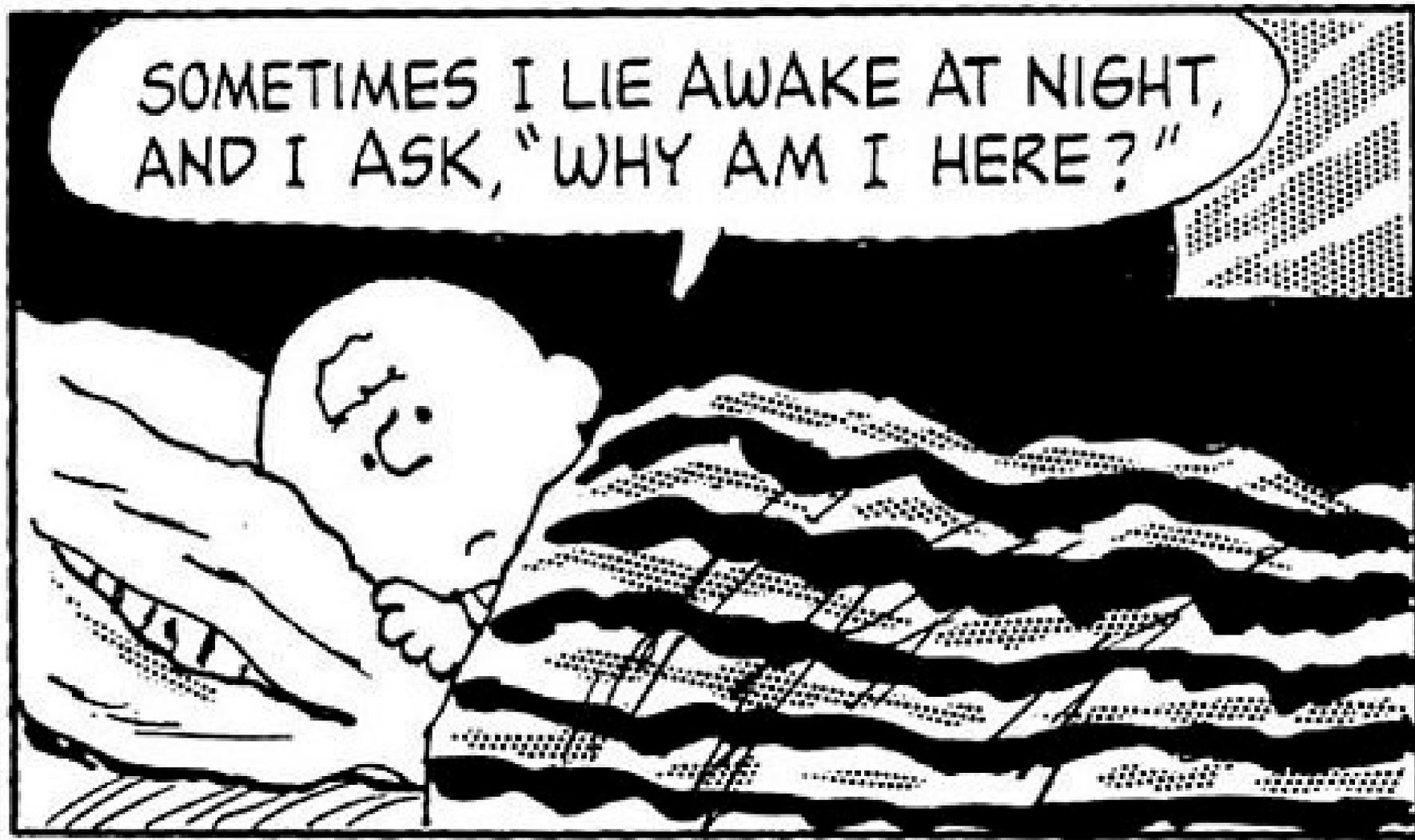


Arizona Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy Workshop 2: Introduction and Objectives

