release from Rep. Mike Thompson in February mentioned seeking 360,000 acres of Snow Mountain Berryessa protections, while other recent press releases mentioned 350,000 acres. But Obama's proclamation puts the acreage at 330,780.

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell toured the Berryessa Snow Mountain area in December, along with Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. They came at the request of Thompson, D-St. Helena.

Tidwell said in press release Friday the area has so much to offer, from small insects and flowers to large mammals and trees to vistas that look across the expanse of the Sacramento Valley to the High Sierras.

"Visitors can get a truly wild experience on this landscape, spending days and even weeks exploring the rugged terrain and finding something new in every corner," Tidwell said.

The nation has 117 national monuments. Among those in the Northern California are Muir Woods National Monument in Marin County and recently designated Point Arena-Stornetta California Coastal National Monument in Mendocino County.

But Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument was the standout on Friday. The top of the White House website featured a photo splashed from one end to other of local, oak-covered hills and the caption "America the Beautiful."

Barry Eberling

NAPA VALLEY REGISTER

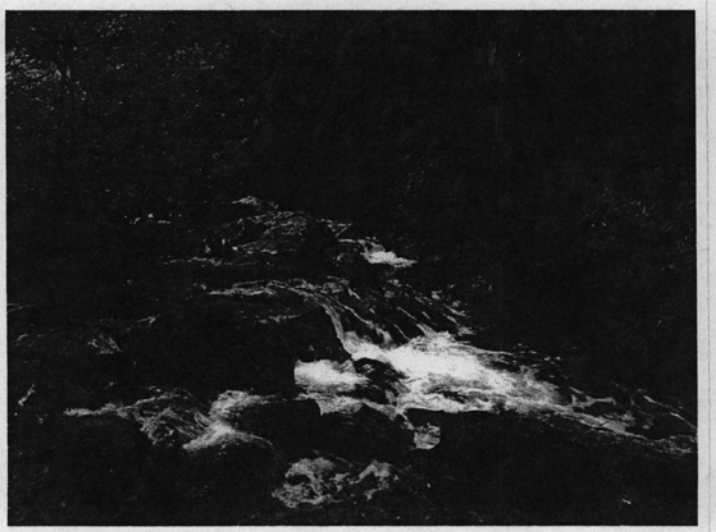
FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

SFWEEKLY
Culture

Sports and Recreation

We're Getting a New National Monument 100 Miles Away

Posted By **Peter Lawrence Kane** on Tue, Jul 14, 2015 at 6:28 PM



Did you know that California has nine national parks, more than any other state? We were tied at eight with Alaska until 2013, when President Obama elevated Pinnacles National Monument to national park status.

The other eight parks, many of which are spectacular and all of which are worth visiting, are Yosemite, Joshua Tree, Death Valley, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Lassen Volcanic, Redwoods, and Channel Islands. The Golden State has plenty of national monuments, too, from Lava Beds to Muir Woods to (technically) the entire California coastline. And as of last Friday, we have another, the 331,000-acre **Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument**, the second-largest in the state.

An irregularly shaped patch of the eastern slopes of the Coast Range, the newly protected land runs from the northwest to the southeast, from the peaks above Clear Lake to just short of Lake Berryessa in Napa, and knits together several jurisdictions that were previously under lower levels of federal stewardship, including the Cache Creek Wilderness. (Map here). A preservation-minded coalition called Tuleyome lobbied hard for the change, which balances the desires of hunters, fishermen, and backcountry hikers against environmentalists' advocacy on behalf of a sensitive ecosystem. The sites of indigenous peoples, which date back some 11,000 years, will also be covered.

This is huge news for the bald eagles who nest there, as well as for the millions of Californians within only a few hours' drive and who will no doubt appreciate the forthcoming trails. As someone who's been to 38 of the 59 national parks and dozens of monuments, I have to agree with Ken Burns' assessment that they truly are America's best idea. I'll update as soon as I go.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

PD Editorial: A monument to nature, persistence

Most Read Stories Today This Week
Still struggling to prevent drownings
Thursday's Letters to the Editor
PD Editorial: Getting ahead of pot legalization
What justice for Cecil the Lion looks like
Maddy's tragedy a parent's worst nightmare
Thursday's Letters to the Editor
Milbank: The forgotten art of friendship in Washington
Walters: Proposed state ballot initiatives would force key public votes

Complete Coverage
Historic El Capitan Climb
The Andy Lopez case
Homelessness in Sonoma County
North Bay's extreme drought

President Barack Obama's announcement last week that he would designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain area a national monument represented another golden moment in the rich history of land preservation in Northern California. The action assures the protection of roughly 350,000 acres of rolling, oak-dotted hills stretching from the shores of Lake Berryessa in the south to Snow Mountain and wilderness areas northwest of Mendocino National Forest.

The announcement also is a tribute to the hard work of many environmentalists and lawmakers who have pressed for years trying to get special recognition for this remote swatch of land. Among those is Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, who had authored a bill to designate the land as a national conservation area. Despite broad support from businesses and leaders in the five counties touched by the area — Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Solano and Yolo counties — the legislation was bogged down by a polarized Congress.

Obama made the designation of this and two other areas using his executive authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906. The act, which has been used by many presidents to protect unique natural areas and structures, from the Grand Canyon to the Statue of Liberty, was used in adding the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands in Mendocino County to the 1,100-mile California Coastal National Monument last year.

The Berryessa area, which includes the Cache Creek Wilderness, the Eel River Headwaters, the Knoxville Wildlife area and Mount Konocti, is no secret to hikers, mountain bikers and biologists. The region offers a rich diversity of plant and animal life, including bald and golden eagles, black bears, mountain lions and tule elk. Although much of the Berryessa-Snow Mountain region is already public land, supporters say its protection and oversight was at risk due to it being governed by a hodge-podge of federal agencies. It's loose structure also has prevented its promotion as a tourist destination.

The economic activity expected to come from this decision will be in the millions. But the long-term benefits will be far more valuable. Well done.

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0058-REC-20240 Page 13 of 20

Lake County
RECORD-BEE

A national monument in our back yard

President Obama designated 330,780 acres of California's stunning wildlands as one of our nation's newest national monuments, Berryessa Snow Mountain. The new monument stretches across parts of seven counties, ranging 100 miles from south of Berryessa Peak to the Snow Mountain Wilderness. The new monument is the second largest in California.

Our nation's newest monument is far more than beautiful landscapes and pristine rivers and lakes; Berryessa Snow Mountain was home to at least five Native American tribes, hosts cultural sites dating back thousands of years, and reveals a geologic history of more than 140 million years of tectonic plate activity.

The Yuki, Patwin, Pomo, Nomlaki, and Lake Miwok Native American tribes all called areas within the new monument home. We are still discovering cultural sites and learning about these five distinct tribes. By ensuring that this area will remain undeveloped, we can continue to examine evidence and learn about these people and how they adapted to cultural and environmental changes.

Members of the Patwin and Lake Miwok tribes are believed to have resided in semi-subterranean houses in the Cache Creek watershed. These tribes established permanent territories and communities that were part of a large regional trade and exchange system designed to distribute critical resources throughout the area. What transpired between these communities has been referred to as a cultural apex, further highlighting the significance of the designation of this area as a national monument.

Located within the monument is the Cache Creek Archeological District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places). Besides being a region of critical environmental concern, Cache Creek and the Cache Creek Wilderness also protect archaeological sites that are still being studied.

Ancient cultural sites in the Cache Creek area contain archaeological evidence of the oldest human occupation in California. The Yuki and Pomo languages are part of the Yukian and Hokan language families, the two oldest language families in the New World. Recent archaeological discoveries in the region indicate that people (most likely Yukian speakers) were already residing in the area about 20,000 years ago. The discovery of 14,000 year-old spear points suggests that the Hokan speakers may have arrived and settled parts of the area at that time. The present-day Pomo are direct descendants of those early Hokan speaking people. Clovis and Folsom style spear points have also been discovered in the area suggesting 10,000 to 12,000 year-old hunting activities.

The Patwin, Nomlaki and Miwok are more recent arrivals in the area. Linguistic studies suggest that they entered and settled parts of the area about 2,000 years ago.

It is not just the historical sites that make Berryessa Snow Mountain a significant region; it is also a scientifically important area representing 140 million years of tectonic plate activity. Three plates intersect this region: the North American, Farallon, and Pacific. The formations are so significant that geologists are flown to the Berryessa region merely to study certain outcrops. The rocks found in this new monument are of profound importance to our understanding of the geological process that caused this dazzling landscape.

By permanently protecting this ecologically and historically significant region, President Obama has also created a likely economic boon for the area. With its close proximity to Sacramento, San Francisco, and Santa Rosa, Berryessa Snow Mountain will become a wonderful recreation site, with some studies estimating it could bring in up to $26 million in new economic activity and $500,000 in tax revenue for the surrounding communities in the next five years alone.

President Obama's designation of Berryessa Snow Mountain as one of our country's newest national monuments was a historic day. With this permanent protection, we can continue to examine cultural resources found in the region, uncover details about the formations created from tectonic activity, and enjoy the picturesque landscapes found throughout the monument.

Dr. John Parker is Vice President, Project Review Coordinator, Collections Manager for the Lake County Historical Society

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

THE DAVIS enterprise

Cheers and Jeers

We offer our cheers and jeers for local newsmakers as we look back over the previous week:

CHEERS to the newly official Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. Last week, President Obama officially dedicated the area, and now tourists and nature lovers in California will see more than 330,000 acres preserved.

The success culminates years of effort by local environmental groups, business leaders and elected officials. On hand for the ceremony was a local delegation that included Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena; Rep. John Garamendi, D-Walnut Grove; Assemblyman Bill Dodd, D-Napa; Winters Mayor Cecilia Aguilar-Curry; and Tuleyome Executive Director Sara Husby.

The areawill be managed the U.S. Forest Service and the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management, the White House said. Astudy commissioned by the Winters Chamber of Commerce projects $50 million in additional economic activity in theregion due to the designation over the next fiveyears.

The National Monument designation was a long time coming and we congratulate everyone who helped make it happen.

ChicoER.com

Hits and Misses

Hit >> We're among those celebrating the proclamation of a new national monument in Northern California.

The Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument brings together one-third of a million acres of federal land under a designation that will get it a bit more recognition from the general public.

It's a remarkable piece of land but is visited by very few people as it's off the beaten path. We're firm believers public lands should be used by the public, and this designation should get more notice and more visitors. That's good for area businesses, too.

The only downside is that a local secret is out.

San Francisco Chronicle | SFGate.com

Stienstra: Obama designates nearby land as a national monument

Tom Stienstra | on July 13, 2015

Berryessa Peak, long off-limits to the public, provides a panorama of the new national monument in Northern California that President Obama created Friday.

The peak rises 3,057 feet and provides an eye-popping view of Lake Berryessa to the south, up and down Blue Ridge, and north across forest wildlands toward Snow Mountain.

