
California Desert Protection & Recreation Act of 2017

Supported by Public Officials, Organizations, and Stakeholder Groups from across California and the Nation.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA)
- Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
- Town of Apple Valley

OFF-ROAD RECREATION GROUPS

- Americans for Responsible Recreational Access
- American Sand Association
- BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.
- Motorcycle Industry Council
- National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council
- Off-Road Business Association
- Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
- Specialty Equipment Market Association
- Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
- United Four Wheel Drive Associations

ENVIRONMENTALISTS

- National Parks Conservation Association
- Conservation Lands Foundation
- Student Conservation Association
- Mojave Desert Land Trust
- Friends of Jawbone

- Friends of El Mirage
- Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
- Hispanic Access Foundation
- California Wilderness Coalition (CalWild)
- Joshua Tree National Park Association

LOCAL BUSINESSES

- 29 Palms Inn

CIVIC GROUPS

- The Pew Charitable Trusts

ALABAMA HILLS BILL SECTION

- Inyo County Board of Supervisors
- Inyo County Superintendent of Schools
- City of Bishop
- Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation
- Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce
- Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau
- Inyo County Film Commission
- Friends of the Inyo
- Alabama Hills Stewardship Group
- Advocates for Access to Public Lands
- Eastern Sierra 4x4 Club



April 21, 2017



The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Unites States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Senator Feinstein:



As representatives of national organizations promoting responsible motorized recreation we write in support of, and to thank you for introducing the *California Desert Protection and Recreation Act* (S. 32). This legislation reflects the elements we value in public lands bills – a process that meaningfully engages all relevant local stakeholders and that provides for responsible recreational access where appropriate.



The undersigned organizations have long maintained that support for land use bills must come from the bottom up, as those who live, work and recreate on or near the public lands in question will be the most impacted by the legislation. With regard to off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation specifically, those who know and ride the trails and areas regularly have the best understanding of which trails and areas are most important and where boundaries must be drawn to protect prime riding locations. That is why we are pleased to note that many local OHV riders, clubs and organizations have supported or will support your bill. Their support makes it possible for us to add our names to the growing list of organizations that endorse S. 32.



With regard to motorized recreation, this bill would designate five existing Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas, including Dumont Dunes, El Mirage, Rasor, Spangler Hills and Stoddard Valley. There are other provisions of the bill which are important to us, but the establishment of the OHV recreation areas would protect responsible OHV recreation in prime areas in perpetuity, much like wilderness designations provide a certain future for areas that will restrict access permanently.



While we support S. 32, representatives from some of the undersigned organizations or other OHV groups may reach out to your staff with additional suggestions or for clarifying language on specific provisions.



Sincerely,

Larry Smith
Executive Director
Americans for Responsible Recreational

Nicole Nicholas Gilles
Executive Director
American Sand Association



Sincerely,



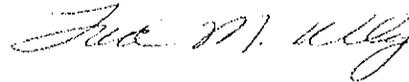
Don Amador
Western Representative
BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.



Duane Taylor
Director, Federal Affairs
Motorcycle Industry Council



Russ Ehnes
Executive Director
National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation
Council



Fred Wiley
Executive Director
Off-Road Business Association



Tom Yager
Vice President
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle
Association



Stuart D. Gosswein
Sr. Director
Federal Government Affairs
Specialty Equipment Market Association



Kathy Van Kleeck
Senior Vice President
Government Relations
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America



Steve Egbert
Vice President
United Four Wheel Drive Associations, Inc.



January 11, 2017

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

Since 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading independent voice supporting, promoting, protecting and enhancing America's national parks for present and future generations. On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters across the country, including over 152,000 in California, I write to express our support for Senator Feinstein's recently introduced legislation, S.32, California Desert Protection and Recreation Act. We respectfully request that the legislation be recommended for mark-up.

