

*Renewable Arizona*

# The Restoration Design Energy Project EIS

## *Project Briefing*

February 2012



# RDEP is a “Step-down” to the Solar PEIS

- RDEP identifies additional acreage available for renewable energy (solar and wind), and streamlines the variance process for some of the variance areas identified in the Solar PEIS.
- RDEP proposes the identification of one new Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) and Renewable Energy Development Areas (REDAs)



# Cooperating Agencies

- Arizona Department of Water Resources
- Arizona Game & Fish Department
- Arizona State Land Department
- Arizona Corporation Commission
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Central Arizona Water Conservation District
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- Western Area Power Administration



# Consultation and Coordination

- Consulting with 23 Tribes
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of the Interior
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - Fish and Wildlife Service
  - National Park Service
- Department of Defense
  - Military installations in Arizona
- USDA Forest Service



# Outreach Activities

## Arizona BLM RAC

## State Agencies and Officials

Governor's Office

Arizona Corporation Commission

Arizona State University

Dept. of Water Resources

Dept. of Environmental Quality

Dept. of Mines and Minerals

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Arizona Geological Survey

Arizona State Land Department

## Military Installations in Arizona

## Counties and municipalities

## Utilities

Arizona Public Service

Salt River Project

Tucson Electric Power

Western Area Power Administration

## Environmental Organizations

Defenders of Wildlife

Nat'l Resources Defense Council

Sierra Club

Sonoran Institute

The Nature Conservancy

The Wilderness Society

Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Friends of the Sonoran Desert

## Congressional Staff



# Scope of the REDAs

## Identify Renewable Energy Development Areas (REDAs)

- Disturbed lands with low resource sensitivity
- Wide range technologies (*wind and solar*)
- Multiple scales (*utility, community, small scale, etc.*)
- Multi-jurisdictional partnership opportunities
- Located within “variance lands”
- Programmatic analysis



# Alternative I: Maximum REDA

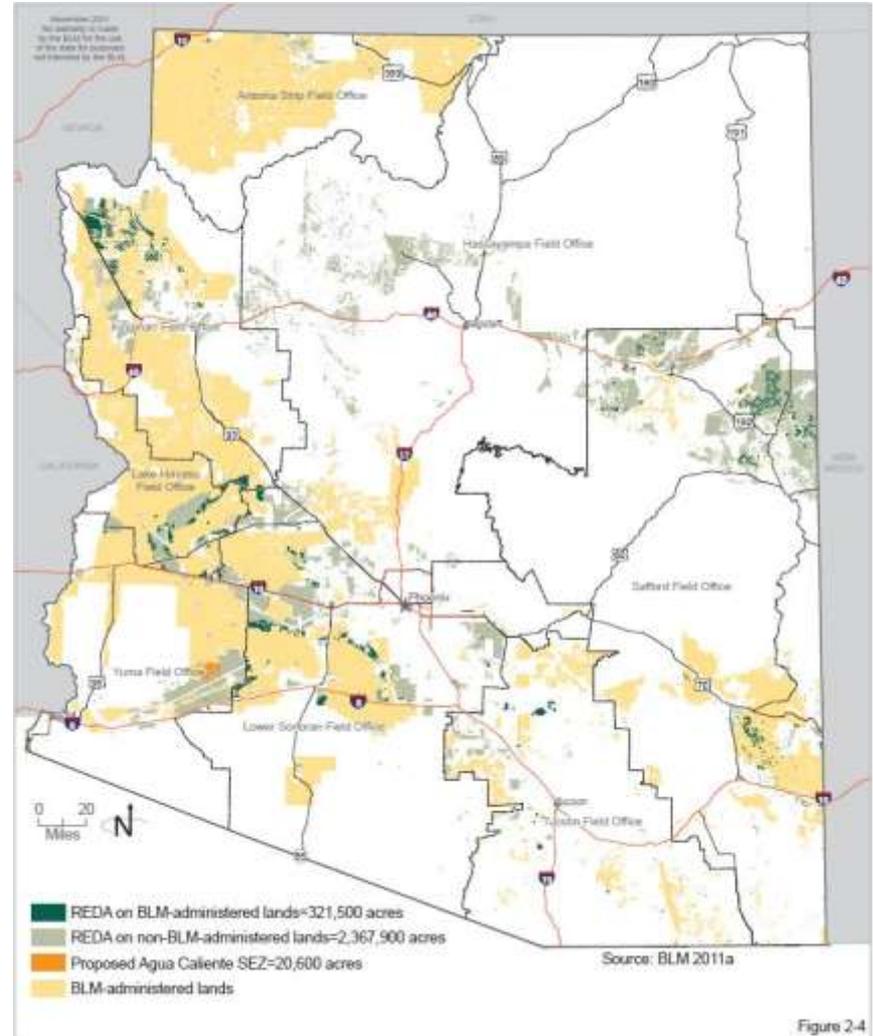
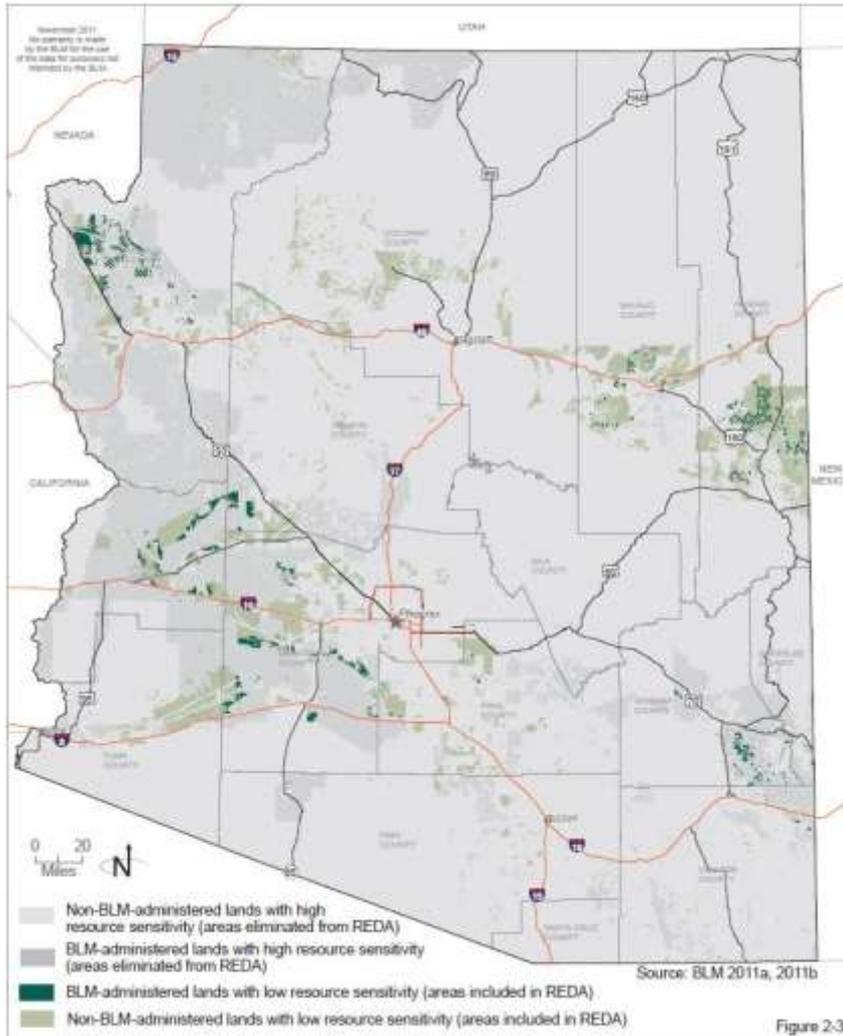
## Areas with Known Sensitive Resources (Eliminated from REDA Consideration)

BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Indian lands, Military lands	AZ Game and Fish Dept. wildlife corridors
BLM Backcountry Byways	State Parks, State Wildlife Areas	USFWS critical habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species
BLM Designated Wilderness & WSA	US Fish and Wildlife Service Lands	BLM sensitive species habitat
BLM Land with Wilderness Characteristics	US Forest Service Designated Wilderness	Tortoise habitat category 1, 2, 3
BLM Lands with Wilderness Inventory areas	US Forest Service Established Research Natural Areas	National Wetland Inventory wetlands
BLM Visual Resource Management Class 1, 2, 3	US Forest Service Inventoried Roadless Areas	Water bodies (lakes, dry lakes, and rivers)
BLM Special Recreation Management Areas	US Forest Service Heber Wild Horse and Burro area	Federal Emergency Management Agency 100-year floodplains
BLM Right-of-Way exclusion or avoidance areas	US Forest Service Special Interest Management Areas	Severe soils
National Monuments	Airports (1/4 mile buffer)	>5% slopes (or >15% for areas with wind potential)
National Conservation Areas	Urban areas	Easements (The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, and private)
Wild and Scenic Rivers	AZ Game and Fish Dept. Conservation Potential	BLM herd management area
National Parks System Units (including Petrified Forest Expansion Act of 2004)	AZ Game and Fish Department big game	Areas with known mineral deposits
National Parks System National Historic Trails (1/4 mile buffer)	Special Status Species or T and E species locations	Gila River Terraces

# Alternative I: Maximum REDA

Identify all REDAs and proposed Agua Caliente SEZ

REDAs = Disturbed lands and areas of low resource sensitivity



# Alternative 2: Transmission Line/Utility Corridor REDA

Identify REDAs/SEZ within 5 miles of transmission, designated utility corridors, and reasonably foreseeable lines

