

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Ethan [ethanfnp@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 02, 2014 7:00 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System; vlcampbell@blm.gov; Peter DeFazio Congressman; Whelan Dan; Wyden Chada (Wyden)
Subject: Comment Regarding DRECP
Categories: Ready to Docket



Hello,

This Email is "a comment" is regarding the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. The Emerald Trail Riders Association, Inc. (ETRA) is a non-profit motorcycle club based in Eugene, Oregon. We have about 100 members who travel all over the United States (US) and beyond, camping and motorcycling. We are opposed to closures of public land to off-highway motorcycle riding and camping. We have witnessed the rise of the windmills around Jawbone Canyon and Ridgecrest, California; and rise of solar farms near Primm, Nevada; El Centro and Blythe, California.

While finding solutions to sustainable, safe electricity production is paramount to the future of our United States, we feel the "solar farms" being erected in the open desert is the WRONG approach. The capture of solar energy should be on the rooftops of the endusers of the electricity, businesses and residential buildings. The billions of dollars spent on developing the open desert into solar farms could be directed towards mounting solar panels on the empty roofs of the millions of homes in the southern US. Private homeowners will be less likely to abandon their solar investment, like the ill-fated Palen Solar Electric Generating System in the Cuckwalla Valley. Homes and neighborhoods have already "developed" the open desert, investment money should promote utilizing those empty rooftops. Solar electricity production in the desert creates a loss of the desert environment for recreation and adds impact to the environment. Impact to the desert comes with the development of the project and continues by maintenance personnel and equipment being out at the facility. The network required to transport the produced electricity to the endusers creates losses through poor conductivity and further scars the environment.

Please consider directing all future public money to developing rooftop solar energy systems rather than erecting solar farms in the open desert.

Thank you for your attention.
Emerald Trail Riders Association, Inc.
Eugene, Oregon.