

The DRECP needs revision. That will only happen with your input. Here are some useful resources and things you can do ...

Comment directly www.drecp.org
thru 2/23/2015 Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Sign letters & petitions www.basinandrangewatch.org
Support Basin and Range Watch's proposed inclusion of an alternative distributed energy plan in the DRECP

www.a4dp.org
Support Alliance for Desert Preservation's request to restart and extend the comment period

www.tubbcanyondesertconservancy.org
Support Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy's Petition: We don't have to sacrifice California's deserts for renewable energy!

Take the Survey <http://blm.sdmg.org>
thru 2/15/2015 San Diego Mineral & Gem Society - rockhound/recreational user online survey

You can do any or all of these actions, doing one does not preclude doing another.

More resources ...

(DRECP background, renewable energy alternatives, vulnerable collecting areas, and tips on writing an effective comment letter)

Desert Protective Council. dpcinc.org

Mojave Communities Conservation Collaborative. www.mojavec3.org

Mojave Desert Blog. www.mojavedesertblog.com

Sustainable Learning Center. www.sustainablelearningcenter.com

Twitter and Facebook

#drecp
#ghostsofthedesert
@SaveTheDesert
@Desertpreserve #a4dp
@noonwindmills #noonwindmills
#solar #GoSolar #SupportSolar
#windfarms

Supporters

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy
Basin and Range Watch
Desert Protective Council
Alliance for Desert Preservation
Mojave Communities Conservation Collaborative

Cover. (Composite photo) Father and child at Lavic Siding rock collecting area, Mojave Desert, by Kris Rowe; wind turbines by Wiki user Z22.

Coming Soon... to your public lands *unless you speak up*

Your input is needed now on the DRECP
(Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan)

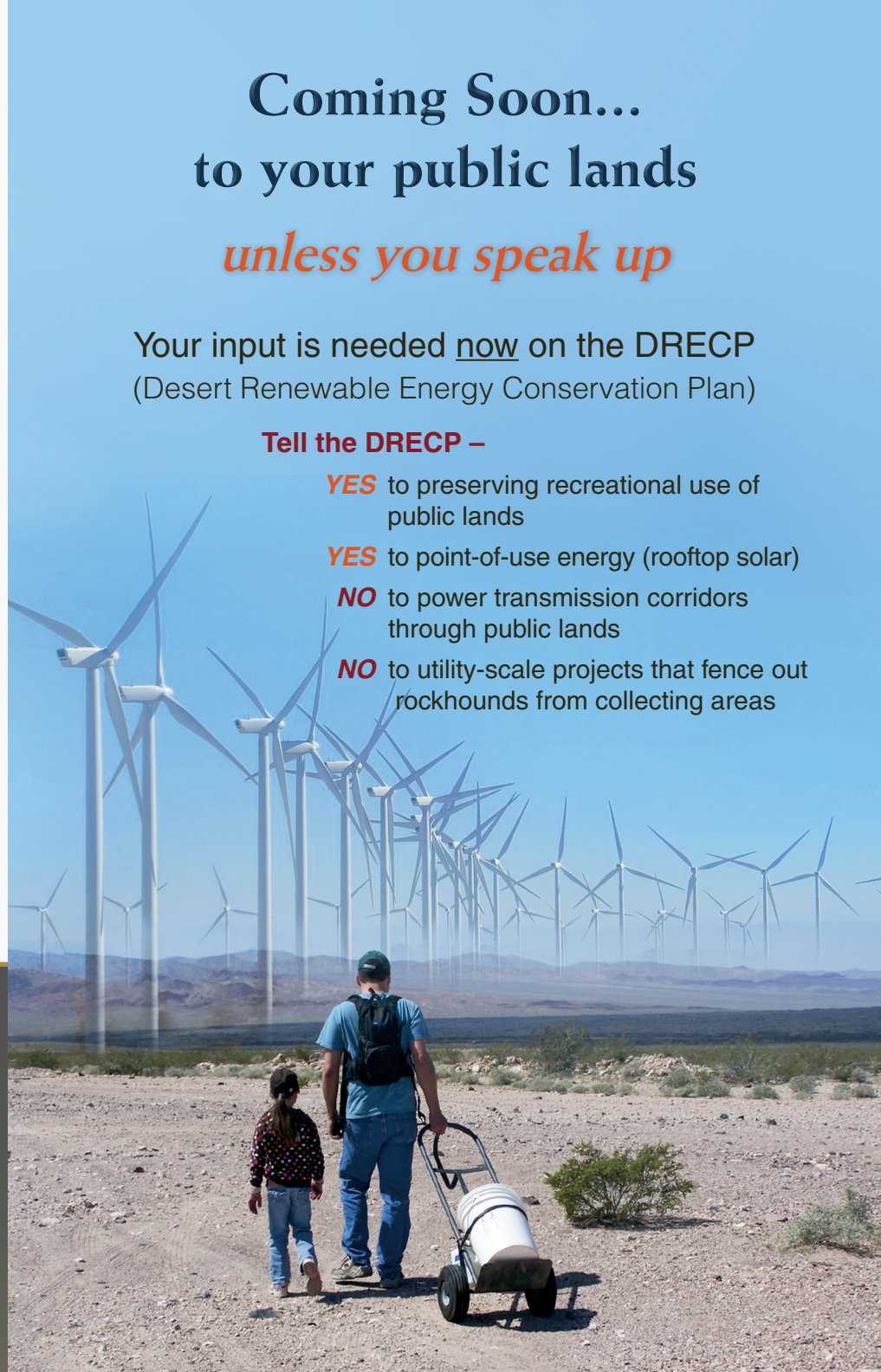
Tell the DRECP –

YES to preserving recreational use of public lands

YES to point-of-use energy (rooftop solar)

NO to power transmission corridors through public lands

NO to utility-scale projects that fence out rockhounds from collecting areas



Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)

Land usage encompassing 22.5 million acres of California's deserts will be administered according to DRECP guidelines for the next 25 years. The plan makes a mosaic of the desert, allowing for the building of utility-scale energy projects on 177,000 acres of public lands and on adjacent private lands designated as Development Focus Areas (DFAs). The DRECP's implementation will pave the way for industrial developments to be connected to the power grid via a network of power transmission corridors running through previously untouched wild lands (Figure 1).

