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PHOENIX, ARIZONA

November 12, 2011

BLM Lower Sonoran Desert Field Office
BLM LS-SDNM RMP
21605 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix AZ 85027

Dear Management Planners:

In your latest management plan for the Lower Sonoran Desert, in Volume 2, Chapter 4, Page 380, an ATV recreation area is proposed near the town of Ajo. I am strongly opposed to this.

I have never known an ATVer who didn't want to ride further "off road" than the previous vehicle. The thrill is breaking new ground, riding where no one else has gone before, exploring where you've never been. Surround this desire with a fragile desert habitat that, once injured, takes thousands of years to heal, and there's no question which one will lose.

The tract in question near Ajo has never been widely known or publicized. It was created illegally, **kept a secret**, and used by a few locals trying to stay under the radar of the BLM. Your Plan proposes legitimizing that tract, expanding it and announcing its existence to the world. This is crazy. How could one possibly protect or defend the surrounding desert from the increased traffic of ORVers? How could this **preserve** the desert for future generations?

This proposal will make Ajo a destination for off-road riders who have currently never even heard of Ajo. The very act of legitimizing a previously illegitimate track will attract more ATVers to Ajo than the BLM can police or control. Why not set aside an ATV area in Glamis or Quartzite or Welton—places that have already lost their fight to off-road vehicles?

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,





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