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

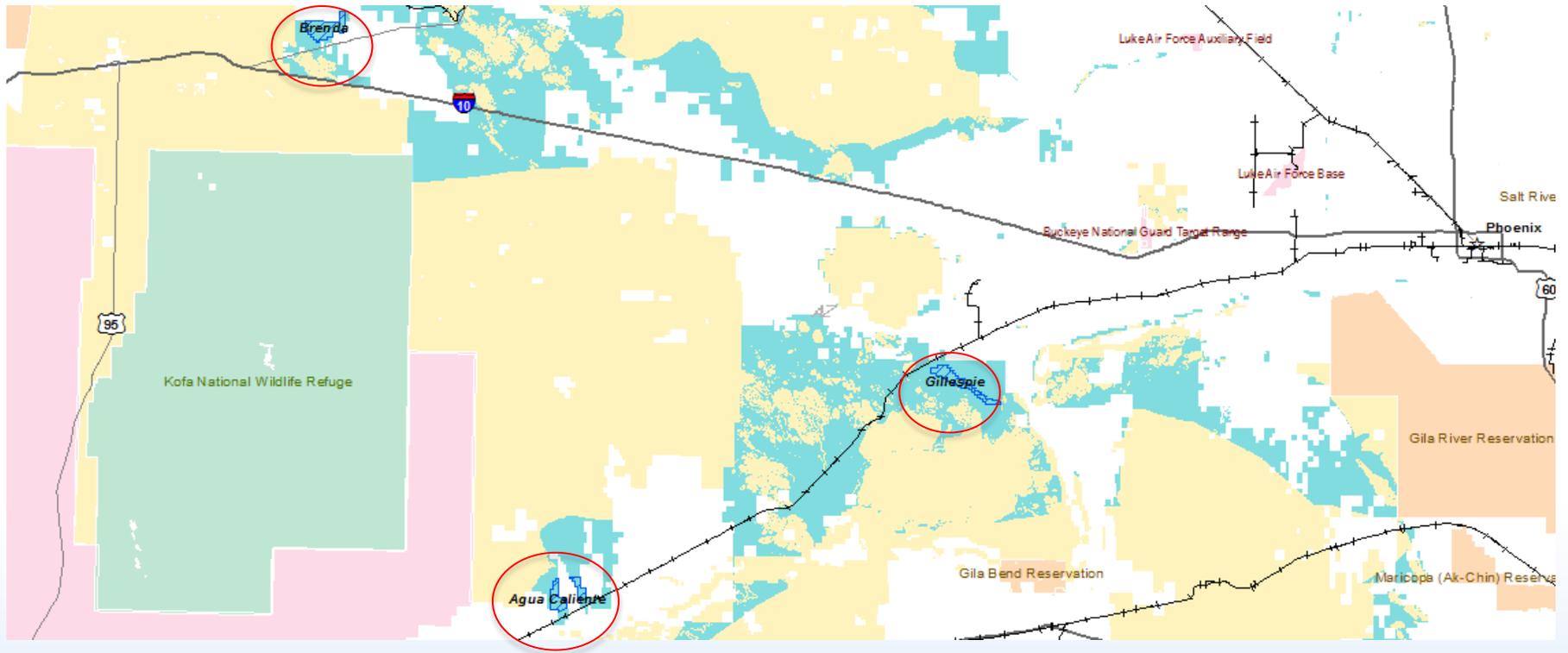
Regional Mitigation: Why are we here?



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)

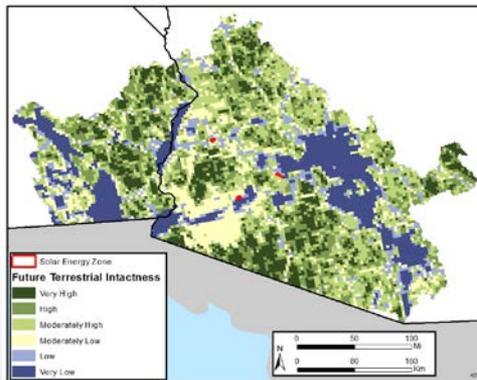
Arizona Solar Energy Zones



Regional Mitigation: Why are we here again?

