



U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0552

June 17, 2008

Mr. James L. Caswell  
Director, Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Caswell:

I am writing today regarding an important issue that is of concern to many of my off-roading constituents: the need to mitigate for impacts on recreational resources caused by alternative energy projects. I would appreciate Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) review of this matter.

Recent reports, such as the enclosed article in the *San Diego Union Tribune*, indicate that over 100 applications have been submitted to the BLM by energy-producing companies seeking to develop more than 1 million acres of desert land in Southern California. While I support the development of alternative energy resources in the United States and support the actions state and federal agencies have taken to encourage such efforts, I am also concerned that many of the locations selected for alternative energy exploration and extraction exist on lands that serve as popular recreational areas for hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

In order for BLM to fulfill its multiple-use mandate to provide high quality, accessible recreational opportunities to off-roaders, campers, hikers, rock climbers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts, appropriate mitigation must occur. It is for this reason that I would like to know what specific mitigation actions the BLM is prepared to take to help ensure that alternative energy development results in "no net loss" to public recreation land. Acre-for-acre mitigation, or an equivalent *in lieu* fee for all public recreation land reallocated for alternative energy exploration, extraction, transmission, or distribution, are just a couple of alternatives that I believe should be considered. Only through such a mitigation program will the proper balance be struck between the need for new, domestic energy sources, and the need to provide, public access to the deserts, mountains, and other natural lands held in public trust by the federal government.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this important issue.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Duncan Hunter". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress

Enclosure