

Riverside East SEZ Monitoring Objectives Prioritization Criteria

To begin focusing in on an achievable monitoring plan, the following criteria were applied to the existing list of monitoring objectives. The criteria are related to each monitoring objective's relative importance for decision-making and feasibility of data collection. The initial results of the application of these criteria are presented in the handout Initial Prioritization of Monitoring Objectives.

Importance of Monitoring Objectives (What SHOULD we monitor?)

- The monitoring objective addresses the appropriate scale (SEZ- or landscape-level, rather than individual project).
- The monitoring objective addresses potential impacts specifically related to solar energy development.
- The monitoring objective addresses multiple management goals and/or questions.
- The monitoring objective addresses a resource and/or impact that drives processes in the conceptual model of the system and/or is of high concern based on stakeholder input, BLM Resource Management Plans (e.g., NECO Plan), and the Solar Programmatic EIS.
- Achieving the monitoring objective will produce results about indicators that BLM managers and the general public clearly understand and from which implications for adaptive management actions are apparent.
- The monitoring objective provides an early warning if undesirable changes in the human and ecological system are affecting important resources.
- The monitoring objective addresses a resource with a legal or policy requirement for monitoring.

Feasibility of Monitoring Objectives (CAN it be monitored?)

- The monitoring objective can be achieved using existing data sources.
- The monitoring objective can be achieved through cost-sharing partnerships with other agencies, universities, or private organizations to obtain data.
- Achieving the monitoring objective, will not require significant ancillary data collection or analysis to interpret the primary monitoring data.
- Appropriate control sites are available to achieve the monitoring objective
- The monitoring objective can be achieved using cost effective methods, given the indicator(s) and baseline data required to achieve the objective.
- Based on the indicator(s) and baseline data required to achieve the objective, the monitoring objective is realistic to achieve given the constraints of sample size, manpower, and time.
- The monitoring objective does not duplicate other monitoring objectives.
- Well-documented, scientifically sound monitoring protocols already exist for the monitoring objective.
- The data collected to achieve the monitoring objective does not exhibit large, naturally-occurring variability that would require significant sample size to achieve appropriate statistical power.