BLM California's Renewable Energy Program

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Outline

1. Program Background
2. Permitting Process
3. Renewable Energy Planning

Renewable Energy Policy Drivers

2005: Energy Policy Act

- 10,000 MW goal by 2015 on public lands

2009: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

- Grants in lieu of tax credits

2009: Secretarial Order 3285

- Renewable energy made a priority for Interior Dept.

2011: California Renewable Portfolio Standard

- Increased to 33% renewables by 2020

Policy Drivers cont.

2013: President's Climate Action Plan

- Increased goal of 20,000 MW of renewable energy approved on public lands by 2020.

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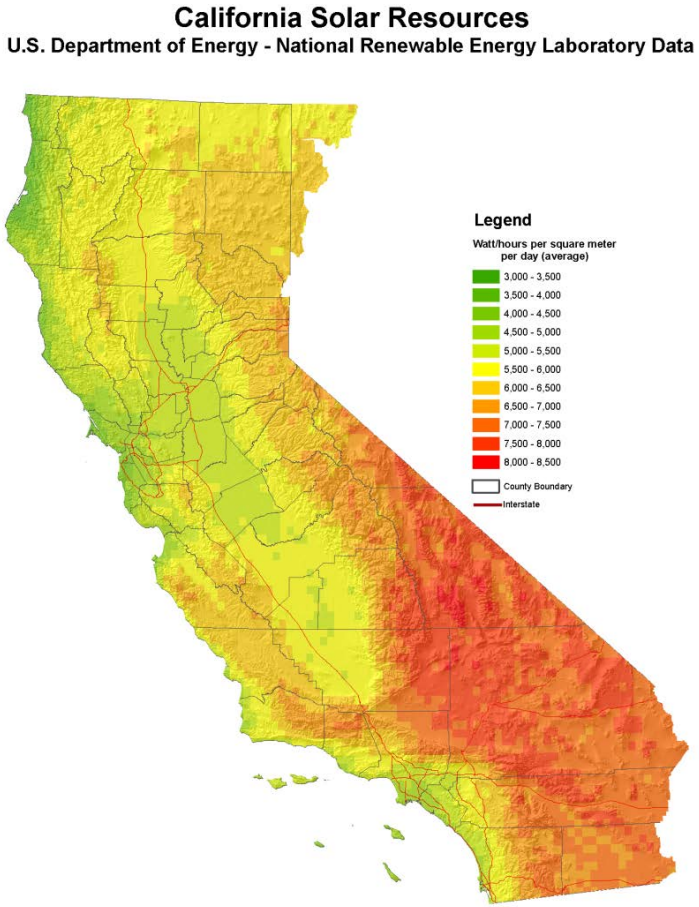
Renewable Energy and the BLM



Flood of Applications

California Renewable Energy Summary Statistics as of March 2009		
	Wind	Solar
Total applications	92	71
Total acres	976,931	638,452
Approximate MW	N/A	47,981
California Desert District (CDD) applications	63	69
CDD acres	442,666	635,812
Central CA apps	4	1
Central CA acres	17,308	1,920
Northern CA apps	25	1
Northern CA acres	516,957	720

BLM Response

- Creation of Renewable Energy Coordination Offices
    - Staff dedicated to working on renewable energy
- Renewable Energy Action Team
- Renewable Energy Policy Group
- Planning (more on this later)

First Projects Approved in 2010

Salazar Green-Lights First-Ever Solar Energy Projects on Public Lands

10/05/2010

- Five projects under construction in California

Ivanpah Solar (CA)

Permitting Process

- Pre-application
  - Companies conduct varying levels of pre-application work
    - Wind speed/solar insolation
    - Environmental screening
  - Two pre-application meetings with BLM and partner agencies

Permitting Process

- Application
  - Application for a right-of-way grant under the BLM's Federal Land Policy and Management Act authority
  - Applicant submits a Plan of Development
  - Collection of biological, cultural, etc. data

Permitting Process

- Environmental Review
  - Data collection can take 2+ years
  - BLM analyzes potential impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act
  - Consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service, State Historic Preservation Office, other agencies as appropriate
  - Record of Decision
- Construction Compliance

