

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	09-RENEW EO-01
Project Title:	Renewable Executive Order
TN #:	210845
Document Title:	Robert K. Marx Jr. Comments: On Gem Hill and Lonely Butte location closure
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Robert K. Marx Jr.
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	3/23/2016 5:08:09 PM
Docketed Date:	3/24/2016

Comment Received From: Robert K. Marx Jr.

Submitted On: 3/23/2016

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Comment on Gem Hill and Lonely Butte location closure

Hello,

It has come to my attention through my daughter's geology club, the Bakersfield Mineral Mites, that both Gem Hill and Lonely Butte, are subject to review for closure based on the DRECP. We ask that you do not close these areas to public use and specimen collection.

The specific areas in question are the lands including and around the following locations:

Gem Hill:

N 34 55' 34.392

W 118 13' 16.392"

Township 10 N. Range 13 W, Sections 26, 27, 34 & 35.

Brown Butte (AKA Lonely Butte):

N 34 58' 36.286"

W 118 13' 16.392"

Township 10 N. Range 11 W, Sections 2, 3, 10 & 11.

Again, our family, on behalf of our geology club, requests most humbly that you NOT slate these two sites for closure.

We frequent the desert recreationally, to include the above mentioned areas of Gem Hill and Lonely Butte; both are local and within a reasonable drive from home. We're your typical family - we respect our environment and leave the areas we visit in better condition than when we arrived, and as such we would be considered conscientious users of the land we tread upon.

Losing the two spots mentioned here, within Kern County affects us locally, limiting our scope and forcing us to travel much further to pursue our club activities which include a hands on geologic education provided to the children in the club, namely my daughter - who is 7 and an avid fan of the outdoors and rock-hounding.

It seems our lands are dwindling - fewer and fewer spots are available to us as the years go on. We would hate to lose public access to these spots.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter.

Respectfully,

The Marx Family

Robert, Lynnette, Scott, and Madeline