

April 9, 2014

James G. Kenna
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886

Dear Mr. Kenna:

Friends of the Inyo wishes to express our strong support for identifying and adding lands in the Inyo County portions of the California Desert Conservation Area to the National Conservation Lands. We care about the unique national treasures of the California's desert ecosystems and landscapes, which are an integral part of Inyo County and the Eastern Sierra as a whole.

We understand that the BLM is currently identifying which lands within the California Desert Conservation Area should be managed to conserve natural, scenic, cultural and historic resources as part of the National Conservation Lands. The California desert is a unique and treasured place that provides essential habitat for threatened and endangered species, affords world-class recreational and scenic opportunities, harbors exceptional historical and cultural resources, and supports robust local tourist economies. Specific areas in the Eastern Sierra that we would like to call to your attention for review and consideration for protection include:

- Conglomerate Mesa
- Surprise Canyon
- Great Falls Basin
- Alabama Hills
- Panamint Valley
- Owens Valley
- Deep Springs Valley
- Slate Range
- Centennial Flat
- Searles Valley

The National Conservation Lands are a spectacular collection of American landscapes, rivers and trails that offer visitors the chance to experience the beauty, history and adventure of the American West. We believe that many areas within the California Desert are nationally significant lands recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values and should therefore be designated as National Conservation Lands.

We are grateful that the BLM is showing leadership in protecting large areas in the California Desert as National Conservation Lands. We urge you to protect this precious ecosystem and the many essential benefits that it offers to residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

Sydney Quinn
President

Drew Foster
Preservation Coordinator

Cc:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01
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