

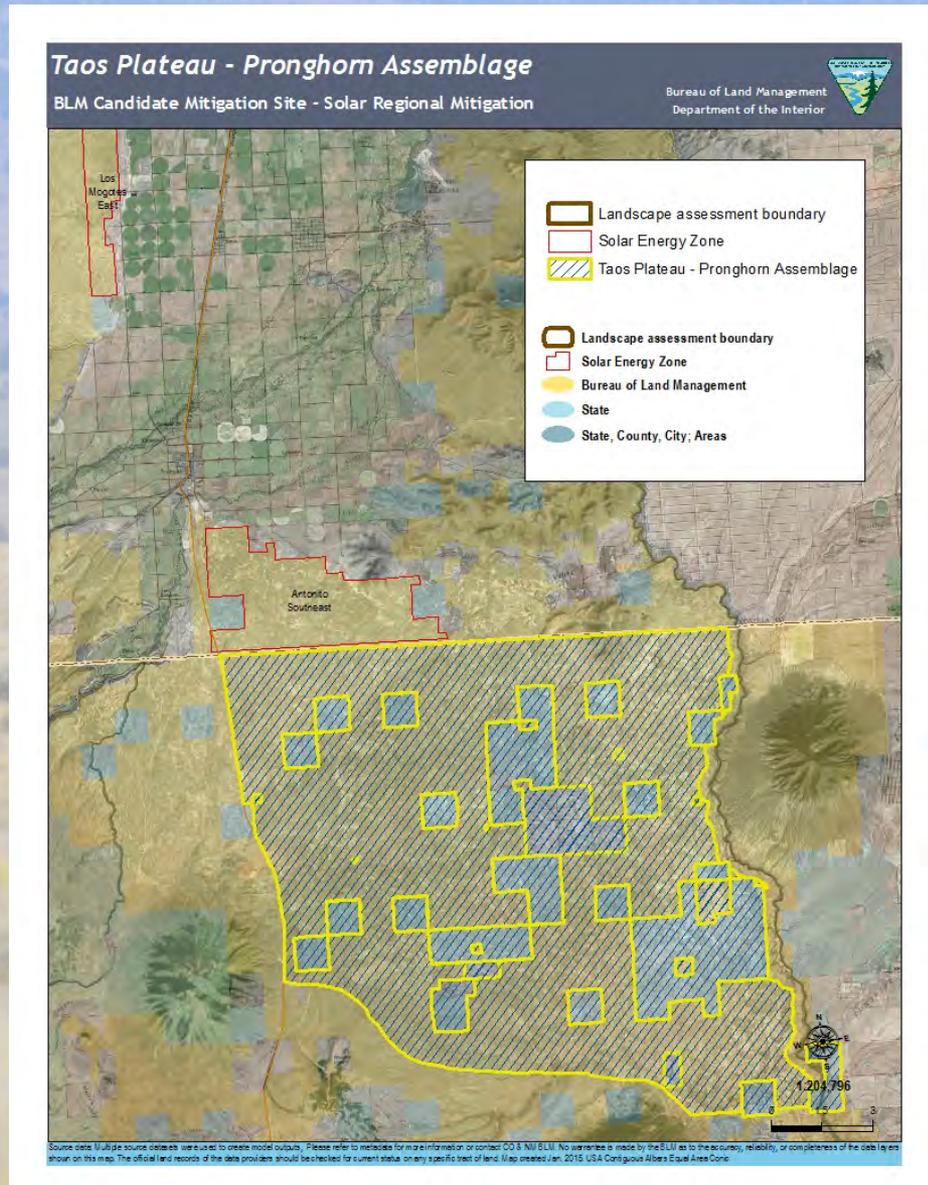


Taos Plateau Pronghorn Assemblage

SEZ Regional Mitigation Site

- Val Williams
- Wildlife Biologist
- Bureau of Land Management
- Taos Field Office
- May 14, 2015

Site Location – Taos Plateau Pronghorn Assemblage



Site Description

- The *Taos Plateau Pronghorn Assemblage* mitigation site includes desert winterfat shrub-grassland habitat, shares soils, hydrology and dispersed playa wetland identical and with Antonito SE SEZ within the adjacent Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.
-
- Cultural landscape is characterized by human occupation among most ancient nomadic lands documented in North America preceding Spanish settlement by 1,000's of years continuing through settlement of the overlapping Conejos Land Grant from the 1830's to 1860's.
- The area supports big game herds that occupy both Antonito SE & Los Mogotes E SEZ's, Gunnison's Prairie Dog-Burrowing Owl- populations, migrating shorebird-water bird flyways, and occupied Golden Eagle habitat residually impacted by SEZ development

Site Description

- **Candidate Mitigation Site Extent: ~122,473 acres**
 - 88,666 acres BLM
 - 8,802 acres Private
 - 25,005 acres State Lands
- **Residual Impacts offset and/or Resources Protected :**
 - Pronghorn & big game habitat, wildlife corridor, connectivity
 - BLM Sensitive Species: Gunnison Prairie Dog-Burrowing Owl-Swift Fox, Mtn Plover,
 - Pollinators, Visual, Raptors, Golden Eagle habitat,
 - Eligible and potentially Eligible Cultural Features,
 - Migratory birds shorebirds/waterbirds, hydrology, soils, SS,

Proposed Goals - Objectives

- See Draft BLM Goals & Objectives Handout for Goals 1-3, 7-9

Proposed Mitigation Actions (Measures)

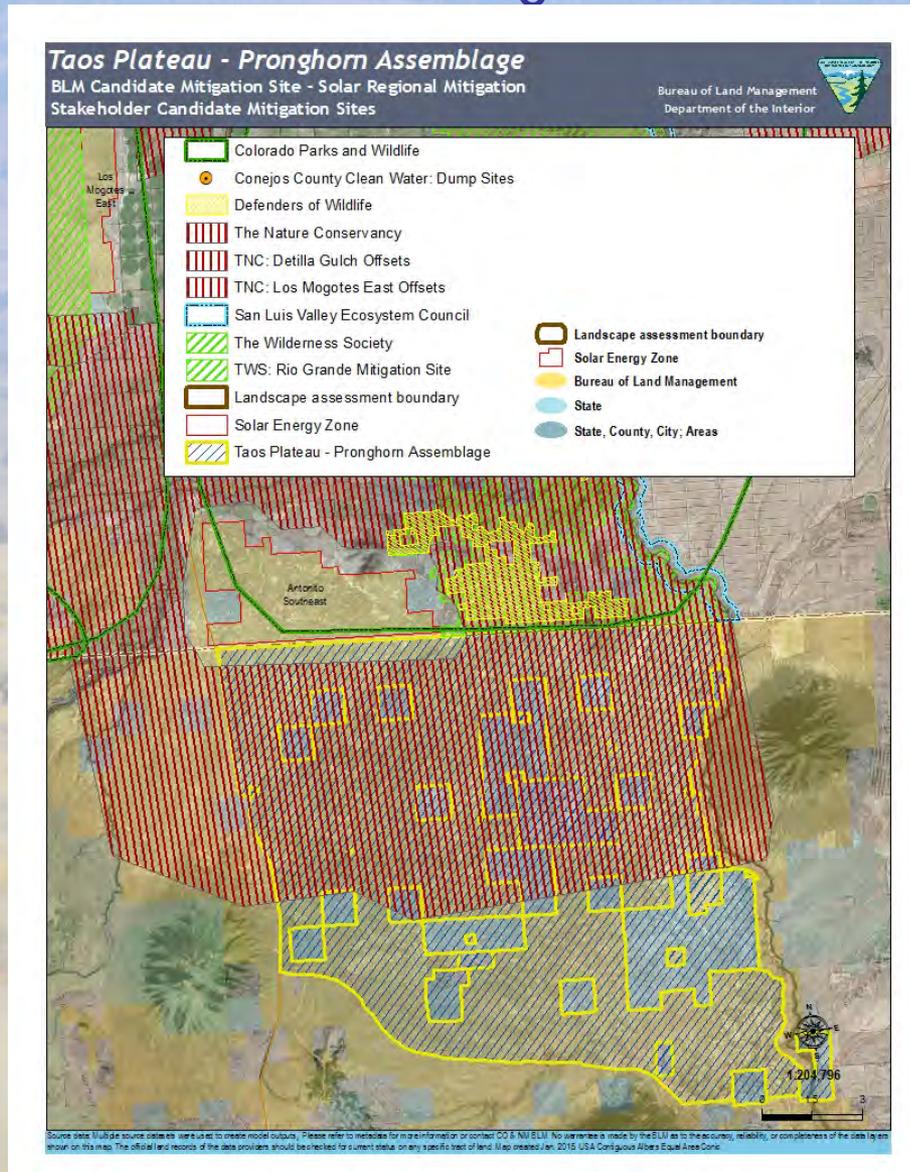
- Pronghorn habitat - seasonal closure & and conservation measure enforcement
- Conservation easement and/or acquisition of non-federal wildlife and playa wetlands habitat
- Playa wetland restoration
- Shrubland - grassland vegetation - pollinator restoration/habitat enhancement activities
- Fencing removal &/or modification (Wildlife friendly fencing)
- Enhancing connectivity between, and preservation, of intact habitat
- Raptor friendly transmission line mitigation fund
- Establish Rio Grande minimum in-stream flows

