

Arizona Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy Workshop 3: Introduction & Background

Presented by:
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Arizona SRMS Workshop 3
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Solar Regional Mitigation Strategies

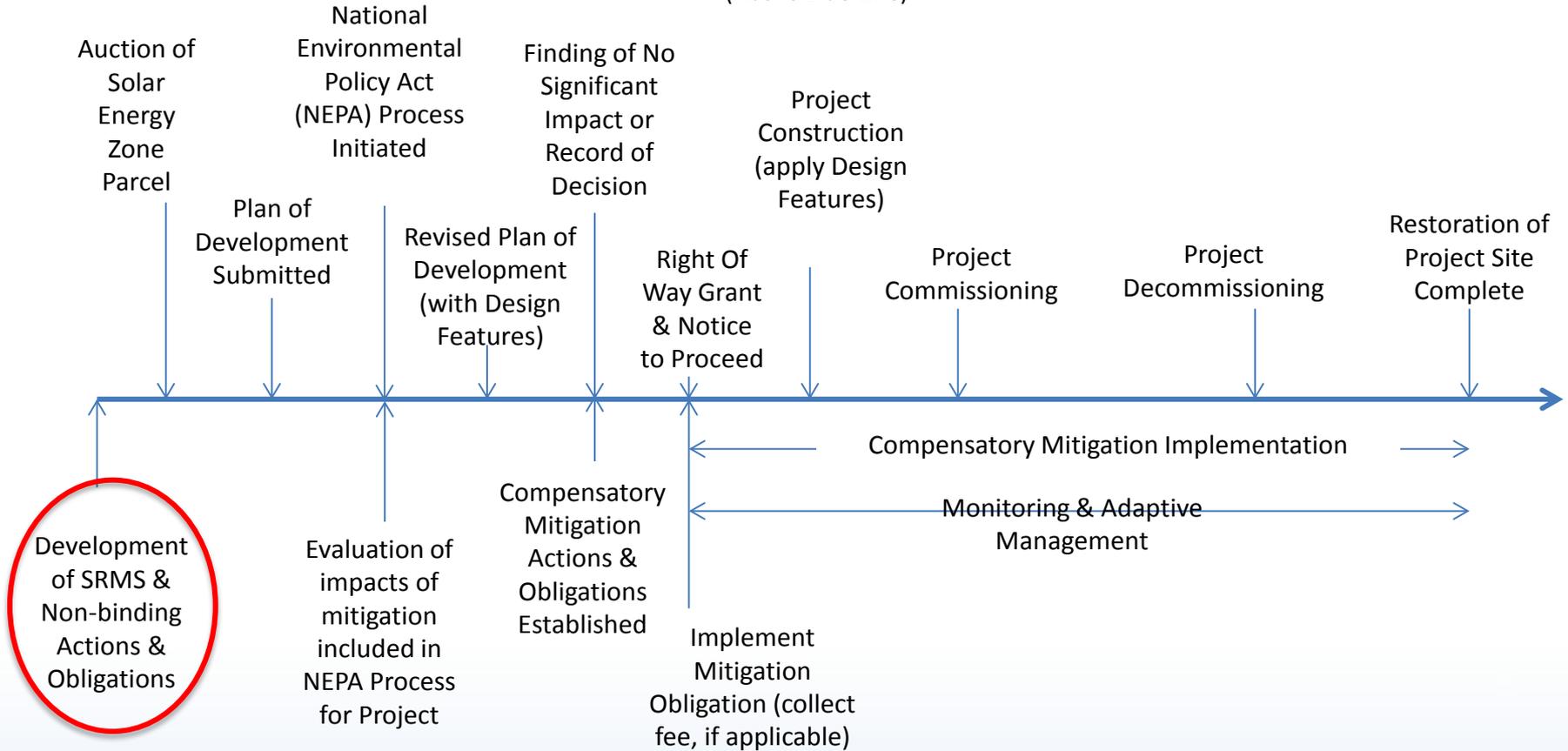
- BLM Solar Energy Program was established in 2012.
- Solar energy zones (SEZs) designated in 6 states.
 - Areas where BLM will prioritize solar energy development.
 - Three SEZs in Arizona.
- One program element commits to developing solar regional mitigation strategies (SRMSs) for each SEZ.
- SRMSs provide recommended strategies to inform future project-specific permitting (there are no project applications at this time in Arizona SEZs).
- WHY?
 - Incentivizes development in SEZs rather than elsewhere.
 - Creates greater certainty of actions and costs for all parties (BLM, developers, and stakeholders).