A jointly administered project of the BLM, California Energy Commission, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the goals of the DRECP are driven by the legal requirement that "renewables" (solar, wind, geothermal) shall account for 33% of California's energy sources by 2020. This goal has been met already – six years ahead of schedule. Governor Brown now wants to increase the target to 50%.

Certainly, renewable energy sources are a desirable alternative to fossil fuels and "dirty" energy sources. However, large-scale projects built to date have not proven to be all that green or economical or even sustainable in hot and dusty environments like the desert. The toll on wildlife and sensitive habitat has been disastrous. Project scale, poor site selection, and unpredictable weather have been intractable, critical factors that have made a mirage of a green energy oasis ever rising up in the desert landscape. There are better alternatives to sacrificing the California desert in order to achieve goals that are both economically and environmentally sustainable.

BLM needs to know your concerns about preserving the desert environment. BLM needs to know about the specific areas for which recreational uses or conservation concerns are important to you.

The comment period on the DRECP has been extended through February 23, 2015. Your input is needed now.

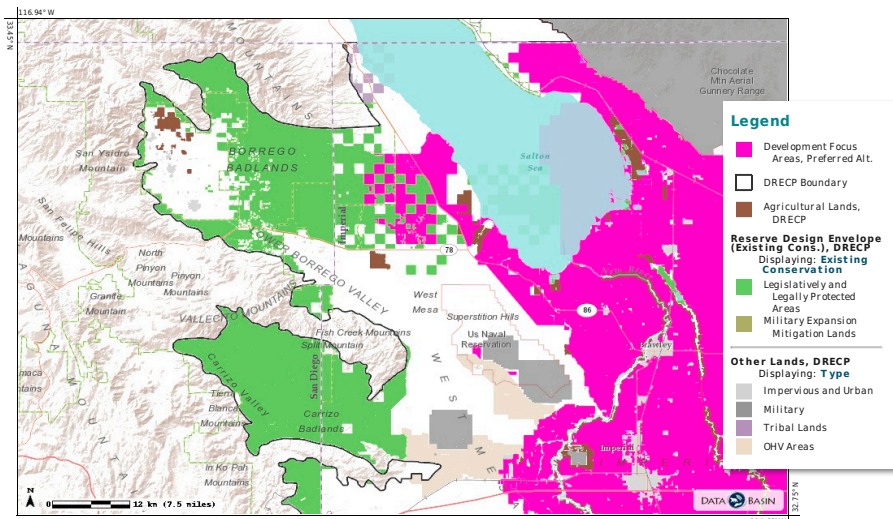


Figure 1. DRECP DFAs and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Map: J. David Garmon.

Why does the DRECP need more scrutiny and revision?

- ▲ DRECP is top-down centralized planning run amok. The public comment period of only 135 days for an 8,000 page document does not allow for cogent input. The comment period should be extended.
- ▲ DRECP's Development Focus Areas (DFAs) create a checkerboard of conservation-sensitive areas adjacent to private lands open for development. The negative effects of large-scale industrial activities spills across the porous boundaries separating them and impacts the whole desert ecosystem.
- ▲ DRECP closes thousands of acres of public lands to recreational use.
- ▲ DRECP industrializes California's fragile desert ecosystem and its last wilderness areas. Transmission lines have to be built on public lands to connect utility-scale projects to the power grid.
- ▲ DRECP permits the "taking" (literally, license to kill) endangered species for 30 years.
- ▲ DRECP affords only administrative protection of public lands, providing a blank check to private industry to develop projects adjacent to or on public lands in the future.
- ▲ DRECP raises significant fairness issues by pushing adverse environmental impact onto low income communities to benefit urban areas.
- ▲ DRECP considers only utility-scale development, ignoring other more cost-effective alternatives such as distributed energy generation, also called point-of-use (e.g., rooftop solar).
- ▲ DRECP does not provide funding or designate institutional support for the "adaptive management" touted in the plan.
- ▲ DRECP does not provide for any bonding mechanism to pay the costs of decommissioning utility-scale generating facilities after they have reached the end of their operating lives.

What is California's experience with utility-scale "green" energy projects to date?

- ▲ They haven't been very green. They've created "Dust Bowl" effects, including wind storms, soil erosion, and air pollution.
- ▲ They have been energy hogs, requiring high fossil fuel and water consumption to operate in our drought-starved state.
- ▲ They have over-promised and under-delivered on energy output, mitigating a cost-benefit that deserves closer scrutiny.
- ▲ Their impact on wildlife, natural habitat, and fragile ecosystems has been disastrous. At the Ivanpah project in the Mojave Desert, tortoises have lost habitat and birds incinerated by the solar panels fall to the ground, often still alive, blinded and horribly injured.