Mitigation Site Scoring Criteria

- **Feasibility-Effectiveness:**
 - Uncertainty in federal funds for land acquisition funding
 - High effectiveness based on existing monument protections
- **Additionality :**
 - Replacing terrestrial habitat loss (pronghorn/big game, special status species)
 -
- **Durability:**
 - Site located within Rio Grand del Norte National Monument
- **Risk:**
 - Hunting-access-road use;
 - Private Inholdings with an unknown number of willing sellers for land acquisition;
 - climate change models show higher temp. & lower precipitation (drought

Overlapping Stakeholder Site Locations

Taos Plateau Pronghorn Assemblage



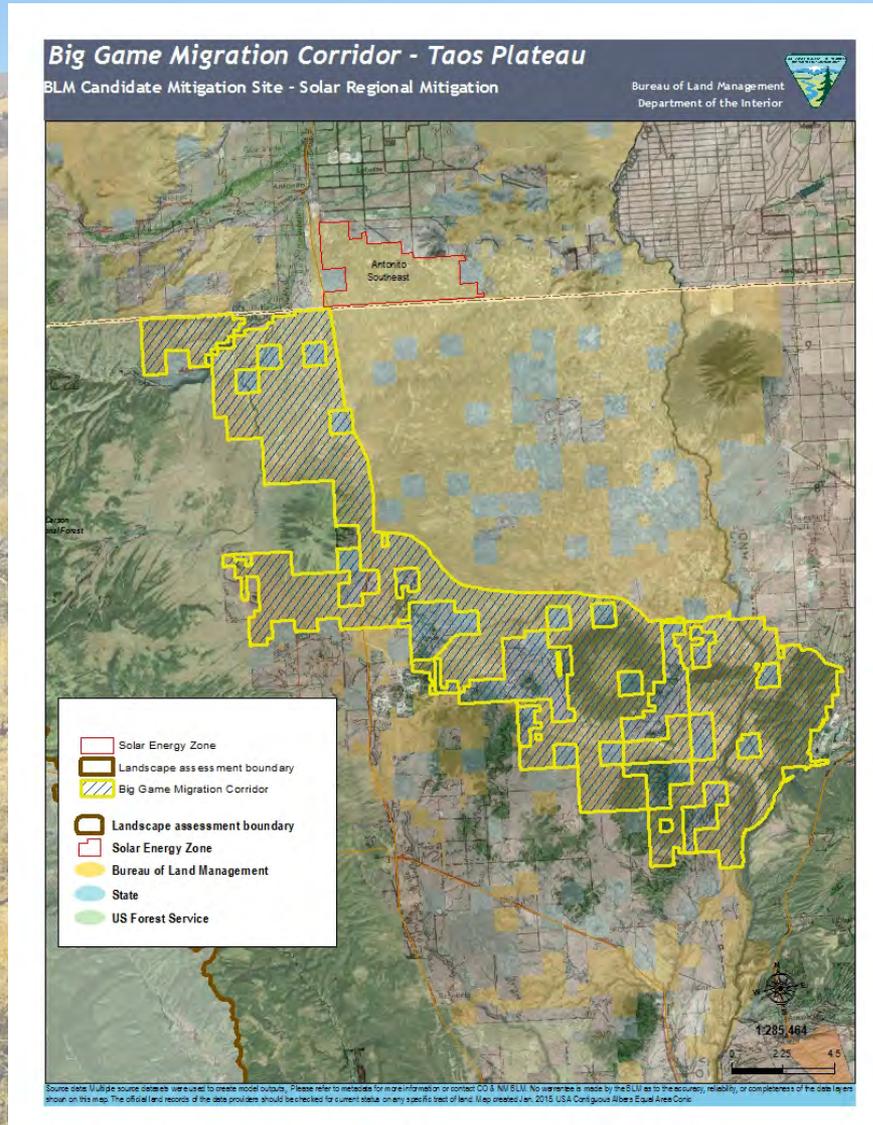
Taos Plateau Big Game Migration Corridor

SEZ Regional Mitigation Site



- Val Williams
- Wildlife Biologist
- Bureau of Land Management
- Taos Field Office
- May 14, 2015

Site Location – Big Game Migration Corridor - Taos Plateau



Site Description

- The *Taos Plateau Big Game Migration* site connects CO-NM elk summer and winter range, and includes desert winterfat shrub-grassland habitat, shares soils, hydrology and dispersed playa wetland identical and with Antonito SE SEZ within the adjacent Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.
- Cultural landscape is characterized by human occupation among most ancient nomadic lands documented in North America preceding Spanish settlement by 1,000's of years continuing through settlement of the overlapping Conejos Land Grant from the 1830's to 1860's.
- The area connects big game herds shared by CO & NM from summer to winter range that occupy both Antonito SE & Los Mogotes E SEZ's, as well as Gunnison's Prairie Dog-Burrowing Owl- populations, migrating shorebird-water bird flyways, and occupied Golden Eagle habitat residually impacted by SEZ development

Site Description

- **Candidate Mitigation Site Extent: ~135,184 acres**
 - 102,782 acres BLM
 - 20,068 acres Private
 - 12,334 acres State
 -
- **Residual Impacts Offset and/or Resources Protected:**
 - Big Game corridors & connectivity
 - BLM Sensitive Species: Gunnison Prairie Dog-Burrowing Owl-Swift Fox, Mtn Plover,
 - Scenic quality
 - Pollinators, Visual, Raptors, Golden Eagle habitat,
 - Water quality & quantity,
 - Wetlands
 - Eligible and potentially Eligible Cultural Features,
 - Migratory birds shorebirds/waterbirds,
 - Hydrology, soils, SS,

Proposed Goals - Objectives

- See Draft BLM Goals & Objectives Handout for Goals 1-3, 7-9

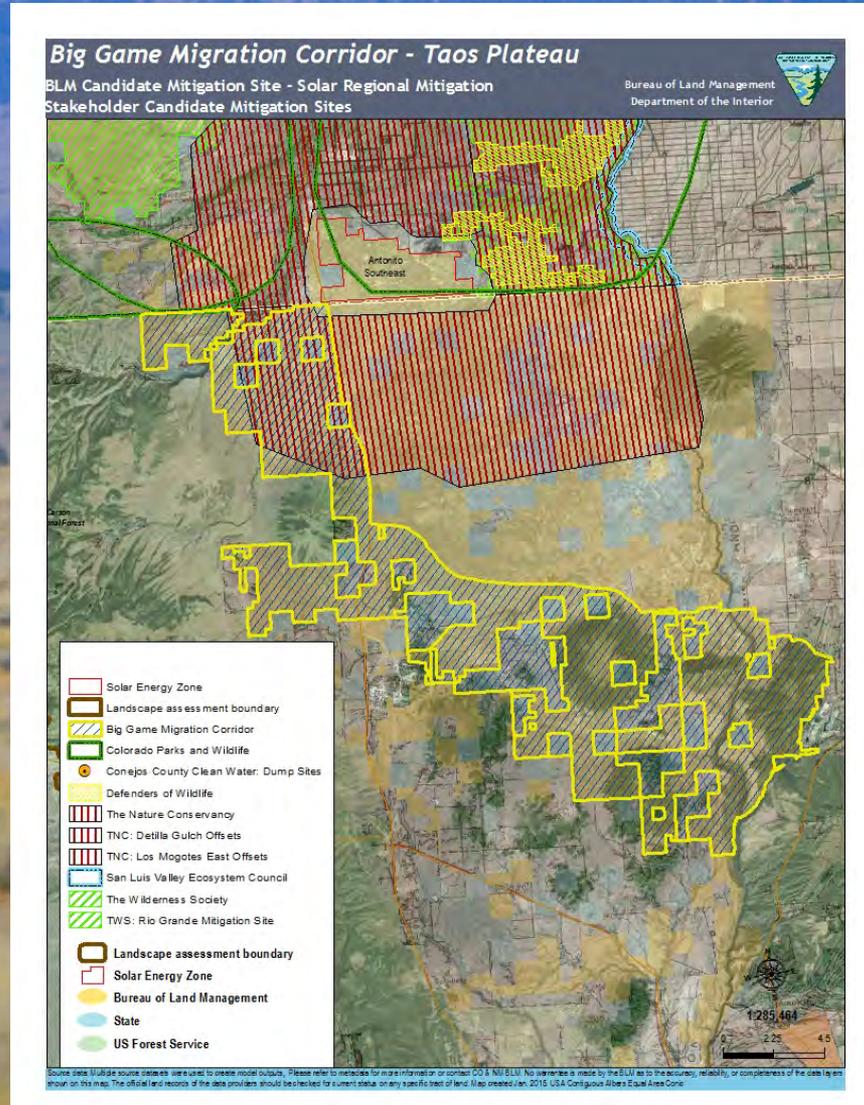
Proposed Mitigation Actions (Measures)

