

AMERICAN LAND RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

If it can't be grown , it has to be mined

Legislative Office 507 Seward Square SE, Washington D.C. 20003\
www.alra.org

MEDIA RELEASE:\

Contact: Chuck Cushman (360) 687-3087 Fax (360) 687-2975 Email-
ccushman@pacifier.com Battleground. WA 98604-0400 or Don Fife (714)
356-7200 Fax (714) 731-3745 Email donfife@dslextreme.com Tustin, CA
9278-1065

DECEPTION OVER DESERT WILDERNESS ACT

Donald L. Fife Professional Geologist¹
American Institute of Professional Geologists
CPG-4735

WAS CONGRESS A VICTUM OF FRAUD?

Mojave/Colorado Deserts, California “The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has known for decades that hard science does not support that ‘desert soils’ in the California Desert are ecologically fragile.” However, BLM reportedly destroyed 99 of 100 copies received from their own contractor's secret report. Scientific conclusions found that the effects of off road vehicles on the California Desert are negligible. This decision by BLM bureaucrats appears to be a classical act of governmental *Perception Management*² or “*the Big Lie.*”

Page 1 of 3

¹Don Fife is a professional geologist who has served under Secretaries of Interior Watt, Clark, Hodel and Lujan as adviser for geology, energy, and minerals for the 25 million-acre California Desert Conservation Area. Don also served as ad-hoc adviser to Allen Hill CEQ for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) during 8 years of the Reagan-Bush Administration. He has testified before the House and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee numerous times. Including how EPA told NASA they couldn't use non-carcinogenic chrysotile asbestos in the Challenger's; “O” rings which resulted in the failure of the space shuttle

² Perception Management a field of psychology in which the public or a group is given a view or prospective that is desired by another group to perceive something that may actually be contrary to reality. (David Baldacci, 2008. The Whole Truth, author's note page 403)

A 1973 scientific report, "A Study of Desert Soils Subjected to Recreational Vehicle use in the California Desert Conservations Area" which was conducted at the Bureau of Land Management's request. Based on a campaign of mis-information that Off Road Vehicles (OHVs) were destroying the California Deserts Senators Feinstein and Boxer introduced the California Desert Protection Act (S-21), which Bill Clinton signed into law in 1976.

This report, known informally as the "Babcock Report," was conducted and written by three professional scientists; a soil geologist, Robert Dickey; a soils geologist and a soil engineer; and a soil scientist. The three scientists conducted a thorough and detailed analysis of ten separate sites selected by the BLM, to specifically study the effects of Off-Road Vehicle (OHV) race courses in different desert micro-climates and terrains.

Interestingly, the report stated "...from a geologic viewpoint, the physical effects of the OHV use on the desert is negligible." It continues,

"The percentage of present affected area is extremely small. The alluvial areas tested are subject to constant reworking and burial from desert thunderstorms, with resultant erosion or burial of vehicle tracks. The sand dunes are essentially inconstant motion and vehicle tracks have a life expectancy of only a few days."

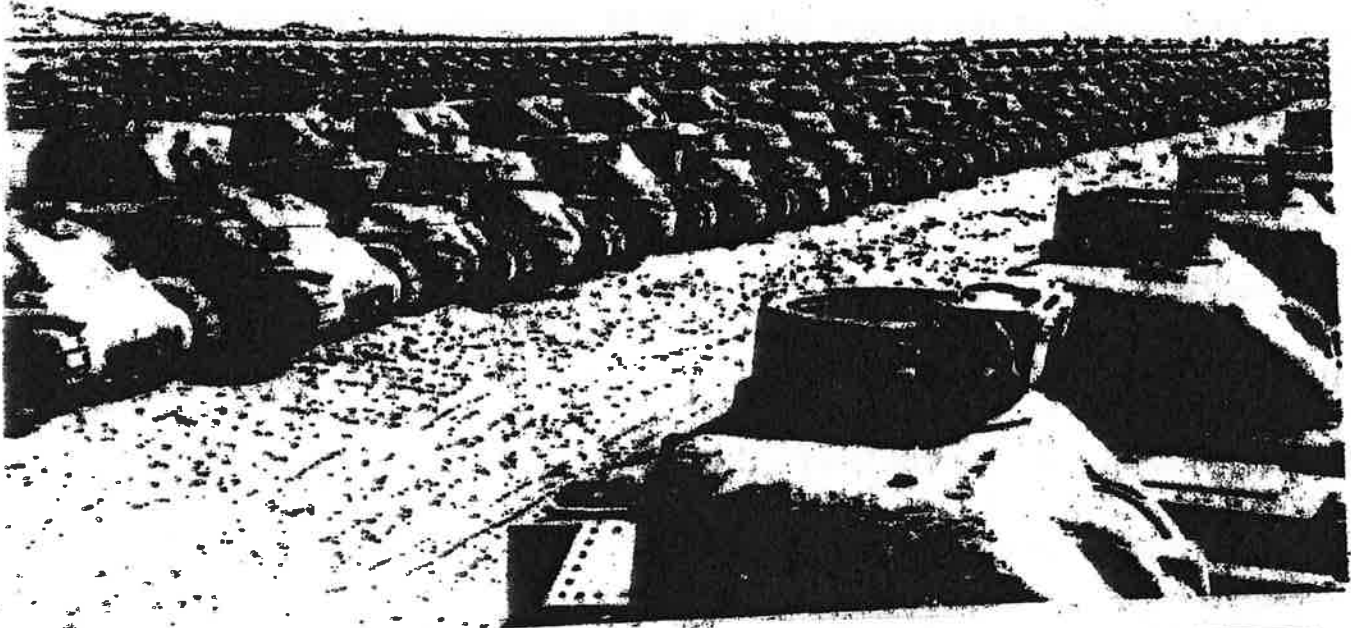
As to the effects that off-road vehicles have on plant growth, the report states:

"A comparison of disturbed and undisturbed areas at each site with regard to plant growth potential does not reveal any significant subsurface differences."

