

August 6, 2003

Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District Office  
Attn: West Mojave Route Designation Project  
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, Ca. 92553

Dear Sir/Madam:

Upon review and discussion of the recently released West Mojave Draft Plan Amendment/Habitat Conservation Plan, I would like to submit the following comments and suggestions:

- The BLM has admitted that this is most extensive habitat conservation plan ever developed. I would request that additional public meetings be held in the L.A. basin where most of the users of the CDCA reside. In addition, I would also like to see an extension of the comment period to allow for more time to review the document.
- I think it is critical to complete a survey of the existing routes. The BLM has relied on the 1985-87 survey for its inventory of routes in 11 of the 21 sub regions described in the plan. The 85-87 survey contains no single track trails in the 11 sub regions. Just because BLM fails to list a trail does not mean it does not exist!
- I would also request the inclusion of the "C" routes surrounding the Spangler Open Area. The closure of these routes was to be *temporary*.
- The Proposed Action, Alternative A, includes the Johnson to Parker, and Johnson to Stoddard race corridors. It also states that no races will be permitted outside of the open areas. The plan must include specific language assuring that races will be permitted to use these corridors.
- I feel very strongly in the reinstatement of the Barstow to Vegas corridor. There have been organizations that have submitted a workable course map each year along with their permit application.
- All routes listed as open in the route inventory should be programmatically approved for dual sport and other noncompetitive events.
- The number and acreage of the proposed DWMA's is excessive. The proposed tortoise headstart area near Fremont Peak is in an area more suited for recreation as the habitat has been previously impacted by motorized recreation.
- All existing routes should be considered open unless marked closed.

Please include these comments as part of the public record. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
CHARLES B BROWN  
7778 TERRACEWAY AVE  
SAN DIMAS CA 91773

cc Bill Howell

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Sincerely,

*Horace J. Veba*  
 HORACE J. VEBE  
 587 W. APOLLO ST.  
 BRECA CA 92821

cc Bill Howell

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Sincerely,



Lee Turrini

28522 Cedar Ridge Rd

Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

cc Bill Howell

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Sincerely,



Scott R. Shamer

---

cc Bill Howell

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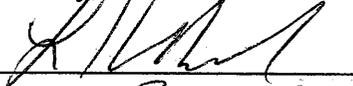
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Sincerely,

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 8911 Boson Circle  
 Hemet, Oregon, CA 97644

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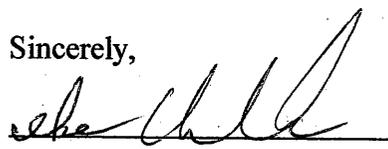
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Ike Urbanik  
27451 Echo Canyon Ct  
Corona CA 92883

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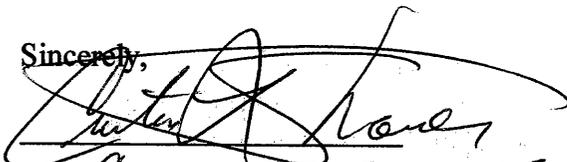
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CURTIS L. SHANIER.

cc Bill Howell

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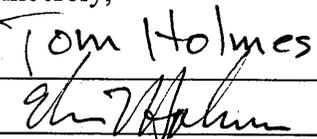
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Sincerely,

Tom Holmes  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

August 13, 2003

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22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, Ca. 92553

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- The Proposed Action, Alternative A, includes the Johnson to Parker, and Johnson to Stoddard race corridors. It also states that no races will be permitted outside of the open areas. The plan must include specific language assuring that races will be permitted to use these corridors.
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Sincerely,  
  
Arthur B Jensen

4673 Via La Primavera  
Yorba Linda CA 92886



Keith Axelson  
Sageland Ranch

August 11, 2003

Post Office Box 967  
Weldon CA 93283

760 371 6116

William Haigh  
West Mojave Plan  
Bureau of Land Management  
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Comments on: Draft Environmental Impact Report and Statement  
for the West Mojave Plan--2003

Dear William Haigh.

