

Restoration Design Energy Project (RDEP) Environmental Impact Statement

February 2012



BLM

Draft EIS Available for Public Review and Comment

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Arizona State Office has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Restoration Design Energy Project (RDEP) to evaluate proposed amendments to several BLM Resource Management Plans in Arizona. The purpose of these plan amendments is to identify lands across Arizona that may be suitable for renewable energy development and to establish a baseline set of environmental protection measures. The BLM is proposing to identify Renewable Energy Development Areas with few resource conflicts that may be suitable for the development of solar and wind facilities, as well as one Solar Energy Zone for utility-scale (greater than 20 megawatts) solar development.

Entities with an interest in developing renewable energy projects on public lands within Arizona would be given guidance through this document. This guidance would include the identification of areas most appropriate for renewable energy development, as well as mandatory environmental-protection measures and management practices for renewable energy projects on public land.

Commenting on the Draft EIS

The Draft EIS assesses the environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with the RDEP. The BLM encourages the public to provide information and comments pertaining to the analysis presented in the Draft EIS. You may download the Draft EIS from the RDEP website.

http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/arra_solar.html

The release of the Draft EIS begins a 90-day public comment period that will run through May 16, 2012. Comments received after the end of the review period will be considered to the extent practicable. We request that your comments be as specific as possible. Comments are more helpful if they reference a section or page number and include suggested changes, additional information sources, or alternative methods.

We Want to Hear From You

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

E-mail: az_arra_rdep@blm.gov

Fax: Attn: Lane Cowger, (602) 417-9454

Mail: BLM-Arizona State Office, Attn: Restoration Design Energy Project, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004-4427

To be most helpful, comments should be submitted within the 90-day public comment period for the Draft EIS. This comment period runs through May 16, 2012.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

In addition to accepting written comments, the BLM will host public meetings in five Arizona locations. Meetings will provide information on the Draft EIS, as well as opportunities to submit written and oral comments. The open house meetings will be from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and include a presentation at 7:00 PM:

- **Phoenix:** Tuesday, March 20, Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 West Dunlap Avenue
- **Flagstaff:** Wednesday, March 21, High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue
- **Kingman:** Thursday, March 22, Hampton Inn, 1791 Sycamore Avenue
- **Yuma:** Tuesday, April 10, Yuma Civic and Convention Center, 1440 Desert Hills Drive
- **Tucson:** Wednesday, April 11, Holiday Inn, 4550 South Palo Verde Road



Project Schedule

Public Review of Draft EIS: Mid-February to mid-May 2012

Final EIS: Fall 2012

Record of Decision: Winter 2012-2013

Additional information regarding the Solar Programmatic EIS and its status is available on the project's web site: <http://solareis.anl.gov/>

The Restoration Design Energy Project (RDEP), funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will support the Secretary of the Interior's goals to build America's new energy future and to protect and restore treasured landscapes.

For further information, contact:

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If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list, please submit your e-mail address to:

andrew.gentile@empsi.com

The BLM is eager to educate interested public about this exciting project.

Stay up to date with the RDEP web site!

http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/arra_solar.html