

## **The Desert Survivors General Policy Statement**

Our General Policy Statement was written in 1991 as a guide to the group's decision-making on desert protection issues. It is concise, but also comprehensive. As a fragile ecosystem, the desert needs extraordinary protection. Damage done now lasts not just for decades but for centuries. This policy statement has governed our protection work since its conception. It distills all of the many protection issues the group has worked on since its founding in 1981 down to a single page. Simple but thorough, and a joy to read.

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### **GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT**

**January 9, 1992**

Desert Survivors is for the preservation of desert lands, including habitat, plants, wildlife, water sources and scenic areas, including but not limited to national parks, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, national monuments, scenic areas, state and local parks, wildlife refuges, and undeveloped areas.

We support:

1. Native wildlife protection
2. Endangered species protection
3. Protection of existing biodiverse ecosystems
4. More wilderness protection laws
5. Mitigation and restoration of damaged ecosystems
6. Preservation of prehistorical artifacts and sites
7. Increasing public awareness of and sensitivity to desert ecology
8. Encouraging safe, low-impact exploration of desert regions

We oppose any activities which have an adverse impact on the above, including but not limited to:

1. Mining
2. Grazing
3. Logging
4. Development of expanded vehicle access and unnecessary existing roads, ways and corridors
5. Off-road vehicle activities
6. Military expansion and use
7. Military use and overflights on non-base lands
8. Toxic waste, including nuclear, urban, industrial, etc.
9. Agricultural expansion
10. Suburbanization that has an adverse effect on public lands
11. Wild plant collecting, woodcutting, and commercial harvesting of pine nuts, herbs, etc.
12. Manmade improvements, except on a case-by-case basis

13. Power corridors
14. Geothermal
15. Misuse of water sources, including but not limited to: water diversions, destruction of riparian areas, and modification of hot springs
16. Introduction of non-native plant and animal species
17. Suppression of naturally occurring fires
18. Irresponsible use of firearms and resulting problems, including trash

It is Desert Survivors policy that in instances where adverse impacts cannot be avoided, to support policies which result in the least adverse impact possible.

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