



May 14 2016

Mr. Neil Kornze, Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Sir,

It is with great concern that I have followed the commentaries of many friends and contemporaries in the motorsports community and the performance automotive aftermarket regarding the steady deterioration of the Bonneville (Utah) Salt Flats.

It distresses me that the conditions are deteriorating to such a point that the erosion of the salt from commercial potash mining has made it increasingly more difficult to hold the annual series land speed trial events, for which the Salt Flats are known, worldwide.

As the Chairman of the Quarter Mile Foundation, I wish to go on the record as supporting the efforts of the State of Utah, the City of Wendover, Utah, the Specialty Equipment Market Association, the Save the Salt Foundation, Save the Salt Coalition, The Utah Alliance, Utah Salt Flats Racers Association, Southern California Timing Association, Bonneville Motorcycle Speed Trials and Cook's Land Speed Events to build awareness of this problem and to restore the salt levels after years of benign neglect. As the Foundation has recorded interviews of the surviving pioneers of drag racing and the performance aftermarket as the cornerstone of its mission to preserve the history of the sport and industry, it has become very apparent there is significant overlap with the land speed community.

For over a century, the "Bonneville Raceway" has been a focal point for those seeking to establish the Land Speed Record for a variety of cars and motorcycles. Names like Arfons, Breedlove, Campbell, Tetzlaff, Thompson, Vesco and countless others have pursued their passion for extracting the highest speed possible from their vehicles at Bonneville. Additionally, it is a geological treasure, and is a part of the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

The land speed racing, plus the tourism that come into the Salt Flats area, contributes to the economy of the city of Wendover. The loss of the last two summers of competition due to unsatisfactory salt conditions has been felt in the community's hospitality and retail communities.

The Salt Flats and the Bonneville Speedway have been, and continue to be a significant portion of the motorsports scene. The Foundation believes it is imperative for the Bureau of Land Management to proactively work with the stakeholders to find a means to restore and maintain salt levels to allow safe competition, and then continue to guarantee the program is maintained.

As the agency tasked with the protection of this National Landmark, the Bureau of Land Management must assume a much more active role in protecting and maintaining the site – geologically and for its continued safe use for motorsports.

Respectfully,

Traci Hrudka

Chairman,  
Quarter Mile Foundation

cc: Ms. Sally Jewel, Secretary of the Interior; Hon. Gary Herbert, Governor, Utah; Mr. Mike Crawford, Mayor, Wendover, UT; Mr. Kevin Oliver, West Desert District (BLM) Manager; Mr. Chris Kersting, President/CEO, Specialty Equipment Market Association, The Utah Alliance; Save the Salt Foundation; Save the Salt Coalition; Utah Salt Flats Racers Association; Southern California Timing Association; Bonneville Motorcycle Speed Trials; Cook's Land Speed Events