The monument will span 350,000 acres across much of this remote landscape and will be called the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

This is a rugged terrain with four-wheel-drive roads that lead to remote trails and campsites. At higher elevations, secluded pine forests shelter canyons with the headwaters of many creeks and streams.

When Republicans rebuffed a bill that originally proposed several new national monuments, President Obama established Berryessa-Snow Mountain on his own, as he did in 2012 for Fort Ord.

Few have ever climbed Berryessa Peak or even know about it. The trail is at times a dirt road, at other times a thinly tracked route that looks like a game trail. The peak first became accessible in 2008 when a landowner granted a trail easement. Even then, the obscure trailhead was not signed on Berryessa-Knoxville Road.

That changed this spring when a nonprofit group called Tuleyome, based in Woodland, established a signed trailhead and staging area while simultaneously working behind the scenes to promote the new monument with congressional representatives from California. Tuleyome means, "deep home place."

I've flown, driven and explored much of the land in the new monument. It is comprised of little-known wildlands with few lakes, much of it overseen by Bureau of Land Management, and thus it is off the radar. The trailhead for Berryessa Peak is about 100 miles from San Francisco, yet it is common to see no people at all across the vast range.

The trek to the summit is what we call a "kill-me, eat-me" hike. It's a 14.5-mile round trip with a cumulative climbs of more than 3,500 feet, often dry and hot, with no water. It's best done fall through spring, and later this year I'll hike and photograph it as part of a Chronicle special.

Tom Stienstra is The San Francisco Chronicle's outdoors writer. E-mail: tstienstra@sfchronicle.com Twitter: @StienstraTom

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

GEOLOGY

Geologic Highlights of California's New National Monument

Left: A textbook example of stratified rocks is exposed along Cache Creek, east of Clear Lake in Cache Creek Regional Park, part of the new Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. (Andrew Alden/KQED)

By **Andrew Alden**, KQED Science Contributor
JULY 16, 2015

PRINT SHARE

President Obama's declaration that a large swath of Coast Range land will become the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument pleased a lot of people, including lovers of rocks. The park displays signs of a long sequence of dramatic geologic activity including the clash of tectonic plates, extensive volcanism and the wrenching of modern earthquake faults.

The area is full of interest for roadside rockhounds and backpacker geologists alike. You can find details for many engaging day trips in the links provided in this story.

The new national monument stretches nearly 100 miles from north to south, through the eastern part of the Coast Range. For Eldridge Moores at the University of California, Davis — who may well be the current dean of California geology — the area is his geological back yard.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

High Country News

For people who care about the West

Letters to the Editor

August 3, 2015

BAGGED LIONS, FEWER BIGHORNS

As discussed by Frank Carroll ("We're letting another predator go down," *HCN*, 6/22/15), many Western states appear to have a war on mountain lions. In Arizona, the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, a trophy ram hunting group, and the state Department of Game and Fish have cooperated on multiple bag limits, which allow a hunter to kill more than one lion per year, in an attempt to reduce lion numbers. In Aravaipa Canyon, Arizona, about 60 miles northeast of Tucson, Game and Fish established a bag limit of 20 lions per year in 2011, while the bighorn group has paid a bounty hunter to kill at least 10 lions per year. This resulted in at least 43 lions killed over the three years from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2014.

Did this slaughter have an impact on the Aravaipa bighorn sheep population? In the two most recent surveys before the multiple bag limits, Game and Fish observed an average of 84 total sheep, of which 26 were rams. In surveys from the three subsequent years, the agency observed an average of 52 total sheep (38 percent less), of which only 12 were

observes on the ground beneath her. He might have a point, except for the fact that she never separates herself from those who are doing the harm. Careful reading of her piece reveals that she never once says "you" or "they" are at fault. She continually uses first-person plural — "we" — as she considers what is happening. It is clear to me as I read her article that she considers herself a part of the problem. I am certain that you received quite a few letters along this vein and wish that you would have chosen one that was slightly less inflammatory to print. Mr. Michael's letter reminded me of the kind of intentionally aggressive attack that has made me steer clear of much of social media. I was a little surprised to see it printed in *High Country News*.

Eric Bowman
Springvale, Maine

ENTERTAINING TODDLERS

Start them young. My 19-month-old grandson, River, is in love with the "Tree of Life" illustration on the June 8, 2015, cover. My thanks to Bryce Gladfelter for an image that can entertain a

sidebar describes a similar situation at Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument: "The BLM's management plan made so few changes that it even garnered the support of a local group of ranchers who had opposed the monument designation." If this is the case, one must ask: Has anything been protected at all? Or are these new designations national monuments in name only?

Brian Gatlin
Grand Canyon, Arizona

MONUMENT-MAKING

John Hart's essay, "Making a national monument from scratch," (*HCN*, 5/25/15) beautifully illustrated the unique history and landscape of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region and the tremendous work it takes to ensure permanent protection for our public lands. It is important to underscore that the effort to designate these lands as a national monument is supported by the California State Assembly and Senate and a diverse group of interests, including local business owners, nearby cities, five counties within the boundaries of the designation, private landowners, citizens, farmers, conservationists and a variety of recreation groups. Protection of these lands will provide an environmental and economic benefit to the region for generations to come, and allow visitors to continue to experience the area's natural splendor.

Bill Dodd
California State Assembly
Napa, California

DAMAGE FROM SMUGGLERS

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

THE DAVIS enterprise

Preserving our natural heritage for all to enjoy

By Special to The Enterprise From page A6 | August 11, 2015

By Jose Gonzalez

¡Éxito! Success!

Que no se nos olvide — We continue to celebrate the announcement by President Obama announcing the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in Northern California. This is a breath of fresh air, un respiro, for our communities, especially as pressures mount for the president to address issues such as wildfires, drought and concerns over water quality in California.

The rocky outcrops and scenic views of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region, which stretches more than 100 miles, are not only beautiful, but are of incredible scientific, natural and historic importance.

Protegiendo nuestra herencia y historia — Protecting our heritage and story.

These lands have many stories to tell. The area features 5,000-year-old archaeological sites and is recognized as an Archeological District on the National Register of Historic Places. At least four linguistically distinct Native American tribes called this special place home, including the Yuki, Patwin, Pomo and Lake Miwok tribes.

This area also has a rich Latino story and owes part of its name to original Spanish landowners in the area — a Californio story that is often forgotten.

These lands continue to hold great importance to our communities and families. From veterans to local schoolchildren to the farmworker communities in Winters, this area provides an essential and nearby connection to the outdoors.

The national monument designation is protecting this irreplaceable landscape, its rich cultural heritage and a diverse array of wildlife, while protecting the watersheds on which many depend.

Beyond California, Latino communities also have a reason to celebrate the other new monument designations along with Berryessa. The protection of Basin and Range in Nevada and Waco Mammoth in Texas will continue to ensure that our children will have protected places that inspire curiosity and a love of the outdoors.

Earlier this year in a speechabout our nation's public lands, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell reminded us of the following phrase, "We don't inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

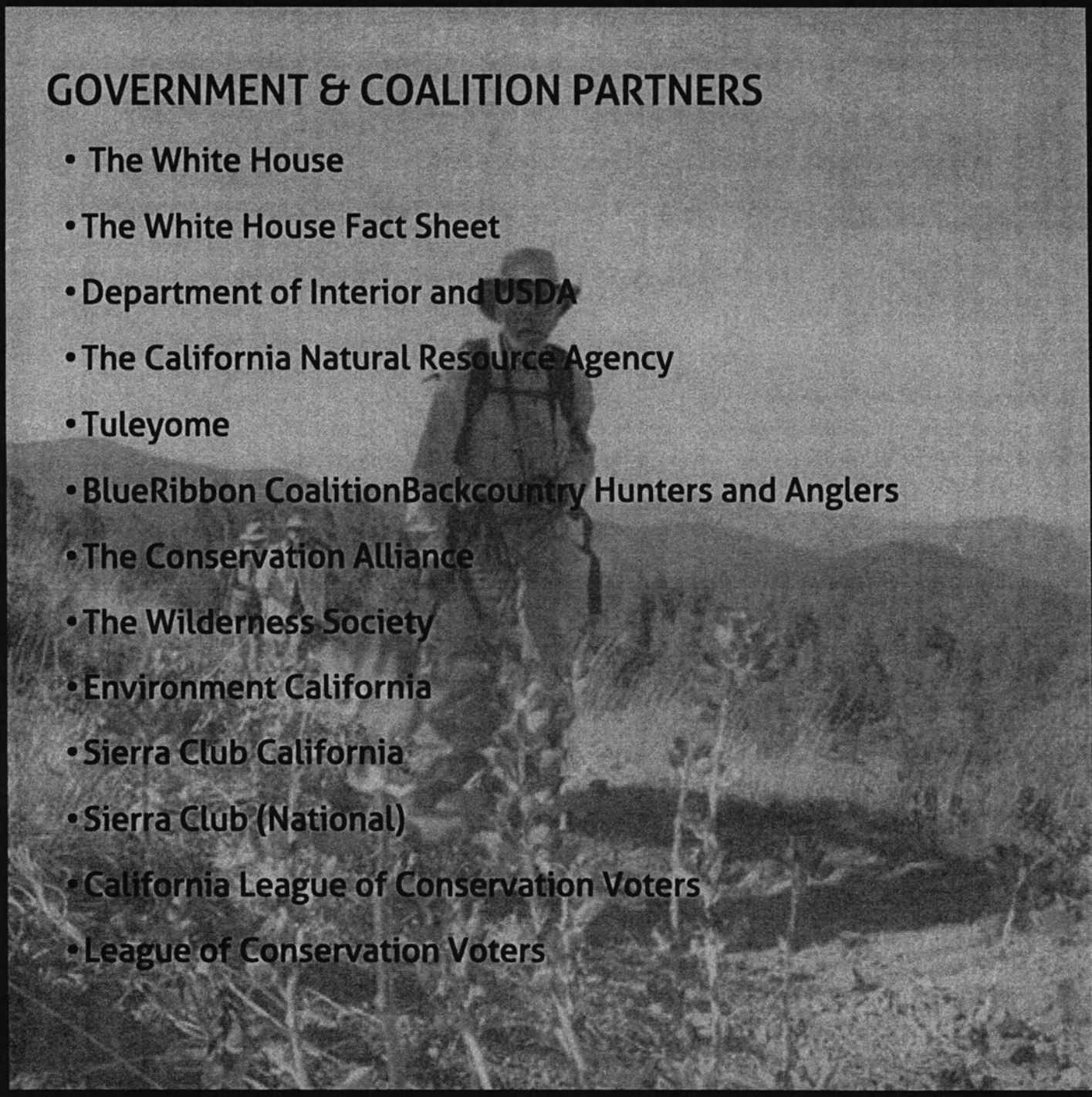
That is why I support this designation; because this monument is for all. These lands, this heritage, will be forever protected, not just for us today, but for all of the generations to come.