Typical Impacts to Mitigate

- Vegetation/wildlife habitat
- Archaeology/cultural resources
- Air quality/dust
- Water use
- Recreational uses
- Construction light, noise

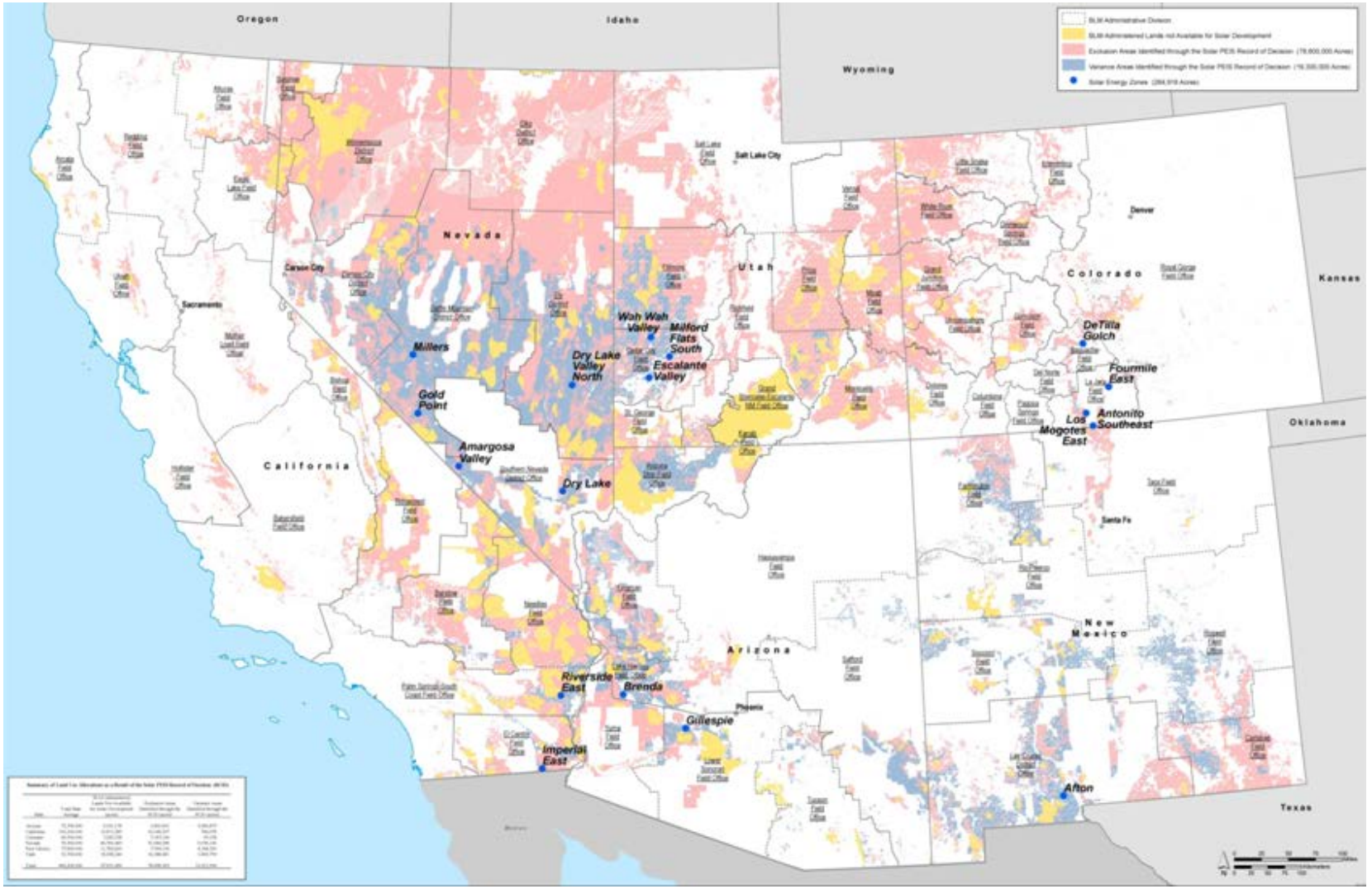
Mitigation Hierarchy

1) Avoid
2) Minimize
3) Offset/Compensate

Renewable Energy Planning

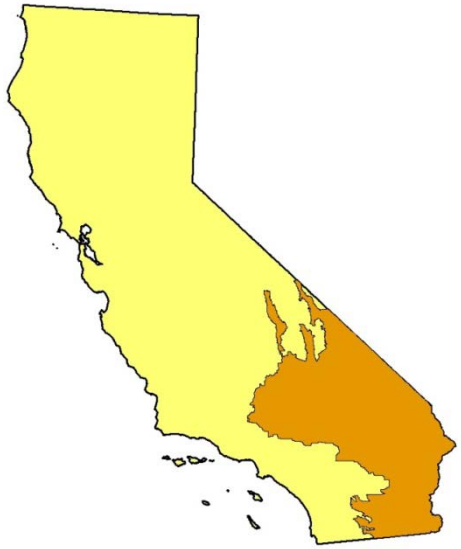
- Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
  - Initiated in 2008, completed in 2012
  - Public land in 6 western states
  - Solar only
  - Designated Solar Energy Zones, variance lands, exclusion areas

Solar Programmatic EIS



Renewable Energy Planning

- Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