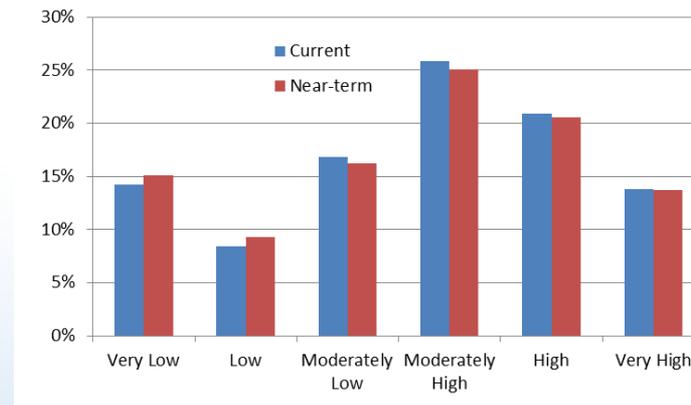
Background

- 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



Near –Term Future Intactness

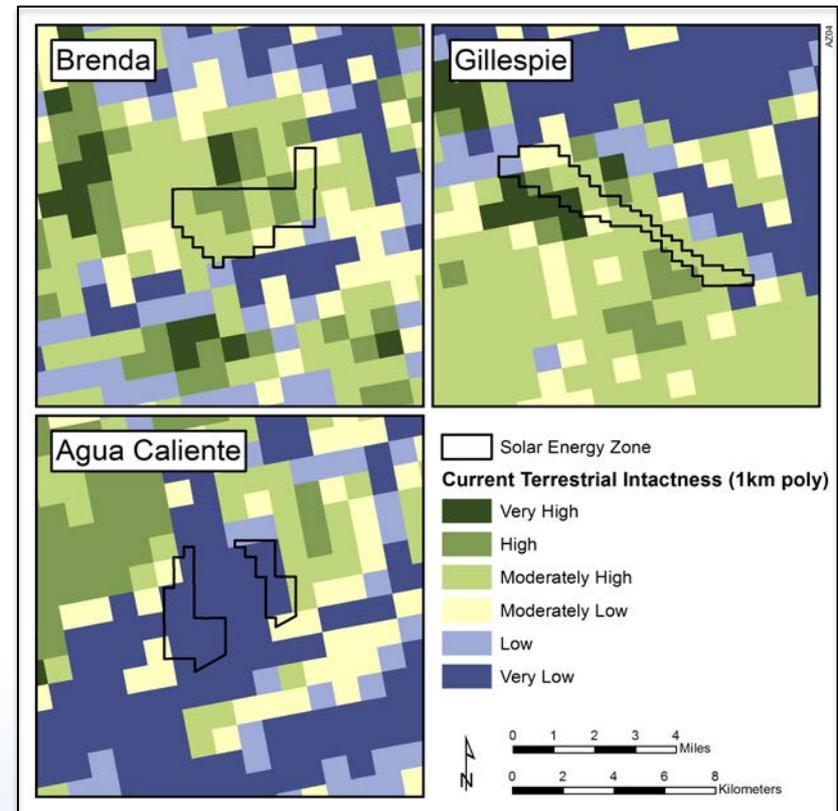
Source: Sonoran Desert Rapid Ecoregional Assessment



