

From: Lower Sonoran RMP
Subject: FW: LSDM potential closure

Importance: High

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 11:28:29 AM
 To: BLM_AZ_LSFO_SDNM_RMP
 Subject: LSDM potential closure
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 Auto forwarded by a Rule
 Dear Ms. Garber ,

I am commenting today on the concerns of the BLM and the proposed closure of the "LSDM" to shooting and OHV use. I am trying to be brief, level-headed and positive-thinking. While I appreciate your efforts to protect the land just as I do, I do not, however, agree with your proposed plans. The LEAST RESTRICTIVE of those is still, in my opinion, too restrictive.

Several weeks ago, I attended your public forum meeting to inform us of your intentions and your efforts thus far. While I applaud your efforts, I was horrified, to say the least. Yet again, I will not be able to use MY public lands for MY pleasure and recreation because it is going to be taken away from me by my government because "they" feel the desert is being abused by shooters and OHV'ers, specifically. In this meeting, it was mentioned by several in the crowd that MOST of the trash that was pictured in your presentation was from the ILLEGALS and the DRUG-TRAFFICKERS and was very obviously so. I have NEVER seen trash like this at a shooting area or on OHV trails - NEVER. As an avid and RESPONSIBLE shooter and OHVer, my trash goes in and out with me, just as the responsible hikers, picnickers, horse-back riders, campers, bird watchers, OHV'ers, etc. However, THEIR ability to use the desert is not being jeopardized, ONLY MINE!! To take away my desert from me just because a few bad apples are out there is the same as taking cars off the road because of a few drunk drivers. It is absurd, at best. There MUST be another way to handle such things.

OHV'ing was taken away from us at Four Peaks, so we can't ride there anymore. Now shooting and OHV'ing is going to be taken away largely across the entire state! Quite honestly, the shooters are not going to go away and stop shooting or hunting and only go to designated shooting ranges like Rio Salado and Ben Avery, etc. I believe this action is only going to make it MORE dangerous for the humans, not the cactus, because the fewer places there are to shoot on public lands then the more people are drawn to fewer and fewer areas and it becomes more likely that someone is going to get shot by accident, simply due to OVERCROWDING because the government took away my public lands to do so!! When I go fishing or hunting, if I witness someone breaking the law I can turn them in and get a reward from the Game and Fish Department. Why not transition this program over to our deserts and let US report the bad guys and take it from there? You could post signs stating so at the entrances to these areas you are so concerned about. I have been shooting at my favorite spot in "LSDM" for the better part of 13 years. I have NEVER had a problem with ATV'ers or hikers or OHV'ers, or to say the least OTHER SHOOTERS! We are generally more responsible than the average citizen because we know the dangers of being IRRESPONSIBLE have dire consequences! We always "pack it in and pack it out."

Instilling more laws and more severe laws on those who already abide by the law simply makes no sense to me. The laws are broken by those that will do it anyway, regardless of the consequences. Bad guys will always be bad guys and do bad things, whether there is a law or not. The laws only restrict those willing to abide by it and afford me no protection from those that will continue to break it. It is like increasing my insurance premiums to cover those that refuse to buy it in the first place. Why am I paying more because they are breaking the law?

I implore you to reconsider your actions and let the desert be the desert. Let me use my public land the way I want to, in the same responsible manner in which I always have. Let me help you to police it better by instilling an "Operation Game Thief-like" program. I personally will do just about anything to help keep the desert just the way it is, as would all of my friends. Please just ask and give myself and my friends suggestions to make things better so that we can keep our shooting spots safe and free from overcrowding and not lose them all together!! PLEASE!!

Thank you kindly for your time and attention. Please have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday :)

Sincerely yours,