

Thank you for your comment, Kelly Wade.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarM60208.

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Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarM60208

First Name: Kelly
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Comment Submitted:

Kelly S. Wade
[REDACTED]

September 12, 2009

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to comment on the seven areas in Nevada being considered for large utility scale solar energy plants. My family has a grazing permit in the East Mormon Mountain range that encompasses the proposed 7418 acres in the Gourd Spring portion of the allotment. This particular area happens to contain the only source of live water actually located on the entire allotment and is also the best part of the allotment for spring feed. This permit has been in the stewardship of only three families in the last 90 plus years all of which during that time ran in common as partners and shared the responsibilities of managing and maintaining the allotment at times through some horrendous circumstances such as fire, drought, and various other environmental situations. Removing or even disturbing this much area on this allotment would have a tremendous impact on the sustainability of existing AUM's, as it is barely able to sustain it with this area included. This allotment is an example of the work and dedication it takes to maintain the grazing and sustainability for not only livestock but any and all other wildlife that rely on the improvements and maintenance of the permit that the permittee provides. The water alone is a painstaking undertaking that takes a lot of work to maintain as the main source of water is pipe fed approximately 26 miles from a spring and then has to be hauled by truck to troughs throughout the rest of the allotment to maintain even grazing while also providing water for all other wildlife in areas that normally would not have it. I would hate to see all of the hard work be for nothing if the proposed area is taken away as it would negatively affect the entire allotment.

I am in agreement with the Lincoln County Commission's recommendations of other more suitable areas such as the South Delamar and Vidler areas. I'm sure there are other areas that fit the criteria and not affect negatively any existing land users be it livestock, wildlife, or camping and other recreational use. I would also agree that any solar project no matter where the area being considered, would cause No Net Loss of Grazing AUM's. There should have to be compensation to any affected Grazing Permittee's if this is to go through. It is imperative that any and all affected Grazing Permittee be involved in all aspects of planning of these solar projects.

It is amazing to most from outside this state that anything could survive in the desert that we live in especially now with the water situation the way it is, however through much hard work from the many that utilize and maintain these lands it is possible, barely, and any disturbance to areas that are able to support and sustain would be wrong. I am not opposed to the development and advancement of more renewable energy sources of any kind, I am all for it, I just hope that all public concerns are considered before these areas are approved.

Thank you for your time,
Kelly S. Wade
[REDACTED]