

Arizona BLM Energy Strategic Goals 1.20.11

Recent interest in the development of renewable energy in Arizona, and the west in general, has led to a large interest in the use of public lands for siting of projects. The BLM Arizona has taken a strategic approach in managing the needs for renewable energy locations on public lands. This includes processing of existing applications, participation in the west-wide Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the development of the Restoration Design Energy Project. To meet our goals, Arizona BLM will:

Participate with landowners, business, scientists, conservation interests, and government in the development of renewable energy strategies for Arizona.

- Include land, financing, technical expertise, and public perspectives.
- Coordinate processes and data sharing with entities that affect renewable energy..
- Maintain, update and publicly share information, on the status and progress of renewable energy proposals and processes.
- Support energy forums that promote collaboration at statewide and national levels.
- Require scoping processes to identify potential options, issues, and alternatives to support careful and thoughtful analyses.

Contribute to Arizona community power demands and state goals for development of renewable energy on public lands. State goals include a 15% renewable energy target by 2025.

- Responsively process proposals in the application pool (both active and inactive).
- Support national Programmatic Solar EIS that includes Arizona Study Areas.
- Complete the Restoration Design Energy Project EIS on schedule.
- Coordinate with state agencies having jurisdiction or roles and responsibilities.
- Focus on larger goals and cumulative picture when designing processes and analyzing individual proposals

Focus efforts on potential generation sites and transmission alignments that optimize natural resource values (including water and wildlife) on public lands while meeting technical and economic requirements.

- Ensure public interests in conservation of open space, water, and ecological functions are represented in discussion processes.

- Emphasize low water technology to offset water impacts or use mitigation appropriate to the water basin.
- Emphasize locations near existing transmission capacity or in proximity to load requirements.
- Emphasize previously disturbed acreage in the statewide analysis of options.
- Provide sufficient acreage to allow design choices relative to energy generation and transmission in Arizona, including distributed energy.
- Include cooperative options with non-federal lands.
- Encourage sustainability in project design.

Clarify and analyze potential effects of uranium mining in Northern Arizona

- a. Ensure the Secretary has a well informed, objective basis for decision. Gather and integrate studies and data to clarify and analyze the potential effects of withdrawal alternatives.
 - Support science of studies and analysis (especially water).
 - Continue participation from multiple agencies.
 - Ensure RAC participation.
- b. Complete the EIS covering nearly one million acres.
 - Identify alternatives.
 - Stay on schedule as identified by the Department, and within budget.
 - Ensure public participation, process transparency, and analytical objectivity.