- Pronghorn habitat - seasonal closure & and conservation measure enforcement
- Conservation easement and/or acquisition of non-federal wildlife and playa wetlands habitat.
- Playa wetland restoration.
- Shrubland - grassland vegetation - pollinator restoration/habitat enhancement activities.
- Fencing removal &/or modification (Wildlife friendly fencing)
- Enhancing connectivity between, and preservation, of intact habitat
- Raptor friendly transmission mitigation fund.
- Establish Rio Grande minimum in-stream flows

Mitigation Site Scoring Criteria

- **Feasibility-Effectiveness:**
 - Uncertainty in federal funds for land acquisition funding
 - High effectiveness based on existing monument protections
- **Additionality :**
 - Replacing terrestrial habitat loss (pronghorn/big game, Special Status Species)
- **Durability:**
 - Site located within Rio Grand del Norte National Monument
- **Risk:**
 - Hunting-access-road use;
 - Private Inholdings with an unknown number of willing sellers for land acquisition;
 - climate change models show higher temp. & lower precipitation (drought);

Overlapping Stakeholder Site Locations Taos Plateau Big Game Migration Corridor



Additional Evaluation

SEZ Regional Mitigation Sites

Joe Vieira

Project Manager - Renewable Energy

Bureau of Land Management

San Luis Valley Field Office

May 14, 2015

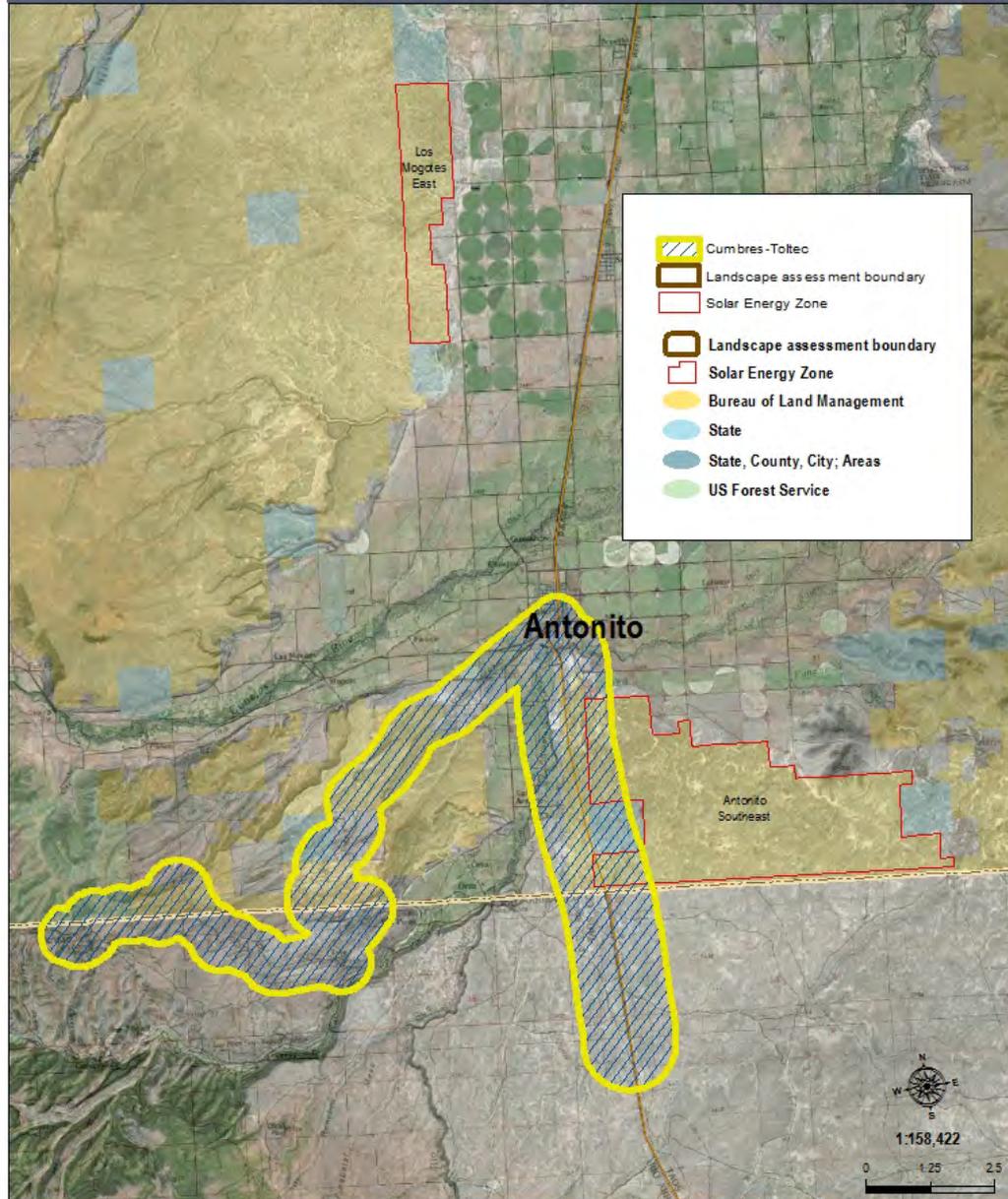
Cumbres Toltec

SEZ Regional Mitigation Sites

Cumbres Toltec

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior



Source data: Multiple source datasets were used to create model outputs. Please refer to metadata for more information or contact CO & NM BLM. No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land. Map created Jan. 2015 USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic

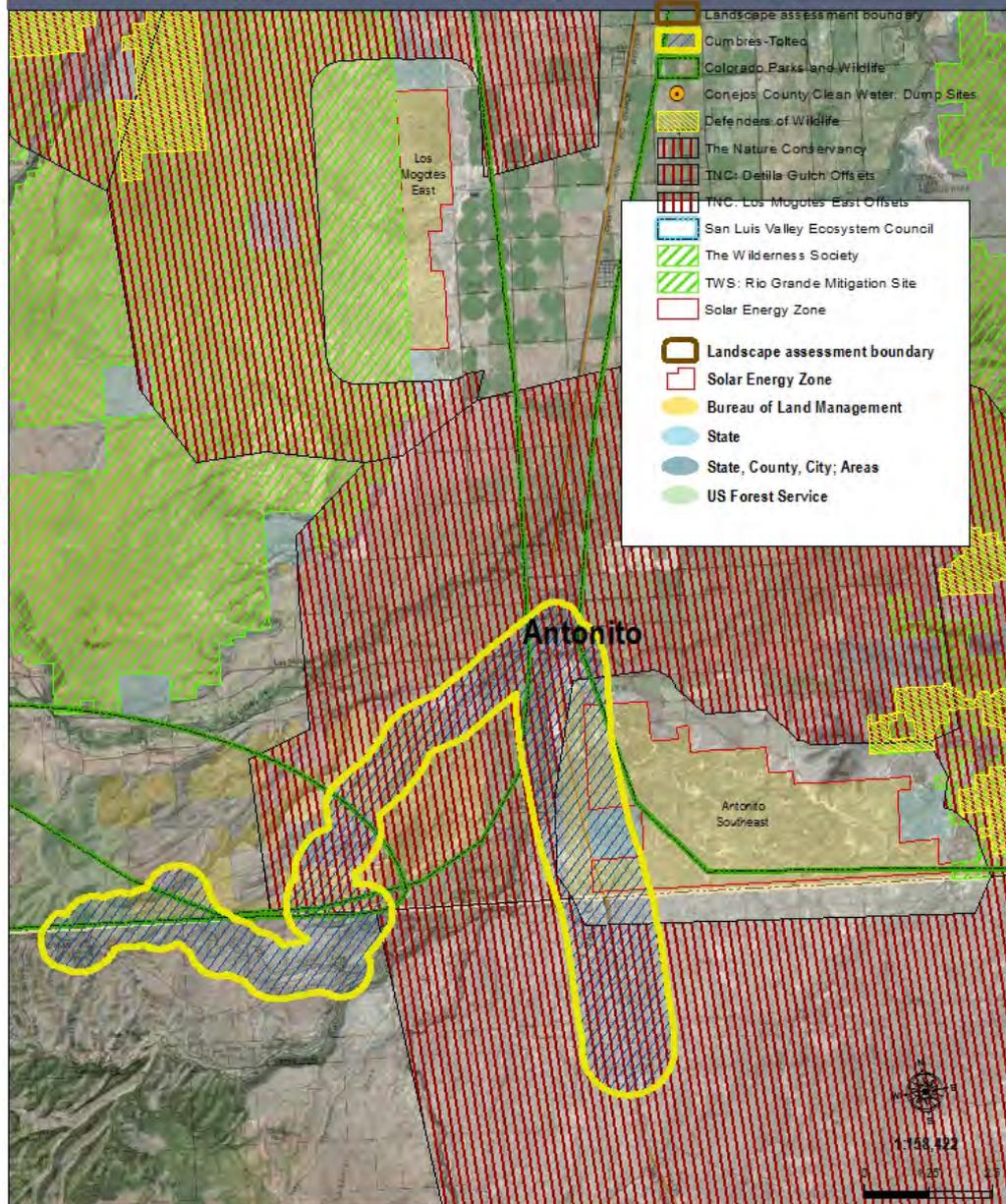




Cumbres Toltec

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior



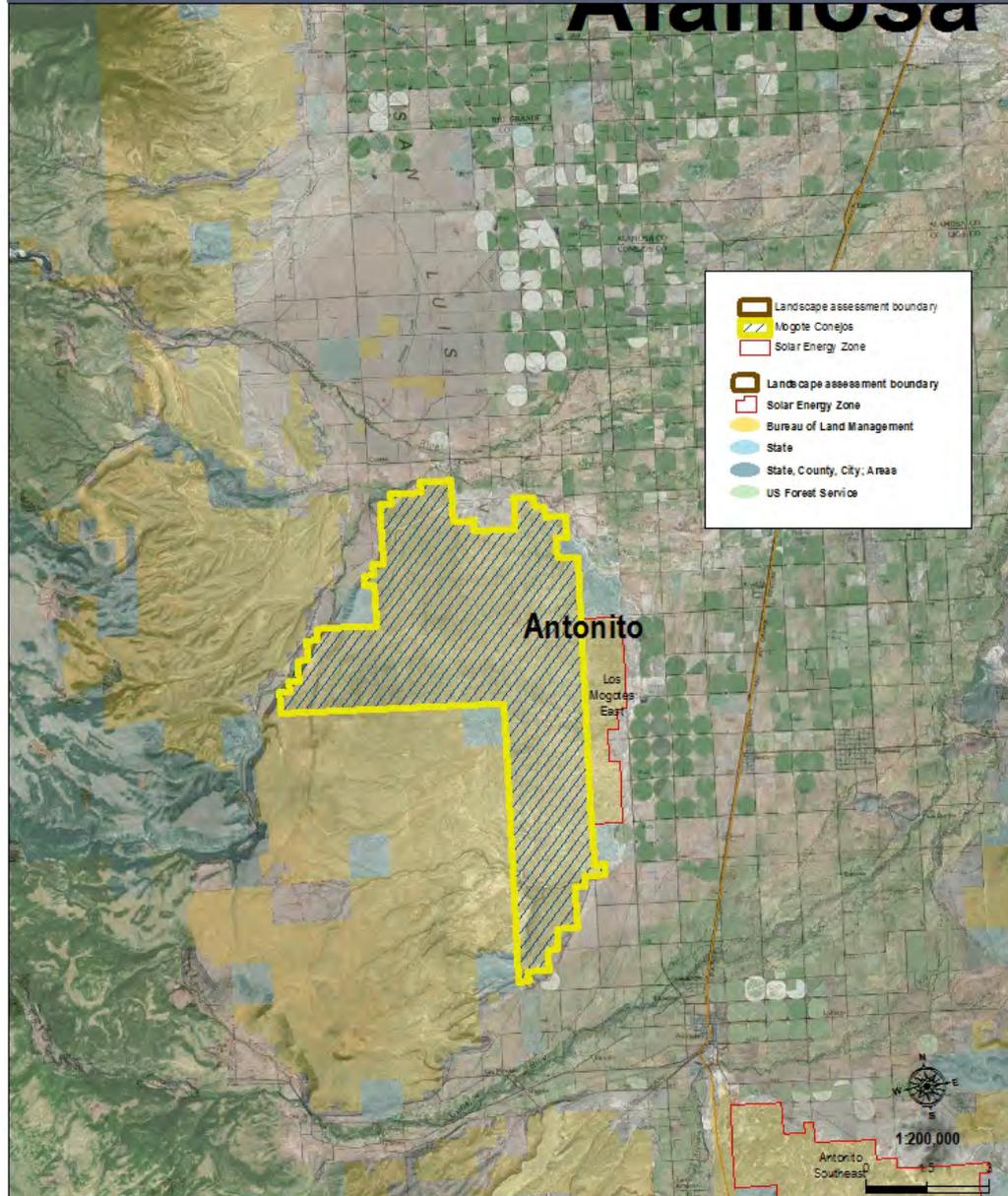
Mogote Conejos

SEZ Regional Mitigation Sites

Mogote-Conejos

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

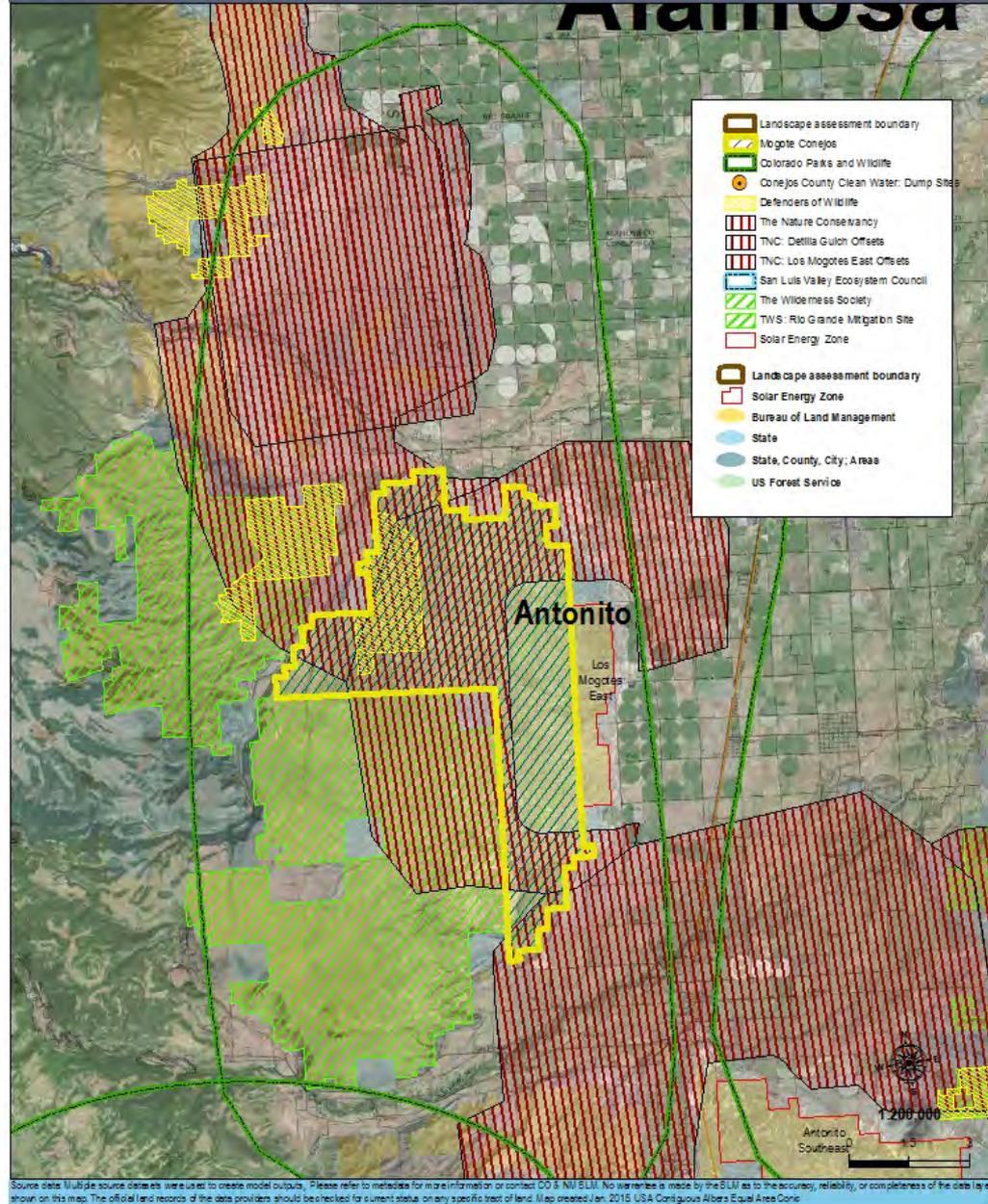


Source data: Multiple source datasets were used to create model outputs. Please refer to metadata for more information or contact CO & NM BLM. No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land. Map created Jan. 2015. USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic.

