

Summary Sheet: Antonito Southeast Solar Energy Zone

BLM Colorado Solar Regional Mitigation Strategies



Mitigation: actions that will *avoid, minimize, or compensate* for adverse impacts.
Example: avoiding important habitat locations when developing energy facilities.

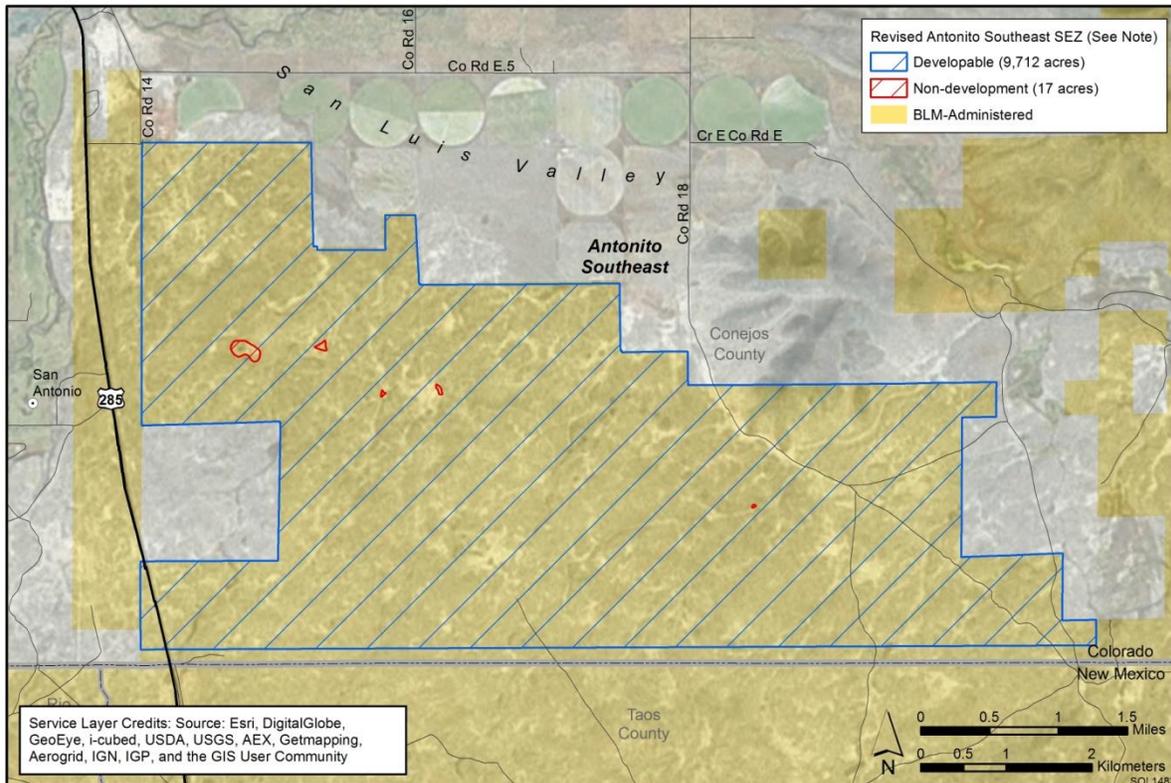


Figure 1: Antonito Southeast SEZ: San Luis Valley Field Office, Conejos County, CO

Developable area: 9,712 acres (39.3 km²)

Maximum Solar Generation Capacity: 1,554 MW
 (enough to power about 500,000 homes)

Required Solar Design Features: Avoid and Minimize
 (Solar PEIS ROD, Oct 2012):

- 250+ required solar design features, including:
- Maintain maximum possible native vegetation
- Avoid 17 acres wetlands - *playa lakes*
- Conduct pre-disturbance surveys for sensitive plants and animals-avoidance and minimization



Expected Residual or Unavoidable Impacts: Solar Development of the Antonito Southeast SEZ

Residual impact: an unavoidable impact that cannot be adequately mitigated onsite by avoiding the resource or minimizing the impact (for example, using construction timing restrictions), or due to assumption of 80% buildout of 9,712 acre SEZ.