Because the West Mojave Plan area is so extensive--over 9 million acres--my comments deal only with the Jawbone-Butterbredt Area of Critical Environmental Concern--over 187,000 acres--an area I have known since the late 1950s.

The Jawbone-Butterbredt ACEC harbors two ORV Open Areas which bear a perpetual negative impact upon 1) the geology of this area, i.e. earth compaction and erosion; 2) resident and migratory wildlife (esp. birds) with its habitat interference and destruction; and 3) permanent damage to the aesthetic beauty of the desertscape. This third impact characterization may seem piddling to some but it is without a doubt the primary reason we all seek the solitude (and use) of the Mojave Desert. The above-mentioned open areas will always be a controversial and adversarial use of the Mojave Desert.

However, there are several problem areas within this ACEC which can and should be addressed more aggressively by the BLM. Butterbredt Canyon (T29S, R35E/R36E: Pinyon Mtn., Dove Spring 7.5) still remains one of our last pristine desert wildlife areas and has all the elements to compose a Nature Preserve. It is unique in the fact that only one designated road/trail crosses this canyon north around Gold Peak (SC124). The only other designated road here is SC123--the Butterbredt Canyon Road itself. All other vehicle trails

are non-designated (illegal). These trails should be effectively closed and the land restored. This would be habitat conservation at its best.

The proposed Bendire's Thrasher Conservation Area extends into Butterbrecht Canyon over from Kelso Valley. This Conservation Area has at least three illegal vehicle trails running through it. These should be restored to nature after closure. (T29S, R35E/R36E: Sections 1,6,7,8,12,13,17,18,19, 20,29: Pinyon Mtn.7.5). Butterbrecht Canyon also contains Butterbrecht Spring--a Globally Important Bird Area nominated by the American Bird Conservancy. Many thousands of migratory birds have been documented here since the 1960s so the spring's importance and noteworthiness are unquestioned.

Hundreds of people visit here every year from throughout the world. The spring is fenced through a cooperative agreement with the landowner. However, due to the close proximity of the Butterbrecht Road (SC123) motorcycles use illegal trails to cross the canyon north and south (T29S, R36E: Sections 16,21,22,27,28,34,35: Dove Spring 7.5).

To the southeast, down canyon (about 1.5 miles from the spring) is another illegal trail running north and south which shortcuts between SC251 and SC276. For years the Bureau of Land Management has made no effort to close this trail which is only yards from another sensitive spring adjacent to the historic Mohawk Buddy Mine site. (T29S, R36E: Sections 34,35; T30S, R36E: Sections 2,3: Cinco 7.5). The Rudnick Common drift fence (a few yards WNW of this illegal trail in Butterbrecht Canyon) was washed out over five years ago. This fence opening invites motorcyclists to ride up and down Butterbrecht Canyon. This trail should be restored to nature and the fence repaired. (T29S, R36E: Sections 34, 35: Cinco 7.5). This same fence continues south about a mile towards SC251 then turns west. It is cut (or is down) in many places. This fence also continues northwest along a ridgeline for several miles towards Gold Peak and is cut or broken in over 15 places. A non-designated trail runs informally along the fence line. This fence should be repaired and the trail restored to nature. (T29S, R35E/R36E: Sections 1,5,6,7,8: Pinyon Mtn. 7.5; T29S, R36E: Sections 16, 21,22,26,27,34,35: Dove Spring 7.5).

The Dove Spring and Jawbone Canyon Open Areas are not delineated in any way on the ground with Entry or Exit signs. It would be beneficial to all users to place these signs

on the Jawbone Canyon Road and also on all designated trails entering and exiting these open areas. Perimeter open area boundary markers should have been placed years ago. The advantage is obvious.