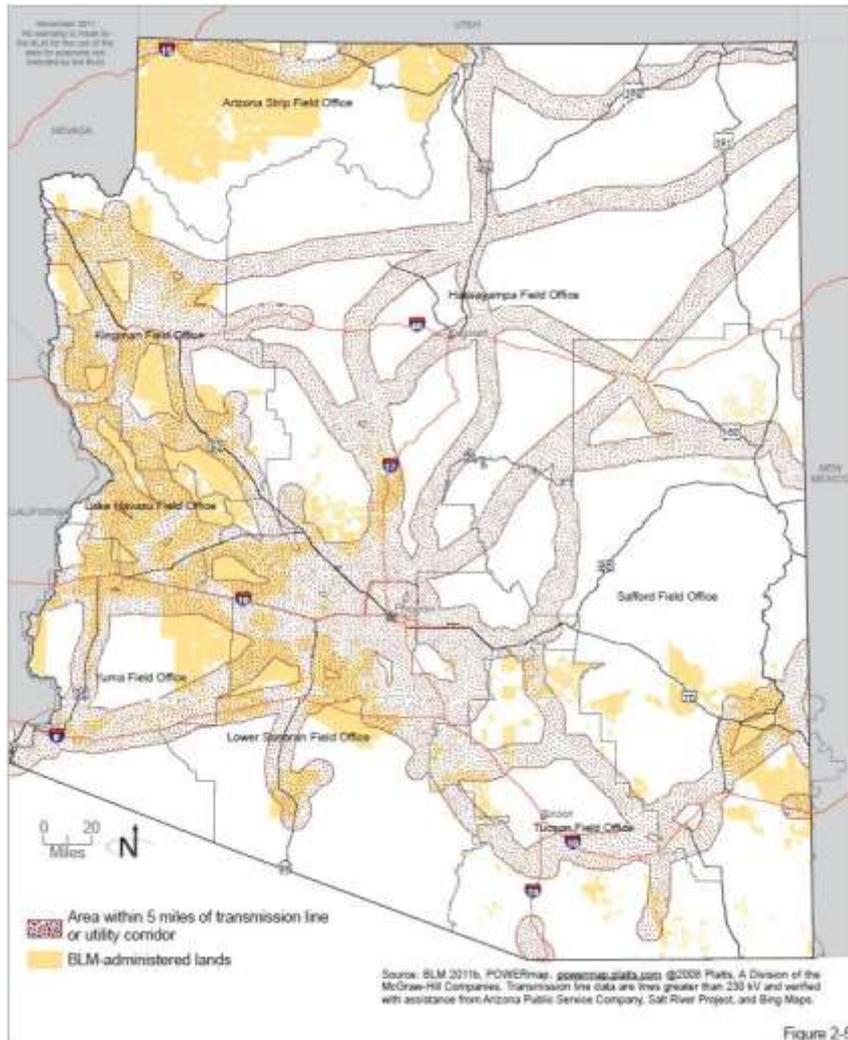


Figure 2-5

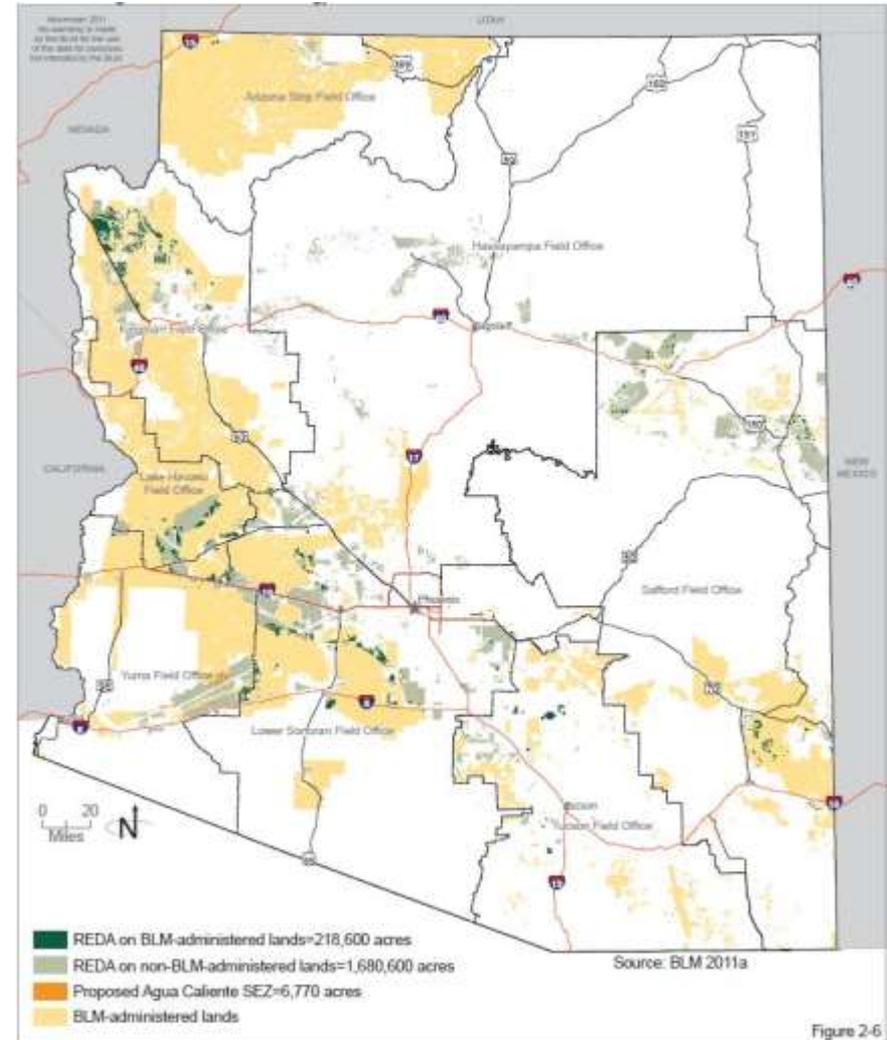
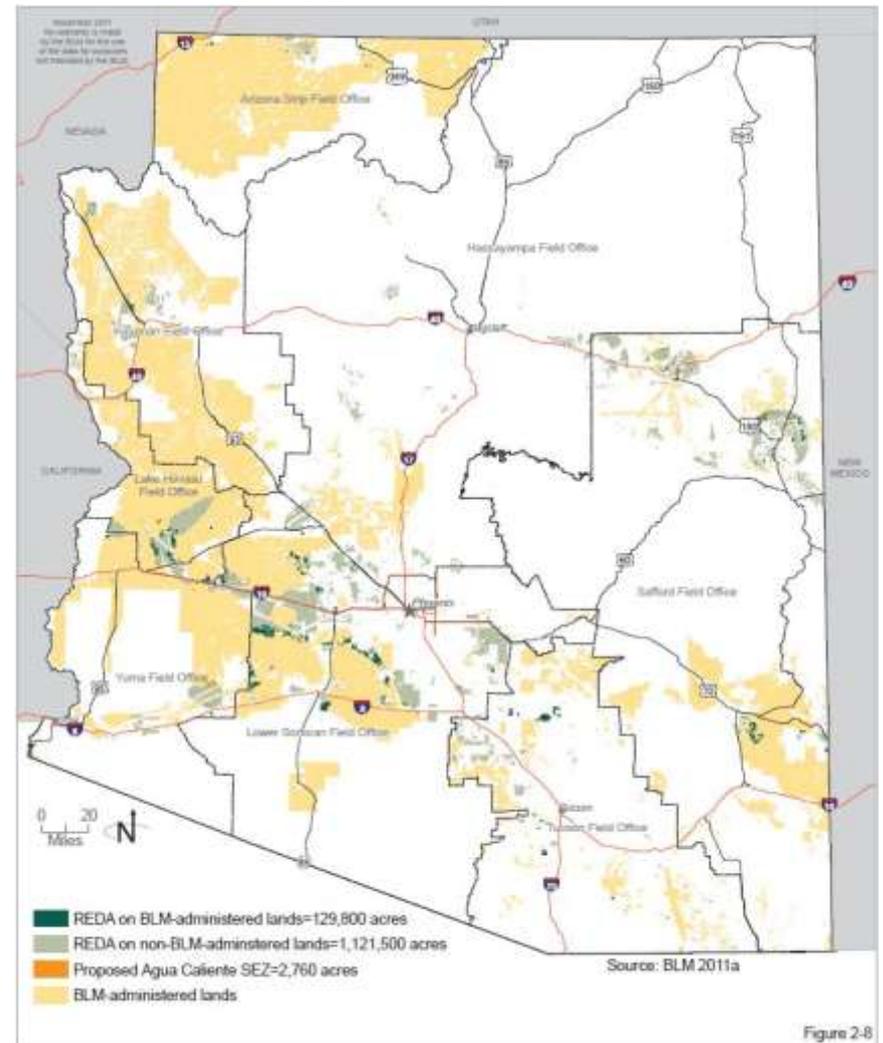
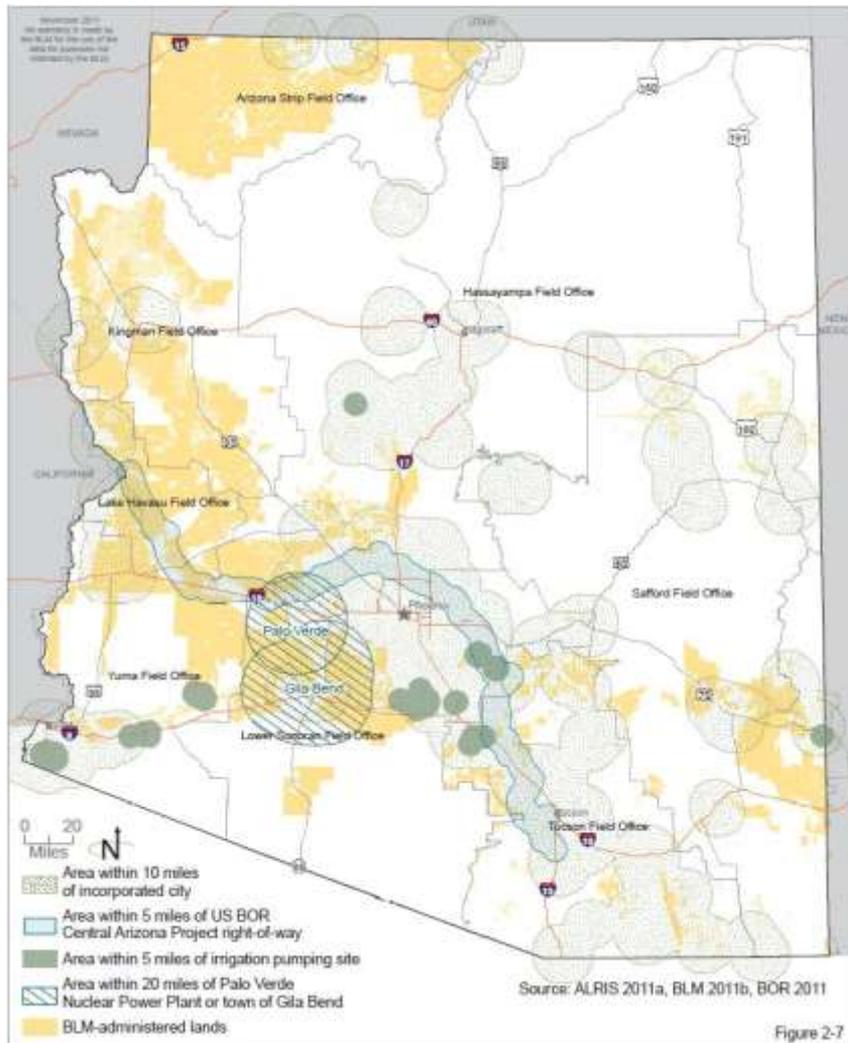