Purpose of the Arizona SRMS

- **Identify** residual impacts as a result of solar development in the SEZs.
- **Identify** which residual impacts warrant compensatory mitigation.
 - Based on evaluation of resource status and trends.
 - Informed by conceptual models and spatial models developed for the BLM's Sonoran Desert Rapid Ecoregional Assessment.
- **Identify** regional mitigation goals and objectives.
- **Recommend** mitigation sites, actions, and outcomes that would work to achieve mitigation goals.
- **Recommend** a compensatory mitigation fee, including basis (e.g., acquisition, preservation, and/or restoration); recommended adjustments, administration, monitoring, and other fee components.
- **Recommend** monitoring and adaptive management approaches to ensure actions achieve desired results.

Project Implementation Timeline

(Above Blue Line)



Compensatory Mitigation Implementation Timeline

(Below Blue Line)

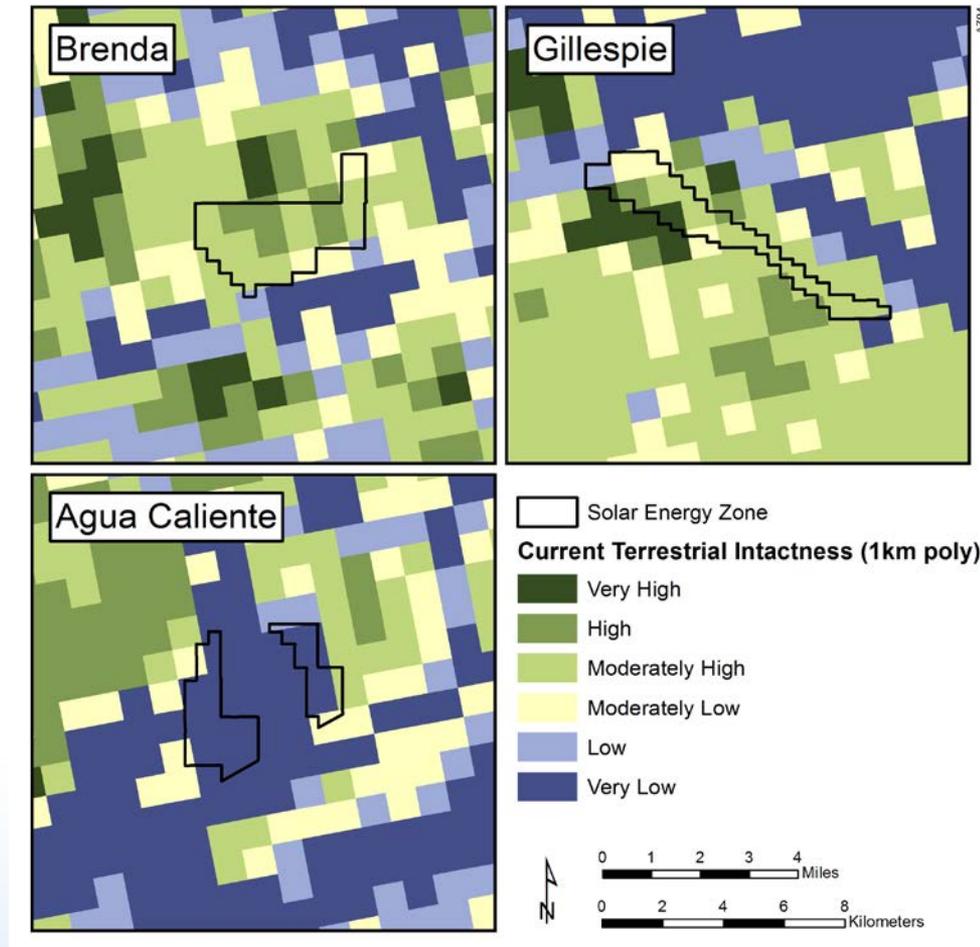


Regional Mitigation: Background

- Workshop 1 (April 2014)
 - Introduced Regional Mitigation Concept (landscape approach).
 - Discussed impacts of solar development in SEZs.
 - Presented mitigation hierarchy.
 - Discussed unavoidable/residual impacts (e.g., on soils, vegetation, wildlife, special status species, recreation, and cultural and visual resources).
 - Presented conditions and trends in the ecoregion.

