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BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

BLM Phoenix District Office
Attn: LS SDNM RMP
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Dear Sirs:

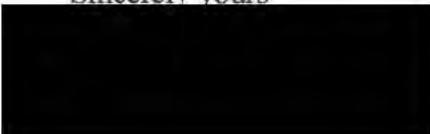
I am a retired professor of biology who taught at ASU for over 35 years. I have written about the SDNM in my most recent book, *When the Rains Come* (University of Arizona Press). I have taken many hikes in the SDNM as well as monitoring the Ladron petroglyph site for the BLM in your site steward program. I have personally removed many large garbage bags of trash from the Ladron site as well. I have seen first hand the damage done to the Monument by offroad vehicles, target shooters, and illegal people- and drug-smugglers. I say all this to establish that I have considerable experience with the area and great respect for the SDNM. I believe that this superb area needs all the protection you can provide.

With respect to the RMP, I strongly encourage the BLM to resist calls from the NRA and their supporters to permit target shooting in the Monument. The past record of irresponsible behavior by target shooters, who invariably leave their targets and other trash behind, is clear. They should be banned from public lands everywhere especially the SDNM.

In addition, I urge the BLM to expand the area from which offroad vehicles are to be excluded. Once again, the past record of desert destruction by offroaders is clear. I applauded the BLM's decision to close substantial parts of the northern SDNM to vehicular traffic of all sorts. The closed areas have not recovered and probably will never do so in my lifetime but still the damage done by irresponsible offroad users has ended in the fenced off regions. If you permit offroad users to enter any parts of the SDNM, there will be a substantial number who will leave established roadways and cut across the desert doing extreme damage in the process. The ONLY way to deal with the destructive minority is to close areas to the use by this community of "recreational" users.

Again, I thank the BLM for taking their responsibilities for wilderness protection seriously and for trying to restrict the use of the SDNM by irresponsible parties. Do not back down on the target shooters and please do even more to protect the area from offroad traffic. Future generations of responsible users will thank you.

Sincerely yours





PHOENIX AZ 850
FIRST CLASS 51



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