Figure 2-6

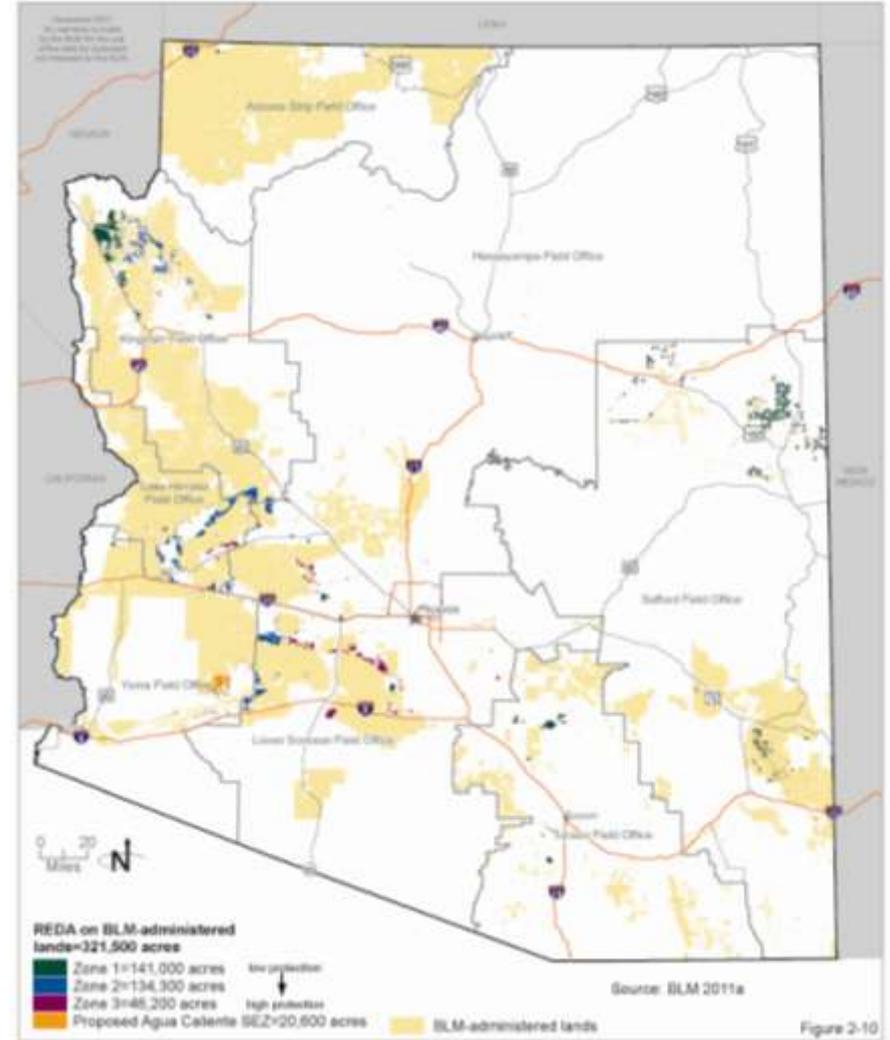
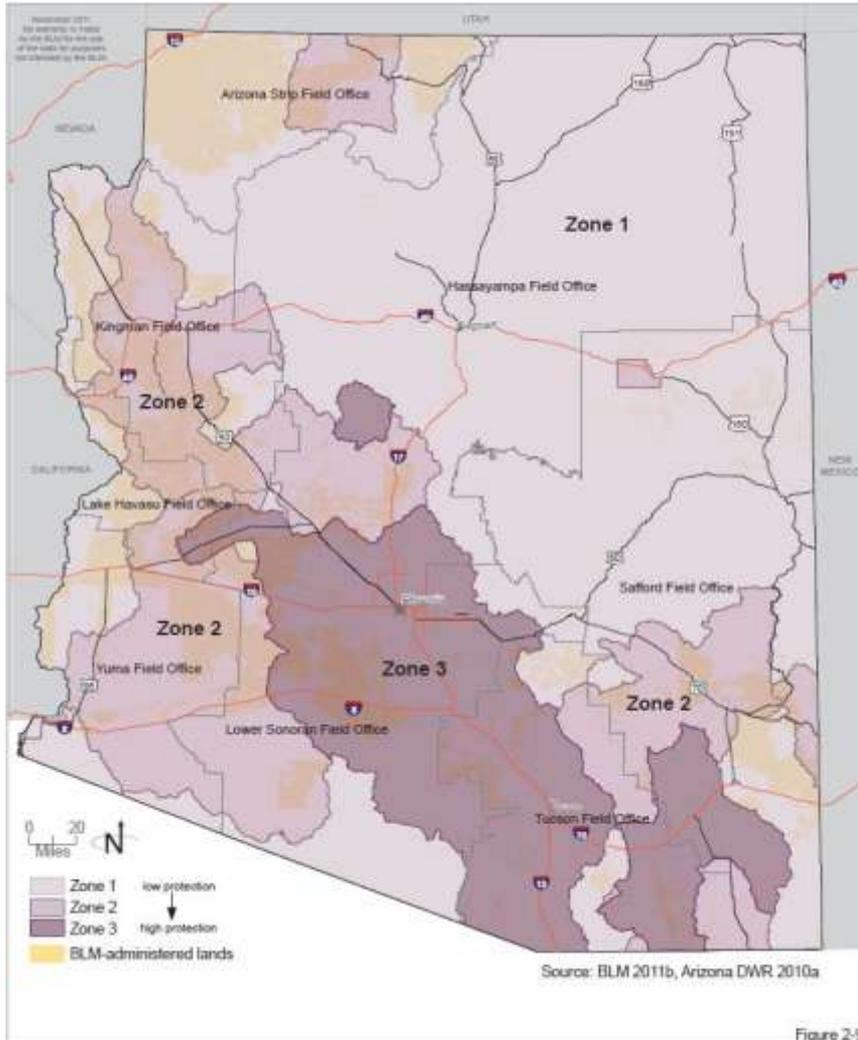
# Alternative 3: Load Offset REDA

