

Leave DRECP Alone

WHAT'S HAPPENED

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), which was finalized in 2016, provided historic conservation gains for public lands in California and provided a precedent-setting blueprint for how to balance renewable energy development with conservation on our nation's public lands. Local stakeholders, as well as thousands of citizens from throughout California and across the country, provided input over an 8-year process to shape the final plan.

But, on February 2nd, the Department of Interior issued a notice to re-open the plan, potentially putting at risk 6 million acres of vital conservation lands, such as the Silurian Valley, Centennial Flats, Mayan Peak, and Chuckwalla Bench as well as the iconic plant and animal species that make their home in the desert, including the Joshua Tree, wildflower superblooms, bighorn sheep, microphyll woodlands, the Mohave ground squirrel, desert tortoises, and Gila monsters.

ACT NOW!

Help us take action to stop Trump from rolling back protection for our California Desert! The BLM is now accepting public comment through the end of March. Comments can be submitted via email, mail, and at public workshops.

KEY TALKING POINTS:

I oppose this administration's attack on our California Desert public lands and urge the BLM not to reopen the DRECP.

It is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer money.

- Amending the DRECP is a direct attack on one of the California Desert's largest conservation achievements. Leave this hard-won plan alone.
- The DRECP is a sensible, widely-approved plan based on years of collaboration between state and federal agencies, renewable energy developers, conservationists, recreationalists, and other stakeholders.
- The DRECP is a strong, science-based plan that was adopted after 8 years of careful analysis.
- 16,000 public comments were submitted – most asking for more conservation, not less.
- This historic compromise required the hard work of hundreds of thousands of participants over 8 years. To ask us to weigh in all over again is insulting to the residents of our region.

- The plan identified 388,000 acres for renewable energy development, which is more than enough for California to meet its renewable energy goals.
- The plan was meticulously documented through DataBasin. There is no need to change any land use designations or management unless there is significant new information, which there is not.

Natural resources are at risk.

- Reopening this plan will jeopardize the Desert's most sensitive natural and cultural resources, as well as the places we go to enjoy.
- The plan protected 6 million acres of the Desert's most sensitive natural and cultural landscapes and designated 3.6 million acres for recreation, such as hiking, camping, rockhounding, and off-road recreation. Development would destroy these places and reduce opportunities for local residents to enjoy our public lands.

This attempt to reopen the plan is not about renewable energy. It's about the administration's hostility to conservation and to the wishes of the residents of our region.