

NEWS RELEASE

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Creation Justice Ministries Applauds Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Washington, DC -- Creation Justice Ministries commends the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management for finalizing the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). As our nation ambitiously pursues our renewable energy goals, the ecosystems hosting renewable energy projects also need care. As stewards of the Earth, it is not always easy to balance caring for the ecosystem integrity of God's creation with our commitment to renewable energy for a safer climate. The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan does both.

The DRECP was eight years in the making, and is the result of dozens of public meetings, hundreds of data sets, and tens of thousands of public comments. The time and community input planners and decision-makers considered to get the DRECP right has paid off. The plan balances renewable energy development with the fragile desert ecosystem. The plan covers close to 10 million acres. Most of the land is set aside for conservation, while renewable energy development is planned for approximately 388,000 acres. The plan ensures development is done in the right places to protect habitat for God's creatures.

Creation Justice Ministries Executive Director Shantha Ready Alonso said of the plan, "The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan maximizes the natural gifts of God's creation. It allows the fragile California desert ecosystem to play its role as a powerful force for carbon sequestration, while also setting aside land for us to harness the abundance of the sun and wind for our energy needs."