The California desert is world renowned for its vast and scenic landscapes. It is home to five iconic national park sites (Death Valley National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park, Castle Mountains National Monument, and Manzanar National Historic Site), two National Park Service-managed National Historic Trails (Juan Bautista De Anza and the Old Spanish Trail) and many famous Bureau of Land Management national monuments and wilderness areas. The California desert is home to a spectacular diversity of natural resources and geologic features including sand dunes, natural limestone cave systems, lava flows and lava tubes, rugged desert mountains, forests of Joshua trees and yucca, cactus gardens, multi-colored mountains, wild and scenic rivers, and even stone arches and hoodoos.

This rich landscape has long drawn residents from urban areas to the California desert, and increasingly, visitors from around the world come to enjoy the desert's open spaces, welcoming communities, and spectacular natural resources. A recent Sonoran Institute report estimated that the California desert hosted as many as seven million visits to its public lands in 2015. Joshua Tree National Park alone recorded 2.4 million visitors in 2015, up from 1.6 million in 2014 making these public lands a significant economic engine for desert counties. In fact, Death Valley, Joshua Tree, and Mojave combined to contribute 295 million dollars to California desert economies and communities.

Senator Feinstein proposes a thoughtful balance of responsible land-use management and opportunities for recreation and conservation. This bill, and her efforts, enjoy tremendous grassroots support from local communities of recreationists, businesses and industry, faith-based groups, local tribes, and chambers of commerce. NPCA has worked in partnership with these local communities, elected officials, and stakeholders on California desert legislation since 2009 and will continue to work on protecting, connecting, and enhancing this vital landscape and tourism economy.

We applaud Senator Feinstein for reintroducing S.32 to speak to the components of her legislation which are yet to be accomplished. Considering the profound existing support that these provisions have earned and their longstanding record in the Senate (since 2009), we believe they deserve the opportunity to be marked-up. Thank you for your consideration and we stand ready to answer any questions and provide support, as needed.

Respectfully,

David Lamfrom
Director, California Desert and Wildlife Program

CC: Senator Feinstein
Senator Harris



**Conservation
Lands
Foundation**

Protecting America's Heritage

March 31, 2017

Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Conservation Lands Foundation would like to extend our support for the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act (CDPRA) of 2017, and commend you for your steadfast leadership on conservation in the California Desert. This bill fulfills the commitments made to constituents and communities throughout the desert, and secures the vision of well-balanced, landscape-scale conservation consistent with the principles on which the California Desert Conservation Area was created in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Conservation Lands Foundation appreciates your work to consider the needs of a broad array of stakeholders in the legislation. In addition to designating new wilderness areas and over 70 miles of wild and scenic rivers, the bill will also protect 43,000 thousand acres of land adjacent to Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks, ensure that hundreds of cherished off-road routes remain open, and that conservation of the region is compatible with other needs such as the upgrade and maintenance of utility infrastructure.

These provisions and other provisions of the bill will help boost the significant outdoor recreation and tourism economy of the California Desert, and uphold the priorities of the public throughout the desert. These are priorities that you and your office worked with many different communities – as well as lawmakers, on a bipartisan bases – to balance, and to achieve thoughtful consensus. We recognize the hard work that you and all of those desert stakeholders have put into crafting the pieces of this legislation, and we support the broad public input and bipartisan cooperation that went into this bill.

Additionally, by requiring that land use plans and decisions regarding rights-of-way incorporate the impacts of climate change on species migration, soil, air quality, water quality and quantity, this bill ensures the long-term preservation and sustainability of the California Desert, its residents, and its ecosystems, and its scientific, cultural, historic, recreational, and natural values. Protecting these places ensures that future generations can continue to enjoy them.

Finally, we would like to encourage you continue to work with Representative Paul Cook, and other bipartisan colleagues in the House of Representatives and in the Senate to ensure that this bill advances in Congress and is signed into law with all of its current provisions.

Conservation Lands Foundation strongly supports your efforts to protect and enhance the California Desert, and encourages you to employ all means at your disposal to achieve CDCRA's important desert conservation objectives.