Mogote-Conejos

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior



Source data: Multiple source datasets were used to create model outputs. Please refer to metadata for more information or contact DOI & NPS BLM. No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land. Map created Jan. 2015. USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic

Sangres Foothills

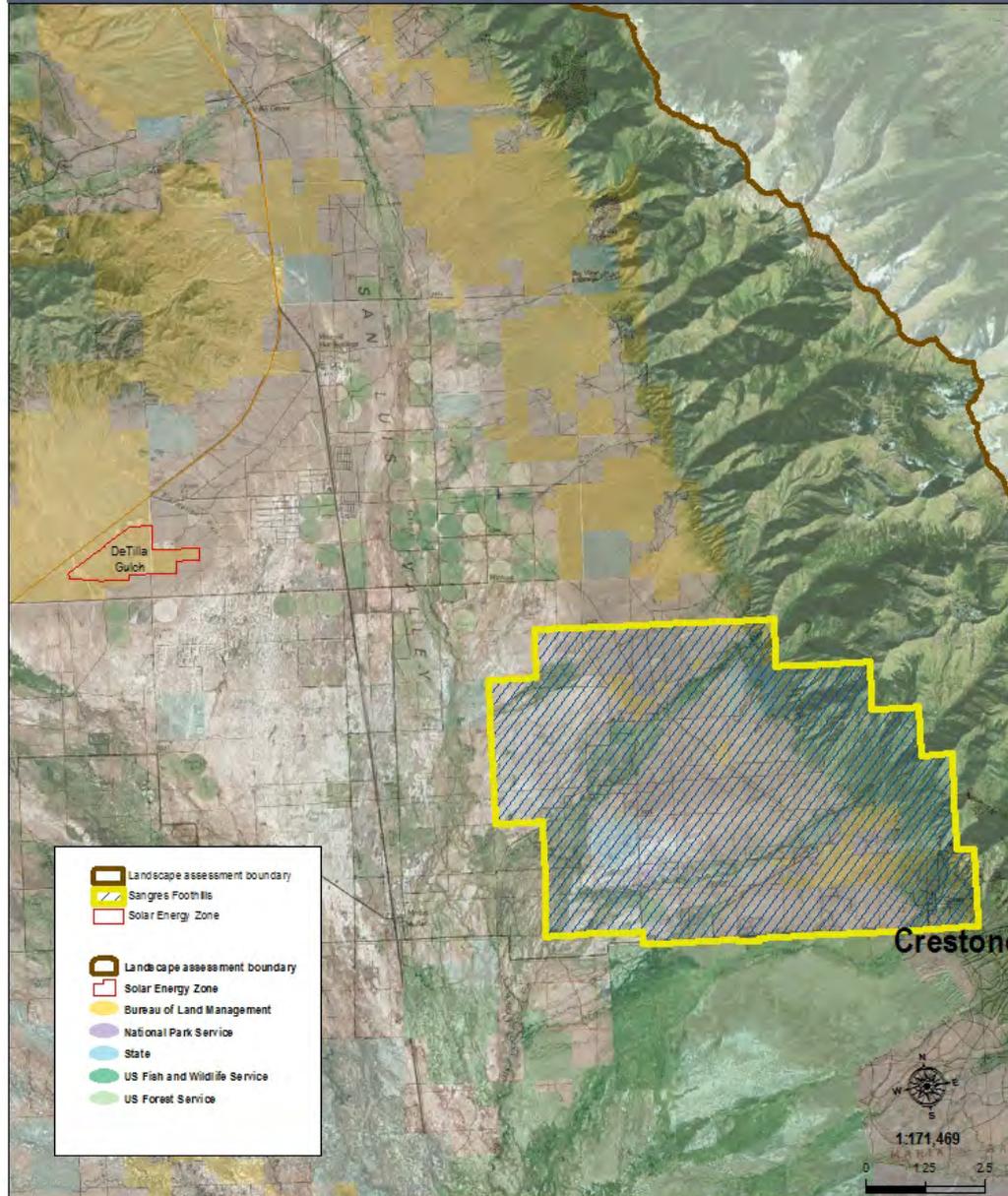
SEZ Regional Mitigation Sites



Sangres Foothills

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

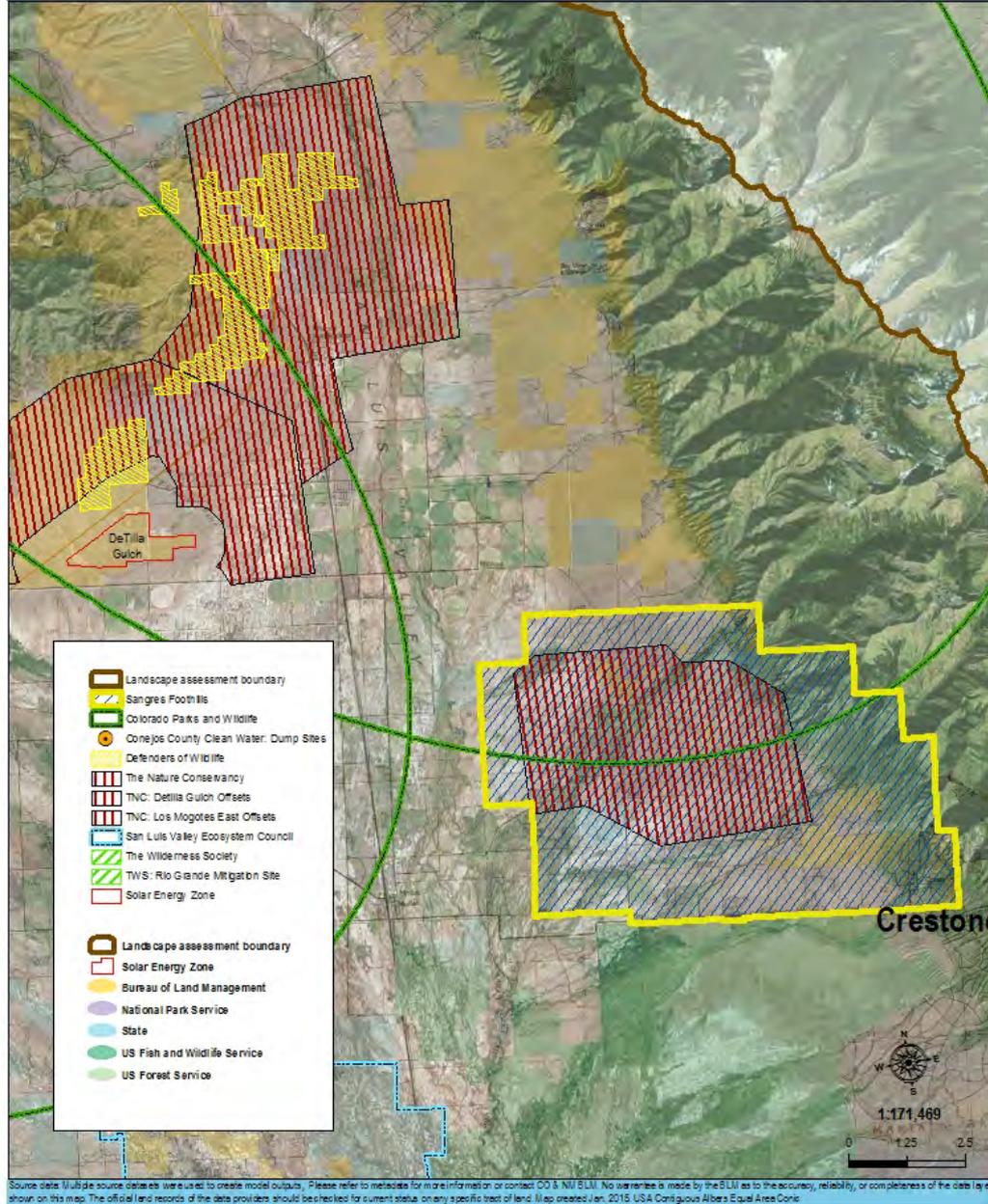


Source data: Multiple source datasets were used to create model outputs. Please refer to metadata for more information or contact CO & NM BLM. No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land. Map created Jan. 2015 USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic

Sangres Foothills

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior



Source data: Multiple source datasets were used to create model outputs. Please refer to metadata for more information or contact CO & NM BLM. No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land. Map created Jan. 2015 USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic

