

October 30, 2011

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Bureau of Land Management
Phoenix District Office
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027

To Whom It May Concern:

I was in attendance at the BLM meeting held in Buckeye, Arizona on the 25th of October, all of the staff present were very friendly, professional and knowledgeable. Of specific importance to me are the proposed restrictions for recreational target shooters in the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

In the analysis conducted regarding the use of land for recreational target shooting it is proposed that out of the 486,400 acres which make up the Sonoran Desert National Monument, that only a total of 191 acres would be suitable for target shooting. I find that to be a very disproportionate use of land which discriminates against the recreational target shooter. The analysis further states that recreational target shooters are responsible for littering the area with trash, endangering the natural wildlife habitat and damaging the Palo Verde-mixed cacti vegetation community, however I would have to assume that the use of motorized dirt bikes and "dune-buggies" that other enthusiasts use for recreation in the Sonoran Desert National Monument create much more damage to the natural environment than target shooting, however I have not heard of any proposals to restrict the use of motorized vehicles in any part of the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

I think that the biggest factor causing damage and creating an unsafe environment in the Sonoran Desert National Monument, and one that the Federal Government does not want to address, is the use of the area by the "human smugglers" and the "drug traffickers." Those individuals that are here illegally and conducting illegal activity do not care about any damage that they cause to the

natural environment and it is well known that the Sonoran Desert National Monument is an area that is full of illegal activity. The area is so well known for illegal activity that some law abiding citizens do not want to recreate in that area for fear of running into "illegals" conducting illegal activity. Can we please get an in depth analysis by the BLM of the damage caused and the unsafe conditions created in the Sonoran Desert Nation Monument by the "illegal's" using the area for illegal activity?

I encourage you to re-think and to re-evaluate with an open mind, your proposals to restrict the use of land in the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational target shooters, in my mind I believe as though the BLM is being biased against target shooters simply because the current President of The United States is so anti-gun.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

