



## Public Comment Form



## Lower Sonoran and Sonoran Desert National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS)

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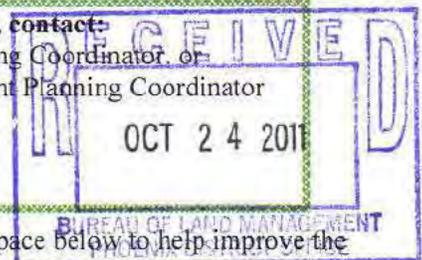
Name:	Jim Vaaler
Organization/Agency (if applicable):	Grand Canyon Chapter of The Sierra Club
Mailing Address:	[REDACTED]
City/State/Zip:	[REDACTED]
Email Address:	[REDACTED]

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**For more information, contact:**  
 Penny Foreman, Planning Coordinator or  
 Matt Magaletti, Assistant Planning Coordinator  
 623-580-5500



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Why are Wildlife movement corridors not designated as ACECs. The WMC that connects the Sierra Estrella Wilderness Area to the SDNM is the most critical WMC in the Decision Area. Innovative ways need to be utilized to make sure this WMC retains its viability. Your future desired conditions for this WMC should be to preclude uses that would render it more difficult for wildlife to use. You should close the road between the Sierra Estrella Wilderness Area and Seven Mile Mountain and make Seven Mile Mountain a part of the Sierra Estrella Wilderness. The rest of the area west of Seven Mile Mountain to the SDNM should be designated as an ACEC.



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**ePlanning Website at:**

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Cattle cannot be "used as tools" to improve the land because they are not at all adapted to desert eco-systems. Cattle require a large investment in infrastructure in the form of fences and gates, stock ponds, and wells in order to exist upon the land. This is because cattle are not efficient users of water as evidenced by their very large & very wet piles of manure. That is why they are non-useful to the Sonoran Desert.



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It is amazing to learn that permittees on BLM lands are not subject to (apparently) any terms and conditions. There is no report required of the permittees as to the number of cattle that they have on the land?? The Forest Service does a much better job with grazing and the BLM could probably learn something from the Forest Service. That being said the Forest Service is not the ~~child~~ poster child for good grazing practices.



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When you are calculating a percentage decrease in cows upon the land, this calculation ~~must~~ needs to be based on actual numbers, not on permitted numbers. These numbers are usually not the same. Actual numbers are almost always significantly lower than permitted numbers.

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OCT 24 2011

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The noise generated by recreational shooting is inappropriate in the SDNM. There is also a safety issue associated with recreational shooting as there are resource users walking around in all parts of the SDNM. Recreational target shooting threatens the objects listed in The Monument proclamation. User created shooting galleries ~~are~~ that have been utilized over a long period of time are visible from a long way off because the desert varnish and outer surface of the rocks have been removed, generally leaving an area that is lighter in color and noticeably devoid of vegetation.

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Mailing Address:	[REDACTED]
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Email Address:	[REDACTED]

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The Fred J. Weiler Green Belt BCA needs to be managed in a way such that there is a Lead agency running the show. It is apparent that there is serious agency disarray when it comes to the management of this area. One of the problems with much of this area is the high levels of Toxaphene in the soil and water. There may also be PBT in this area also. Is there a way for all these agencies who have a hand in the management of this area to work in concert to eliminate this problem?







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The Face Mountain wilderness characteristic should not be reduced in size to accommodate utility scale solar installations. Also, there have been a number of routes designated in this wilderness characteristic area that appear to follow desert washes. Some of these routes are dead end routes and others are redundant in nature. There should be only one designated route between Face Mountain and Yellow Mountain Butte wilderness characteristic areas.

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ALL motorized, non-motorized and mechanical vehicles, including wheeled game carriers, should be prohibited in all wilderness characteristic areas and estizan proposed wilderness characteristic areas. Vehicle routes within wilderness characteristic areas need to be designated as closed and this must be reflected in subsequent travel management plans.







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The Yellow Medicine Butte wilderness characteristic area needs to be split into two areas. There is a roaded corridor that bisects this area. The new area created could be called the Dixie Peak area of wilderness characteristics.



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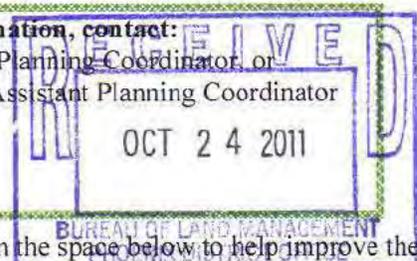
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There are areas in the Painted Rock Mountains and the Sentinel Plain north of Interstate 8 that are large enough (over 5000 acres) to be considered as areas that contain wilderness characteristics. Sentinel Peak itself, plus the Gila River Canyon are 2 areas in the Sentinel plain that need to be looked at. There is an existing route that bisects the Painted Rock Mountains. Both areas north & south of this existing route may contain areas over 5,000 acres & thus qualify as areas containing wilderness characteristics.