North, west and east of Mayan Peak several illegal trails cross between SC103, SC123, SC124 and Kelso Valley Road. (T28S, R35E/R36E: Sections 14,15,22,23,24,25,26,27: Pinyon Mtn. 7.5). These trails conflict with the Pacific Crest Trail throughout the year. They run to the summit of Pinyon Mtn. and down the north slope and cross SC103 and proceed north. (T28S, R35E/R36E: Esp. Section 24 and due east). This whole area south of SC103 has been closed to vehicle use for over 20 years. The remainder of the Jawbone-Butterbredt ACEC is Limited Use--Designated trails only.

The foregoing comments and their proposed resolution can only benefit the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Western Mojave. The Jawbone-Butterbredt ACEC cannot take more hits from the non-caring public users. Closing more areas is not necessarily the best solution but more consistent enforcement of existing regulations would help conserve habitat that is under increasing pressure and threat. The Bureau of Land Management must apply its mandated regulations more effectively and efficiently. Shrinking desert open space is a real phenomenon.

Further comment concerns the impending LADWP wind farm about to materialize on mostly private land in pristine Pine Tree (Lone Tree) Canyon just south of the Jawbone-Butterbredt ACEC. In my opinion this development will have a severe impact upon Jawbone Canyon--let alone the effect on Pine Tree Canyon. The BLM is giving "temporary" access through Jawbone Canyon over public lands for the transportation of men, machines and materials for a commercial venture on private land. This access will surely affect habitat and everything that lives within this canyon. I strongly oppose this action.

Finally, I am not gratified with the manner in which the bureaucracy uses its vested power to condemn the animal species it deems culpable in its own scheme of things-- however lawful. Using birds as an example, the cowbird and wolfbird have nothing to do with the modifications in their habitat that has altered their population numbers or their behavior on the western Mojave Desert. However, note how these two birds suffer most of the blame and all of the consequences.

Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Keith Axelson".

Keith Axelson  
Naturalist

cc: Jean Garrett, President  
Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society

Robert M. Chipley, Director  
Important Bird Areas Program  
American Bird Conservancy

Date Aug. 16, 2003

Name Shelley Kuboda

Address 1625 El Caserio Ch.  
San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93401

Mr. Bill Haigh, Project Director  
West Mojave Plan  
Dept of Int. BLM  
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92550

Dear Mr. Haigh,

As a private landowner in the area covered by the proposed West Mojave Plan, I would like to offer the following comments.

Our desert lands in the El Mirage Valley are within the area included in the Habitat Conservation Plan aimed at protecting the desert tortoise, Mojave Ground Squirrel and a number of other rare plants and animals. Our lands lie within the proposed Desert Wildlife Management Area where surface disturbance will be held to 1% over the next 30 years. We realize that under the plan we will have to pay a five-to-one mitigation fee at the time of any development on our private lands. We further realize that no power corridors nor water districts or other civic improvements will be allowed under the plan.

Our desert lands have value now mainly as possible homesites to people who desire a rural setting in a quiet natural area and are willing to make the necessary sacrifices needed to live in a parched area with no available power or water.

After much study of the proposal and drawing on the many sources of information regarding the historical uses and management of the lands in our area, we conclude that the major threat both to the rare species and to our interests as landowners is the continued degradation of public and private lands by motorized recreational vehicle riders.

As a landowner I am concerned that unlicensed "green sticker" vehicles will continue to be allowed in my area. With the enactment of the El Mirage Plan in 1990, we were told that BLM would control the illegal proliferation of routes and the concomitant nuisance, safety hazards and environmental damage.

There are two main sources of the continued trail proliferation. One is the migration of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) riders north from the El Mirage OHV Park area. The other is the continued use of the Edwards Bowl area as an OHV staging area where riders unload their green sticker vehicles and, due to lack of adequate BLM enforcement presence, proceed to ride over all adjacent public and private lands with no regard to the posted rules.

The problem with the "green sticker" vehicles is that there is no way to document their illegal acts by photo or other forms of witnessing, because there are no identifying markings on the vehicles that can be seen from any distance..