Trickle Mountain – Saguache Creek

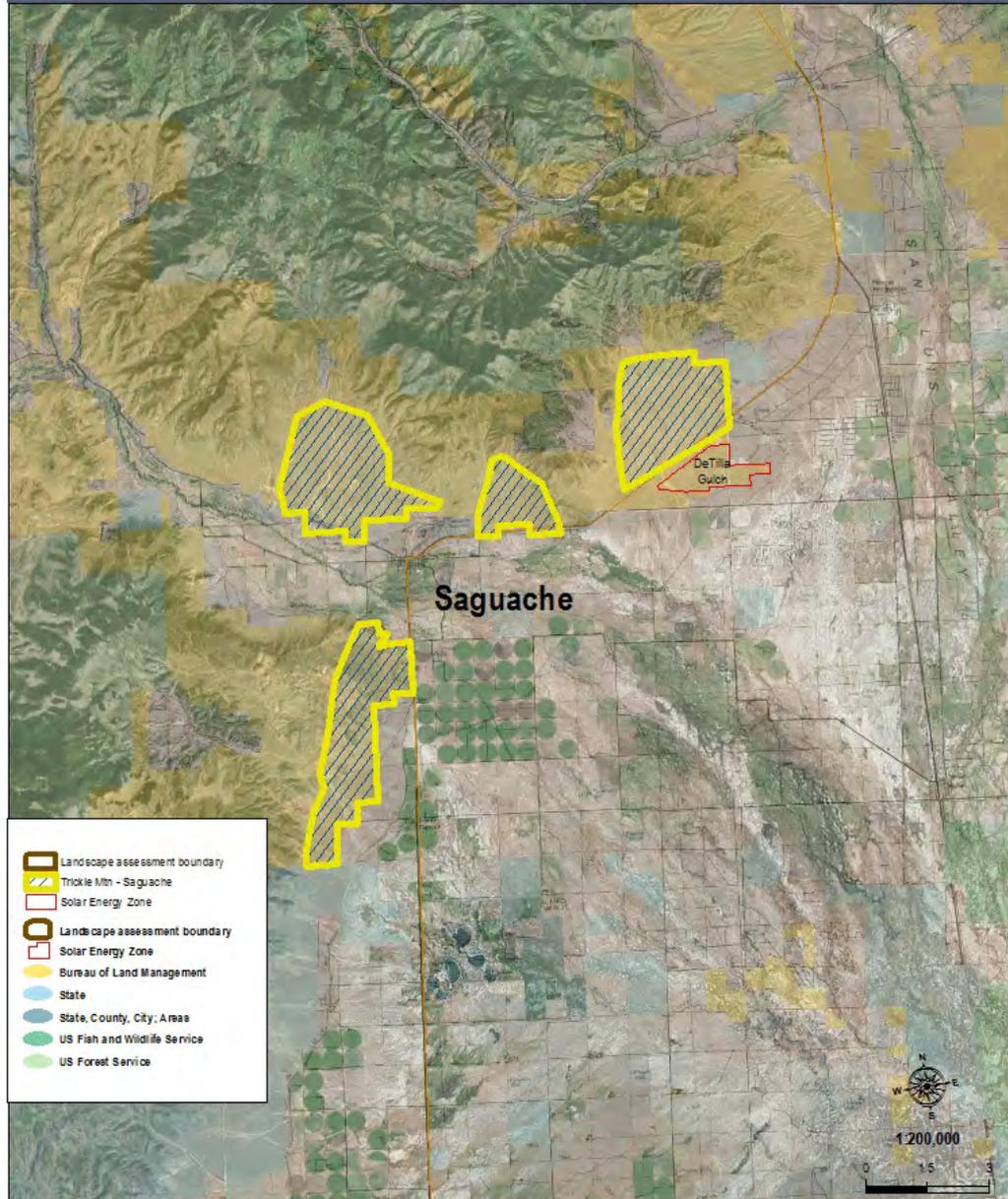
SEZ Regional Mitigation Sites



Trickle Mountain Saguache Creek

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

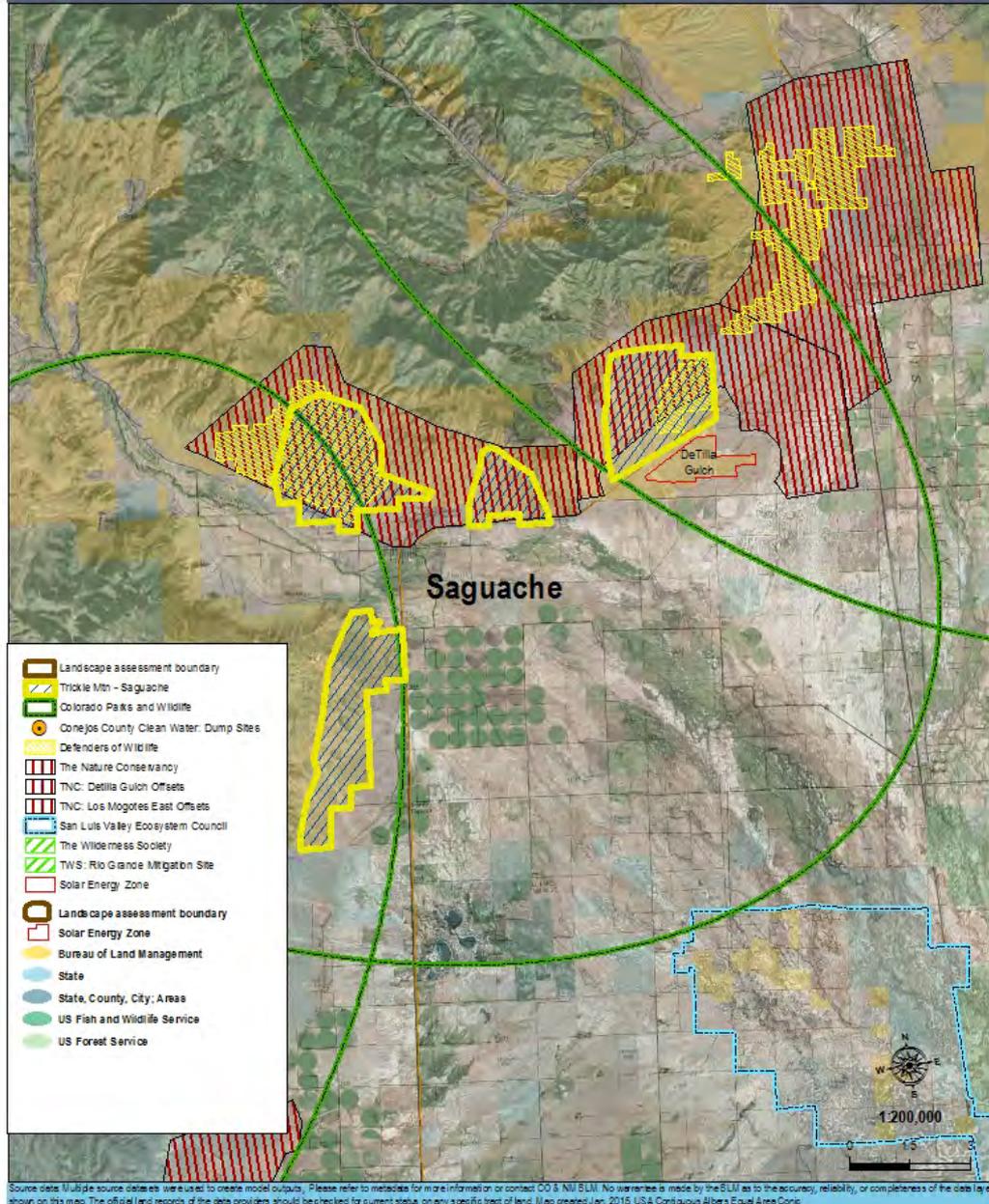


Source data: Multiple source datasets were used to create model outputs. Please refer to metadata for more information or contact COO & NM BLM. No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land. Map created Jan. 2015 USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic

Trickle Mountain Saguache Creek

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior



Source data: Multiple source datasets were used to create model outputs. Please refer to metadata for more information or contact COO & NIT/BLM. No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land. Map created Jan. 2015 USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic

Brownie Foothills

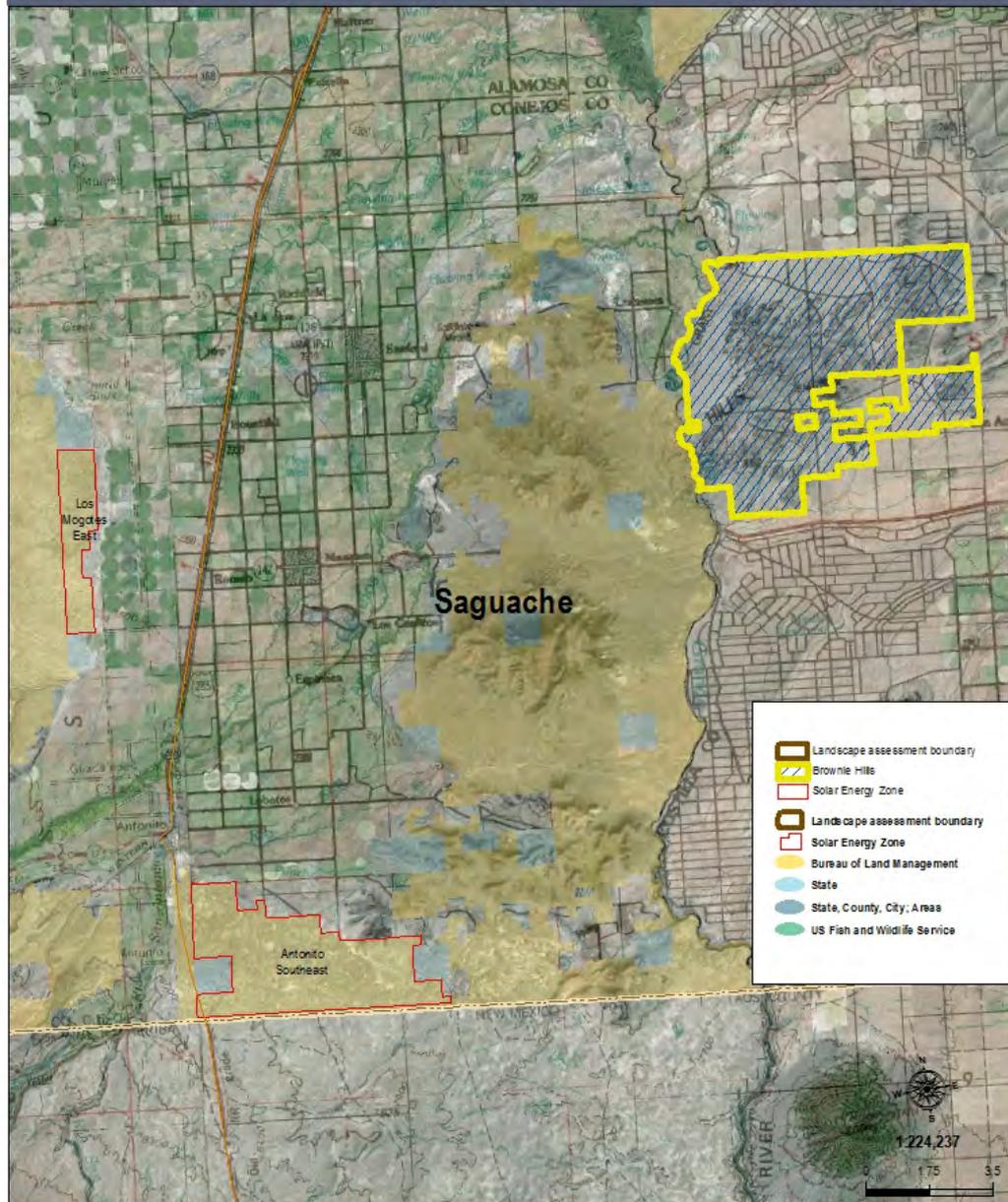
SEZ Regional Mitigation Sites



Brownie Hills

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

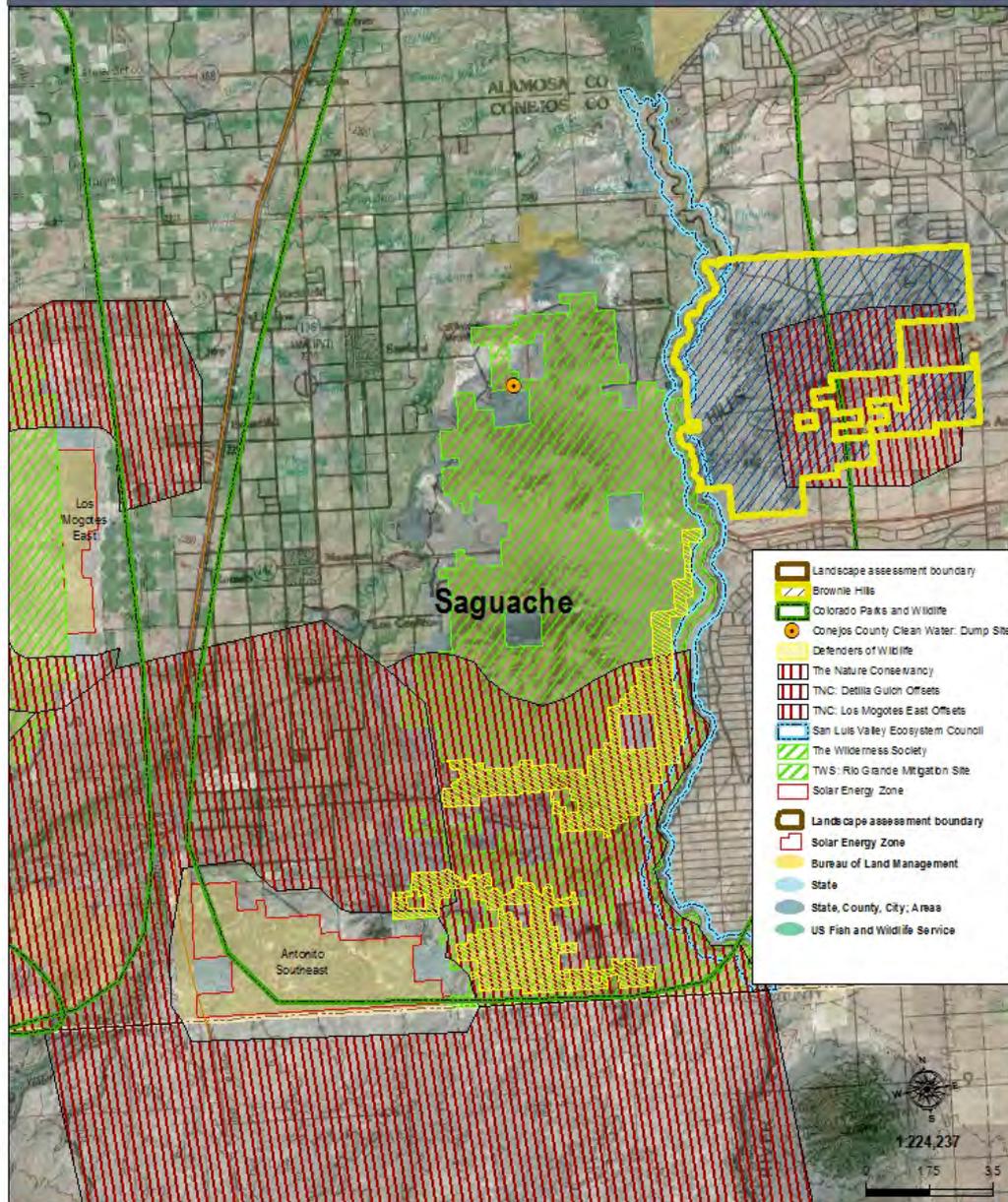


Source data: Multiple source datasets were used to create model outputs. Please refer to metadata for more information or contact CO & NM BLM. No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land. Map created Jan. 2015 USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic

Brownie Hills

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior



Source: Multiple source datasets were used to create model outputs. Please refer to metadata for more information or contact CO's NLI/BLM. No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land. Map created Jan. 2015. USA Contiguous. All rights reserved.

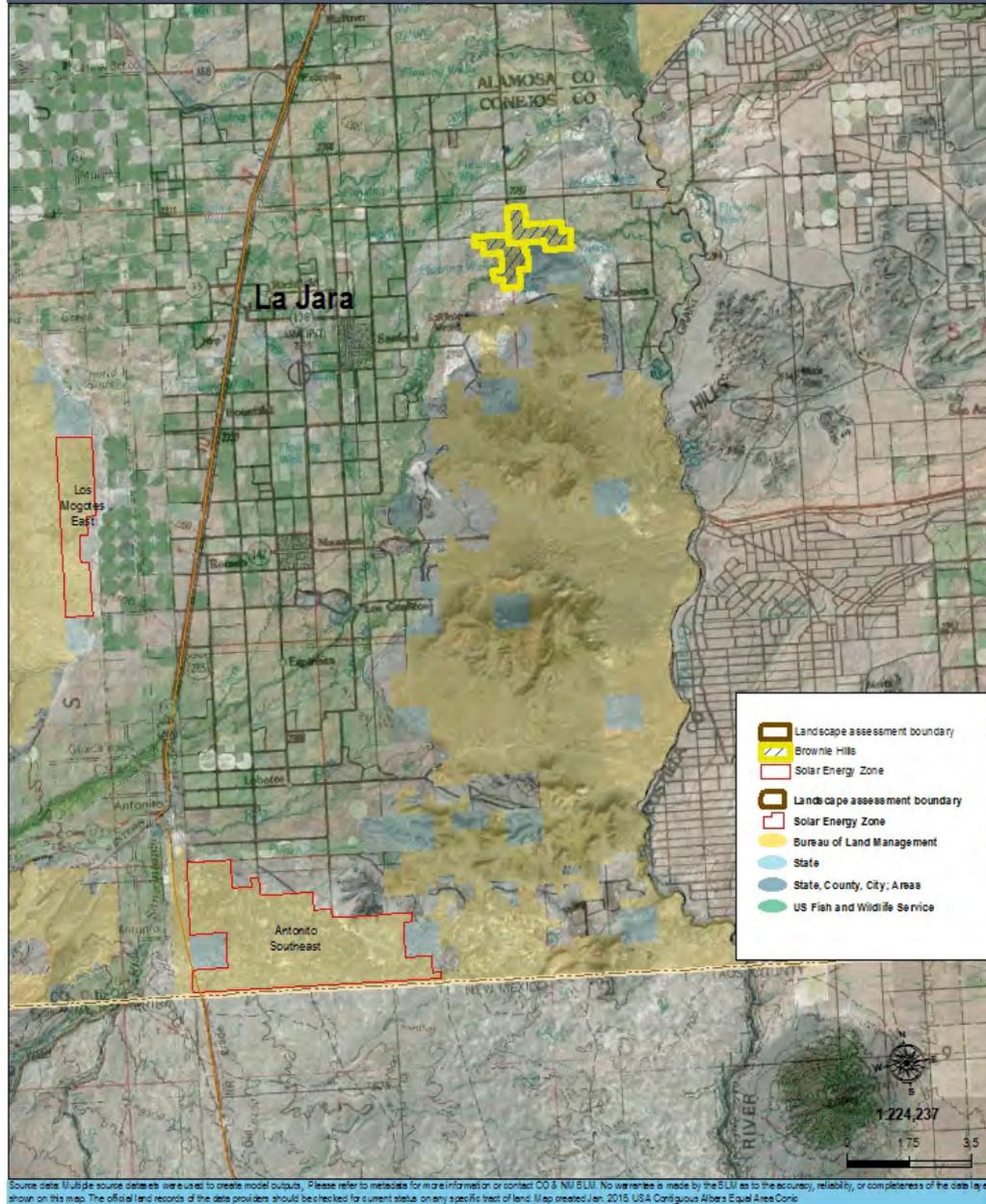
McIntire Simpson SEZ Regional Mitigation Sites



