



Scrap the Current Mojave National Preserve Plan to Eliminate Water Sources

Proposal would eliminate water sources developed by sportsmen over decades of effort to sustain wild sheep and other desert wildlife in modified desert environments.

- The proposal explicitly dismisses from analysis the effects that removing water devices will have on conservation stewardship and recreation opportunities, including hunting.
- No reference is made to USDI Secretarial Orders 3362, 3356, and 3347, or to Executive Order 13443—each of which directs federal agencies in various ways to advance conservation stewardship and increase outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting.
- No reference is made to how this plan comports with efforts by the National Park Service to comply with those Secretarial Orders.
- The analysis assumes that Wilderness values are separate and apart from the needs for access and management to support wildlife habitat management and hunting.
- We recommend abandoning this plan altogether and instead engaging with sportsmen and other conservationists to determine where water devices are most necessary and how they will be maintained, added to, or removed, accordingly.

Statutory Authorizations

The *California Desert Protection Act of 1994* established the Mojave National Preserve as a unit of the National Park System. However, this plan does not reference authority provided in the *California Desert Protection Act of 1994, Sec. 103(f)* implicitly authorizing the use of man-made water devices to support wildlife habitat within the Mojave National Preserve. The statute states that “FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. — Management activities to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and the habitats to support such populations may be carried out within wilderness areas designated by this title.”

About the Wild Sheep Foundation:

44 years of restoration of wild sheep by trap-and-transplant field-work to expand wild sheep herds. * Deadly pneumonia caught from domestic sheep is the biggest obstacle. * We fund research on the disease and willing-party buy-outs and retirements of grazing allotments to separate wild and domestic sheep. * WSF endowed the Rocky Crate/Wild Sheep Foundation Endowed Chair for Wild Sheep Disease Research at Washington State University. * We have directed \$120 million towards wild sheep conservation. * WSF annually provides nearly **40% of ALL** wild sheep revenue to state/provincial wildlife agencies for wild sheep management programs.