Expected residual impacts:

- Air Quality
- Vegetation
- Livestock Grazing
- Visual Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Soils
- Wildlife (including Migratory Birds)
- Special Status Animals & Plants
- Specially Designated Areas
- Native American Concerns

Resources that may have residual impacts (depending on how development occurs):

- Acoustics
- Surface Water Quality & Quantity
- Socioeconomics
- Recreation
- Groundwater Quality and Quantity
- Environmental Justice

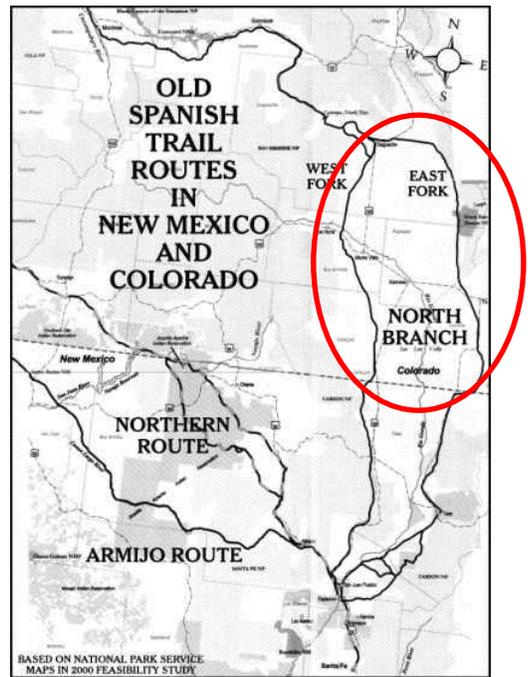


Figure 3: Old Spanish Trail Routes
The San Luis Valley area is circled in red.

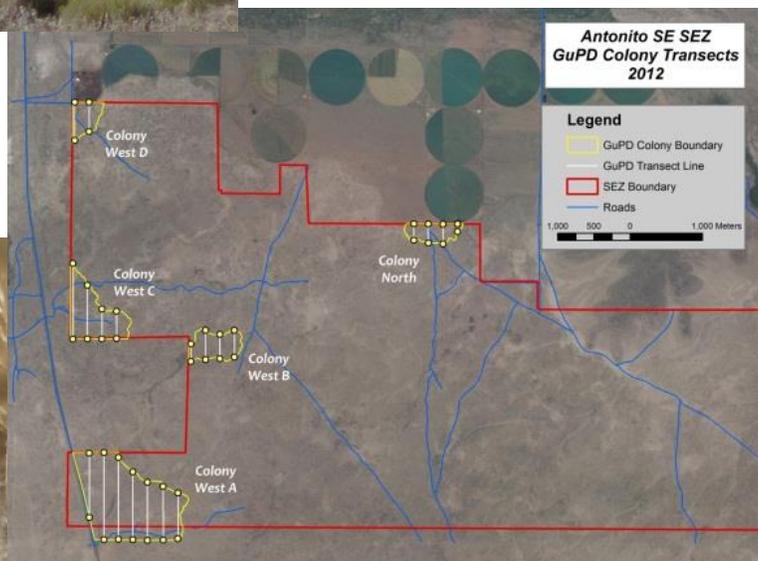


Figure 4. Landscape Assessment grassland-shrubland assemblage species (sensitive species surveys conducted 2011-2014). Map of Gunnison Prairie Dog Colony Locations, Antonito SE SEZ.

