

Colorado Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy & San Luis Valley-Taos Plateau Landscape Assessment



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Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns



Potential Impacts of Solar Energy Development:

Direct :

- Eligible archaeological sites, if found to be present, could be impacted by disturbance
- Traditionally important plants and wildlife habitat may be destroyed

Indirect :

- Erosion impacts on cultural resources resulting from land disturbance and modified hydrologic patterns, increased accessibility, and potential damage to archaeological sites
- Impacts on cultural resources and landscapes associated with Hispano heritage
- Visual and auditory impacts may occur on traditional cultural landscapes
- General habitat loss with vegetation clearing and water reduction affecting plant and animal species

Cumulative:

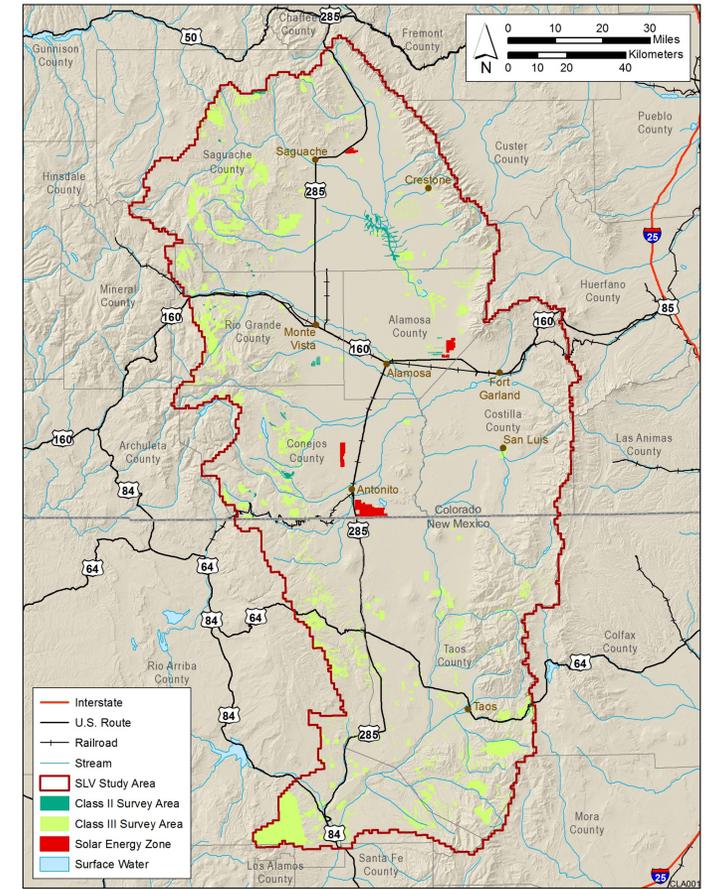
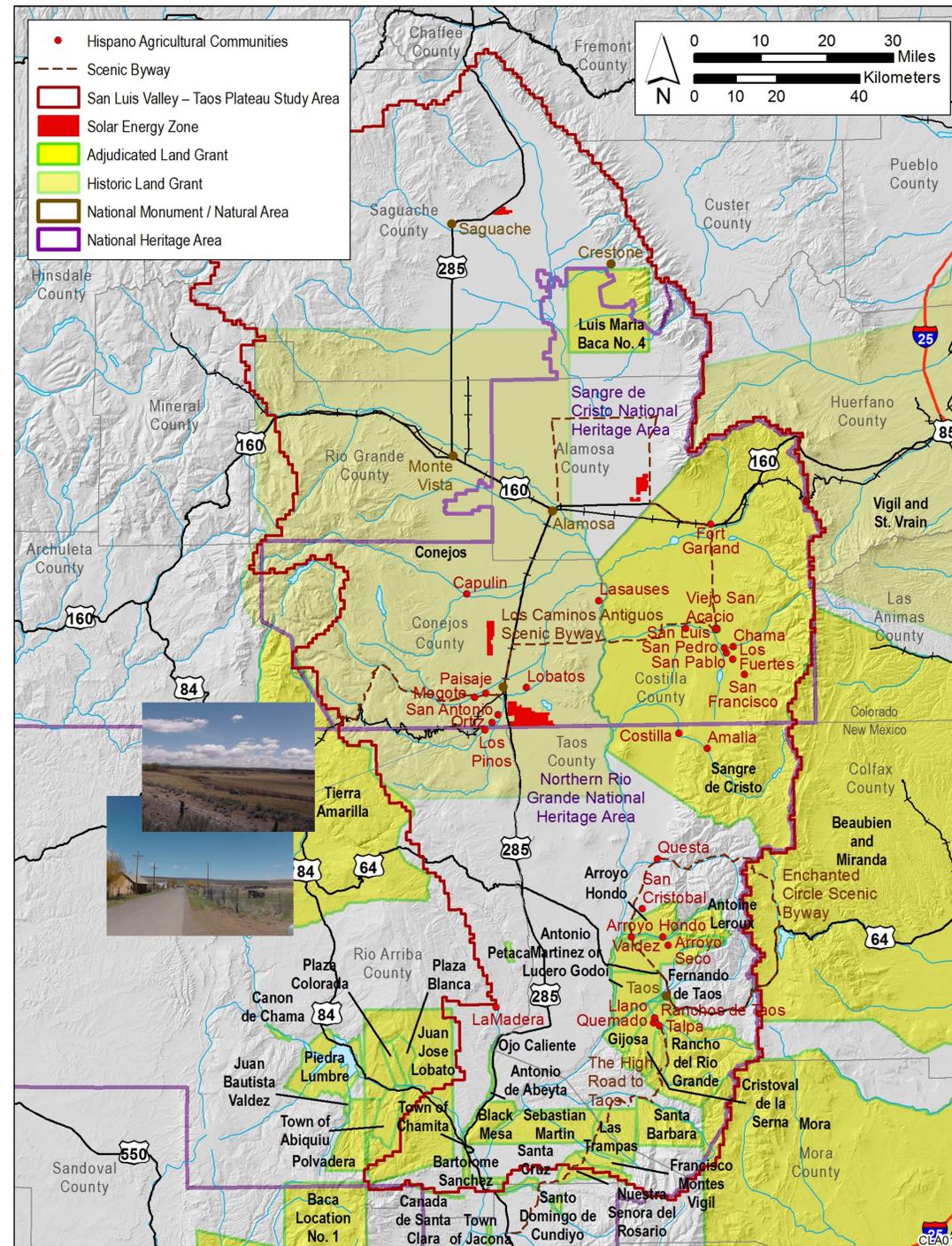
- From solar development of more than one SEZ
- From other development near the SEZs
- From other changes, such as climate change, invasive species spread, or wildfires

Resources of Concern:

- Old Spanish National Historic Trail
- West Fork of the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail
- Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad National Historic Landmark
- Blanca Peak
- San Antonio Peak
- Picuris Trail
- Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area



Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad



Required Onsite Avoidance Measures:

- Avoid clusters of significant cultural resources.
- Avoid impacts on the Old Spanish Trail.
- Avoid rock art sites.
- Avoid springs and significant water sources and culturally important plant and animal species to the extent practicable.
- Avoid visual intrusions on sacred sites to the extent practicable.

Required Onsite Minimization Measures:

- If eligible sites are identified within an SEZ, a Memorandum of Agreement will be developed to determine how the eligible properties will be treated.
- Consultation with Native American governments regarding on-site mitigation will continue.
- For Antonito Southeast and Los Mogotes, additional coordination is recommended with the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad Commission to address mitigation measures for visual impacts.
- Coordination with the Old Spanish Trail Association is recommended to address minimizing impacts on the Old Spanish Trail.