Identify REDAs/SEZ near load demand including towns, CAP project features, and Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant and town of Gila Bend



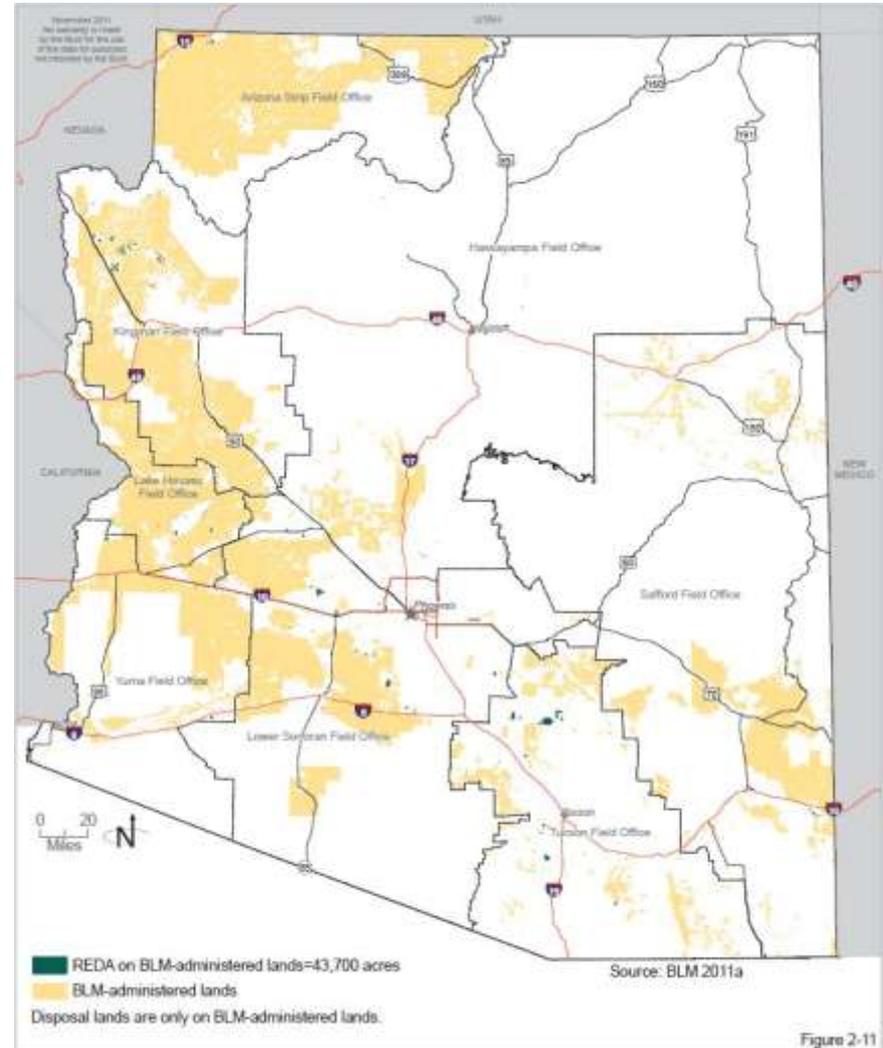
# Alternative 4: Water Conservation and Protection

Groundwater vulnerability levels categorize REDAs/SEZ into 3 water management zones, Protection Zone 3 has more stringent design features than Protection Zones 2 or 1

