

October 25, 2015

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

I am very concerned with the deteriorating conditions of the Bonneville Salt Flats, a National Historic Place, and the impending demise of land speed racing.

My grandfather was the first to visit the Salt Flats from our family; the first official racing meet in 1949. Like everyone who visits the salt, he was in awe of its natural splendor. He returned every year afterward to pursue his passion of racing, until he was finally too old to make the journey from California. My father visited in 1953 when he was seven years old. He has been racing there ever since, dedicated to preserving the salt, bringing together communities, and exploring his hobby to the fullest. Further, my mother visited in 1959, 11 years old, while on a family vacation. She remembers her parents pulling the kids out of the car to show them the wondrous landscape. They were excited to learn how it naturally formed from ancient Lake Bonneville and that racers made cars go to unbelievable speeds every year! To top off my family history, my uncle Don Vesco is world famous for setting a World Land Speed Record at 458 mph!!

I am proud to say that the Salt Flats have played an integral part of my life and who I am as an American adult. I have been going to the Salt Flats since I was three months old; I am now 31. I am excited to say that I hold a land speed record on the salt, at 310 mph, set at age 27. I planned on taking my kids there someday, to watch their grandfather race, and perhaps I will race again too. Right now, though, the future for the Salt Flats is looking grim.

I am alarmed because the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), responsible for its care and protection, has long identified the internationally famous speedway as an "area of critical environmental concern" and yet the salt flats have been severely damaged and is approaching ruin. From your own website, it states that the BLM mission is "To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

Understand that while most of our motorsports activities are conducted on a paid, professional level, we stand in solidarity with the land speed racing community and recreational users worldwide, respectfully asking the BLM to engage in an effort to start an immediate restoration program of the Bonneville Salt Flats and continue with an ongoing monitored remediation that will return the internationally recognized speedway to safe, high-speed racing conditions.

Sincerely,

Rhonnie Vesco  
Assistant Logistic Manager  
PUGS Holdings LLC.

cc: Sally Jewel, Sectary of the Interior; Kevin Oliver, West Desert District Manager; Gary Herbert, Governor of Utah; Mike Crawford, Mayor of Wendover; 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.