

Information on Lands & Interests in Land Conveyed to Kaiser

Summary: The land and interests in land conveyed to Kaiser in the Eagle Mountain Land Exchange consists of 3,481 acres of public land and the federal reversionary interest in 460 acres previously conveyed to Kaiser in 1955 (known as the Eagle Mountain Townsite).

The public lands conveyed to Kaiser and the Eagle Mountain Townsite are shown on a separate map along with other private lands owned by Kaiser.

INFORMATION ON 3,481 ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND CONVEYED TO KAISER.

Appraised value for exchange: approx. \$77/acre. Current value: unknown.

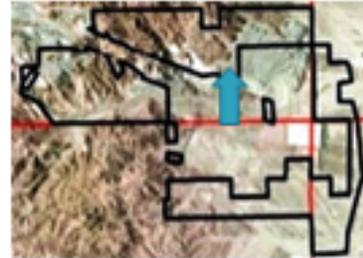
Land Use Plan Designations

- The public lands in the vicinity are identified for intensive and moderate use and available for disposal by exchange under BLM's 1980 California Desert Conservation Area Plan as amended

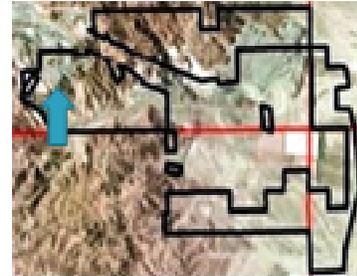
Habitat value and species occurrence :

- Species information is shown on a separate map from the 1997 EIS.
- The lands conveyed to Kaiser are not designated as critical desert tortoise habitat.
- Surveys completed in April and May of 1996 did not find desert tortoises, although burrows and scat was found on a small area of the eastern portion of the lands and areas immediately to the east are known to be occupied habitat.
- Desert bighorn sheep are known to range throughout the Eagle Mountains, and use most of the lands conveyed to Kaiser, as well as Kaiser's private lands including portions of the Eagle Mountain Mine. Undisturbed areas on the northern portion of the lands conveyed to Kaiser offer escape terrain/habitat for sheep.
- Golden Eagles nest and forage throughout the surrounding Eagle Mountains. Nests in the vicinity of the lands conveyed to Kaiser have been found approx. 3 miles to the west and 3 miles to the south.
- Approx. 30-40% of the land conveyed to Kaiser has been heavily impacted by prior mining activity and infrastructure (roads, power lines, pipelines which supported mining), effectively reducing habitat value for wildlife on approx. 1,300 acres.
- The eastern edge of Eagle Mountain Mine area contains impoundment basins filled with fine mine tailings resulting from milling operations. Lands around the 4 open pits contain deposits of mine tailing excavated from the deep open pits.
- Mining related infrastructure (roads, powerlines, pipelines etc.) is also found across a combination of private lands owned by Kaiser, including the lands conveyed to Kaiser in the 1999 exchange.

Photos from the photo point above the blue arrow to the right, show both the undisturbed area and tailings piles on the northern lands conveyed to Kaiser.



Photos from photo point to the right show roads, powerlines and tailings piles on the western portion of lands conveyed to Kaiser:



THE FEDERAL REVERSIONARY INTEREST IN THE EAGLE MOUNTAIN TOWNSITE CONVEYED TO KAISER.

Acres: 460 acres

Appraised value for exchange: Approx \$106/acre (valued as vacant land)

Current value: Unknown

History of Land Uses

- These lands were originally public domain lands and became part of Joshua Tree National Monument (JTNM) when the Monument was designated in 1936.
- The Townsite lands were removed from the JTNM in 1950, when Congress passed Public Law 81-837 to reduce and revise the boundary to JTNM.
- August 9, 1955: The U. S. conveyed 460 acres known as the Eagle Mountain Townsite to Kaiser to be used to support the Eagle Mountain Mine.

- The Townsite lands were originally used for housing for mine workers and mine support.
- Currently the Townsite provides housing for a small number of mine employees.
- A small area in the Townsite was leased for private prison facility, now closed.
- Currently partially occupied by an operating elementary school, including parking, classrooms and playgrounds.

Eagle Mountain Townsite

Many buildings within the townsite are deteriorated, and may contain hazardous materials that are expensive to remediate



Other facilities on the Eagle Mountain Townsite include an operating school and a closed prison facility.



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