  - 22.5 million acres in the California Deserts
  - Federal and non-federal land
  - Solar, wind, geothermal, and transmission



Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

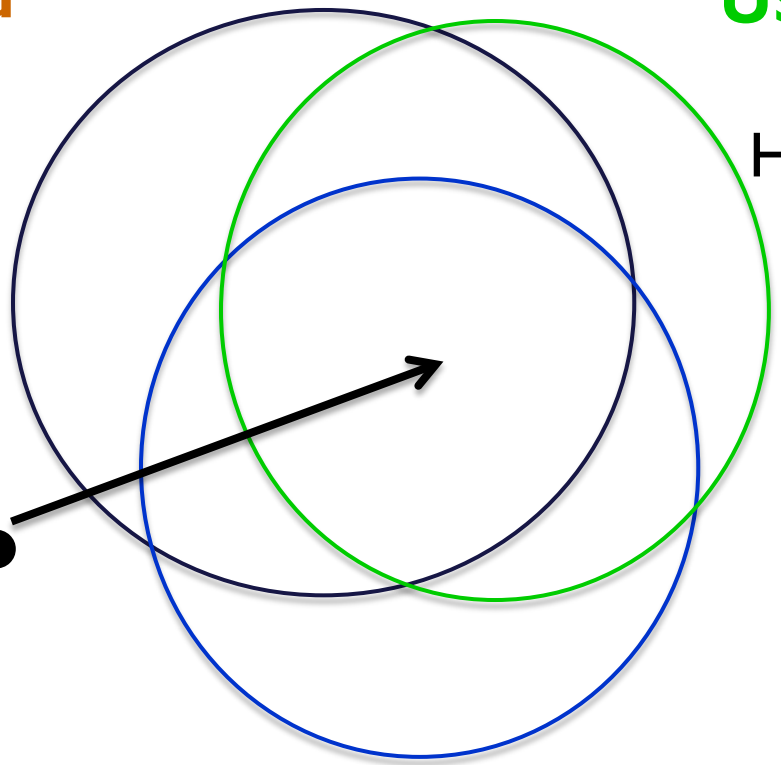
Co-equal goals of:

- Protecting sensitive species and their habitat, ecosystem function, unique areas, cultural resources, recreation, and other important resource values
- Providing large areas for streamlined siting of ~20,000 MW of renewable energy projects and transmission on public and private lands by 2040

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Bureau of Land Management
Land Use Plan Amendments

