

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Jordan Kelley [jordanamcon@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2013 9:44 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System; jchilders@blm.gov
Subject: " DRECP Draft Alternatives: Protecting the Silurian Valley [09-RENEW EO-01] "

Personal Message:

Regarding the development in Silurian Valley, I contest that it should be thought about very carefully and what is being gained weighed against what is being lost.

This area is of critical importance and should NOT be developed as it is a non-degraded important site for view, watershed, habitat, history, etc.

This area of California, is a prime place for further study and conservation. The region has had limited development but this is why we have such an opportunity to keep it protected, because it has not been degraded.

It is providing us with a valuable opportunity to do significant scientific work and create precedents for future endeavors.

The temporary jobs and minimal permanent jobs created by this development does not outweigh the jobs that would be lost by ecotourism. There is an estimated 1,000,000 passing through this area going to Death Valley, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Mojave, and Joshua Tree. The most important thing is that we retain our wild spaces and put development where it makes sense, in areas that have already been degraded. Thank You for your time.

- The Bureau of Land Management and California Energy Commission should not allow energy development in the remote Silurian Valley, and should focus on encouraging the generation of clean energy on rooftops and on already-disturbed lands closer to our cities.
- The Silurian Valley should be designated as part of the National Landscape Conservation System, along with the other natural treasures of the Mojave Desert that provide intact habitat for wildlife and places for people to enjoy the outdoors.
- The mostly undisturbed Silurian Valley provides an important wildlife connectivity corridor between Death Valley National Park, the sky islands of the Kingston and Clark Mountains, the Soda and Avawatz ranges, and Mojave National Preserve to the South.
- The Silurian Valley is a scenic and natural escape for visitors to the desert, and it is rich in the history of human transportation across the Mojave desert, including the Old Spanish Trail and Native American cultural sites.
- The Silurian Valley has been acknowledged for its stunning scenery, with the second highest rating for visual resources under the BLM's visual resource management criteria, and the local community supports designating the two-lane road that crosses the area as a scenic highway.

Best,

-- *Jordan Kelley*

Executive Director

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