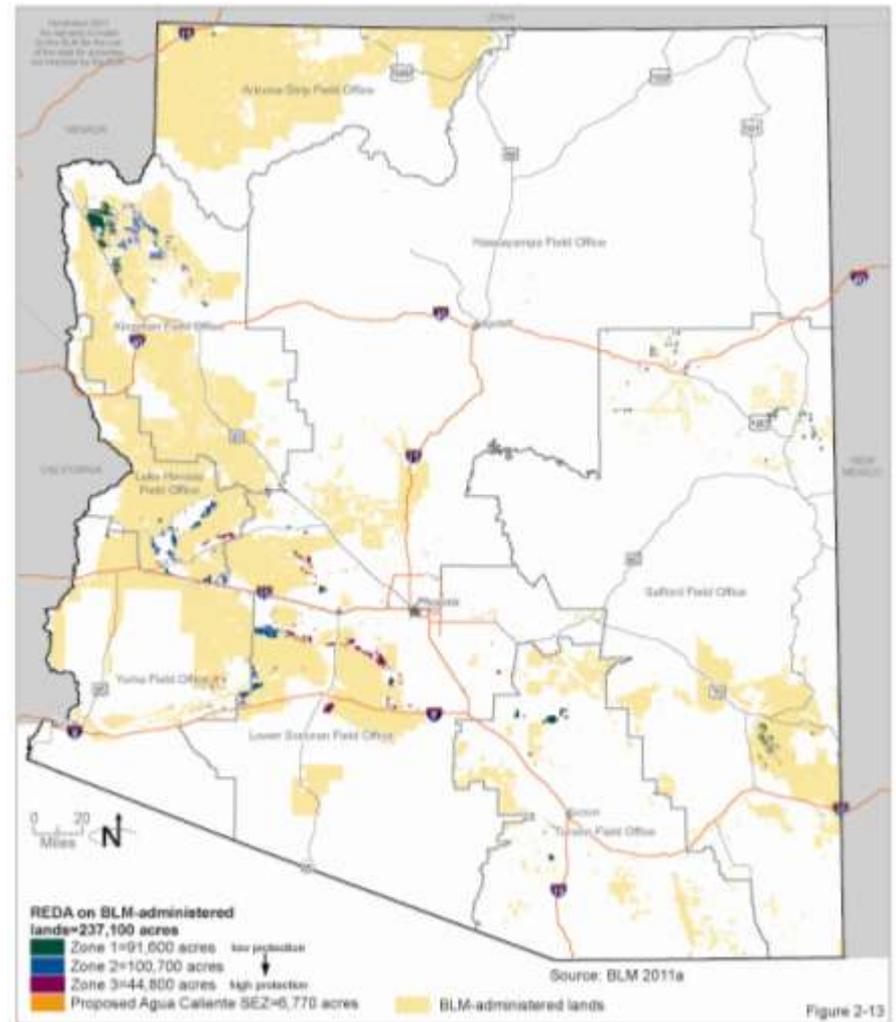
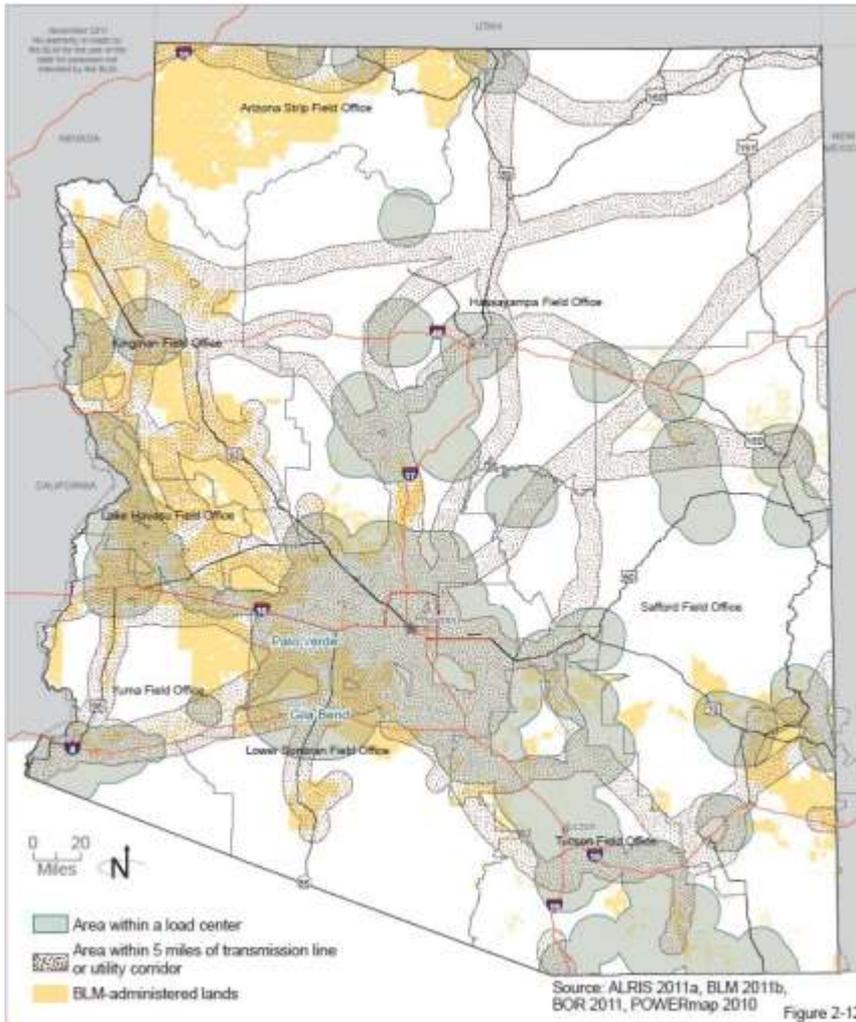


# Alternative 5: Land Tenure REDA

Identify REDAs previously identified for disposal, trade for lands with high conservation value