Sincerely,



Elyane Stefanick
California Program Director
Conservation Lands Foundation

CC: Honorable Senator Kamala Harris
Honorable Representative Paul Cook
Honorable Representative Raul Ruiz
Honorable Representative Paul Vargas



January 26, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Student Conservation Association and myself personally, I want to thank you for the introduction of S. 32, The California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017. Your long-standing commitment to protecting the California Desert, as well as your determination to secure a balance between protection, renewable energy production, and outdoor recreation is deeply appreciated. It is not an easy task to take such a comprehensive approach to guiding the management of a place like the California Desert, but you have made that goal a hallmark of your efforts in the California Desert – and that will forever be seen as a monumental accomplishment.



While not deeply involved in the legislative process, the Student Conservation Association has committed itself to assisting federal land management agencies in the all-important implementation of your legislation. Our efforts have included OHV route restoration, wilderness inventory, resource monitoring, trail maintenance, and fence building. It has been an honor to work alongside resource professionals from the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service, as well as with important non-profit organizations such as The Amargosa Conservancy, California Wilderness Coalition, and Friends of Jawbone.

I am also proud to say that several of the Conservation Interns we have placed to do this work now work for the BLM, NPS, as well as in the private sector with Shelton Douthit Consulting.

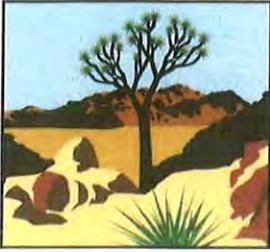
So again, from the Student Conservation Association, congratulations and thank for all your efforts to secure a bright and shining future for the California Desert.

Sincerely,

Jay Thomas Watson

Jay Thomas Watson
Vice President
Western United States





Mojave Desert Land Trust

Preserving land to enjoy forever

P.O. Box 1544 • 60124 29 Palms Hwy • Joshua Tree, CA 92522
Ph (760)366-5440 Fax (888) 869-4981 www.mojavedeserllandtrust.org

17 JUN -6 AM 9:38
FEINSTEIN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support for the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017 (S. 32)

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) is pleased to support the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017 (S. 32).

Your efforts on behalf of the California Desert represent a tremendous legacy. From the passage of the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 and support of the Catellus land acquisition to the recent establishment of the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments, your leadership has guided the way to protect our precious and fragile desert landscape. The introduction of the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017 (S. 32) builds on these efforts, and demonstrates a continued commitment to an array of desert stakeholders.

We look forward to working with your staff to continue to support and refine this legislation. The protection it provides for desert landscapes is crucial for its wilderness and groundwater, and will create more commonsense management for our public lands.

Thank you for your continued dedication to this magnificent place.

Respectfully,



Frazier Haney
Conservation Director



Friends of Jawbone

sustainable trail recreation

Friends of Jawbone
PO Box 1902
Cantil, CA 93519

jawbone@wildblue.net
(760) 373-1146
www.jawbone.org

January 31, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S.32 – California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Friends of Jawbone is a long-time partner of the Bureau of Land Management's Ridgecrest Field Office. We've raised millions of dollars in grants and logged thousands of volunteer hours to assist in the BLM's management of OHV recreation in Eastern Kern County.

I am writing today to express our support for S.32, the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017. Your bill offers some of the strongest protections for OHV recreation to ever be introduced in the United States Congress and we thank you for that.

The BLM managed Spangler Hills OHV Area is the largest OHV area in our region. It has grown in importance due to recent military base expansions that have taken nearly one-third of all OHV recreations area acreage in the California Desert. We now have to look to the Spangler Hills OHV Area to absorb this devastating loss of OHV opportunity.

Now a boom of renewable energy development in Eastern Kern County threatens to encroach on the Spangler Hills OHV Area and we fear even more loss of OHV recreation lands to this new and aggressive competing use.

That is why Friends of Jawbone especially supports the designation and proposed expansion of the Spangler Hills OHV Recreation Area in your California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017. Your proposal to designate an Expansion Study for Spangler will reenable competitive use of the popular "C" routes that are currently outside this OHV recreation area. To us, this signals your understanding of the need to make up for some of OHV's lost acreage and lost opportunities for organized events.

