

DRECP 2018 Public Talking Points

The Trump administration is taking aim at the California Desert by reopening a landmark plan that set aside extensive public lands for conservation and recreation while carefully allocating a smaller portion of lands for renewable energy development to help meet the State's renewable energy needs. The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), eight years in the making, was a true collaborative effort by the State of California and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with full engagement from the public and desert counties including Inyo County.

Please tell Inyo County and the BLM that you support the DRECP as is and you oppose reopening this plan. Ask the BLM to focus its efforts on managing the California desert and implementation of the plan. Talk about special places in Inyo County or elsewhere in the California desert you love to visit and why you want to see them protected.

- The DRECP was a multiple year collaborative effort. Inyo County and its residents were actively involved in the DRECP. DRECP agencies including the State of California and the BLM traveled numerous times to Inyo County and held multiple meetings and workshops in collaboration with the County.
- Thank Inyo County for the extensive work it put into the DRECP and the County's Renewable Energy Amendment to the General Plan (REGPA) which ensured places like the Owens Valley would not be developed with wind turbines and the Amargosa region would not be developed with solar power towers. Ask Inyo County to "stay the course" by continuing to support the DRECP without changes.
- The DRECP protects a large swath of CA desert lands, including important plant and animal habitats and diverse recreation areas, from industrial-scale renewable energy development. The DRECP ensured that lands in Inyo County such as Conglomerate Mesa, Panamint Valley and the Amargosa Region will be preserved and can continue to be enjoyed as they are today.
- The plan supports multiple use recreation, both motorized and non-motorized, through land use designations such as conservation lands and recreation management areas. All of the lands designated in DRECP are open to public access and all existing off-road routes remain open.
- The DRECP has not removed any lands from mining activity. All existing and future mining rights are preserved.
- Outdoor tourism on lands the DRECP protects for conservation and recreation are powering our rural desert economies, and the DRECP ensures they will continue to do so by preventing industrial-scale renewable energy development in inappropriate places.
- The DRECP is not perfect but it was fully vetted, and represented a compromise for all stakeholders. To open this plan now, when it was never litigated, is a tremendous waste of time and taxpayer dollars, and will cost Inyo County additional money and staff time that can be better spent moving the County forward instead of going backward.

- For those who live in Inyo County and the rest of the desert, preserving the DRECP is about preserving our quality of life –we don't want to see our beautiful lands inappropriately developed.
- Reopening the DRECP could result in massive development of industrial-scale renewable energy and other development on public lands. Not only is this development not needed to help CA meet its renewable energy needs, it results in great uncertainty for ALL desert residents and users. Let's not throw the plan out without giving it a chance to work!