Background (cont'd)

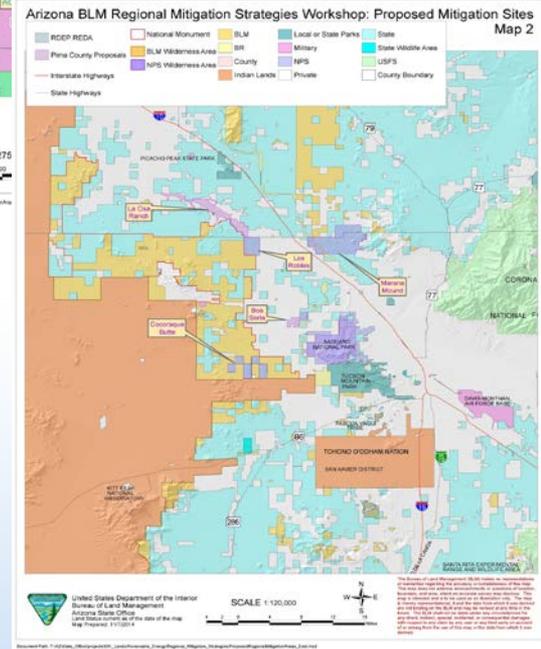
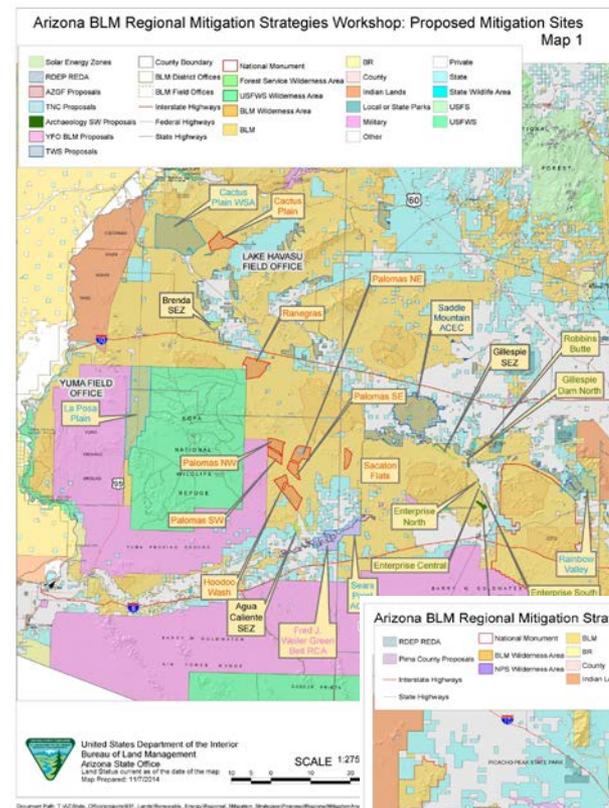
- Webinar (July 2014):
 - Discussed unavoidable adverse impacts warranting mitigation (in context of regional conditions and trends).
 - Introduced candidate mitigation site criteria, requested nominations.



Source: Sonoran Desert Rapid Ecoregional Assessment

Background (cont'd)

- Workshop 2 (November 2014)
 - Introduced and collaborated on mitigation goals and objectives for Agua Caliente, Brenda, and Gillespie SEZs.
 - Presented candidate site locations nominated for consideration.
 - Discussed ranking of the candidate sites.