I recommend that:

1. All lands in the El Mirage Valley DWMA be limited to street-legal vehicles only--Alternative D.

Date 8/18/2003

Name Donald S Beyer

Address P.O. Box 1941  
Novato CA 94948

Mr. Bill Haigh, Project Director  
West Mojave Plan  
Dept of Int. BLM  
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92550

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I recommend that:

1. All lands in the El Mirage Valley DWMA be limited to street-legal vehicles only--Alternative D.

2. Use the "Closed unless marked Open" policy of signing routes.
3. Closed routes need to be restored, signed as "closed" and patrolled by BLM law enforcement personnel.
4. If non-compliance with the closures cannot be eliminated over a reasonable time frame, a larger area must be closed by BLM to the type of vehicle generating the non-compliance.
5. No routes should be designated across private lands, including "de facto" routes that are Open on two sides of a private section without the permission of the owners.
6. Enforce the El Mirage Plan. Routes are improperly designated and signed into the "zone of influence" inviting motorized trespass into lands not available for riding under the El Mirage Plan.
7. Close the Edwards Bowl to motorized vehicles of all kinds. This area will never be rehabilitated without a complete respite from motorized use. It has above-average tortoise sign.
8. I support the No Action Alternative G that uses the route network designated by BLM in 1987.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the West Mojave Plan. Please use this historic opportunity to protect the desert for future generations.

Sincerely,

*Donald S Beyer*

Date 20- AUGUST- 2003

Name ERWIN BOCK

Address 1246 WESTWOOD ST  
HAYWARD- CA- 94544

Mr. Bill Haigh, Project Director  
West Mojave Plan  
Dept of Int. BLM  
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92550

Dear Mr. Haigh,

As a private landowner in the area covered by the proposed West Mojave Plan, I would like to offer the following comments.

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After much study of the proposal and drawing on the many sources of information regarding the historical uses and management of the lands in our area, we conclude that the major threat both to the rare species and to our interests as landowners is the continued degradation of public and private lands by motorized recreational vehicle riders.

As a landowner I am concerned that unlicensed "green sticker" vehicles will continue to be allowed in my area. With the enactment of the El Mirage Plan in 1990, we were told that BLM would control the illegal proliferation of routes and the concomitant nuisance, safety hazards and environmental damage.

There are two main sources of the continued trail proliferation. One is the migration of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) riders north from the El Mirage OHV Park area. The other is the continued use of the Edwards Bowl area as an OHV staging area where riders unload their green sticker vehicles and, due to lack of adequate BLM enforcement presence, proceed to ride over all adjacent public and private lands with no regard to the posted rules.

The problem with the "green sticker" vehicles is that there is no way to document their illegal acts by photo or other forms of witnessing, because there are no identifying markings on the vehicles that can be seen from any distance..

I recommend that:

1. All lands in the El Mirage Valley DWMA be limited to street-legal vehicles only--Alternative D.

2. Use the "Closed unless marked Open" policy of signing routes.
3. Closed routes need to be restored, signed as "closed" and patrolled by BLM law enforcement personnel.
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Sincerely,



Date 8/20/03

Name Al Giovanni

Address Box 85  
Pomfret, CT 06258

Mr. Bill Haigh, Project Director  
West Mojave Plan  
Dept of Int. BLM  
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92550

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Sincerely,

*Albert Giovanni*

*This land has been in my family for 30 years. I find it hard to believe that, even though I pay taxes yearly, we get no protective services. Why are we paying taxes?*

Date 8/20/03

Name Dolores Dempsey

Address 5209 Avo Despacio  
Laguna Woods, CA 92653

Mr. Bill Haigh, Project Director  
West Mojave Plan  
Dept of Int. BLM  
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92550

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Sincerely,

*Dolores Dempsey*

41

Date 8/21/03

Name Lourdes Encinas

Address 12 Raven Hill Dr  
Pomona CA 91766

Mr. Bill Haigh, Project Director  
West Mojave Plan  
Dept of Int. BLM  
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92550

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Sincerely,

To the administrators of WEMO

I thought to write you to express my concerns with the never-ending closures of public lands.