Given its great importance to both our desert communities and our metropolitan residents, it is important that we enact protections for managed and sustainable OHV-based recreation on the public lands in the California Desert. We look forward to continue working with you to do exactly that.

Sincerely,

Ed Waldheim
President



2005 Market Street, Suite 1700 215.575.9050 Phone
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7077 215.575.4939 Fax

901 E Street NW, 10th Floor 202.552.2000 Phone
Washington, DC 20004 202.552.2299 Fax
www.pewtrusts.org

February 2, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, I write to express our strong support for S. 32, the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017. We applaud you for your continued dedication and leadership on behalf of the California Desert, and we look forward to working with you to see its approval by the 115th Congress.

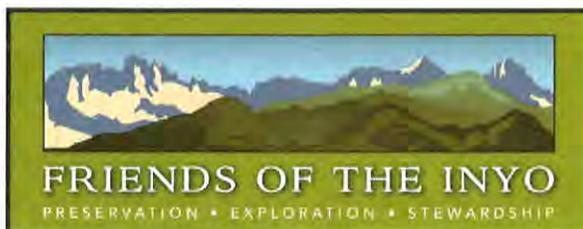
The Pew Charitable Trusts' U.S. Public Lands program works to protect our nation's unique natural heritage—in areas where there is strong local support—through Congressionally designated wilderness, administrative planning in the West, and Presidential proclamation of national monuments. In California, we have worked with state and local conservation groups for more than a decade to secure wilderness, national monument, and administrative protections for your state's desert landscapes. With our partners in the Campaign for the California Desert, we have helped organize local businesses, chambers of commerce, country supervisors, members of city councils, other community leaders, off-road vehicle enthusiasts, faith-based organizations, and veterans to support desert protection. We expect this support for desert protection will only grow with the introduction of the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act.

Your legislation will protect California's desert by designating five new wilderness areas, establishing one new scenic area, and adding 77 miles of waterways to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. S. 32 will also facilitate the implementation of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan by protecting California Desert Conservation Lands from harmful mining activities.

We deeply appreciate and value your leadership on behalf of the California Desert. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure these special wild lands and recreation areas are protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mike Matz
Director, U.S. Public Lands
The Pew Charitable Trusts



July 19, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 32, the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

Friends of the Inyo would like to thank you for holding a hearing on Senator Feinstein's bill, S. 32, the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act (CDPRA) of 2017. We support this bill, as it embodies Senator Feinstein's decades of work to consider the needs of a broad array of stakeholders across the California Desert. This bill fulfills the commitments made to constituents and communities throughout the desert, and secures the vision of well-balanced, landscape-scale conservation consistent with the principles on which the California Desert Conservation Area was created in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

In order to balance the growing pressures and priorities in the California Desert, and ensure public access for the future, in 2010, Senator Feinstein introduced the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (CDCRA), which also called for the establishment of national monuments. Preceding and following the establishment of those monuments by executive order in 2016, Senator Feinstein unwaveringly advocated for the legislative process and affirmed her commitment to see all aspects of her legislation fulfilled. Then, in January 2017, the Senator introduced the S. 32, which largely consists of the remaining provisions of the CDCRA. S. 32 represents years of careful work to balance the needs of an array of desert stakeholders, and builds on previous efforts to balance competing land uses.

In particular we support the designation of a National Scenic Area in the Alabama Hills, the protection of additional acreage in Death Valley National Park and the responsible management of recreational off-road routes in the desert. We are also pleased to see provisions requiring that land use plans and decisions regarding rights-of-way incorporate

the impacts of climate change on species migration, soil, air quality, water quality and quantity.

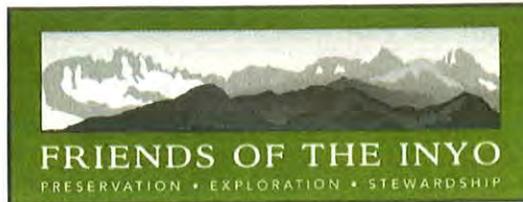
We commend the bi-partisan effort to protect and conserve the incredible natural resources in California and especially the Alabama Hills. However, we raised concerns in our letter to Feinstein dated April 10, 2016 regarding language in Section 1707 of encroachment on public land. This language was removed from Congressman Cook's bill as of May 2016 following its final mark-up in the House Natural Resources Committee. We encourage communication between your staff and Cook's office to remedy discrepancies in the Alabama Hills Scenic Area language.

