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Sent Via Fax and Mail

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RE: Designation of Eastern Hernandez Valley, San Benito County, CA, as
a New Wildlife Conservation/Study Area for Condors, Bald Eagles,
Elk and Other Wildlife

Dear Gentlemen:

The BLM has issued a November 2009 Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental
Impact Statement ("RMP/EIS") for the Clear Creek Management Area in Southern San Benito
County and Western Fresno County ("the CCMA"). Among other things, the RMP/EIS

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addresses approximately 5,900 acres of BLM land at the Northern end of the CCMA near Hernandez Reservoir. This BLM land includes Cane, Baker, Biles and Post Canyons on the Eastern side of Hernandez Valley, as well as a portion of Tucker Mountain further to the East. The RMP/EIS refers to this area as the "Tucker Zone." Due in part to its proximity to Hernandez Reservoir and its limited public access, the Tucker Zone is excellent habitat for bald eagles, condors and an ever increasing elk herd.

It is our understanding that BLM's primary concern regarding the Tucker Zone is lack of adequate public access. However, we believe that, due to the limited access, the eagles, condors, elk and other wildlife thrive in this area. The same cannot be said for other areas of the CCMA.

On behalf of ourselves and certain other landowners in Hernandez Valley, we propose that the 5,900 acres of BLM land in the Tucker Zone be formally or informally designated as some type of wildlife conservation/study area. This area could be set aside specifically for wildlife habitat to mitigate the habitat loss elsewhere in the CCMA.

Our proposal involves the landowners adjacent to the Tucker Zone granting BLM easements to the Tucker Zone for the following limited purposes:

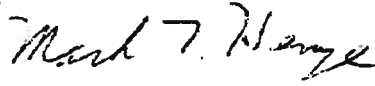
1. Allowing BLM (and DFG) employees, contractors and agents access to the Tucker Zone for range/land management and law enforcement purposes.
2. With appropriate DFG orientation, allowing a limited number of La Panza elk tag holders access for elk hunting purposes on BLM land (for no special fee) and, perhaps, on neighboring private land. Some private landowners may charge a fee for hunting on their land, but some may not if the right tag holder is involved (i.e., disable, veterans, children). As an alternative to the La Panza elk hunt, perhaps DFG could establish a special hunt with its own tags just for the Hernandez Valley herd. We think this would provide DFG with better "hands on" management of this wonderful resource.
3. Limited access (in terms of frequency and numbers of people) for members of the public to go on organized educational and photographic "safaris" in the Tucker Zone. Small, quite and discrete groups of individuals could get some great wildlife photographs, including nesting eagles, rutting elk and, if they are lucky, condors. Our hope is that the Ventana Wildlife Society might have an interest in organizing and conducting such safaris.

Please understand that our proposal is not intended to exclude any members of the public from entering the Tucker Zone in any other legal manner or for any legal purpose. However, our proposal is conditioned on BLM not authorizing or constructing any OHV trails or roads in the Tucker zone. There is a lot of "unlimited access" BLM land in the country for the public to enjoy, but very few high quality "gems" for the public to savor. We believe our proposal gives the BLM a unique opportunity to serve the wildlife and the public.

At your earliest convenience, please give us a call at (949) 366-1972, or email us at mmaas@sbcglobal.net. to discuss your thoughts regarding the above. Please feel free to discuss our proposal with each other. For Mr. Hobb's and Mr. Sorenson's information, the RMP/EIS is available on-line at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/hollister>.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Margaret K. Maas
Mark T. Henze

cc: Hernandez Valley Property Owners

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