REA projects 1.1% decrease in “high” intact areas

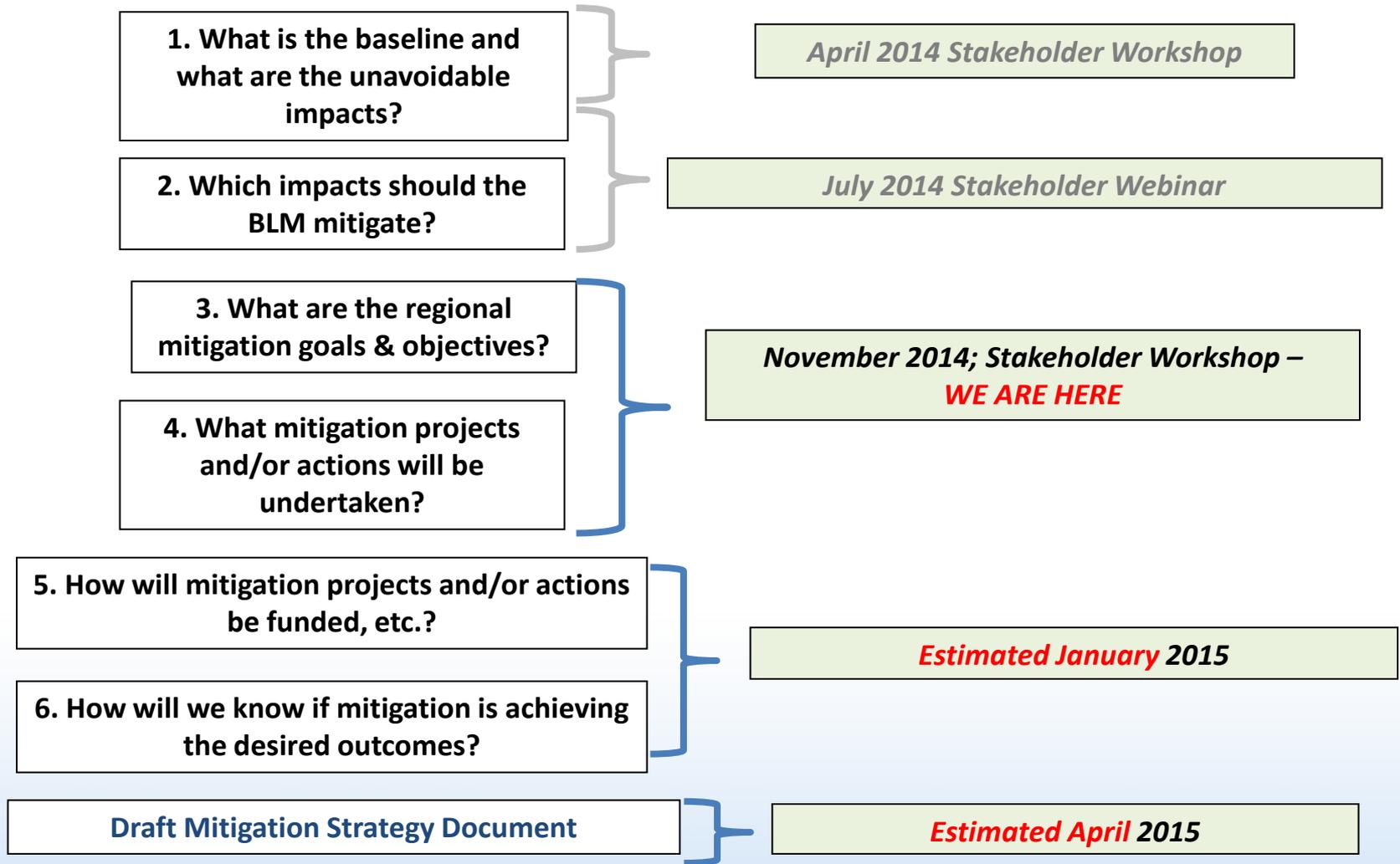
Background (continued)

- 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

AZ SRMS Process - Updated



Workshop 2 Objectives

- Introduce and collaborate on mitigation goals and objectives for Agua Caliente, Brenda, and Gillespie SEZs
- Present candidate site locations nominated for consideration
- Discuss ranking of the candidate sites