Si se puede — We did it!

Thank you, President Obama!

— Jose Gonzalez is the founder of Latino Outdoors. He grew in California's Central Valley, worked in Winters while he was an undergraduate at UC Davis and taught in Woodland as a teacher.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



GOVERNMENT & COALITION PARTNERS

- The White House
- The White House Fact Sheet
- Department of Interior and USDA
- The California Natural Resource Agency
- Tuleyome
- BlueRibbon CoalitionBackcountry Hunters and Anglers
- The Conservation Alliance
- The Wilderness Society
- Environment California
- Sierra Club California
- Sierra Club (National)
- California League of Conservation Voters
- League of Conservation Voters

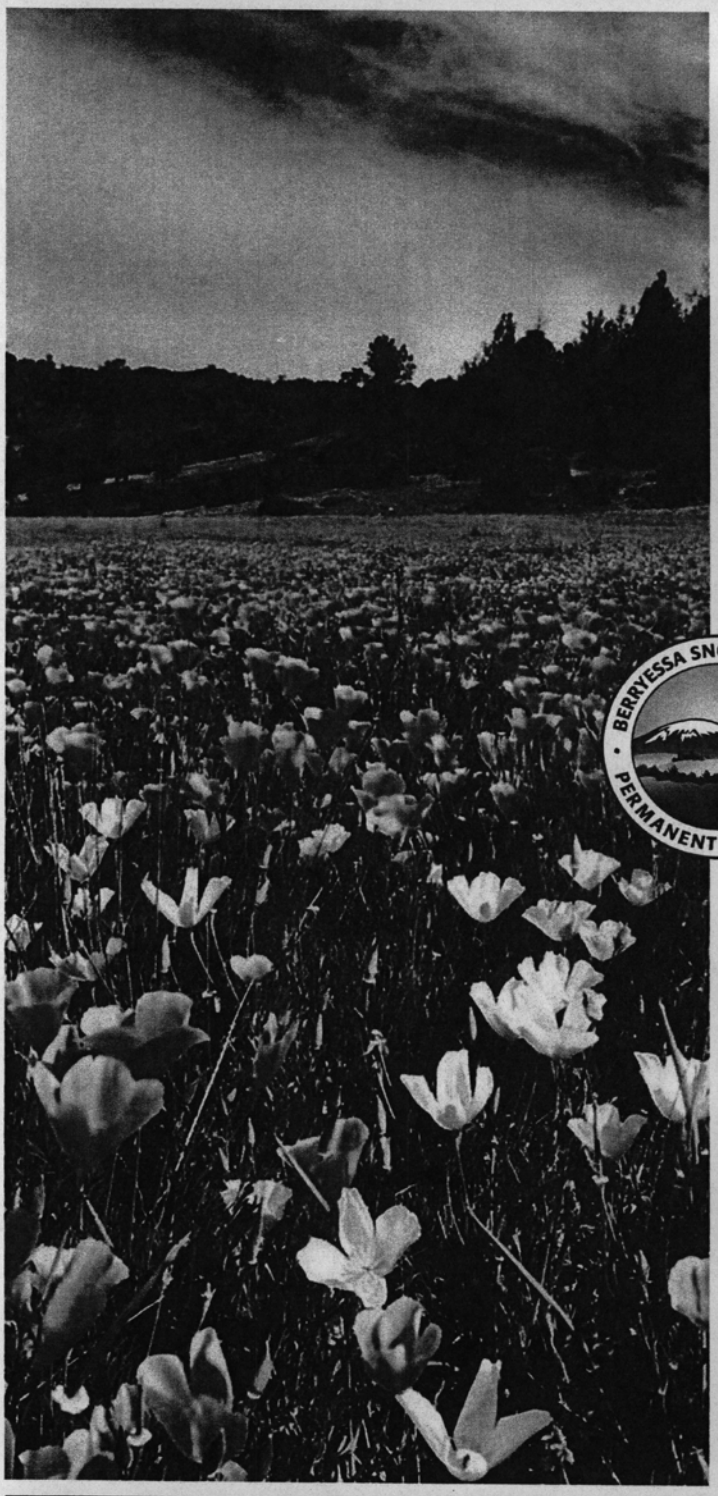
PRESS RELEASES

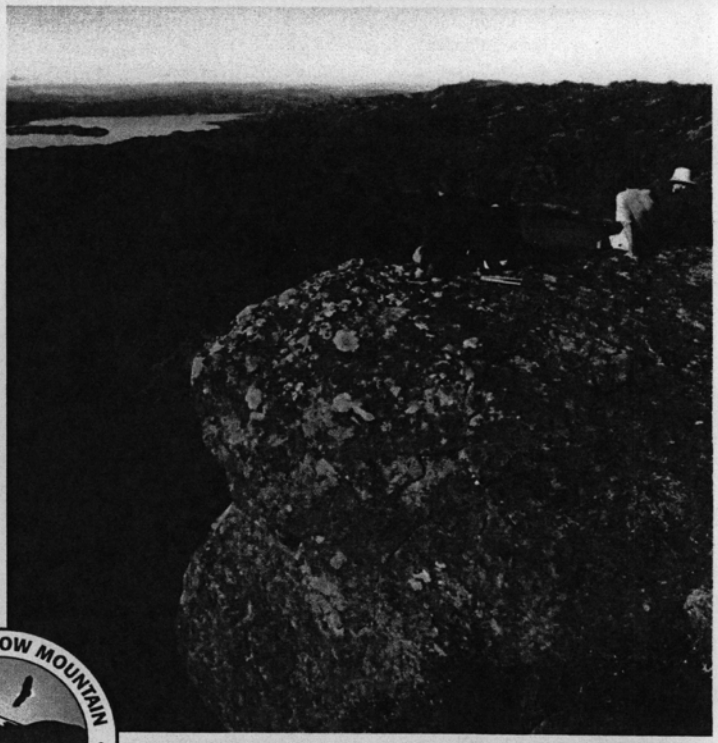
607 NORTH STREET
WOODLAND, CA
WWW.TULEYOME.ORG

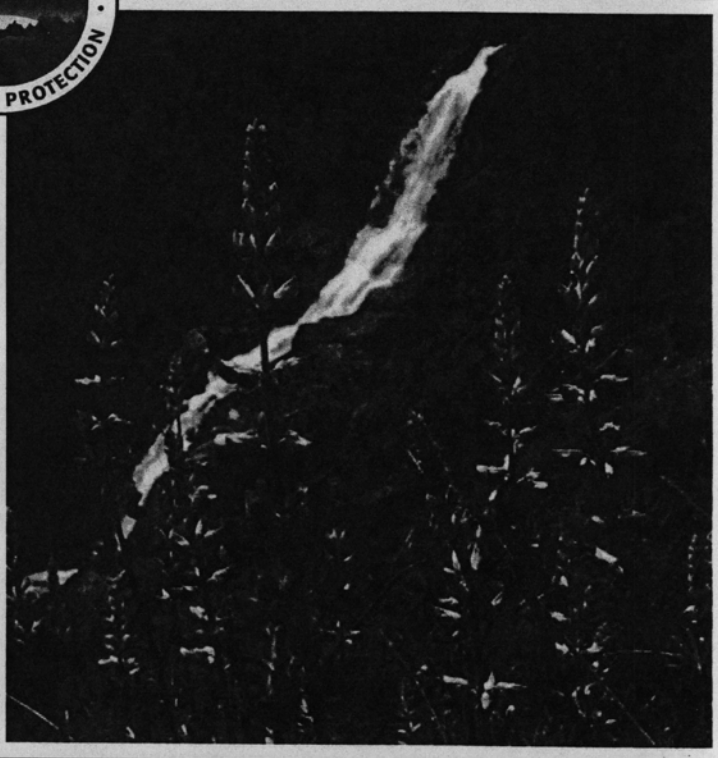
VIEW OUR FULL NEWS ARCHIVE ONLINE WWW.BERRYESSASNOWMOUNTAIN.ORG

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Permanent Protection for the Berryessa Snow Mountain region







BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN
PERMANENT PROTECTION

Press Book
November 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview of 2014 Berryessa Snow Mountain Press Coverage 1

Social Media and Online Petition Samples 2

Daily Democrat, November 6, 2014. "Yolo Supervisors vote to protect Berryessa Snow Mountain." 3

Napa Valley Register, November 6, 2014. "Supervisors endorse making Lake Berryessa a national monument." 4

Davis Enterprise, November 4, 2014. "Supervisors call for Berryessa Snow Mountain protection." 5

Lake County News, October 24, 2014. " Lake County supervisors vote to protect Berryessa Snow Mountain region." 6

Davis Enterprise, October 19, 2014. "Editorial: Ain't Snow Mountain high enough." 7

Daily Republic, October 14, 2014. "Nonprofit hails Solano supervisors' vote to protect Berryessa Snow Mountain." 8

Davis Enterprise, October 12, 2014. "Businesses urge protection for Berryessa-Snow Mountain." 9

Napa Valley Register, October 12, 2014. "Op-Ed: Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands deserve special designation." 10

Daily Democrat, September 18, 2014. "Public lands day puts focus on Berryessa Snow Mountain." 11

Los Angeles Weekly Times, August 5, 2014. "President Obama building a land conservation legacy: Dolores Huerta." 12

Contra Costa Times, July 5, 2014. "California's public lands are economic engine for our state." 1

Napa Valley Register, July 2, 2014. "Lake Berryessa deserves protection." 1

Daily Republic, June 23, 2014. "Time to Protect Berryessa Snow Mountain." 1

Lake County Record Bee, April 1, 2014. "Window on the Lake: Kick-starting the economy" 1

Sacramento Bee, March 29, 2014. "Editorial: Nudge Congress to act on public lands bills." 1

Berryessa Snow Mountain - 2014 News Summary

- Daily Democrat, November 6, 2014. "Yolo Supervisors vote to protect Berryessa Snow Mountain."
- Napa Valley Register, November 6, 2014. "Supervisors endorse making Lake Berryessa a national monument."
- Davis Enterprise, November 4, 2014. "Supervisors call for Berryessa Snow Mountain protection."
- Lake County News, November 2, 2014. "Tuleyome Tales: Wintering Birds - Coming to Wetlands Near You!"
- Davis Enterprise, October 24, 2014. "Experience Nature's Treasures."
- Lake County News, October 24, 2014. " Lake County supervisors vote to protect Berryessa Snow Mountain region."
- Davis Enterprise, October 19, 2014. "Editorial: Ain't Snow Mountain high enough."
- Daily Republic, October 14, 2014. "Nonprofit hails Solano supervisors' vote to protect Berryessa Snow Mountain."
- Davis Enterprise, October 12, 2014. "Businesses urge protection for Berryessa-Snow Mountain."
- Napa Valley Register, October 12, 2014. "Op-Ed: Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands deserve special designation."
- KQED, October 9, 2014. Radio: "Solano County Supervisors Support Protection for Berryessa Snow Mountain."
- Davis Enterprise, October 5, 2014. "Snow Mountain Wilderness turns 30."
- Lake County News, September 28, 2014. "Celebrating Snow Mountain's splendor."
- Lake County News, September 27, 2014. "Enjoy National Public Lands Day in Lake County's outdoors."
- Davis Enterprise, September 23, 2014. "Nature's beauty is in our own back yard."
- VIDEO: Businesses Urge Protection for Berryessa Snow Mountain
- Lake County News, September 21, 2014. "Hiking safety in the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region."
- Daily Democrat, September 18, 2014. "Public lands day puts focus on Berryessa Snow Mountain."
- VIDEO: Sierra Club: Let's Protect Berryessa Snow Mountain
- World News, August 6, 2014. "100 Businesses Urge Obama to Protect Berryessa Snow Mountain."
- Bay Area Wild, August 4, 2014. "Reflections on 50 Years of Wilderness Protection."
- Los Angeles Weekly Times, August 5, 2014. "President Obama building a land conservation legacy: Dolores Huerta."

