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Subject: Oceano Dunes Air Quality Problem
Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 12:22:06 PM

Hello,

I am writing this letter to encourage you to re-think your stance on the Oceano Dunes SVRA. I have been going to the Oceano Dunes since the early 70's. I have seen a lot of changes and almost every change has caused me anguish.

The Oceano Dunes are a gem in the off road world. It is a place I grew up and a place I am raising my son. Over time the dunes have been dwindled to a mere speck of what it used to be. The area has been planted with non native species in order to stop mother nature. The area has been reduced in such a size that it has become more dangerous for little kids to ride. I really don't understand how trying to stop mother nature or how putting our children in danger is good for anyone.

The dunes have been evolving for thousands of years and some groups of people use science to try and change that in a detrimental way. These groups are also trying to use science as a base for the new plan of action. Even though the science says "without Question" that the dunes have nothing to do with the air quality.

All of the attacks on the Oceano Dunes by the sierra club have been based on false science. When the scientist come back and contradict what the sierra club is saying, nothing changes. The closures continue.

Same thing happens down in the Imperial sand dunes as well. In regards to the Poisonous Milk Weed. Also, If you wish I could send you articles about the Oregon Dunes issue with the planting of a non native species of Spanish Grass years ago that is ruining the ecosystem there.

This latest issue with the air quality is a perfect example. A group of people have come up with their own idea about what is causing the bad air quality. Scientist have studied the problem and without question say that the bad air quality has nothing to do with the Oceano Dunes or the people who enjoy it. So with that said, what has changed. Areas have been closed and the dunes have been littered with straw. Straw? Yes, straw and I'm pretty sure it would never grow there since there is no nutrients in the sand. So why is it there? Why would anyone try to stop the sand from blowing if it has nothing to do with the air quality? It is just a ploy to close off more of the dunes. The Pacific Ocean and the Santa Maria river have been depositing sand onto Oceano Dunes for 18,000 years. The winds have been blowing that sand around for 18,000 years creating one of the most unique riding areas in the country. Bails of hay and straw would never stop the sand from migrating.

One of the main reasons I love the dunes is because they rebuild on a daily basis. Thanks to the winds I get to enjoy and explore the dunes all over again because mother nature wipes the slate clean. Just like a Zamboni between periods in hockey. I get a new riding area everyday.

If anyone really wanted to make a change for the better and loved the dunes along with the environment as much as I do. Would be fighting to open up more area for people to ride and enjoy. The fact is all the closed area is being wasted and is not being enjoyed by anyone.

It seems to me that someone should be looking into how to save the Oceano Dunes and expand on what is already an unparalleled experience of nature. Not close more of it to the 2 million people who visit and enjoy it every year. There is no other place in California that parents can take their children to experience what is available in the Oceano Dunes.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would just like discuss other thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Williams

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