# Alternative 6: Collaborative-based REDA



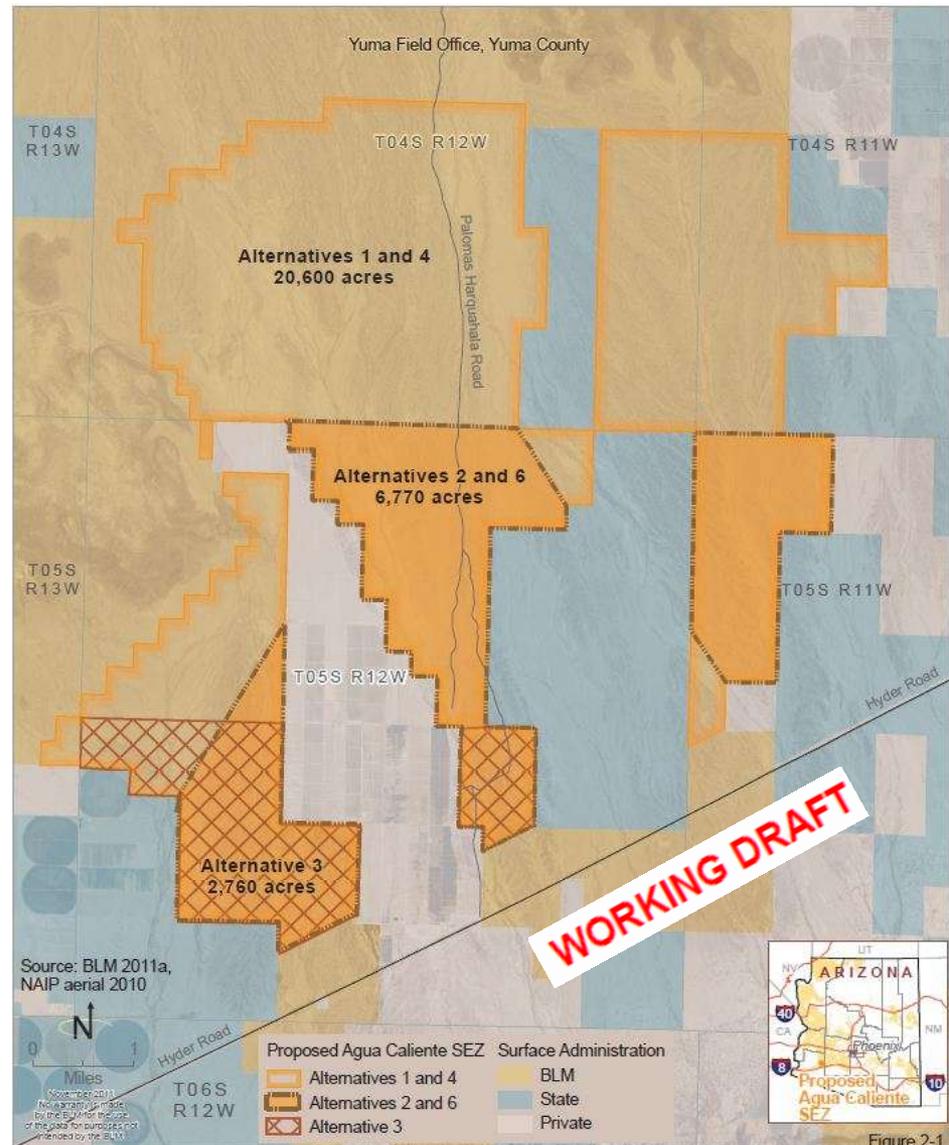
# Summary of REDA Acres

	<b>BLM- administered Lands (acres)</b>
<b>Alternative 1: Maximum REDA</b>	<b>321,500</b>
<b>Alternative 2: Transmission Line and Utility Corridor REDA</b>	<b>218,600</b>
<b>Alternative 3: Load Offset REDA</b>	<b>129,800</b>
<b>Alternative 4: Water Conservation and Protection REDA</b>	<b>321,500</b>
<b>Alternative 5: Land Tenure REDA</b>	<b>43,700</b>
<b>Alternative 6: Collaborative-based REDA (Proposed Preferred Alternative)</b>	<b>237,100</b>



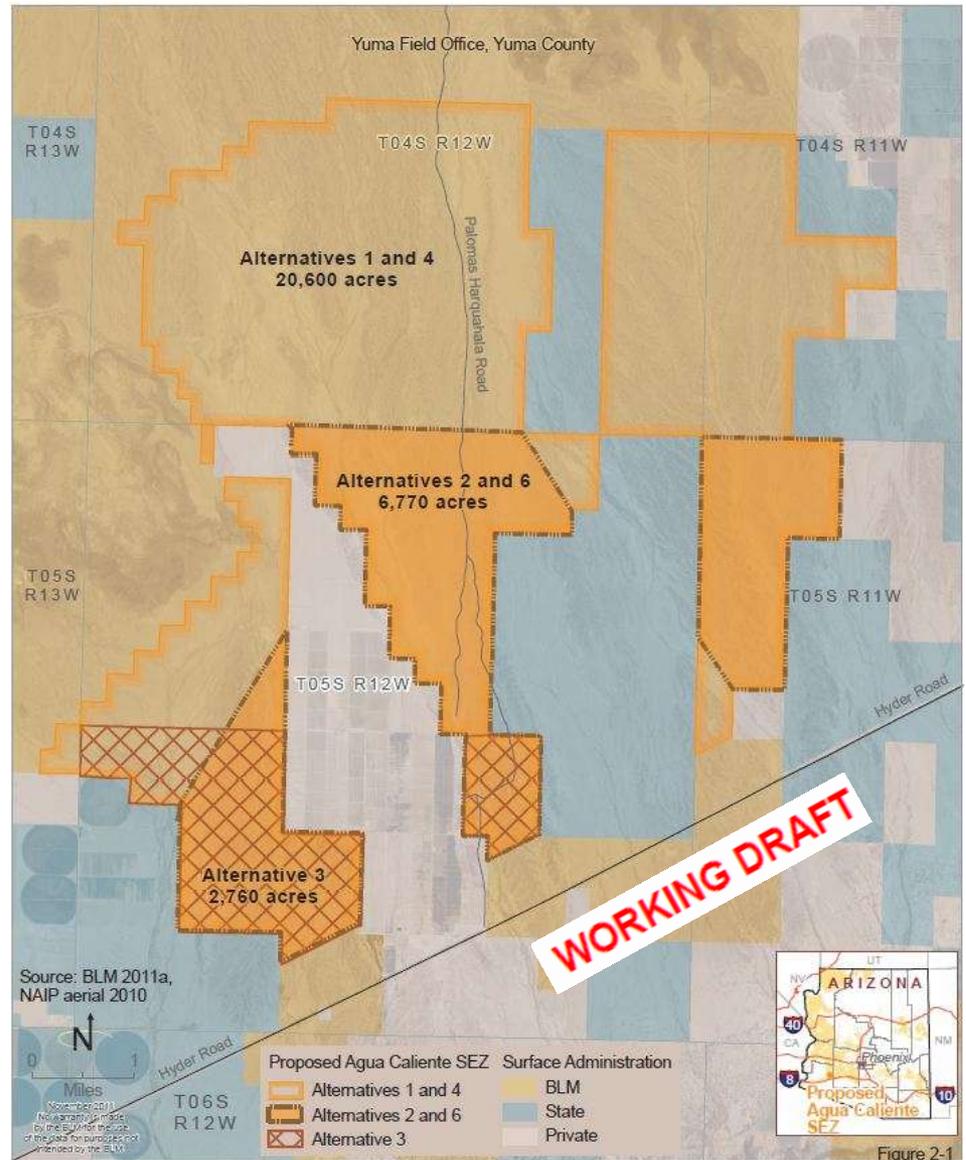
# RDEP – Proposed Agua Caliente SEZ

- Large tract of BLM land
- Next to an active solar development
- Limited known environmental constraints
- Near transmission
- Near access roads
- Existing application



# Summary of SEZ Acres by Alternative

	<b>BLM-administered Lands (acres)</b>
<b>Alternatives 1 and 4</b>	<b>20,600</b>
<b>Alternatives 2 and 6</b>	<b>6,770</b>
<b>Alternative 3</b>	<b>2,760</b>
<b>Alternative 5</b>	<b>0</b>



# Schedule

---

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Target Timeline</b>
Draft RDEP EIS	February 17, 2012
Public Comment	Feb 17 – May 17, 2012
Final RDEP EIS	Fall 2012
RDEP ROD	December 2012

---



# Public Meetings

- March 20 – Phoenix, Sheraton Crescent Hotel
- March 21 – Flagstaff, High Country Center
- March 22 – Kingman, Hampton Inn
  
- April 10 - Yuma, Yuma Civic Center
- April 11 - Tucson, Holiday Inn (South)