We support the bill moving forward through Congress with no net loss of its conservation protections and provisions, and necessary corrections to Section 1707. Friends of the Inyo looks forward to seeing the small changes needed to make this bill consistent with stakeholder interest in the Eastern Sierra, particularly the community of Lone Pine. Thank you for your continued work to identify and protect special public lands throughout the California Desert and the Eastern Sierra. We believe our concerns can be addressed through the legislative process and are eager to work with you, Congressman Paul Cook, Senator Feinstein, and the members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. For all of these reasons, we urge the committee to continue to advance this important piece of legislation and move S. 32 to markup in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jora Fogg
Preservation Manager

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Representative Paul Cook



April 10, 2017

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

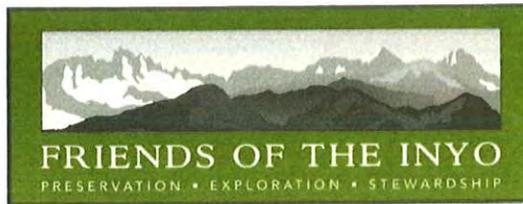
Dear Senator:

Friends of the Inyo wishes to extend our support for the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act (CDPRA) of 2017, and commend you for your steadfast leadership on conservation in the California Desert. In particular we support the designation of a National Scenic Area in the Alabama Hills, the protection of additional acreage in Death Valley National Park and the responsible management of recreational off-road routes in the desert. We are also pleased to see provisions requiring that land use plans and decisions regarding rights-of-way incorporate the impacts of climate change on species migration, soil, air quality, water quality and quantity.

We too share the bill's vision of well-balanced, landscape-scale conservation consistent with the principles in the California Desert Conservation Area. The provisions of the bill will help boost the significant outdoor recreation economy in the California Desert, and uphold the priorities of the public throughout the desert. We recognize the hard work that you and desert stakeholders have put into crafting the pieces of this legislation.

We commend the bi-partisan effort to protect and conserve the incredible natural resources in California and especially the Alabama Hills. However, we would like to bring to your attention the language in Section 1707 regarding encroachment on public land. This language was removed from Congressman Cook's bill as of May 2016 following its final mark-up in the House Natural Resources Committee. We encourage communication between your staff and Cook's office to remedy discrepancies in the Alabama Hills Scenic Area language. We recommend a meeting with the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group in the coming weeks to review current Alabama Hills 'National Scenic Area' bill language in H.R.857 and how to best incorporate the updated language into SB.32.

Friends of the Inyo looks forward to seeing the small changes needed to make this bill consistent with stakeholder interest in the Eastern Sierra, particularly the community of Lone Pine. Thank you for your continued work to identify and protect special public lands throughout the California Desert and the Eastern Sierra.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jora Fogg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jora" and last name "Fogg" clearly distinguishable.

Jora Fogg
Preservation Manager

CC:
Honorable Senator Kamala Harris
Honorable Representative Paul Cook



Friends of El Mirage

• 75 Colusa Rd, El Mirage, CA 92301 • (760) 388-4411
webmaster@elmirage.org www.elmirage.org

January 31, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017 (S.32)

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Friends of El Mirage is a long standing cooperative partner of the Bureau of Land Management's Barstow Field Office by assisting with the operations of the popular El Mirage OHV Recreation Area. For fifteen years we have brought together user groups to provide volunteers and grant-based funds for visitor services, OHV safety, and environmental stewardship.

We are excited to support your California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017 (S.32) because of the strong protections it proposes for the El Mirage OHV Recreation Area. We are also delighted by the inclusion of the proposed Expansion Study Area that will allow the BLM to better manage the popular 4-wheel drive trails in the OHV areas's northern hills.

