

# Arizona Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy Recap of Day 1 Discussion

Presented by:  
Lane Cowger, BLM AZ State Office  
Arizona SRMS Workshop 2  
Phoenix, AZ  
November 12-13, 2014

# Summary of Comments Provided on Day 1

- List of potential ***unavoidable adverse impacts*** may not be complete and possibly should include:
  - Cultural and traditional properties
  - Native American concerns
  - Visual resources
  - Ecological connectivity and function
  - Military and civilian airspace
  - Groundwater
  - Specially Designated Areas
  - Socioeconomic conditions (property values, jobs, PILT)

# Summary of Comments Provided on Day 1, cont.

- **Other plans** that may contain relevant mitigation goals and objectives:
  - State wildlife plans
  - County comprehensive plans
  - Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan
  - TNC ecoregional plans
  - Military Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans
  - BLM travel management plans
  - Tribal plans

# Summary of Comments Provided on Day 1, cont.

- Possible ***changes/improvements to draft mitigation goals and objectives***:
  - Goals and objectives are too vague
  - Develop specific, measurable objectives
  - Decide whether mitigation goals/objectives will be “like-for-like” or something different? It should vary by resource.
  - Add more specific goal for visual resource impacts
  - Change goal “maintain viable populations” to establish a higher bar (e.g., establish a standard to improve conditions)
  - Use more specific and accurate descriptions of vegetation and riparian communities
  - Establish goals and objectives for socioeconomic impacts

# Summary of Comments Provided on Day 1, cont.

- Recommended **SRMS process changes**:
  - Need to develop a regional mitigation plan/strategy that goes beyond solar energy development
  - Share goals and objectives before starting process of candidate site identification
  - Provide simple synthesis of RMP goals and objectives
  - RMP goals and objectives are too general to guide SRMSs
  - Need a “fair,” repeatable process
  - Need to establish contingency fund for mitigation failures
  - Make sure mitigation locations/actions provide “additionality”