- Contra Costa Times, July 5, 2014. "California's public lands are economic engine for our state."
- Napa Valley Register, July 2, 2014. "Lake Berryessa deserves protection."
- Davis Enterprise, June 26, 2014. "Permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region."
- Daily Republic, June 23, 2014. "Time to Protect Berryessa Snow Mountain."
- Sacramento Bee, June 20, 2014. "Viewpoints: Berryessa Snow Mountain deserves to be a national monument."
- North Bay Bohemian, June 18, 2014. "Ghost Lake."
- Davis Enterprise, June 12, 2014. "Celebrate Great Outdoors Month."
- Lake County News, June 11, 2014. "Saylor, Seifert and Rushing: Permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region."
- Lake County Record Bee, April 1, 2014. "Window on the Lake: Kick-starting the economy"
- Sacramento Bee, March 29, 2014. "Editorial: Nudge Congress to act on public lands bills."
- Davis Enterprise, March 9, 2014. "Veterans unite to protect public lands."
- Daily Democrat, March 9, 2014. "Seaman: Vet's views on protecting public lands."
- Lake County News, February 12, 2014. "Tuleyome's March 21 fundraiser celebrates public lands."
- Tuleyome Tales, Sunday, February 2, 2014 "What is serpentine soil and why should I care?"

Berryessa Snow Mountain shared a link
Posted by Charlotte M. Orr [?] · November 4

#TakeAction! **Please sign and share this online postcard of support asking President Barack Obama to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. #ProtectBSM**

Postcard of Support
berryessasnowmountain.org

Ask President Obama to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region for the benefit of current and future...

8,948 people reached **Boosted**

Unlike · Comment · Share 18 Shares

Berryessa Snow Mountain, Ben Pearl, Madeleine Smith, Sam Roberts and 134 others like this. Top Comments

Tell President Obama to Protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region!

author: Defenders of Wildlife
target: President Obama
signatures: 18,157

18,157 / 30,000

we've got 18,157 signatures. help us get to 30,000

I overview | petition

Stretching nearly 100 miles wide, the region is home to a wide variety of California wildlife, including mountain lions, bears, Tule elk, deer, osprey and elusive Pacific fishers. In addition to wildlife, the region is teeming with blue oak woodlands and red fir forests, unique plants found nowhere else on Earth, and provides countless opportunities for visitors to hike, horseback ride and enjoy the wild outdoors.

But the future of Berryessa Snow Mountain region is not secure.

Metropolitan areas are slowly inching closer to the borders of these wildlands — roads and development will soon threaten to divide this vast expanse and severely limit wildlife movement. Poorly managed recreation could threaten habitat and litter the wild landscape with unregulated off-road vehicles destroying sensitive areas.

Tell President Obama to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region and save the wildlife, environment and local businesses that rely on it to survive!

Sign Petition

Prefix | First Name | Last Name
don't display my name
Email
United States
Street Address | City
State | Zip
(optional)
Why do you support protection of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region?
keep me updated:
Defenders of Wildlife Alerts more info
sign now
share my signature on Facebook
By signing, you accept Care2's Terms of Service
Your email and postal address will remain private
Having problems signing this? Let us know.

TAKE ACTION

Browse Actions Login to track your impact

sign the petition
Join 15,606 supporters. 30,000 needed!

First Name * Last Name * Email * Address * City * State * Outside the U.S.? Zip Code *
sign

By submitting this form above, you agree to TakePart's Terms of Use and Privacy Policy.
Display my signature
Sign me up for updates from TakePart about wildlife related issues!
I'd like to receive emails from Defenders of Wildlife

PETITION

Tell President Obama to Protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region

(Photo: Anatoliy Ryaskovo/Getty Images)

empowered by

For more than 65 years, Defenders of Wildlife has led the fight to save threatened and endangered species with innovative approaches that help wolves, polar bears, big cats, and other imperiled wildlife survive in an ever-changing world.

FORCECHANGE.COM
PETITION TO CHANGE YOUR WORLD

ANIMALS ENVIRONMENT GOVERNMENT HEALTH EDUCATION HUMAN RIGHTS CONSUMERS

Protect Pristine Mountain from Industrial Development

Posted by Nick Engelfried

Log in: Log in Tweet Gmail Yahoo Care2 More

Target: President Obama and Interior Secretary Jewell

Goal: Protect pristine mountain home to bald eagles, elk, and other imperiled wildlife

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Protect Berryessa Snow Mountain

author:
Sierra Club

target:
President Obama and Interior Secretary Jewell

signatures:
2,170

read full petition

Recent Petitions | Recent Comments

Demand Apology from Sexist Author

Denounce Support of 'Feminist' Clothing Made in Sweatshops

Hold Officers Accountable for Publicly Harassing Trans Man

Save Burros from Being Sold Internationally as Work Horses

Stop Big Oil from Funding

Tell President Obama To Protect The Berryessa Snow Mountain Region!

Roads and development will soon threaten to divide this vast expanse and severely limit wildlife movement.

Share 12.4K Tweet 362 +1 67 Pin it 54

Goal: 50,000 - Progress: 27,910

Sponsored by: Defenders of Wildlife

Stretching nearly 100 miles wide, the region is home to a wide variety of California wildlife, including mountain lions, bears, Tule elk, deer, osprey and elusive Pacific fishers. In addition to wildlife, the region is teeming with blue oak woodlands and red fir forests, unique plants found nowhere else on Earth, and provides countless opportunities for visitors to hike, horseback ride and enjoy the wild outdoors.

But the future of Berryessa Snow Mountain region is not secure.

Metropolitan areas are slowly inching closer to the borders of these wildlands - roads and development will soon threaten to divide this vast expanse and severely limit wildlife movement. Poorly managed recreation could threaten habitat and litter the wild landscape with unregulated off-road vehicles destroying sensitive areas.

Tell President Obama to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region and save the wildlife, environment and local businesses that rely on it to survive!

Sign Here

Email *

First name * Last name *

Don't display my name

Zip/Postal code *

California has a wealth of public lands that are ripe for permanent protection. One of these, the Berryessa Snow Mountain region, is a hidden gem of northern California's wild Inner Coast Ranges and is one of the most biologically diverse yet least known regions of the Golden State. Located less than one hundred miles from the Sacramento and Bay Area metropolitan regions, the area is a dazzling outdoor wonderland rich in unique natural features and loaded with recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

Public lands stretch nearly one hundred miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa in the south to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the north. The Berryessa Snow Mountain region —

Daily Democrat

Yolo Supervisors vote to protect Berryessa Snow Mountain

By Democrat Staff
news@dailydemocrat.com @woodlandnews on Twitter
Created: 11/06/2014

Yolo County Supervisors voted this week to support permanent protection for the public lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a national conservation area or national monument.

"Permanent protection of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region could draw more tourism and give local communities a much needed economic boost," said Supervisor Don Saylor. "I am delighted that the Yolo County Supervisors have adopted a resolution in support of this proposal. Protecting these lands is a gift for future generations, and if Congress won't take action, then President Obama should."

Saylor was joined by supervisors fellow Democrats Jim Provenza and Oscar Villegas in supporting the resolution, while Republicans Matt Rexroad and Duane Chamberlain voted against it, splitting the vote along party lines at Tuesday's meeting. The Yolo County support follows similar endorsements from Solano, Napa and Lake counties, all of which have lands included in the monument proposal.

In Yolo County, the public lands include parts of Blue Ridge managed by the Bureau of Land Management, as well as sections of the Cache Creek and Putah Creek watersheds.

"It's great to see so much local support for this designation," said Sara Husby, executive director Tuleyome, the nonprofit spearheading efforts to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. "I am so pleased that the Yolo County Supervisors see the importance of protecting this amazing landscape. These lands are cherished by so many people. The beauty of this designation is that recreationists of all kinds including hikers, mountain bikers, hunters, fisherman, off highway vehicle users, horseback riders, and many more are stepping up to voice their support."

This stretch of public lands spans nearly 100 miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the Mendocino National Forest, according to Husby. The region is part of California's biodiversity hotspot, making it one of the most biologically diverse, yet least known regions in the state.

Many visitors enjoy annual spring wildflower displays and finding rare plants. The region is also inhabited by tule elk, river otters, osprey, black bears, and one of California's largest populations of wintering bald eagles. The Berryessa Snow Mountain region also provides ample opportunities for recreation, Husby noted. Many residents and visitors alike enjoy the scenic hikes, horseback riding, hunting, camping, fishing, bird watching, riding motorized vehicles on designated routes, motorized and non-motorized boating and water recreation.

"This designation will be a win-win for both the land and the people," said Glen Holstein, who was in attendance during the Board of Supervisors meeting. Holstein is a consulting biologist, ecologist, and author, and serves on the state board of the California Native Plant Society.

"Permanent protection of this area will ensure the continued use and enjoyment of this area for future generations," Holstein said. "I hope President Obama will take action soon."

http://www.dailydemocrat.com/breakingnews/ci_26886789/yolo-supervisors-vote-protect-berryessa-snow-mountain

Napa Valley Register.com

Supervisors endorse making Lake Berryessa a national monument

BARRY EBERLING beberling@napanews.com

November 6, 2014

Napa County is advising President Barack Obama to create a sprawling, 550-square-mile Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

The Napa County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to support national monument status for an area that includes 96 square miles of public lands in eastern Napa County. Supervisors did so quickly, with the entire discussion and vote taking 35 seconds.

Supervisors Keith Caldwell, Diane Dillon and Bill Dodd voted "yes." Supervisors Mark Luce and Brad Wagenknecht were absent to attend an international wine conference in Argentina on behalf of the county.

A Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument would stretch from Snow Mountain Wilderness in Colusa, Glenn and Lake counties south 100 miles to Lake Berryessa in Napa County and the Blue Ridge mountains in Solano County. Only public lands would be included, such as land owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Coalition has tried for several years to have Congress designate the Berryessa-Snow Mountain area as a national conservation area. Reps. Mike Thompson, John Garamendi and Lynn Woolsey introduced legislation in 2012 to create the area. Congress didn't pass it.

Supporters have little hope Congress will pass the proposed legislation in 2015, a county report said. But Obama could designate the area as a national monument without Congressional approval.

If Obama takes action, federal agencies owning land in the area would create a common management plan looking at such issues as conservation, weed management and recreation. A committee of local interests would give advice as the plan develops.

National monument status would make the area eligible for more federal money, a county report said. It could attract more visitors to the area by raising the area's profile, the report said.

Obama on Oct. 10 designated the 550-square-mile San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in Southern California.

The idea of creating a Berryessa Snow Mountain Nation al Monument has critics. Although none addressed the Napa County Board of Supervisors, the opposing view came up Tuesday at the Yolo County Board of Supervisors meeting.

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors endorsed national monument status by a 3-2 vote. One supervisor noted that some ranchers in the area are against the idea. Some private property owners view the proposal as adding another, unneeded layer of government.

President Theodore Roosevelt designated the first national monument in 1906. That monument is Devils Tower, a pillar-shaped volcanic mountain in Wyoming featured as the landing place for aliens in the 1977 Steven Spielberg film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

The United States has 110 national monuments. Whether Berryessa-Snow Mountain becomes the 111th national monument is up to Obama.

THE DAVIS enterprise

Supervisors call for Berryessa Snow Mountain protection

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy
From page A3 | November 05, 2014 |

WOODLAND — Yolo County supervisors split along party lines Tuesday in approving a resolution urging President Barack Obama to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region as a national monument.

Democrats Don Saylor and Jim Provenza of Davis and Oscar Villegas of West Sacramento voted in favor of the resolution while Republicans Matt Rexroad of Woodland and Duane Chamberlain of the rural 5th District voted against it.

Chamberlain said that while he believes it's inevitable that the region eventually will fall under federal protection, ranchers with property adjacent to the region are opposed to special designation, which is why he voted no.

A presidential declaration designating the region as a national monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906 would accomplish what area congressmen have been unable to do so far with legislation.

Reps. Mike Thompson of St. Helena, John Garamendi of Walnut Grove and Jared Huffman of San Rafael, as well as Sen. Barbara Boxer, have introduced bills that would create the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area, but Congress has yet to enact them.

Yolo County supervisors previously voted 3-2 in favor of those efforts. Now they are urging President Obama to designate the region a national monument, which will serve largely the same purpose in permanently protecting the region stretching from Putah Creek to Snow Mountain. The area includes 350,000 acres of federal land in Yolo, Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Solano counties.

"It's a spectacular region," said Bob Schneider of Davis, Tuleyome's senior policy director. "We have a lot of support for this designation, (including) from Solano and Lake counties and the cities of Davis, Winters and West Sacramento."

Glen Holstein of the California Native Plant Society noted that earlier this month, Obama designated the San Gabriel Mountains in Los Angeles County as a national monument. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Region, Holstein said, has an even greater variety of native plants and wildlife than the San Gabriel Mountains.

The resolution passed Tuesday says it is in the interest of Yolo County to permanently preserve these public lands, which are used by many residents for hiking, swimming, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, photography, motor boating, camping, orienteering, wildlife viewing, scientific research, mountain bicycling, motorized recreation on authorized routes and nature study.

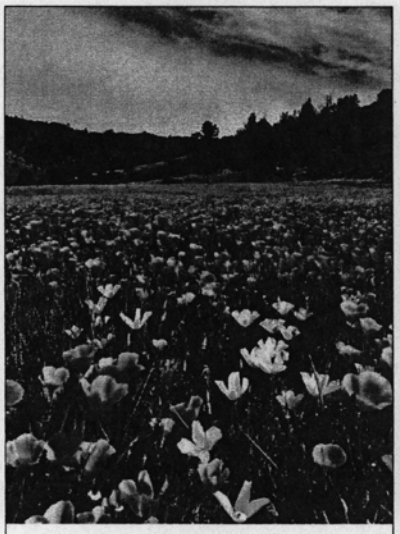
Additionally, the resolution said, national monument designations have been shown to help local communities diversify their economies and increase tourism.

— Reach Anne Ternus-Bellamy at aternus@davisenterprise.net or 530-747-8051. Follow her on Twitter at @ATernusBellamy

LAKE COUNTY NEWS

Lake County supervisors vote to protect Berryessa Snow Mountain region

FRIDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2014 02:07 LAKE COUNTY NEWS REPORTS



On Tuesday, October 21, 2014, the Lake County Board of Supervisors voted to support permanent project for federal public lands in Northern California's Berryessa Snow Mountain region. The photo by Andrew Fulks, above, shows some of those lands located near Highway 16 and Highway 20.

LAKE COUNTY, Calif. –

Visitors and residents alike enjoy the scenic views, wildlife and vast recreational opportunities offered by the federal public lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

On Tuesday, the Lake County Board of Supervisors voted to support permanent protection for the federal public lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a national conservation area or national monument.

"The federal public lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region are an escape for many. A National Monument designation will ensure the continued use and enjoyment of this wild and scenic landscape, and help our local economies by driving tourism," said Supervisor Anthony Farrington.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region includes federal public lands in Solano, Mendocino, Lake, Napa and Yolo counties.

The Solano County supervisors voted on Oct. 7 to support efforts to permanently protect these public lands.

In Lake County, the public lands are managed mostly by the Bureau of Land Management, including Cache Creek Wilderness, and the Bear Creek Unit bordered by highways 16 and 20.

"I hope President Obama will respond to these local efforts to permanently protect this scenic landscape," said Ed Robey, former Lake County Supervisor. "There are few other places so close to Sacramento and the Bay Area where you can enjoy such a wide variety of outdoor recreation. This landscape is truly an outdoor wonderland."

This stretch of public lands spans nearly 100 miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the Mendocino National Forest.

The region is part of California's biodiversity hotspot, making it one of the most biologically diverse, yet least known regions in the state.

Many visitors take delight in the annual spring wildflower displays, and rare plants seen nowhere else on the planet.

The region also is inhabited by many of California's iconic wildlife including tule elk, river otters, osprey, black bears and one of California's largest populations of wintering bald eagles.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region also provides ample opportunities for recreation.

Many residents and visitors alike enjoy the scenic hikes, horseback riding, hunting, camping, fishing, bird watching, riding motorized vehicles on designated routes, motorized and nonmotorized boating, water recreation and much more.

"People use this area a lot," said Bob Schneider, Tuleyome's senior policy director, who was in attendance during the Lake County Supervisor meeting.

"Permanent protection of this area will provide well-managed recreation opportunities, safeguard the area's natural beauty, sensitive areas, wildlife and rare plants, and ensure continued use and enjoyment for future generations."

THE DAVIS enterprise

Ain't Snow Mountain high enough

By Our View
From page A14 | October 19, 2014 |

The issue: With legislation stalled, the president can act to protect our wild spaces

When Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, introduced a bill in March of 2013 to create the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Act, the news was cheered by outdoor enthusiasts and local businesses, and it seemed like the successful conclusion to years of efforts to protect a wilderness stretching from the shores of Lake Berryessa north through the Cache Creek Wilderness and into the Mendocino National Forest.

BUT WITH Thompson's bill stuck in committee for more than a year, it looks like we are no closer to a comprehensive federal management plan for this diverse landscape, home to a wide range of animals, including tule elk, black bears and bald eagles.

House Resolution 1025 is co-sponsored by Reps. John Garamendi, D-Walnut Grove; Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael; Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park; and Ami Bera, D-Elk Grove. The bill would create the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area from the federally managed lands in the region.

And they're not the only backers: California Democrat Barbara Boxer is sponsoring similar legislation in the U.S. Senate, and the Yolo County Board of Supervisors supports the idea as well. But in the byzantine world of congressional deal-making, widespread support can count for very little.

So, frustrated at the delays, Snow Mountain backers are looking to go straight to the top. "If Congress will not act to protect the area," Thompson has said, "then the Obama administration should."

Locals agree. Last month, 100 area businesses signed a letter calling on the president to use executive power to create a national monument. Yolo County Supervisor Don Saylor of Davis, together with supervisors from Solano and Lake counties, also has called on the president to step in.

PRESIDENT OBAMA has been under fire for using executive orders rather than Congress to push his legislative agenda. But a decision to protect the Snow Mountain region should not be seen as an overreach of his authority.

It would hardly be controversial locally, and it's certainly not without precedent. The most famous instance, Theodore Roosevelt's designation of the Grand Canyon National Monument, is one of the shining examples of the proper use of presidential leverage to get around D.C. gridlock. Roosevelt cut through a tangle of competing interests to preserve a jewel in the American landscape for future generations.

It is for these reasons that we join Thompson, Saylor, area businesses and local groups like Tuleyome in urging President Obama to take action and declare the Berryessa Snow Mountain region a National Monument. It is the best way to preserve this unique wilderness for ourselves and generations to come.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DAILY REPUBLIC

Nonprofit hails Solano supervisors' vote to protect Berryessa Snow Mountain

By Ryan McCarthy From page A1 | October 15, 2014

Lake Berryessa, top, and Cold Canyon, pictured at the bottom left, are part of the southern tip of a proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area. Solano County Board of Supervisors voted once again last week to support efforts to permanently protect the region. (Daily Republic file)

FAIRFIELD — A nonprofit founded to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain area this week hailed action by the Solano County supervisors last week to support efforts to permanently protect federal public lands of the region as a national conservation area or national monument.

"Protecting the Berryessa Snow Mountain region is good for the land, and good for the people," Solano County Supervisor Linda Seifert said in the release. "In addition to becoming more of an attraction for tourism, protecting this scenic treasure will ensure that our children can continue to enjoy these lands as we do today."

More than 15,000 people, many from Fairfield, Vacaville, Vallejo and Dixon, hike the University of California Cold Canyon Natural Reserve loop hike in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region each year, Tuleyome officials said Monday in a press release.

People do such things as hike, ride horses, hunt when permitted, camp, fish, watch for bird, ride all-terrain vehicles on designated routes, and boat in public lands within the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

The board voted unanimously Oct. 7 to support efforts to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region, which includes federal public lands in Solano, Mendocino, Lake, Napa and Yolo counties. The Berryessa Snow Mountain region in Solano County includes a small portion Bureau of Land Management land along Blue Ridge near Lake Berryessa.

This region stretches nearly 100 miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the Mendocino National Forest. It is one of the most biologically diverse, yet least known regions of the state, according to Tuleyome.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is considered a biological hotspot within the state. It's home to rare plants found nowhere else on the planet, the nonprofit said. It is also inhabited by many of California's wildlife, including tule elk, river otters, osprey, black bears and one of California's largest populations of wintering bald eagles.