# Thank you!

## Questions?

### **Kathy Pedrick**

Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office

One North Central Avenue, Suite 800

Phoenix, AZ 85004-4427

602-417-9235 (office)

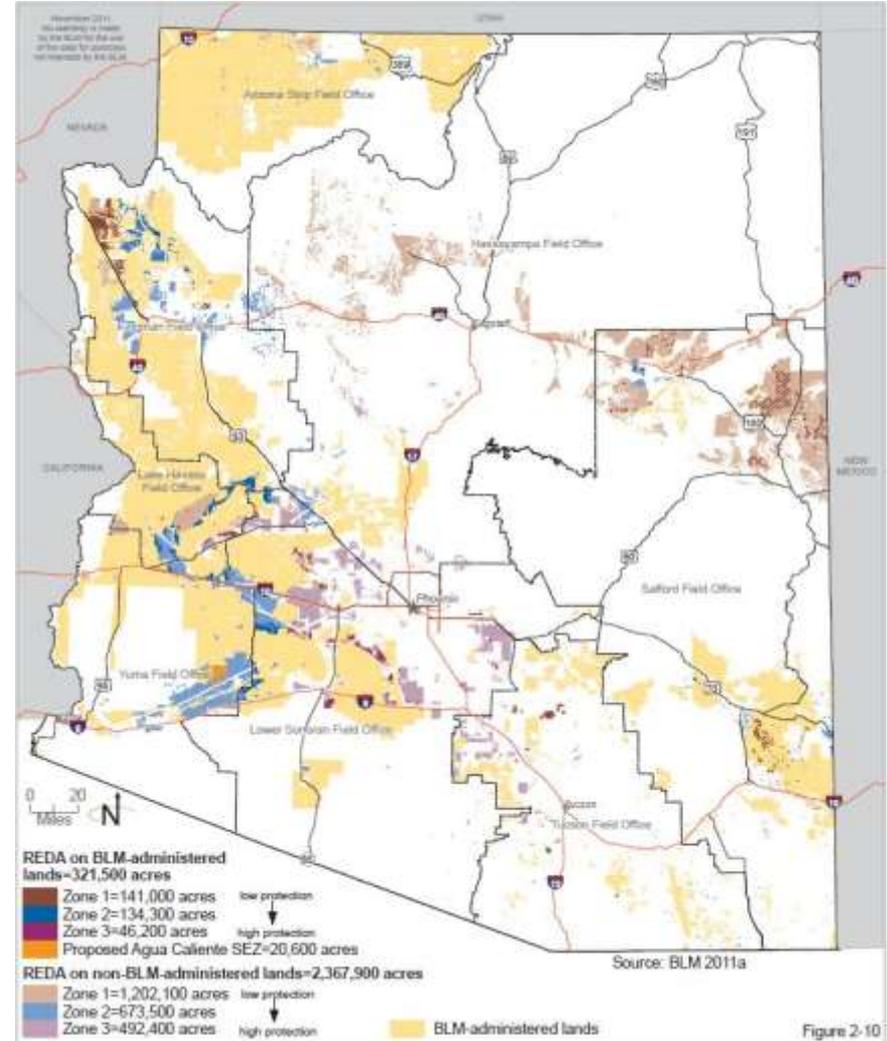
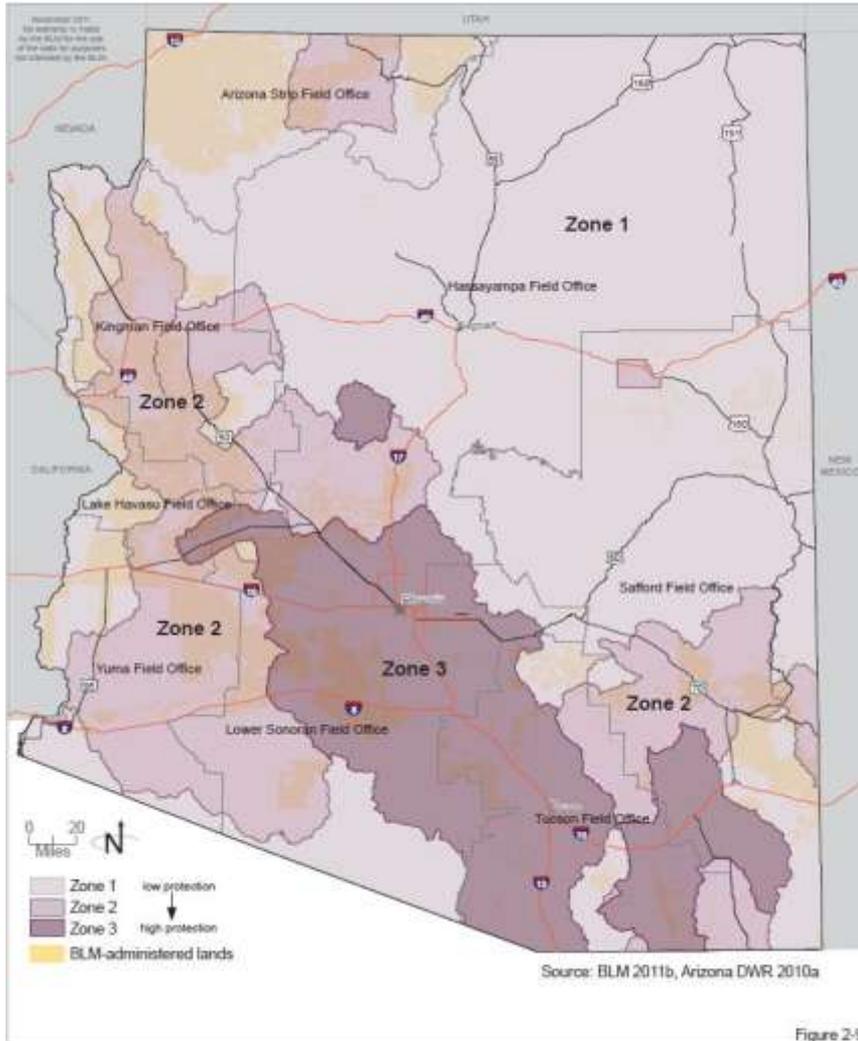
az\_arra\_rdep@blm.gov

[http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/arra\\_solar.html](http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/arra_solar.html)



# Alternative 4: Water Conservation and Protection

Groundwater vulnerability levels categorize REDAs/SEZ into 3 water management zones, Protection Zone 3 has more stringent design features than Protection Zones 2 or 1



# Alternative 6: Collaborative-based REDA

