

October 30, 2000

Mike Pool
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Pool:

We have recently had the opportunity to review BLM's internal Special Law Enforcement Evaluation: "Law Enforcement in the California Desert." Needless to say, we are appalled; the BLM must take immediate and determined action to address the issues identified in this report.

It is not acceptable that BLM rangers are subjected to life threatening situations posed by unruly crowds, without even the minimal equipment necessary to perform their jobs. Nor is it acceptable that the majority of BLM's personnel are required to control ORV users in one location, leaving the rest of the desert district unpatrolled. Both public safety and the protection of the desert's valuable natural and archaeological resources demand a ranger presence throughout the California Desert District.

The evaluation points to the need for the Bureau to determine the carrying capacity at the Algodones Dunes, considering public safety, ranger safety, and resource protection. Crowds of the size documented in the report clearly exceed acceptable numbers. We urge you to undertake such a study immediately.

Sincerely,

Karen Schambach
California Coordinator