

LS_SDNM_RMP_1-18763

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In accurate statement on growth

Comment Number: 1

Cited Content: Unprecedented regional population growth and urban expansion into surrounding public lands is increasing demand for access to and use of public lands and resources. Growth contributes to dramatic increases in and demands for commodities, utilities, renewable energy, communication, transportation, and infrastructure on public lands.

Cited Section ID: Executive Summary

Comment Title: In accurate statement on growth

Comment:

Much of the area in question has been in a decline in population in the last several years which reduces the need for these resources listed.

Vague statement with no specifics

Comment Number: 2

Cited Content: Emerging recreational activities, some based on recent technologies, has yielded new recreational equipment and increased use of public lands.

Cited Section ID: Executive Summary

Comment Title: Vague statement with no specifics

Issue: 10756

Comment:

This statement is unsupported by any facts or research and should not be considered in any decision unless supporting documentation is added.

inaccurate statement

Comment Number: 3

Cited Content: Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Arizona with respect to fish and wildlife management.

Cited Section ID: Appendix A Sonoran Desert National Monument Presidential Procla

Comment Title: inaccurate statement

Issue: 10756

Comment:

The simple fact of closing all areas to OHV travel does in fact reduce the ability for Arizona's Game and Fish Department to manage wildlife effectively in these restricted areas due to there inaccessibility.

Devastating effect on out door recreation

Comment Number: 4

Cited Content: Existing routes that will no longer be maintained and not longer be declared a route. Routes identified as Level 0 are identified for removal from the Transportation System entirely.

Cited Section ID: Appendix U Definition of Transportation Asset Type, Functional

Comment Title: Devastating effect on out door recreation

Comment:

There are many existing maintained routes in the proposed area that are utilized by many thousands of outdoor enthusiasts, campers ,hunters, hikers and OHV users all enjoying the same resources. By closing all existing routes this reduces most of these activities to almost nothing. I have spent hundreds of hours in this area listed using OHV transportation on existing roads and trails. Many outdoorsmen rely on these remote access roads to hunt, camp and hike.The only thing closing an entire region to motorized travel does is satisfy few who only use and see the area in passing on major public transportation corridors. This in turn penalizes those of us who utilize the whole recreation area for our recreation needs.

Prohibited use of Motrized Vehicle while hunting

Comment Number: 5

Cited Content: Hunters may not use motorized vehicles of any type to retrieve injured or killed animals, including hunters with Challenged Hunter Access/Mobility Permits. Outside of wilderness areas, the use of wheeled game carts is allowed and recommended.

Cited Section ID: H.2.4 Recreation

Comment Title: Prohibited use of Motrized Vehicle while hunting

Issue: 10756

Comment:

This restriction is discriminatory in its authority. It prohibits the disabled/challenged from effectively hunting in these areas by themselves due to the inability to access the the area to retrieve their animal.The areas listed have been managed effectively by AZ Game and Fish. By limiting access into these areas for hunting, wildlife management will also be greatly reduced because of the access limitations/restrictions.

OHV routes to be considered

Comment Number: 6

Cited Content: Communities, user groups, and agencies can bring non-motorized trail or motorized route proposals forward for management attention

Cited Section ID: H.2.5 Travel Management

Comment Title: OHV routes to be considered

Issue: 10758

Comment:

Much of what I have read in this proposal is to close most of, if not all of the routes in the proposed areas. This statement does not appear accurate due to prohibited Motorized vehicle travel in wilderness areas. Much work is put into non-motorized vehicle trails in these areas and little if no effort is taken on Motorized vehicle access. This is viewed as a discriminatory act towards motorized and OHV travel in the areas proposed which are already accessible in these manners.

existing trails and roads.

Comment Number: 7

Cited Content: Route or area closures or mitigation will be enacted where OHV or special vehicle use is determined to be inconsistent with established recreational management objectives, and/or such use is causing harm to natural or cultural resources.

Cited Section ID: H.2.5 Travel Management

Comment Title: existing trails and roads.

Issue: 10758

Comment:

Many existing trails and roads already exist in the proposed areas and should remain accessible for the people who use motorized vehicle to access these areas already. I am not proposing we create new roads or trails to manage, just continue to have access to what little we have in these areas. If closed to this type of travel, I along with many others will have to travel great distances to enjoy our OHV and motorized travel since the area we primarily use will now be closed. Unfortunately in this economy that is not possible due to the costs of travel. I also wonder in this economy what increased public funding to facilitate this change is needed. If significant I can not see how it is justified to make the change and manage this proposal.

Target shooting sites

Comment Number: 8

Cited Content: This analysis was undertaken to ascertain the suitability of recreational target shooting in Arizona's Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM). Increased use of public lands for recreational target shooting, the resultant impacts to resources from this activity, and concerns for visitor safety have raised awareness of management issues related to target shooting. The analysis was conducted in two parts: 1) a geographic information system (GIS) analysis was conducted to find areas with significant presence of Monument objects and high natural or cultural resource sensitivity, and to locate areas where the natural slope of the terrain may be conducive to safe target shooting; and 2) field visits to all areas not excluded from target

shooting by the GIS analysis were made, whereby significant presence of Monument objects and high natural and/or cultural resource sensitivity, visitor safety and experience, and site accessibility were assessed. The GIS analysis indicated that approximately 389,989 acres, or 80 percent, of the SDNM could be adversely impacted by recreational target shooting and is unsuitable for such activity. The GIS analysis also indicated that of the remaining 96,411 acres, or 20 percent, of the SDNM, eight sites appear to have sufficient slope to allow safe target shooting. Field visits to these eight sites indicate that one 84-acre area may be highly suitable for target shooting and one area totaling approximately 107 acres may be moderately suitable for target shooting. The remaining six sites are unsuitable due to concerns for visitor safety, potential impacts to Monument objects, or inaccessibility by motor vehicles.

Cited Section ID: G.1 Summary

Comment Title: Target shooting sites

Issue: 10756

Comment:

Many of the sites indicated in this proposal that are proposed to be included in designation do not encompass or add up to large amounts of acreage but the proposal is for extremely large amounts of acreage which appear to be greedy to facilitate the wants of those making the proposal. Much of this proposed area is not affected by these issues. It would appear to the rational person to manage those areas in question other than to close a whole region. This change only sends these issues to other areas and does not help manage the issues at hand. Unfortunately we don't live in a perfect world but I can see as many objections to this proposal as claimed benefits to it.