McIntire Simpson

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

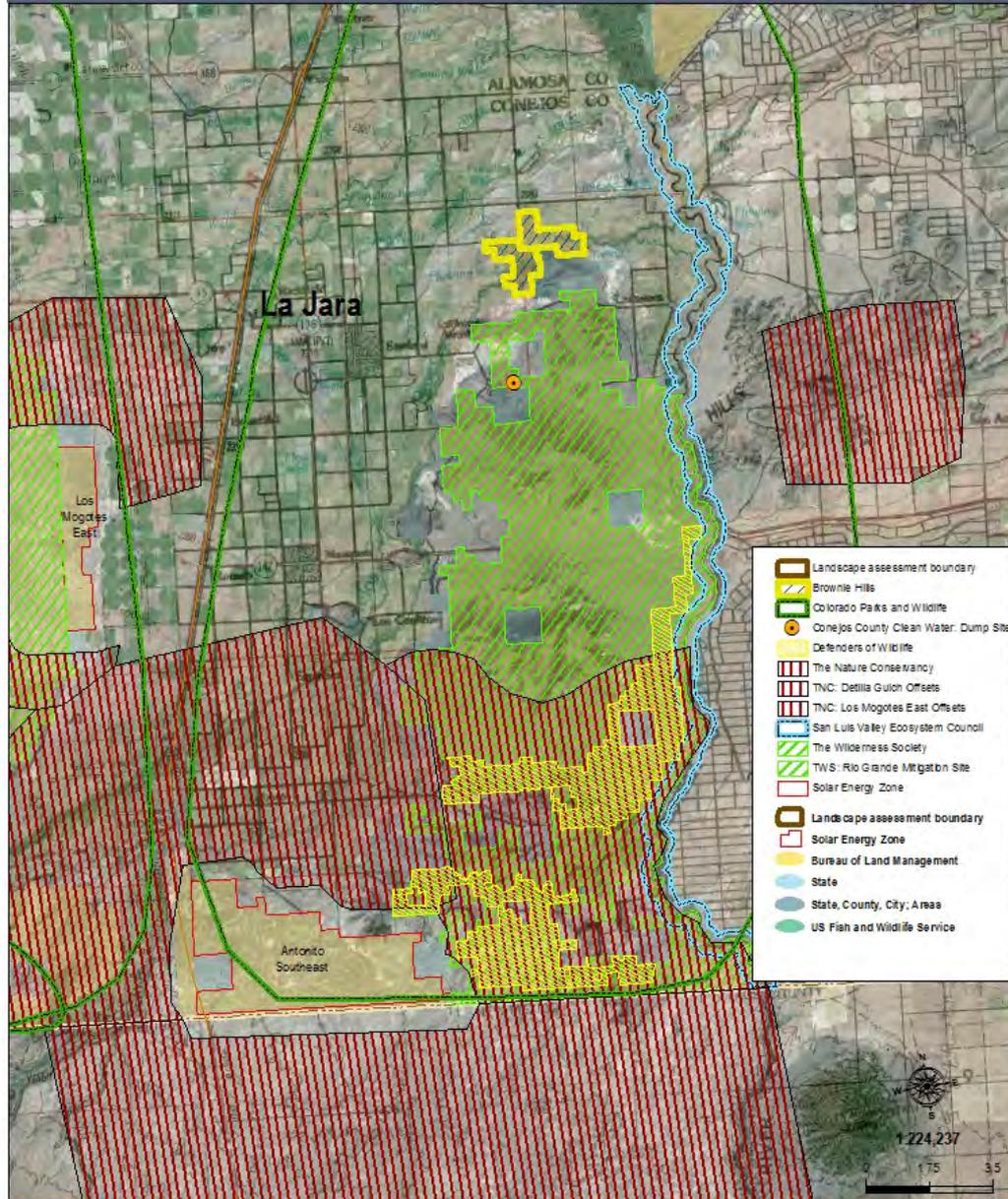
Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior



McIntire Simpson

BLM Candidate Mitigation Site - Solar Regional Mitigation

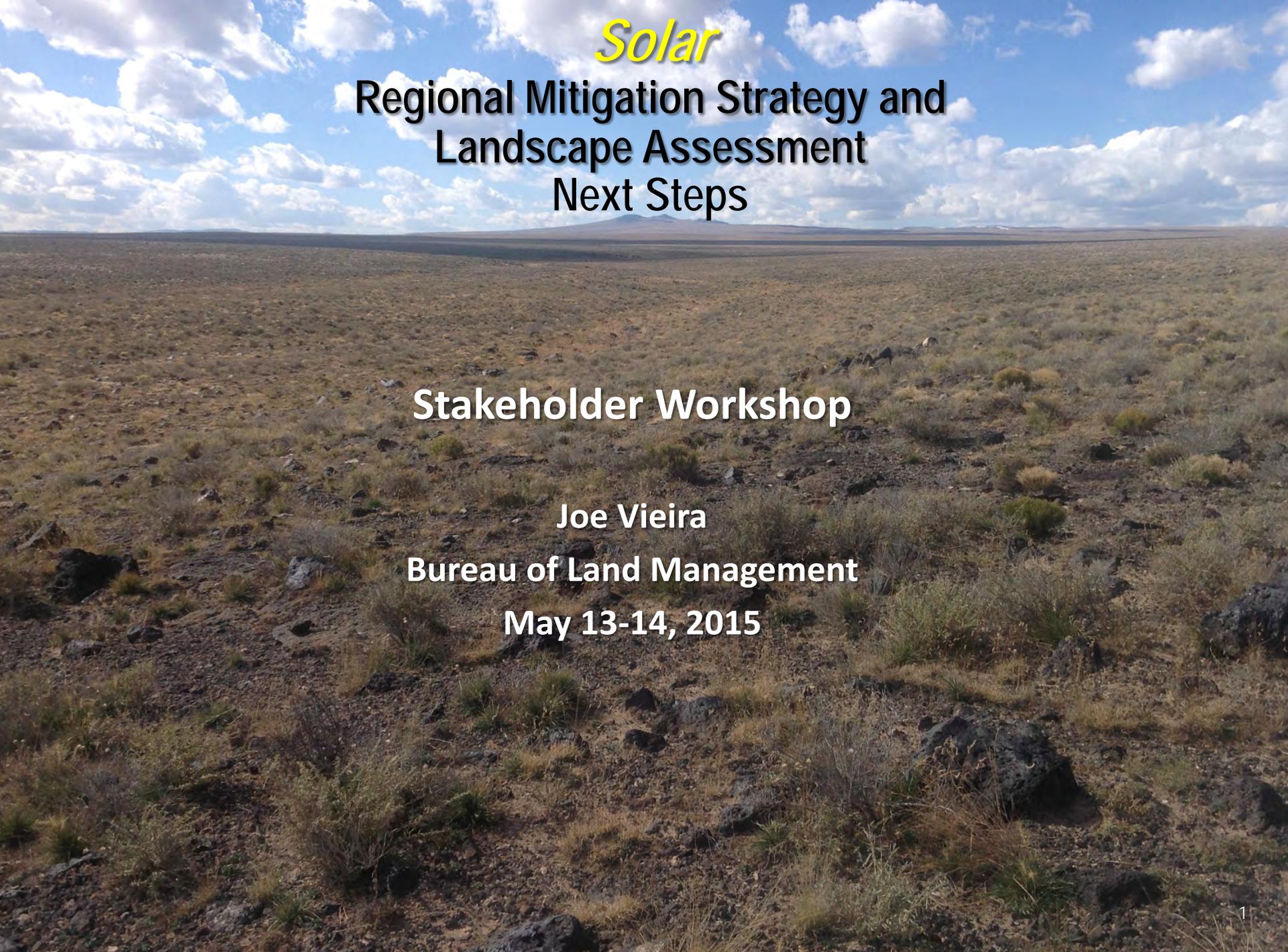
Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior



Source note: Multiple source datasets were used to create model outputs. Please refer to metadata for more information or contact CO's NIS/BLM. No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land. Map created Jan. 2015 USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic.







Solar

**Regional Mitigation Strategy and
Landscape Assessment
Next Steps**

Stakeholder Workshop

Joe Vieira

Bureau of Land Management

May 13-14, 2015

Next Steps - BLM

- Provide Word Versions of Crosswalk and Matrix for Comments and Additions (post to website by 5/17*)
- Conduct webinar on Mitigation Obligation and Valuation – June 23?
- Release Draft Dust Modeling and Visual Impacts documents (estimate by August)
- Provide Draft SRMS document for Colorado SEZs – Mid-October (estimated)

*Project website URL:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/slvfo/solar/solar_regional_mitigation.html

Next Steps - Stakeholders

- Review BLM sites goals objectives/actions/outcomes crosswalk table (Comments preferred as markup on Word document)
- Add goals objectives/actions/outcomes for stakeholder candidate sites to crosswalk table
- Provide corrections and/or additions to Candidate Site Matrix; also comments on proposed candidate sites
- Please send comments
 - **by May 29th to solarmitigation@blm.gov**

Colorado SRMS Process Next Steps

