

James Strenfel

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Response to CCMA Draft EIS 2009

The following are statements taken from the CCMA EIS currently under the public comment period.

1. **REC-VIS-EF2.** *Provide a limited number of recreation facilities in the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua zones to meet increased recreation demand while protecting natural and cultural values and providing for public safety. (Page 85)*
2. *Over the past 20 years, motorized vehicle use has been more closely managed as a result of increasing demand, (Page 132 3.1.1)*
3. *The number of annual recreational visits to CCMA public lands continues to increase, primarily because of their proximity to urban areas such as San Jose, San Francisco, and coastal communities (Page 136 3.1.4.3)*
4. *The amount of OHV use would also be sustained at 35,000 visitor use days, with slight increases over the life of this plan. (Page 446 4.7.3.2)*
5. *The OHV-related environmental impacts from increasing OHV use on the CCMA route network would affect soil erosion, damage to vegetation, wildlife habitat fragmentation, and the spread of invasive species.(Page 149 3.3.5)*
6. *However, OHV use has increased over the past thirty years, the resulting impacts to scenic qualities are highly visible in Clear Creek Canyon, and are expected to continue to increase in designated vehicle use areas within CCMA. (Page 3.16.4.2)*
7. *Current observations are that OHV use at CCMA is not increasing at the rate of other OHV areas, although publicity and population growth would be expected to contribute to slight increases in CCMA visitor use over the life of this plan. (Page 305 4.1.2.1)*

8. *Current observations are that OHV use at CCMA is not increasing at the rate of other OHV areas, although publicity and population growth would be expected to contribute to slight increases in CCMA visitor use over the life of this plan. (Page 308)*

9. *Recreation use of public lands is expected to increase as population grows not only in the Central Coast and Diablo Range areas that support local use but also throughout the HFO and California. If recreation use were to grow at a rate proportional to population growth in the Central Coast and Diablo Range areas, over 50,000 annual visits would be expected, compared to the estimated fiscal year 2006 use of 43,000 visits. However, a more likely scenario is that the increase in recreation visits would far exceed population growth as competition for recreation space accelerates and as word of the recreation opportunities on BLM lands in CCMA spreads. If use were to triple during the life of this RMP/EIS, over 90,000 visits annually would be expected. (Page 522 4.15.2.4)*

10. *OHV recreation users have been riding on the barrens with increasingly frequency over the past 40 years. (Page 598)*

**The statement and table below contradicts the statements above.**

*In 2007/2008, recreation use in the Planning Area was estimated at 35,000 visitor days, with about 80% of this attributed to OHVs. These estimates have not changed drastically over the years, even with the increasing popularity of OHV recreation in California. (Page 135 3.1.4.2)*

Table 3.8-1. Visitors CCMA Visitor Use Year	
2003	50,000 (Estimated)
2004	50,000 (Estimated)
2005	43,235
2006	43,187
2007	35,267
2008	28,428

**2005 CCMA closed between June and Oct. 15**

**2006 CCMA closed between June and Oct. 15**

**2007 CCMA closed between June and Oct. 15**

**2008 CCMA closed May 1**

**Visitor use, shown above in table 3.8-1, has been declining. CCMA was closed one month early in 2008. But we can extrapolate the visitor use that would have occurred. The 2007 figures of 35,267 equate to around 4,700 visitors a month. The EIS has statements that the highest usage is in the wet months. May is not a wet month so lets add only 2,500 to the 2008 totals, which brings us to an estimate of 30,928. This represents a drop of around 39% since 2003. All of your above statements are contradictory, (These estimates have not changed drastically over the years, even with the increasing popularity of OHV recreation in California Page 135)), or in error.**

**To bring the EIS into compliance with CEQ regulation 15001.1 (b) the following changes should be made to the EIS.**

**Changes by statement number.**

**Statement 1 Remove “to meet increased recreation demand.”**

**Statement 2 Remove “as a result of increasing demand.”**

**Statement 3 Remove entire statement.**

**Statement 4 Remove entire statement.**

**Statement 5 Remove entire statement.**

**Statement 6 Remove entire statement.**

**Statement 7 Remove entire statement.**

**Statement 8 Remove entire statement.**

**Statement 9 Remove entire statement.**

**Statement 10 Remove entire statement.**

**Also remove the entire dissertation 3.3.5 Trends and Forecast on page 149. Since CCMA usage has been declining, this has no quantitative relationship with CCMA. Include references to the fact that visitor usage has declined by 39 percent.**

**Regards,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Strenfel". The signature is stylized and cursive.

**James Strenfel**