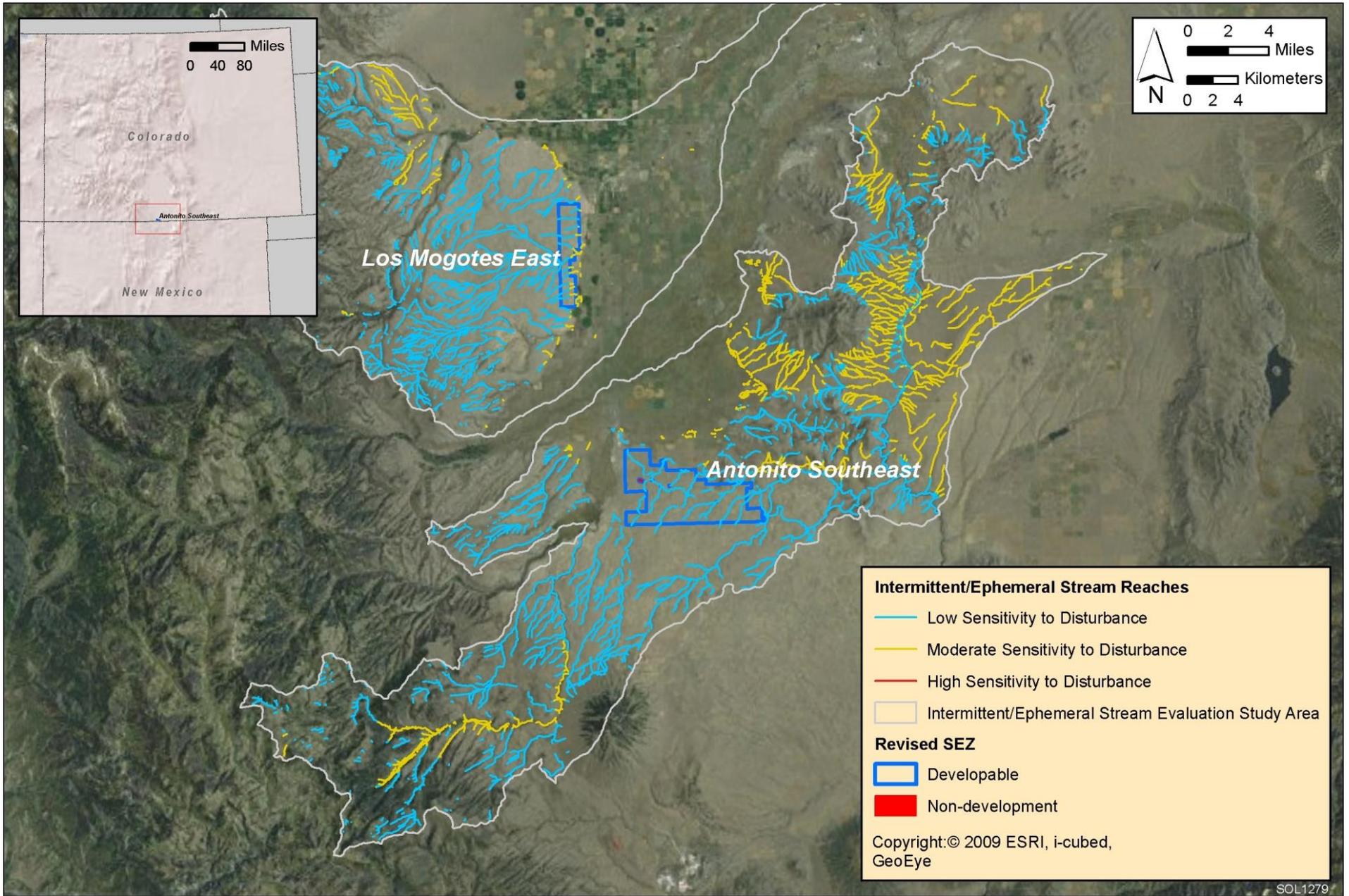


Figure 5: Surface Water Features in the Hydrologic Basin that includes the Antonito Southeast SEZ. Source: BLM 2012 – Solar PEIS.

Potential Visual Impacts from Solar Facilities in San Luis Valley



Mitigation Hierarchy

Avoidance: Avoiding impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action. (40 CFR 1508.20(a)). Examples:

- Cultural resources
- Wetlands (Alta Lake playa wetland)
- Prairie dog colonies
- Dry washes and ephemeral drainages

Minimization: Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation (40 CFR 1508.20(b)). Examples:

- Limit Groundwater withdrawals
- Maintain undisturbed buffer areas and sediment and erosion controls around water
- Control use of motorized vehicles

Compensation: Compensating for residual impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR 1508.20(e)). Examples:

- Protecting and/or acquiring other lands in the region with similar resources as mitigation banks
- Restoring and protecting previously damaged areas in the region with similar habitat
- Banking seeds of plants that would be lost

