

Thank you for your comment, Henry Bulloch.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarM60245.

Comment Date: September 14, 2009 17:45:54PM
Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarM60245

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Attachment: Solar Energy Development in Lincoln County NevadaWhil.wpd

Comment Submitted:

Comments on Solar Energy Development in Lincoln County Nevada

While recognizing the need for additional energy production for the citizens of the western United States, solar energy development in areas proposed in Lincoln county, Nevada are mostly unsuitable for the following reasons:

1. The impact of a solar plant in these valleys would be extremely detrimental to every living thing that resides there from the plants that grow on the fragile soils to the wildlife, including but not limited to wild horses, antelope, deer, elk, badgers, coyotes, quail, and many other mammals, reptiles, and birds.
2. For generations ranchers and their families have worked and cared for the land, providing benefits not only for the cattle that graze the forage but also for the wildlife. Springs have been improved, reservoirs have been built to store precious rainwater. The values established by the many generations of people before us have contributed to and are essential to the lifestyle that we as rural residents want to continue to live. If solar energy is developed in these valleys, this will have a tremendous negative impact on our way of life. Our cattle operation will be severely curtailed because this is the winter range for our cows. We will have nowhere to winter our cattle. Elimination of our winter range will have a drastic effect on our livelihood financially and impact our summer ranges. If the cattle are taken off the land, the wildlife will suffer also due to water sources drying up and not being maintained. Also if solar developments comes to these valleys, the top soil and vegetation will be graded off, leaving the area bare of good vegetation and the likelihood of noxious weeds taking over the area is high.
3. These valleys are currently used by multiple public land users. People camp, ride motorcycles and ORVs, have traplines in the winter, hunt deer and coyotes. They appreciate the great outdoor experiences that are available to them. Solar energy development in the areas as presently outlined would put a stop to the afore mentioned activities as well as other uses.
4. Solar energy could be produced on allotments such as Ely Springs, where the land owners have expressed a desire to participate in solar energy development. I firmly believe that development should only be placed on non-productive areas such as dry lake bottoms where vegetation would not be destroyed. Also private lands or permits where landowners are agreeable to having these cells on their property should definitely take priority.

We feel that solar energy may be a partial solution to the nation's energy problems but development should be located in areas not are not already producing valuable products such as cattle and sheep.

As shown by your map there are probably ten million acres that are not capable of sustaining livestock production. These areas should definitely be considered first. The areas shown would take out some the most productive white sage stands and other vegetation anywhere in the United States.

Lincoln County commissioners, BLM officials and permittees and other land users should be made aware of every step that is taken in this process. Mitigation plans should be made and agreed to by all interested parties before any construction begins.

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