The definition of PUBLIC as described in the Webster's Dictionary Is for the use of all so I can't understand how public lands can continually be eliminated from the pubic.

From what I've seen in the past and I believe is still going on we have a weak study on a subject lets, say the desert tortoise Ring a bell I thought so.

Somebody somewhere says I think that it's all the people causing the decline of the desert tortoise so lets close the desert to the public.

I guess in the last 15 years people have figured out that maybe they were a bit hasty with the closure, we now know that that the desert tortoise has a respiratory problem along with shell disease that sounds like a health problem to me; and lets not forget about the desert raven they eat the hatchlings like candy.

To resolve this problem get rid of the desert raven, find a cure for its health problems. If man wants to play GOD and stop the extinction of this great creature you could even start a captive breeding program.

Most of the alternatives as written A thru G seem to focus on this subject.

I believe we should all work together on this and any other issues that effect so many people. It seems that the authors of DEIR/S are trying to close the desert to all uses other

Please extend our comment period. Have meetings in the La basin and south counties were most recreational users reside not to do this is a one sided underhanded practice that stinks of poor politics I'd like to believe that there is still honor among us.

Please open up some previously closed lands some C routes and don't close point to point routes that congress has already approved.

I realize that there are people on both sides of the fence on these issues but compromises need to be made to keep everybody happy.

From what I've heard the AMA is willing are you.

I am thanking you in advance for you time and Consideration on these matters.

PS. My Family has been visiting the Desert to CAMP Hike Ride motorcycles AND 4 wheel it for 20 years AND our Envl is RAPIDLY shrinking

TRiolo  
5492 MYRA  
CYPRESS CA  
90630

BLM California Desert District Office  
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

To Whom It May Concern:

The WEMO plan is the most extensive habitat conservation plan ever developed. I would like to request additional public meetings in the Los Angeles basin where most of the users of the California Desert Conservation Area reside. I would also like to request an extension of the comment period. I ask for these as per Section 5.5 of the Memorandum of Understanding "Role of BLM: Public Participation- Assume lead responsibilities for ensuring adequate public participation by public land users and interest and for overall public participation in the planning effort".

I would like to respectfully insist on a complete survey of the existing routes. The BLM has relied on the 1985-87 survey for its inventory of routes in 11 of the 21 sub regions described in the plan. The 85-87 survey contains no single track trails in the 11 sub regions. Single-track trails do exist even if the BLM has failed to list them.

All routes listed as open in the route inventory should be programmatically approved for dual sport and other noncompetitive events.

I would like to request specific language pertaining to the reopening of the "C" routes surrounding the Spangler Open Area. These C routes are not on most maps because the area they are in is shown with only the routes surveyed in 1985-87. The BLM closed them with the interim closures, thus I expect these routes to be opened upon the signing of this plan.

Please return the Johannesburg triangle back to the open area. The triangle was part of the open area when it was included in the Rand plan. The BLM found no tortoises and it was dropped from the Rand ACEC. I request that the plan leaves the eastern Rands open. The boundary would be R44 to R46 to R43 then south to the boundary. Much of this area excess 20% grade thus, is unsuitable for tortoise habitat.

The number and acreage of the proposed DWMA's (Desert Wildlife Management Areas) is excessive. The proposed tortoise head start area in the Fremont Valley is in an area more suited for recreation as the habitat has been previously impacted by motorized recreation. If you cannot make Fremont Valley an OHV park, then please label it a recreation area and save it for the future.

The Proposed Action, Alternative A, includes the Johnson to Parker and Johnson to Stoddard race corridors. It also states that no races will be permitted outside of the open areas. The plan must include specific language assuring that race will be permitted to use these corridors.

