

Thank you for your comment, Cameron Bucher.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50362.

Comment Date: July 14, 2008 13:32:19PM
Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50362

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I strongly urge you to consider the negative affects and impacts of desert closures for the purpose of renewable energy generation facilities. As the U.S. moves towards sustainability through the use of renewable energy sources, displaced animals, habitat and even human recreation-ers are affected. While I agree that renewable energy is the wave of the future and lessening our dependence on fossil-fuels is necessary, all impacts whether major or minimal should be considered. The Primm Valley area has become home to nearly a half-dozen off-road races every year. While some argue the destructive impacts of such actions are far worse than the impacts created by a renewable energy generation facility, the monetary investment in the installation of such a facility and the nation's reliance on such an energy source only supports my contention that this plant is and will continue to be permanent; forever changing the face of our open desert. Again, while off-road recreation creates scaring and some intermittent disturbance to the surrounding habitats; natural erosion and ambient weather seemingly return the desert to its natural state. Additionally recreation in the form of off-road racing creates and sustains a major economy for the Primm Valley area. While the Hotels and Casinos of the Primm Valley continue to operate on weekdays and weekends where no desert racing or recreation are present, Hotel and Casino Management can confirm the major swell in occupancy and activity on the premises during race weekends. Undoubtedly, these same off-road enthusiasts would continue their patronage and at increasing levels should the desert area be made available for sanctioned race events more often than is currently allowed. Again, recognizing the nation's need to utilize the technologies available to lessen its dependence on fossil fuels, I understand the project's purpose. However, I feel that consideration and ultimately, compromise, should be considered with respect to the off-road recreation community's displacement from the area. The allowance of additional sanctioned off-road race events, the opening of previously closed/protected lands in addition to mitigation in the form of off-highway signage, trail installation/improvements, etc. are all acceptable forms of compensation for the impacts on such a group.