The center piece of this OHV recreation area is the El Mirage dry lakebed. At more than five miles long and up to a mile and a half wide, the lakebed sees a most unusual array of activities. Sailers Cove is home to world class wind sailing, and Gyrocopter Cove hosts ultra-light and gyrocopter flying enthusiasts. The Southern California Timing Association has been conducting land speed racing events across the lakebed since 1937 and maintains the official roster of the El Mirage 200 MPH Club.

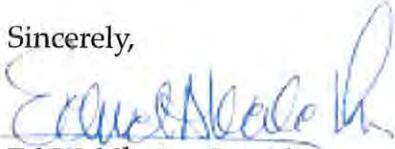
Other recreational pursuits on the lakebed include model rocketry and remote control aircraft flying. The lakebed also enjoys a steady stream of movie, television and music video projects.

But by far, the most popular recreational activity at El Mirage is OHV riding. Located just one hour north of San Bernardino, the El Mirage OHV Recreation Area is the largest and closest OHV area to residents of Southern California, attracting over 100,000 visitors annually. Here families come to ride their OHV's, camp, and enjoy quality time together in the great outdoors.

The Friends of El Mirage believes that this special area should be protected from renewable energy development and other competing uses for current and future OHV users. That is why we strongly support the designation of the El Mirage OHV Recreation Area and Expansion Study Area in your California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017.

We look forward to working with you to protect recreational opportunities in the California Desert.

Sincerely,



Ed Waldheim, President
Friends of El Mirage



FRIENDS OF BIG MORONGO CANYON PRESERVE

7/2017

Friends of
Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Directors:

Patrick Casey

Meg Foley

Ann Garry

Bill La Haye

David Miller

Tish Miller

Jane Mootz

Jane Olson

Laura Sherrod

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

To the Honorable Dianne Feinstein,

We appreciate your thoughtful balance of responsible land-use management while protecting opportunities for recreation and conservation. This bill, and your on-going efforts, enjoy tremendous grassroots support from local communities of recreationists, businesses and industry, faith-based groups, local tribes, and chambers of commerce. We appreciate your interest in and efforts to:

- Protect 230,000 acres (359 square-miles) of federal land as wilderness in southeastern California, ranging from the Avawatz Mountains near Death Valley to Milpitas Wash in Imperial County;
- Enlarge Death Valley National Park and Joshua Tree National Park by 43,000 acres (67 square-miles);
- Protect important waterways such as the White Water River from future dam construction and development;
- Establish the 75,575-acre (118 square-mile) Vinagre Wash Special Management Area in Imperial County where many ecologically sensitive areas and Native American heritage sites would be protected;
- Designate the Alabama Hills area in Inyo County (the location for dozens of movies and television shows) as a National Scenic Area so that its priceless vistas are protected;
- Permanently prohibit the staking of new mining claims on approximately 10,000 acres of land sacred to the Quechan Tribe in Imperial County;
- Mandate the study and protection of Native American cultural trails along the Colorado River;
- Help make it more difficult for developers to exploit groundwater in or near the Mojave National Preserve; and,
- Require the Department of the Interior to study the future impacts of climate change on the California desert, to mitigate these impacts and to identify and protect important wildlife migration corridors in the region.

We thank you for fulfilling your promise to bring these parts of the legislation forward which were not enacted when the Antiquities Act was utilized to form the new National Monuments.

Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

BMCP
P.O. Box 780
Morongo Valley, CA 92256

www.bigmorongo.org



May 12, 2017

Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Dear Senator Feinstein,

Hispanic Access Foundation would like to share our support and thanks for the reintroduction of California Desert Protection and Recreation Act (CDPRA) during the 115th Congress in January 2017. Your ongoing support of the California desert and the people who call it home has been incredible and shown through your actions since the original California Desert Protection Act of 1994, last year's CDPRA, and your encouragement of the use of the Antiquities Act to establish the California Desert National Monuments.