I respectfully demand the reinstatement of the Barstow to Vegas corridor. The Desert Vipers have submitted a workable course map each year along with their permit application. A study done in 1974 states soil compaction problems following the '74 race, yet goes on to site heavy rains the week prior to the race, and admitted could be the cause of the soil compaction they noted.

I request specific language allowing dual sport and enduro events on all existing open routes in the DWMA's.

All existing routes should be considered open unless marked closed.



Sincerely,

Dan Wilson  
350 Corpio Dr  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

3/20/03

44

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: West Mojave Plan (WEMO)

I just learned about your Route Designation and Plan Amendment of the 1980 West Mojave Management Plan.

I think it is a good idea to have a plan to try and maintain our public lands. Whenever I go out to the desert with my ~~self~~ family & friends, I always try to leave the area better than when I arrived.

I'm asking that you extend the public comment deadline as it will take the average joe more than 90 days to respond.

Thank you for your consideration,

Respectfully yours,

Art Smith

P.O. Box 290067

Phelan, CA 92379-0067

Date 20 AUG 2003

Name DARRELL L. RUNNELS *Darrell L. Runnel*

Address 11001 W. CONNECTICUT AV.  
SUN CITY, AZ 85351

Mr. Bill Haigh, Project Director  
West Mojave Plan  
Dept of Int. BLM  
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92550

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the West Mojave Plan. Please use this historic opportunity to protect the desert for future generations.

Sincerely,

8-20-03

TO WHOM, IT MAY CONCERN,  
MY NAME IS LARRY ENSIGN. I AM THE CURRENT  
PRESIDENT OF TRAINING WHEELS MOTORCYCLE CLUB, D-37 CLUB.  
I WOULD LIKE TO RESPECTFUL REQUEST THAT YOU PLEASE  
EXTEND THE COMMENT PERIOD ON THE WEMO PLAN.  
THIS IS A LOT OF INFORMATION AND WE NEED MORE  
TIME TO ~~UNDER~~ REVIEW & UNDERSTAND THE PLANS  
COMMENTS.

THANK YOU

Larry Ensign  
(714) 505-3528

August 20, 03

Dear Sirs:

I request that you extend the West Mojave Plan (WEMO), Comment period, the proposed 90 days is not sufficient to allow us to review the plan, and properly comment on it.

Please allow an additional 90 days. For review my family and friends have been using the desert for recreation use since 1972. We own property in the desert and know how beautiful the desert is and we do want to preserve it and at the same time be able use it and show our Grand kids the desert.

Thank you :  
Russell Collins  
5365 Civetta Lane  
Riverside Ca. 92505  
rusc@mosty.com

Please include me in your mailings on this matter :

Craig Hoernke  
1809044cc@st  
Hesperia  
760-956-3479

I live in Hesperia. I ride with many families from Orange County. These riders have no meetings to go to. It is not feasible for them to come to Victorville to hear and make their comments on the Mohave Plan.

The time period to review the document needs to be extended 60 days  
Craig Hoernke

August 20, 03

## West Mojave Plan

Dear Sirs,

I am writing regarding the WEMO Plan. I would like to request an extension on the 90 day deadline for our comments. An extension is needed for the District 37 members to analyze and comment on the WEMO & DWMA and DEIRS documents. I think we all have a lot of different opinions & views that need to be heard.

Respectfully,

Connie Collins

5365 Civetta Lane

Riverside CA 92509

russeller@earthlink.net

8/20/03

DEAR SIR:

I HAVE BEEN WORKING TO REVIEW THE WEST MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND BECAUSE OF THE PLAN'S GREAT LENGTH AND VOLUMINOUS DETAILS I RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT THE COMMENT PERIOD BE EXTENDED.

TO GIVE THE PUBLIC ONLY 90 DAYS FOR THE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE LARGEST PIECE OF LAND MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL IS NOT FAIR, NOR DOES IT INSURE AN EDUCATED DECISION WILL BE MADE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN,

Paul Moore  
15292 SAGEHURST CIRCLE  
IRVINE, CA 92604