UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

DEC 1 0 2009

Tim Smith, Manager
Carrizo Plain National Monument
Bureau of Land Management
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Subject: Carrizo Plain National Monument Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties, California [CEQ #20090387]

Dear Mr. Smith:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced document. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA reviewed the Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS) and provided comments to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on April 9, 2009. We rated the DRMP/DEIS as Lack of Objections (LO).

EPA is pleased that several of the issues identified in our review of the DRMP/DEIS have been addressed in the FEIS. In response to comments from EPA on impacts associated with livestock grazing, the BLM elaborated on that discussion and provided additional details with regards to adaptive management strategies and tools that may be implemented in conjunction with grazing activities. With regards to biological monitoring, BLM appears to have established the necessary baseline conditions for adaptive management. BLM has also agreed to consider further actions to reduce grazing to the extent possible and will consider suspending grazing should rangeland health be impaired. As recommended, BLM also provided the percentage of actual grazing use that has occurred during the past five years for each allotment.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. When the Record of Decision (ROD) is signed, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521 or Ann McPherson, the lead reviewer for this project. Ann can be reached at (415) 972-3545 or mcpherson.ann@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Goforth

Kathleen M. Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office