Background (cont'd)

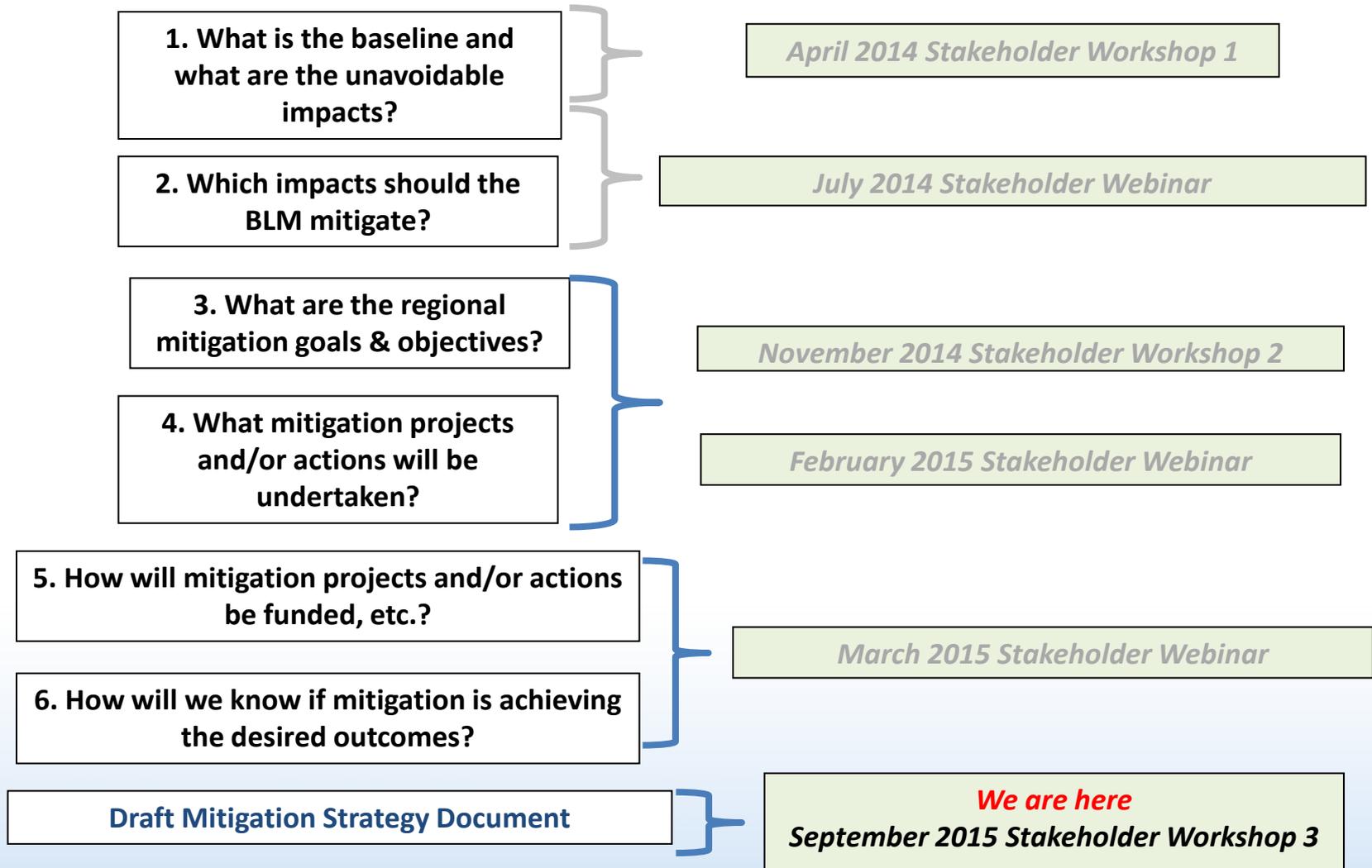
- Candidate Site Webinar (February 2015)
 - Presented revised candidate site matrix and requested additional information from stakeholders.
 - Revisited goals & objectives.
- Fee Webinar (March 2015)
 - Introduced fee calculation methodology and cost estimation.



Photo Credits:
Konnie Wescott

Creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) – white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*) scrub Alliance

AZ SRMS Process - Updated



Workshop 3 Objectives

- A.M.
 - Present content of AZ SRMS Draft Document
 - Describe SRMS process
- P.M.
 - Provide an open forum for discussion, questions, comments, and clarifications
 - Specific detailed questions regarding SRMS content

Questions?