"People use this area a lot," Tuleyome's senior policy director, Bob Schneider, said during the Board of Supervisors meeting last week of the importance of protecting the region. "This is going to be good for tourism."

Solano County Board of Supervisors members took similar action in September 2013 when it backed a proposal to create the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area. Three member of Congress – Reps. John Garamendi, D-Walnut Grove, and Mike Thompson, D-Santa Rosa, and then-Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-San Rafael– introduced legislation in May 2012 to create such a conservation area. The legislation saw no action in the 2012 session, but was the topic of at least one congressional subcommittee hearing in 2013.

If a Berryessa Snow Mountain Conservation Area is created, the various federal agencies that govern public lands within the conservation area boundaries would have to create a common management plan for recreation, conservation and other activities.

The proposed legislation met with resistance from the Lake Berryessa chamber of commerce.

"It is a huge and unwieldy geographic area that would be difficult to manage even under optimal circumstances," Peter Kilkus wrote in a letter to the editor to the Daily Republic. "At best it may have some marginal benefits. At worst it will impose additional requirements on already overburdened government agencies with no guarantee of any new resources for them."

President Barack Obama on Friday set aside nearly 350,000 acres within the San Gabriel Mountains northeast of Los Angeles for designation as a national monument. He did so under the auspices of the federal Antiquities Act.

THE DAVIS enterprise

Businesses urge protection for Berryessa-Snow Mountain

By Charlotte Orr
From page A9 | October 12, 2014

Tuleyome and Environment California have released a video featuring business owners who have taken a stand to permanently protect more than 350,000 acres of federal public lands in the Berryessa-Snow Mountain region of Northern California.

Last month, 100 local businesses released a letter calling on President Obama to protect this scenic landscape as a national monument.

"Berryessa-Snow Mountain is a national treasure," said Nathan Weaver, a preservation advocate with Environment California. "I am proud to stand with these local businesses in support of permanently protecting this hidden gem."

The Berryessa-Snow Mountain region stretches nearly 100 miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the Mendocino National Forest. This landscape provides opportunities to hike, ride horseback, hunt, camp, fish, bird-watch, use motorized vehicles on designated routes, and enjoy motorized and non-motorized boating and water recreation.

"We should do everything we can to protect nature and its beauty," said Aaron Curtin of APEX Cycles in Davis. "If we pave over it, it will take 10 generations to get it back."

In 2013, Rep. Mike Thompson and Sen. Barbara Boxer introduced the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act in the House (HR 1025) and the Senate (S 483).

"Despite strong bicameral support for permanently protecting the Berryessa-Snow Mountain Region, my legislation has not been voted on in either the House or Senate," Thompson said. "If Congress will not act to protect this area, then the Obama administration should.

"Protecting the Berryessa-Snow Mountain Region will help boost tourism, grow the local economy, improve recreation opportunities and protect important species. We do not want to lose out on these benefits because Congress will not act — and we do not have to. The Obama administration should take action where Congress hasn't and permanently protect this natural treasure."

Added Sara Husby, executive director of Tuleyome, "Many stores and hotels in Napa, Winters and Clear Lake rely on visitors to support their businesses. Protecting the Berryessa-Snow Mountain region as a national monument can raise the region's profile, boosting local tourism. Permanent protection of this undiscovered landscape is good for the land and good for the people."

Momentum to protect Berryessa-Snow Mountain has been building for years. Yolo, Lake and Napa counties already have endorsed permanent protection. So have the Napa Valley Vintners Association and dozens of elected officials.

In his State of the Union address in January, Obama promised that "I'll use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations," and already has moved to protect 500,000 acres of land in New Mexico.

To view the video online, visit http://goo.gl/MgdvJI.

Napa Valley Register.com

Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands deserve special designation

October 12, 2014

By Lowell Ashbaugh, Gene Gantt, Mark Rockwell, Dan Brosier and Kevin Mather

Recently America celebrated National Hunting and Fishing Day (Sept. 27). For 42 years this event has been the nation's most prominent celebration of traditional outdoor sports and conservation of wildlife and habitat.

Although some of California's iconic fish and game species have declined, our state still has outstanding fishing and hunting opportunities. That's because, despite our population burgeoning to more than 38 million people, we still have high-quality habitat in many areas, on land and in water.

There is no fishing or hunting without good habitat — pure and simple. Whether it's on public land or in private ownership, good habitat is the foundation of our outdoor heritage.

This year, National Hunting and Fishing Day got us to thinking about some big swaths of good habitat that could be better protected. The Berryessa Snow Mountain complex of public lands, spanning five counties in the northern Inner Coast Range west of Sacramento, is a case in point.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands include many streams with trout populations and dozens of lakes and small still-water bodies where one can fish for bass and other warm water species. Trout streams include the trophy trout fisheries of Putah Creek and the headwaters of the Eel River. The Middle Fork of Stony Creek in the Snow Mountain Wilderness is now state-designated wild trout water, and a segment of Putah Creek is proposed for this designation as well. The bass fishing in Clear Lake and Lake Berryessa is world-class.

The public lands in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region provide good hunting for deer in the A and popular B-3 deer hunting zones. Other game species found in the area include quail, blue grouse, tule elk, wild turkey, wild pigs, dove, black bear and various waterfowl species.

Sportsmen's groups such as Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, the California Waterfowl Association, Putah Creek Trout and the Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers support permanent protection of the habitat and sporting values of the Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands.

Fishing and hunting are big business in the Golden State. California's more than 1.8 million recreational anglers contribute some $2.3 billion to the state's economy every year, while the state's 287,000 licensed hunters generate more than $964 million in economic impact (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation).

Anglers and hunters support manufacturers of boats, tackle and firearms, as well as motels, gas stations, restaurants, campgrounds and local sporting goods retailers. They also underwrite a significant portion of state fish and wildlife management programs through excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment.

While the Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands are not under an imminent, large-scale threat, they will benefit considerably from being managed at a landscape scale under a unified plan and policies. A special designation for this area will help protect and improve not only habitat and sporting values but also existing access via roads and trails, water supplies, and infrastructure such as campgrounds. Permanent protection of these lands can also give an economic boost to local communities, as more people are attracted to the area and their experience enhanced.

A bill (H.R. 1025) to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands as a National Conservation Area has been introduced by Congressman Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena) and co-sponsored by Reps. John Garamendi and Jared Huffman. Sen. Barbara Boxer has introduced a companion bill in the Senate (S. 483).

But anyone who's paying attention knows that the current Congress is simply not passing public lands legislation that is focused primarily on conservation. That's why many advocates for the Berryessa Snow Mountain area are now supporting another designation: national monument.

In this era of drought, rural development and population expansion, the places we care most about are under increasing duress. The 2014 National Hunting and Fishing Day reminds us that, to pass on to our kids and grandkids the same opportunities to fish and hunt as we have today, we must ensure that good fishing and hunting areas such as the Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands are not lost to neglect, insufficient management resources, or incremental development.

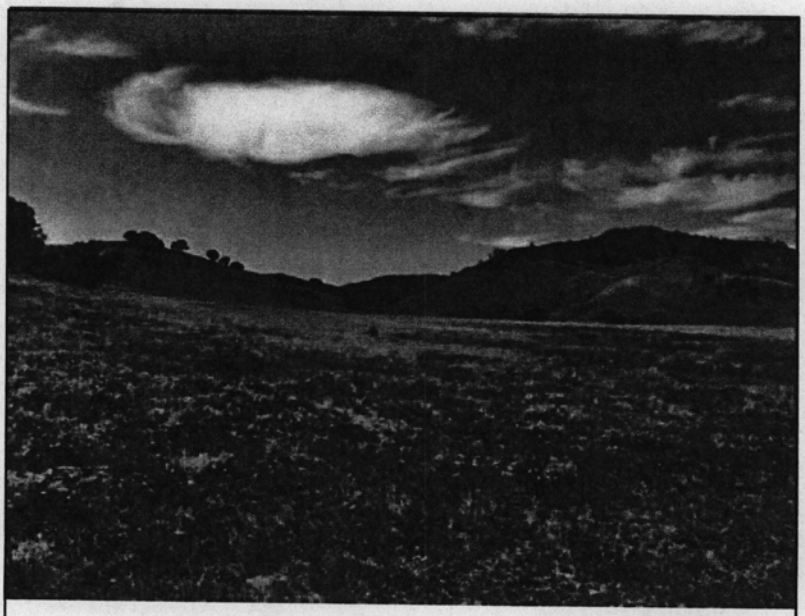
Hunting and fishing are allowed in all national monuments where these activities are a traditional use of the resource. President Obama should guarantee that the excellent fishing and hunting opportunities in the Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands will be protected in perpetuity, by designating them as a national monument.

Ashbaugh, Gantt and Rockwell are directors of the Northern California Council, Federation of Fly Fishers. Brosier and Mather are president and secretary of the Sac-Sierra Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Daily Democrat

Public Lands Day puts focus on Snow Mountain region

Special to The Democrat By Charlotte Orr



This year's wildflower display taken in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region at Highway 16 and Highway 20. Tuleyome is urging people to visit the Snow Mountain Region on Saturday, Sept. 27 as part of National Public Lands Day. (Andrew Fulks-Courtesy)

September 18, 2014

Celebrate National Public Lands Day right in your own backyard on Saturday, Sept. 27, by visiting the Berryessa Snow Mountain region, which is less than an hour's drive from Woodland, and includes 350,000 acres of federal public lands to enjoy.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region stretches nearly 100 miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the Mendocino National Forest. This undiscovered landscape provides wonderful opportunities to hike, horseback ride, and hunt, camp, fish, bird watch, use motorized vehicles on designated routes, enjoy both motorized and non-motorized boating, water recreation, and much more.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region has a botanical biodiversity that makes it the center of the California global hot spot. Come visit the blue oak woodlands, Shasta red fir forests, chaparral, rivers, riparian areas, and jaw dropping explosion of annual spring wildflowers. This stunning outdoor wonderland provides habitat for nearly half of California's dragonfly species, a wealth of butterflies, river otters, trout, tule elk, deer, mountain lions, bears, osprey, and California's second largest population of wintering bald eagles.

Here are a few ways you can celebrate National Public Lands Day:

Go fishing: Sept. 27 is also National Hunting and Fishing Day. Check both celebrations on your list by going fishing in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. Putah Creek is a great place to practice your catch and release fishing for wild trout. Don't forget to only use artificial flies and lures with barbless hooks.

Sign-up for a Hike or Trail Day: Tuleyome has a list of hikes and trail days coming up in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. These events are free to the public and led by experienced hike docents. Learn more about these hikes at www.tuleyome.org and sign-up online at www.MeetUp.com/Tuleyome-Home-Place-Adventures

Los Angeles Daily News

President Obama building a land conservation legacy: Dolores Huerta

By Dolores Huerta
Tuesday, August 5, 2014

In October 2012, I helped welcome President Obama to California as he signed a proclamation designating the home and workplace of César E. Chávez a national monument.