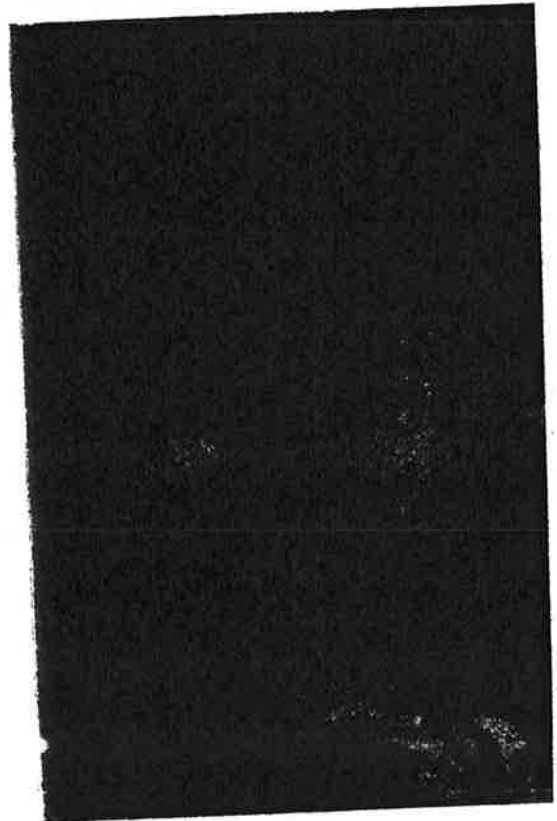
Beyond the Babcock Report's scientific proof, history itself proves the desert's ecology is not as fragile as the BLM would like you to believe. During WWII the U.S. Army under General George Smith Patton, Jr., commander of the I Armored Corp (Photo 1) selected this area for what was to become the world's largest army base with nearly 200,000 troops and covering nearly 18,000 square miles. It stretched from Pomona, California eastward to within approximately 50 miles of Phoenix southward to the suburbs of Yuma, Arizona, and northward to the outskirts of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Between 1942 and 1944, some 38,500 tanks and other off-road military vehicles tore through the desert day after day (Photo 2), while the Army Air Corp, Navy and Marines pummeled the desert floor with artillery and bombing runs. In 1945, the desert looked like a war zone with miles and miles of tank and vehicle tracks, and

PHOTO 1: Some of General Patton's tanks in the California Desert



General Patton used 38,000 tanks for training all over the desert. Few reminders are left after the desert healing process.



General George S. Patton, Jr.

an unending carpet of bomb and artillery craters. Yet, within a decade nearly all traces of these impacts had already disappeared.

Page 2 of 3

Edwards, Babcock & Sons and Gallaher & Bovey Geotechnical Consultants delivered 100 copies of the report to the BLM, according to Robert Dickey, the senior author of the "Babcock Report." Upon reading the Report, the BLM destroyed all but one copy, and the authors were sworn to secrecy.

Nearly 20 years after the Babcock Report was filed, I found one remaining copy "buried" un-indexed in a BLM archive in Riverside County, California where it was unlikely ever to be seen again.

Suppression of the "Babcock Report" and the U.N. designation of the California Desert as a Man in the Biosphere Reserve in 1972 were crucial elements never discussed in the Congressional hearings on the California's "Desert Protection Act (S-21)," which effectively restricted access to more than 10 million acres of desert recreational lands and over several trillion taxable dollars in potential energy and mineral wealth.

Who profited most from the Desert Protection Act (S-21)? Winners certainly do not include the thousands of private property owners in the desert or ranchers and small "mom and pop" miners who lost their business and their jobs.

Was the big winner the Sierra Club which got 1,000 square miles of the railroad mineral-rich railroad lands for a mere \$40 million? How might the Catellus Stockholders of railroad lands who may have had their energy and mineral assets sold so cheaply been affected? A single mineral deposit in the California Desert can be valued at more than a Billion Dollars.

Senators Feinstein and Boxer's Desert Protection Act (S-21) has become a threat to the economy and national defense. This Act lead to closing of the only producing Rare Earth Mine (REE) in the USA at Mountain Pass California; At one time the largest REE Mine in the world. REEs are critically strategic to our high tech industries and national defense. The "Desert Protection Act" gave control of 97% of the world's REE production to a potential military advisory Communist China!

Page 3 of 3

Note: To view the "Babcock Report" in full, visit <http://nohvcclibrary.forestry.uga.edu/SCANNED%20FILES/S-0034-study%of%20CA%20desert%20soils.pdf> or just google Robert Dickey 1973 Babcock Report