

September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

To: Ms. Angelita Bulletts  
District Manager, BLM Southern Nevada District Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Jon Raby  
Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management  
*1340 Financial Blvd.*  
*Reno, NV 89502*

Nada Culver  
Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
189 C Street NW  
Washington DC, 20240

Re: Letter of Support for the Cactus Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern  
Nomination

Dear Ms. Bulletts,

The undersigned organizations are requesting that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) establish the Cactus Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect important Mojave Desert habitats.

The BLM has received several large energy applications for the Indian Springs Valley in Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada, in the middle of the most crucial desert tortoise connectivity corridor in southern Nevada. The area also includes Cactus Springs, a rare wetland in the desert. We need to protect this place.

We are submitting the Cactus Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern nomination to the BLM to protect 58,000 acres of this Mojave Desert scrub, alluvial fans, galleta grass washes, badlands with Ice Age fossils, and Cactus Springs--an important water resource and mesquite woodland.

This petition nominates public lands Priority One Desert Tortoise Connectivity Habitat in the Indian Springs Valley for status as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The significant hydrological, biological, and cultural resources of Cactus Spring is also included. These lands are primarily located in Clark County, Nevada and the nomination is approximately

58,000 acres in extent. This nomination describes the significant environmental resources and values of these lands, and the need for special management attention. Based on current knowledge and data, the area highlighted in this nomination has been identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service as the most critical desert tortoise connectivity corridor in Southern Nevada. This connectivity corridor is located within the Indian Springs Valley which connects the Amargosa and Pahrump Valleys on the west and north sides of the Spring Mountains and connects them to the Las Vegas Valley on the east side. The region represents an important high Mojave Desert habitat and contains a variety of important native species found in the region. Mammoth fossils have been found at Cactus Spring.

Thank you for your consideration to protect this important Mojave Desert habitat.

The full ACEC nomination can be viewed here: [Cactus Springs ACEC tortoise \(basinandrangewatch.org\)](http://basinandrangewatch.org)

Sincerely,

Laura Cunningham  
California Director  
Western Watersheds Project

Olivia Brister  
Environmental Justice Program Manager  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

Jim Boone  
Owner  
BirdAndHike.com; Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC

Patrick Donnelly  
Great Basin Director  
Center for Biological Diversity

Steve Bardwell  
President  
Morongo Basin Conservation Association

Michelle Bashin  
President  
Desert Survivors

Kevin Emmerich  
Co-Founder and Director

Basin and Range Watch

Shannon Salter  
Executive Director  
Mojave Green

Michael Painter  
Coordinator  
Californians for Western Wilderness