The day was warm with the end of summer and the green and brown oak trees that spot the property seemed to reach up and touch the blue sky. Hundreds gathered, from the family of César Chavez to members of the farm worker movement to neighbors bringing their kids to see the president.

The establishment of the César E. Chávez National Monument was a remarkable tribute — not only to one man, but also to a movement of people who achieved great change.

Looking out over the crowd, the president said that national monuments "tell the story of who we are as Americans." Around me, I could see heads nodding. The César E. Chávez National Monument helps tell a powerful story of people standing up for equal rights, a story that future generations must know.

Since taking office, President Obama has designated 11 new national monuments and preserved more than 3 million acres of public lands for future generations. He is reaching diverse communities and inviting them to experience the outdoors.

By listening to the voices of Americans who want their public lands protected, the president is building a unique legacy in land conservation: ensuring that public lands reflect the diversity of our country and America's rich history of leadership.

President Obama has honored the rich Latino heritage of this country by establishing the César E. Chávez National Monument, the Río Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico and, most recently, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico.

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks sits at the crossroads of Latino history. Here lies the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, an ancient trade route between Mexico and New Mexico that dates back more than 12,000 years.

Los Organos provided springs for travelers and served as an important landmark on their journey.

Adding to this, President Obama established the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in

Maryland and the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio. He has honored the story of Native Americans at Chimney Rock National Monument in Colorado and elsewhere.

Our history is remembered at these national monuments but they are much more than museums or memorials. They are also mountains, hills and trails where people will get outdoors, exercise and spend time with family and friends. For the many diverse communities who have limited access to parks and open space, they are much needed places to experience nature.

At the ceremony designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, President Obama made a firm commitment to growing his public lands legacy. He made it clear that he's not done yet, saying with great conviction that he's looking for more communities across our country where locals are speaking up and asking for him to protect our public lands.

To this I say, yes we can! I add my voice to communities around the country who want their public lands protected. Here in Southern California, a local effort is working toward permanently protecting the majestic San Gabriel Mountains. And in the greater Sacramento region, community members are calling for the permanent protection of the special Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

These communities and more around the country want the rich diversity of our country's heritage honored. They want places for their kids to play in the great outdoors, breathing in fresh air.

They want our president to build a legacy around our country's public lands.

Dolores Huerta is president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation and co-founder and first president emeritus of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW). She is a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient.

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

Guest commentary: California's public lands are economic engine for our state

By Kevin Cleary, guest commentary © 2014 Bay Area News Group

July 5, 2014

California's public lands hold a very important place in my life. I have spent many days riding my bike, hiking and celebrating special occasions with family and friends in places like Muir Woods and Tahoe National Forest. Built into these naturally beautiful areas are invaluable memories created over my lifetime.

From Mt. Shasta to Death Valley and from the coastline of the Pacific Ocean to the redwood forests, these special places are part of every Californian's way of life, contribute to our economy, and make our state a great place to live and raise a family. That is why the protection of public lands is personally important to me, both as a businessman and as a husband, son and father.

While California is widely recognized for its entertainment and high-technology industries, our public lands also serve as a significant engine for economic growth. Whether it's Joshua Tree in the south of our state or the Trinity Alps in the north, our protected places attract locals and visitors from out of town to hike, camp, ride their bikes, and more.

All of these activities significantly contribute to California's economy. Outdoor recreation and tourism in California generates $8.5 billion in consumer spending, 732,000 direct jobs, $27 billion in wages and salaries, and $6.7 billion in state and local tax revenue.

Advertisement

According to a recent report by the Outdoor Industry Association, consumers across the U.S. spend more on outdoor recreation than they do on cars and car parts, gasoline and other fuels, or pharmaceuticals. More Americans are employed by the outdoor recreation industry than the oil and gas or construction industries.

There is also something else that public lands offer us: quality of life. As anyone who lives in the Bay Area knows, this place is one-of-a-kind. We are surrounded by spectacular public lands, from Point Reyes to Yosemite. These places make our communities great areas to live and work, attracting entrepreneurs to start companies and families to put down roots.

To me, this paints a very clear picture. As a country and as a state, we should protect and conserve our public lands. Doing so is an investment in our economy, our quality of life, the environment and in our future.

Unfortunately, congressional partisanship has prevented action on this important issue. Despite efforts by communities working with local officials and national representatives to protect public lands in their districts, many of these grass roots efforts have been thwarted by Congress' inaction.

Recently, President Barack Obama has used his executive authority to protect public lands in our country by designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

Located in New Mexico, this special place will become part of our National Conservation Lands. This follows the expansion earlier this year of the California Coastal National Monument -- a network of more than 20,000 rocks, islands, exposed reefs, and pinnacles along the 1,100 miles of California's coast.

These actions are significant, and I thank the president and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell for listening to local communities and acting to protect public lands.

Yet, there's more to be done. California is home to many special places that should be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Today, there are two public lands in California being considered for protection. Northern California's Berryessa-Snow Mountain region and Southern California's San Gabriel Mountains offer two prime examples where communities have been working for years to pass important legislation to protect these important watershed and recreation areas for the future.

I encourage local residents to add their voices to these community driven efforts by contacting their members of Congress and spreading the word among friends and neighbors.

With Reps. Mike Thompson and Judy Chu leading the way, I urge Congress and the president to look to the Golden State to continue protecting our state's most important public lands, growing our outdoor economy and providing millions of future Californians with an opportunity to enjoy our state's beautiful places.

Kevin Cleary is chief executive officer of Clif Bar & Co. in Emeryville.

Napa Valley Register.com

Lake Berryessa deserves protection

July 02, 2014 • Andrew Fulks

Yes, Lake Berryessa should be protected. Many people are not aware of the ecological importance of Lake Berryessa and why the lake is worth protecting as part of a National Conservation Area or national monument.

A study prepared by the Nature Conservancy shows that Napa County, including the Lake Berryessa area, is a biodiversity hot spot within California. To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, a region must be threatened, meaning it must have 30 percent or less of its original natural vegetation, and it must also have at least 1,500 endemic plants found nowhere else on the planet. In other words, Lake Berryessa is part of a landscape which is irreplaceable.

In addition, the lake lies between the U.C. Quail Ridge Natural Reserve to the south, Cedar Roughs Wilderness to the west, Knoxville BLM lands to the north, and the BLM Berryessa Peak unit to the east.

Tuleyome's goal is to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region to provide well-managed recreation opportunities and user education, safeguard the area's natural beauty, sensitive areas, wildlife and rare plants and protect this scenic treasure so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.

Our public lands deserve to be recognized not only for the ecological, wildlife, natural, and scenic values, but also for the recreational resources they provide. A national designation will enhance recreation including motor boating on Lake Berryessa, hiking, camping, horse riding, hunting, legal off-road vehicle use, and mountain biking; and generate economic opportunities for Lake Berryessa and surrounding gateway communities.

A National Conservation Area or national monument designation will ensure that our land and water resources stay in public hands so our children and theirs can continue enjoying this landscape as we do today.

Andrew Fulks

President, Tuleyome

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DAILY REPUBLIC

By Linda Seifert
From page A8 | June 23, 2014 |

I urge President Barack Obama to take steps to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region by declaring the area a national monument.

Thanks to a recent designation by President Obama, another piece of our country's outdoor legacy will be preserved as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico.

The designation will preserve irreplaceable archaeological, prehistoric and cultural sites, while safeguarding outdoor recreation opportunities that are so important for the state. The designation, under the Antiquities Act, is the second by President Obama in New Mexico, after the creation last year of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

President Obama has recognized areas in California, too, adding Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands to the California Coastal National Monument earlier this year. The addition of Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands to the monument provides a boost to the rural coastal economy and the everyday lives of those of know and love the North Coast.

Across the state, protected public lands, like national monuments, help provide outdoor recreation opportunities that generate more than $6 billion for the California economy each year, according to the Outdoor Industry Association.

As a nation, we've seen time after time that communities flourish and local economies grow when nearby public lands are permanently protected. After designation, the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument drew 50,000 new visitors in 2013, overall a 40 percent increase in visitation over 2012. Closer to home, the counties around Giant Sequoia National Monument saw jobs grow by 11 percent and real personal income rise by 24 percent after the area was protected. That same potential is offered by the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

Just a short drive from the Bay Area and Sacramento, the area between Lake Berryessa and Snow Mountain provides easily accessible opportunities to recreate and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.

Whether it's hiking to the 80-foot-high Zim Zim waterfall, fly-fishing in Putah Creek, or viewing wildflowers and wildlife, the Berryessa Snow Mountain region offers something for everyone. Visitors can take a relaxing horseback ride, spend quality time with family, or experience the adrenaline rush of a whitewater rafting trip through Cache Creek.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is one of the last remaining areas of undisturbed public lands in California, making it an ideal space for people to get outside. It's also important for a host of wildlife that calls the area home, from bald eagles to endangered Pacific Fishers and rare plants.

I'm quite proud of this amazing place and our communities that have grown around it. It's an area that deserves to be recognized and permanently protected. The benefits of such protection will extend far beyond the land itself to the surrounding areas, bringing new visitors to our towns as they take advantage of new recreation opportunities.

It's a move that's broadly supported, unlike recent legislative attempts in Congress to undermine the president's ability to permanently protect special places like Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands, or Berryessa Snow Mountain. These attempts are out of step with public opinion, and attempt to limit one of our nation's most valuable conservation tools – the Antiquities Act.

Permanently protecting Berryessa Snow Mountain is of course good for the local communities, but I think it will also benefit anyone who is able to come sample our piece of the outdoor wonder California is known for. The door, after all, is always open.

Linda Seifert is chairwoman of the Solano County Board of Supervisors. This column was endorsed as well by Yolo County Supervisor Don Saylor and Lake County Supervisor Denise Rushing.

LAKE COUNTY Record-Bee

OPINION COLUMN: Window on the Lake: Kick-starting the economy

By Jim Steele -- 04/01/2014

Lake County's special uniqueness among the other 57 counties is its ecologically unique, warm water natural lake. We are also isolated from major transportation routes and have a rugged picturesque and geologically active landscape such as Mount Konocti. This is coupled with genuine old west towns, museums and beautiful agri-tourism venues all in close proximity to major population areas. How can all of this help our local economies?

We have many economic engines but promoting a destination tourist economy is a natural for local business. Much of the needed infrastructure is in place with trails, parks, and natural wonders. Wouldn't it be nice to have visitors' spending money here on vacation and returning home as they do in the Sierra Nevada playground? With more stores, our own shopping experience would also improve.

