

From: Lower Sonoran RMP
Subject: Comment: Sonoran Desert Draft Resource Management Plan

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Friday, November 25, 2011 5:59:13 PM
 To: BLM_AZ_LSFO_SDNM_RMP
 Subject: Comment: Sonoran Desert Draft Resource Management Plan
 Auto forwarded by a Rule
 Greetings:

Upon careful consideration (and reading) of the Sonoran Desert Draft Resource Management Plan, I would like to offer the following comments:

I Participation in Planning Process

For the past fifteen years, I've participate in public Planning processes for Pinal County (e.g. Town Hall: Environment & Growth; Comprehensive Plan; Open Space & Trails Master Plan; Transportation Planning, etc.). In addition, I've volunteered my time and am currently volunteering my time on planning committees in Pinal County.

II Guide to Future Land Management & Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Encroachment of urban development on our public lands effect Arizona's natural and cultural resources, wildlife and their habitats. Balancing areas of critical environmental concern with the recreational management of our public lands are the focus of my comments.

A. Pinal County Comprehensive Plan & Open Space & Trails Master Plan

Upon viewing the alternatives as presented in your proposed draft, I was concerned with the lack of acknowledgement and connectivity with the existing plans from the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan, Pinal County's Open Space & Trails Master Plan and the City of Maricopa's Parks, Trails & Open Space Master Plan - specifically in Western Pinal County. The areas for which your draft management plan affect Pinal County's plans, relate to: 1) Travel Management (motorized vs non-motorized vehicle), 2) Recreational Management, and 3) Lands Suitable for Disposal. A couple of examples pertain to the planned Regional Park in western Pinal County and a planned non-motorized vehicle trail documented in all three of the aforementioned Pinal County plans. Consequently, that area could be suitable for disposal and leased for recreational management.

B. Restricting Public Access & Activities

The justification of restricting public access and recreational activities (shooting, off-road vehicles, etc.) are noted. Upon viewing the alternatives listed, my concern has to do with the enforcement of these restrictions. I encourage alternatives given for areas in which these activities can be allowed or directed. The success of future land management in areas of critical environmental concern is reliant on a plan that demonstrates convenient options for preferred alternate areas for the specific recreational activity.

For questions or clarifications of my comments, please call or e-mail me.

Thank you,

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