

White Sands Ranch
 Bar H W Ranch
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Solar EIS

To Whom It May Concern;

New Mexico became a territory of the U.S. in 1850. After 62 years of denial, N.M., a stepchild, was admitted into the Union, by ceding 50% of the land area to the U.S. Government. The U.S. Land Office allowed homesteads with only surface rights, on arid alkaline land, and withheld mineral rights. Through various governmental agencies took ownership of 9 (nine) million acres for National Parks and Forrests. More land went for Indian Reservations and the Department of Defense. The State of New Mexico owns 20 (twenty) percent of the remaining land, and 8000 (eight thousand) acres for State Parks. Cities reserve much land for themselves, so you can see private land is scarce

Lack of reliable potable water and droughty seasonal conditions have made an industry using native grasses; a superior cattle feed. This too is lost as Military Installations continue to increase their need for training areas. Vast grasslands are locked into and destroyed by Military Bases. In the Southern portion of N.M. there is White Sands Missile Range; Holloman Air Force Base; MacGregor Range; and the extension by lease to Fort Bliss Army Base, and Biggs Air Force Base, actually in Texas, but they train in N.M. There is no way to clean up the shells, or to reseed the torn up ground from the use by tanks. No one would even suggest that, for fear of being called unpatriotic.

Some ranches were fought over; Prather v. USA. Some were taken with promises of return, MacDonald, Mc Natt, Walters, Pellman, Gilliland, and Oliver, to name a few. Some were taken and the purposes were changed. And as time passed none have been returned, or paid for. Which is another topic. Much money has been invested in improvements such as fences, water wells, pipelines, shelters, troughs and roads used for maintenance. Then there are homes, barns and corrals to consider.

City officials roam into counties to condemn, take and use the already developed water for the citizens, disregarding the primary purpose of water and grass for livestock. All the while, knowing the only productive use of native grass is cattle feed.

Grasses require rain and sunshine to grow. Solar panels shade and destroy grass. Roads displace grass. Wind mills, workmen and equipment impede cattle growth by disturbing habits and habitats. .

Non-native game as Elk from Canada, and Oryx from Africa have been imported and thrived to the point that the hunters can not keep the numbers down, and the cattle allotments have been cut to sustain the elk, to the point where ranchers are systematically ruined financially. If ranchers were given the lease money from the renewable energy companies, they could continue with ranching on a smaller scale

Our country is not only importing energy, it is importing food, minerals and raw material.

In summation, I believe alternative or renewable energy systems should have a place in New Mexico. However, these systems should not be placed in an area so rich in natural resources as the 'Red Sands Area'. Expensive though it maybe, a roof is the very best place.

Thank you for your consideration

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