Back in the day, stage coaches arrived with customers for the hot springs and camps. But today, the county is preparing and promoting differently than in the past to make the new activities work.

Major population centers such as the Bay Area and Sacramento are just a short drive compared to the long haul up the mountains. With the proposed Berryessa-Snow Mountain Conservation Area we will be positioned as the jumping off place to an outdoor recreation area other than the Sierra Nevada.

An important step is linking county events by supplying the camping, ORV, horse riding, wine tasting, boating and fishing venues with destination information to the other. When out of county vacationers plan their promoted event for the day or week, they can have a complete map and schedule. No time this trip? Then come again and experience it all.

Some new thinking could add to our diversity of experience with a museum in old Upper Lake, particularly with Native American tribes telling their story. Holiday Harbor could be dredged and used to promote a destination sailing/training venue. More canoe launch points are needed to take advantage of a quiet on the water experience, or maybe even a boardwalk.

Many of Lake County's interesting features are now secrets that need to be told where they occur. Robust informational boards can help create an understanding of our special geology, lake, parks, places of history and provide directions to businesses. The County's new trails map program might also include a motor trip around the county to each historic area as well as the back country. The planning for each town's special events coordinated with the County can be carefully timed to the lake's best conditions of the year (non-algae bloom).

For business it's location, location, location, for a county its promotion, promotion, promotion, but of course event driven and tuned to each market. Hikers, bikers and riders are all people with different interests and outlook. For example, my old trail riding horse hauling relatives even speak a different language than heard on the bike trails and would come for a different reason.

Yes, the traffic will be worse on some weekends. Smile and think of it as cars traveling to patronize that new outfitter store or the antiques dealer in one of our old west towns. Yes, there could be more callouts for the Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team. Think of that as helping out a visiting friend. Yes, we have to fix the lake and upper watershed to eliminate the summer time stink. Think of that as something we want to do for ourselves anyway. We can all get behind this vacation driven economic engine.

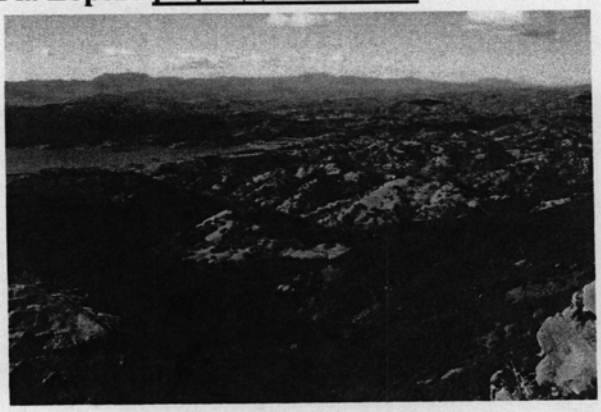
Looking to the past to find our future could be the way to go for a better tomorrow.

Jim Steele is a Retired Cal Fish and Game scientist, registered professional forester, part-time consultant and a full-time Lake County resident-volunteer.

http://www.record-bee.com/readersviews/ci_25466687/opinion-column-window-lake-kick-starting-economy

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Editorials
Pia Lopez / plopez@sacbee.com



The view from Berryessa Peak. The 100-mile stretch from Lake Berryessa to Snow Mountain has been proposed for National Conservation Area Status.

Editorial: Nudge Congress to act on public lands bills

By the Editorial Board
Published: Saturday, Mar. 29, 2014

Until earlier this month, Congress hadn't acted to protect a single new acre of public land as a national park, national conservation area or wilderness area since 2009.

This congressional failure is not for lack of opportunity. A report by the advocacy groups Center for American Progress and Center for Western Priorities highlights 10 high-profile conservation bills, including two on federal public lands in California, that have languished despite strong backing at the local level and from members of Congress.

Following President Barack Obama's March 11 proclamation adding the 1,660-acre Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands along the Mendocino coast to the offshore California Coastal National Monument, this report should give a nudge to Congress – and a list to the president for action if Congress fails to act.

Under the landmark Antiquities Act, passed by Congress and signed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, presidents by proclamation can give enhanced protections to existing public lands owned by the federal government. They have used that authority to create new national monuments and enlarge existing ones.

Among the 10 places highlighted in the report are our own Berryessa Snow Mountain and, further south, the Mojave Desert in Southern California. If Congress won't act, the president should.

Led by Rep. Mike Thompson and Sen. Barbara Boxer, 11 members of California's congressional delegation are sponsoring legislation to get National Conservation Area status for the federal lands in the 100-mile stretch from Lake Berryessa to 7,000-foot Snow Mountain, including the Cedar Roughs, Cache Creek and Snow Mountain wilderness areas.

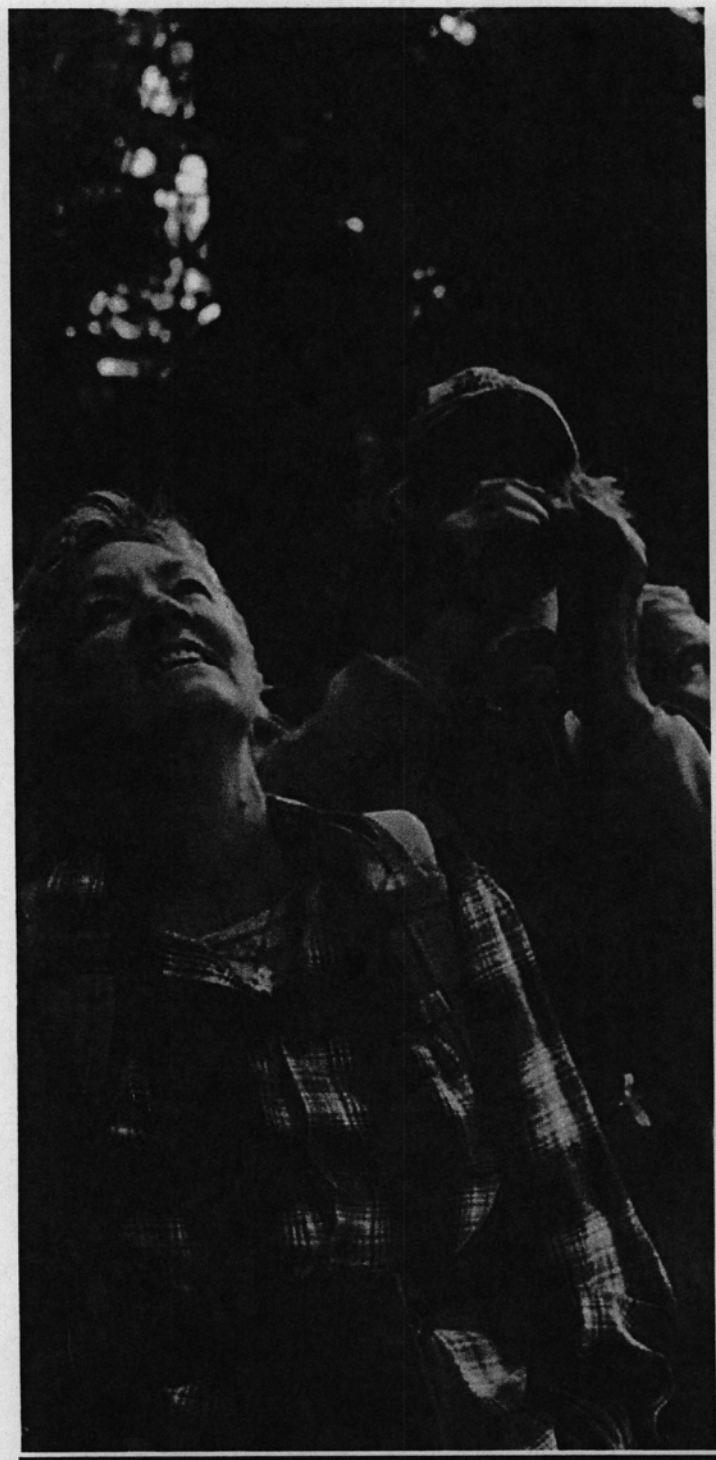
The gateway communities see tremendous potential in national designation, and the bill is widely supported by more than 200 businesses, local conservationists and recreation groups, like the Blue Ribbon Coalition and the International Mountain Bike Association. Yet it hasn't come to the floor of either the House or Senate for a vote.

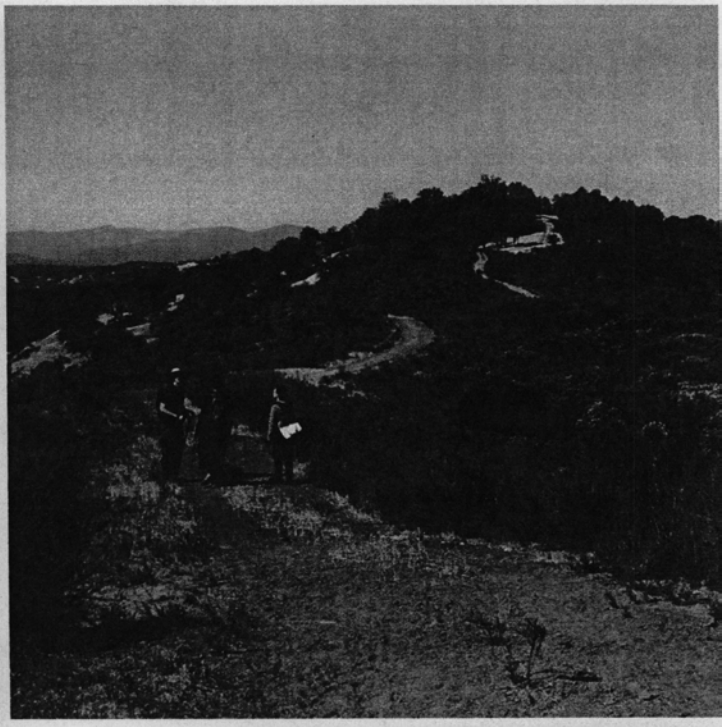
Then there is Sen. Dianne Feinstein's California Desert Protection Act, which has been on the table for five years. In the growing area northeast of Los Angeles, it would create two new national monuments – the Mojave Trails and the Sand to Snow National Monuments – connecting with the Joshua Tree and Death Valley national parks and the Mojave National Preserve that draw visitors to see wildflowers, bighorn sheep and 100-year-old desert tortoises.

This bill, too, has broad support from more than 100 cities, Indian tribes, businesses and community groups. Yet it hasn't moved.

The report highlights congressional "dysfunction and partisanship" as the culprit. But as with Point Arena-Stornetta, if Congress fails to act, the president should. One way or another, 2014 should be the time to catch up on a public lands legacy.

Read more here: http://www.sacbee.com/2014/03/29/6277331/editorial-nudge-congress-to-act.html#storylink=cpy





607 North Street, Woodland, CA, 95695
(530) 350-2599 info@berryessasnowmountain.org
www.berryessasnowmountain.org
Facebook.com/BerryessaSnowMountain