We support the CDPRA, which protects desert landscapes while also increasing recreation and tourism values that are important to the region. We agree with the legislations' provisions, including:

- Expansion of Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks
- Establishment of wilderness areas, which will create wildlife corridors, and protect climate change mitigation values of the desert
- Designation of Wild and Scenic rivers, promoting adaptability of fragile desert ecosystems
- Protection of off-highway vehicle recreation areas
- Mandate to study Native American cultural trails along the Colorado River

We believe that it is critical that our public lands be reflective of our diverse cultures. We all benefit from cultural traditions, which have protected our natural resources for generations.

We thank you for your long-term vision and steadfast commitment to the California Desert landscape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maite", is written in a cursive style.

Maite Arce, President and Founder
Hispanic Access Foundation

April 30, 2017



The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support for S.32, the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017

Dear Senator Feinstein:

CalWild is pleased to support S.32, the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017. The Kingston Range, Avawatz Mountains, Soda Mountains, Great Falls Basin, Vinagre Wash and Milpitas Wash regions are national treasures and deserving of immediate protection. We have worked with you to protect these areas since 1994, and we intend to continue to support you in any way possible.

In the months to come we intend to build support for S.32, particularly in San Bernardino County. Please let us know if there anything else we can do to help you advance the measure. Thank you for your continued leadership on desert conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Henson".

Ryan Henson
Senior Policy Director
CalWild
3313 Nathan Drive
Anderson, CA 96007
530-365-1455
rhenson@calwild.org



Statement of CalWild before the Subcommittee on Public
Lands, Forests, and Mining
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Hearing on S. 32
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Chairwoman Murkowski and members of the committee, thank you for scheduling this hearing on this important bill regarding conservation of the California Desert.

CalWild is a non-profit conservation organization founded in 1976. Our mission is to protect the natural landscapes that make California unique, providing clean air and water, a home to wildlife, and a place for recreation and spiritual renewal. CalWild is the only statewide organization dedicated to protecting California's wild places and native biodiversity.

We would like to start by expressing our deep appreciation to Senator Feinstein, not only for her work with diverse stakeholders in order to craft a balanced bill, but also for her incredible work in championing the preservation of our beautiful California desert.

For the past decade, CalWild, along with local partners, have been working on the ground in San Bernardino, Inyo, Riverside, and Imperial counties to garner support for this desert legislation. We live in or close to these communities and through our advocacy for Senator Feinstein's bill, we have built relationships and trust among stakeholders that frankly did not exist before the work began to put this bill together. Senator Feinstein rightfully challenged us and other conservation groups to help her craft a balanced bill that would have not only our support, but also off-roaders, veterans, local government, utilities, business, tribes, the military and others. S. 32 accomplishes that objective. It is consistent with her pragmatism and decades-long commitment to work "across the aisle" to get things done.

From its iconic Joshua trees to its spectacular wildflower blooms, the California desert is one both of the harshest landscapes in America while at the same time one of the most fragile and beautiful. It is a place of serenity, solitude, wonderment, and adventure. Its biodiversity rivals the redwood forests, and its cultural resources date back 10,000 years ago from Native American rock art and sacred sites to the more recent relics of General Patton's WWII training camps. The California desert is also enjoyed and used by people from all over the world and all walks of life, who experience it in vastly different ways. From nature photographers to astronomers, from hunters to hikers, from off-roaders to researchers, our desert has something for everyone.

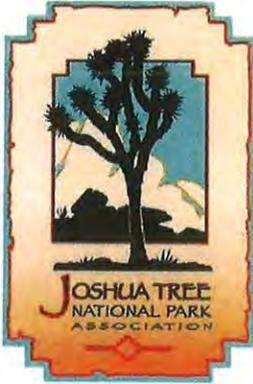
This legislation encompasses unique, undeveloped, ecologically and geologically significant, culturally important, and scenic areas of public land in the California desert. Specifically, S. 32 will:

- Protect 278,230 acres as wilderness;
- Designate 81,000 acres in Imperial County as a “special management area” where wilderness-quality lands would be protected and where motorized recreation would be better-managed;
- Increase the size of Death Valley National Park and Joshua Tree National Park by about 44,000 acres;
- Protect 18,610 acres of the Alabama Hills as a Scenic Area;
- Protect 77 miles of stream as wild and scenic rivers;
- Prohibit development, mining, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use (except on designated routes), grazing, military training and other surface disturbing activities on 6.5 million acres of federal lands in the desert;
- Mandate the study and protection of a cultural trail and the features associated with it along the Colorado River that is sacred to several tribes;
- Transfer a 994-acre Bureau of Land Management holding in San Diego County to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and require the state to manage the land as wilderness;
- Withdraw legislative protection from 126,000 acres of existing wilderness study areas;
- Designate five existing, administratively designated OHV areas covering approximately 142,720 acres as permanent OHV recreation areas;
- Require the Department of Interior to study the impact of climate change on California desert species migration and to incorporate the results of the study into land use plans;
- Protect water in desert aquifers from being unsustainably pumped from the ground and sold to parties elsewhere (which could lead to the loss of natural seeps and springs that are critical to the survival of wildlife);
- Protect 28,000 acres of land in the Juniper Flats area from energy development;
- Allocate 35% of the revenues generated from energy leasing on federal lands within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) to mitigating the damage caused by wind and solar development in the CDCA; and
- Send another 50% of the revenues generated from energy leasing to the State of California and affected counties.

The measure will also provide a further boost to tourism, which is an important component of its local support.

This legislation is similar to bills the Senator has introduced in past Congresses, and that the Subcommittee has heard previously, and we hope the full Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will proceed with expedited consideration and approval of S. 32 and send it onto the Senate floor.

Thank you for considering our testimony.



74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

www.joshuatree.org • 760-367-5525 • 760-367-5583 fax

July 23, 2017

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Board of
Directors**

Mark Wheeler,
President

Darrell Shade,
Vice President

Kevin Powell,
Treasurer

Laraine Turk,
Secretary

Erin Adams

Paul Smith

Curt Sauer

Karen Tracy

Bill Truesdell

Bob Zimmerman

To the Honorable Dianne Feinstein,

Thank you very much for your efforts, with California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017, to bring forth the parts of the legislation that were not enacted when Sand to Snow National Monument, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains National Monuments were formed via the Antiquities Act.

The Joshua Tree National Park Association is especially grateful for your efforts to allow the Park Service to accept land donations and the Joshua Tree Visitor Center via boundary adjustments.

We are very impressed with the extensive outreach you did to local stakeholders and communities. Your thoughtful balance of responsible land-use management and opportunities for recreation and conservation reflects the comments shared in numerous local meetings.

We join the tremendous grassroots support from local communities of recreationists, businesses and industry, faith-based groups, local tribes, and chambers of commerce in offering our full support of the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protected our local lands while enhancing local economies.

Sincerely,

Meg Foley, Executive Director
Joshua Tree National Park Association

Our mission, as a cooperating association, is to assist with preservation, education, historical and scientific programs for the benefit of Joshua Tree National Park and its visitors.



29 Palms Inn

July 24, 2017

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Re: Endorsement Of Senate Bill 32
California Desert Protection and Recreation Act

Dear Sen. Feinstein:

Our family has owned the historic 29 Palms Inn in the Mojave Desert since 1928. It is a successful tourism destination serving as a gateway to Joshua Tree National Park, The Mojave National Preserve, Death Valley National Park, over 60 federally designated wilderness areas, and the three new desert monuments.

This important desert ecosystem in viewshed is visited by many millions of tourists and tourism related business people every year. They come from throughout the United States and many foreign countries. We and our customers know the Native Americans who consider this great desert home from Nevada, Arizona, and California.

Your bill would protect many miles of this important and unique desert wild country. Desert scientists consider this major desert ecosystem to be one of the most important pristine desert environments in the world. The bills protections for Native American important cultural sites is of permanent importance.

This large relatively undisturbed desert ecosystem is also a wonderful natural system for studying the effects of climate change on wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors.

We thank you for introducing this important legislation to protect an important part of our nation's wild heritage. We urge its passage.

Sincerely,

Paul F Smith

Owner, 29 Palms Inn