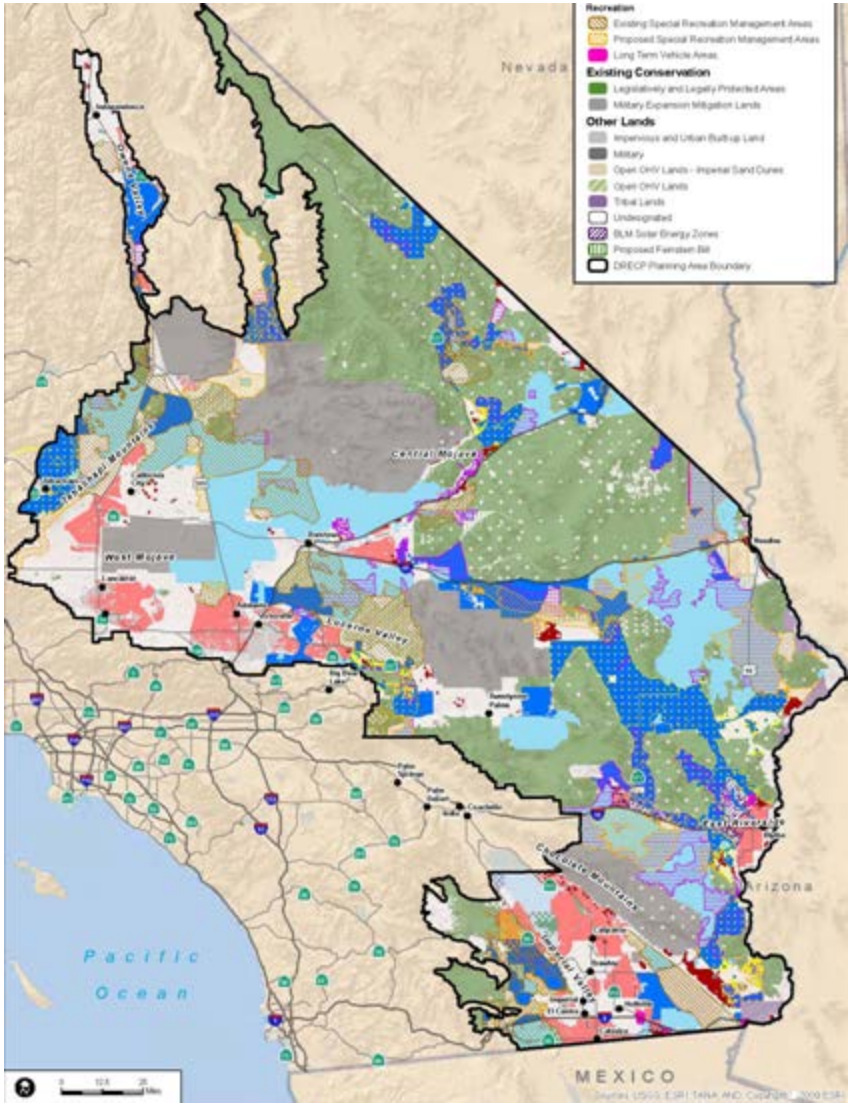
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Habitat Conservation Plan (ESA)



DRECP

Calif. Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Natural Communities Conservation Plan

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan



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Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

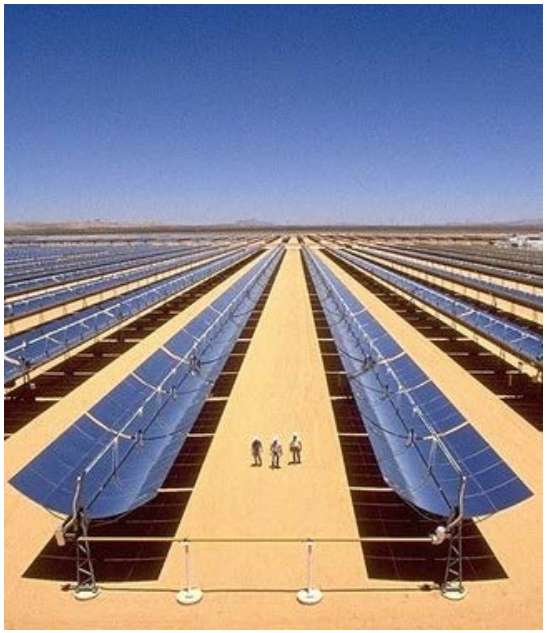
Schedule:

- Draft Plan and EIS/EIR released fall 2013
- 90 day comment period
- Final Plan and EIS/EIR released summer 2014
- Decision fall 2014

DRECP and Central California: i.e. Why You Should Care

- Parts of Bakersfield and Bishop included in DRECP planning area
- Renewable energy conservation planning model could be exported to other parts of state, e.g. Central Valley
- DRECP could serve as a model for general landscape level planning

Questions?



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