Webinar 3: BLM Solar Regional Mitigation Planning – Dry Lake SEZ Pilot Project

March 21, 2013; 1pm - 3:30 pm Pacific Standard Time
Participant Dial-In: 1-877-685-5350; Passcode: 830546
Webinar URL: http://anl.adobeconnect.com/r2dgydbt7o6/

<u>Call-In Instructions:</u>

- ***Please mute phone and computer when you are not speaking***

- ***Group discussion and Q&A periods will be included after presentations***

- ***If you have a question, please click on "Raise Hand" under the Set Status icon (on status bar at top of web page)***

- ***You will be called on to state your name, organization, and question. When you have finished speaking, please lower your hand and re-mute your phone***

Action Plan: Dry Lake SEZ Pilot

Action Plan including stakeholder involvement

August Stakeholder Workshop

1. What is the baseline and what are the unavoidable impacts?

October Stakeholder Workshop

2. Which impacts should the BLM mitigate?

5. How will mitigation projects and/or actions be funded, etc.?

3. What are the mitigation objectives?

4. What mitigation projects and/or actions will be undertaken?

January & February Stakeholder Workshops

March-April Stakeholder Webinars

WE ARE HERE

6. How will we know if mitigation strategies, projects, and actions are achieving the desired outcomes?

Webinar Objective & Topics – Joe Vieira, BLM

Continue BLM – Stakeholder Pilot Project Discussion:

- Review method revisions, new tool, outlines since Workshop 4 (Feb 27, 2013)
- Stakeholder questions & answer

Topics

- Workshop 4 Follow-up – Key review of documents on website
- ***REVISED*** Proposed BLM SEZ Mitigation Fee-Setting Method
- ***DRAFT*** Candidate Site/Action Screening Tool, Test Run
- ***DRAFT*** Dry Lake SEZ Regional Mitigation Plan *Outline*
- ***DRAFT*** BLM Technical Note – Procedural Guidance *Outline*

Webinar Overview

- *Duration*
  - *1pm-3:30pm Pacific Time*

- *Topics:*
  - *Workshop 4 Follow-up (Joe Vieira, BLM; 5 minutes)*
  - *Mitigation Fee Valuation Method + Q&A (Dave Murphy, Argonne; 1 hour)*
  - *Candidate Sites/Actions Screening Tool + Q&A (Konnie Wescott, Argonne; 1 hour)*
  - *Draft Dry Lake Regional Mitigation Outline and Draft BLM Technical Note Outline (Joe Vieira; 10 minutes)*

- *Format:*
  - *Presentations*
  - *Group Discussion*

Workshop 4 Follow-up – Review of Key Documents on Project Web Site

- *Workshop 4*
  - *Presentations*
  - *Proposed Method – Regional Objectives-Candidate Site/Action Screening*
  - *Workshop 4 Questions & Answers (many comments received)*

- *New – Review Comments Due March 28th*
  - *Workshop 4 Summary Report*
  - *Proposed Method – Establishing a SEZ Mitigation Fee*
  - *Candidate Site/Action Screening Decision-Support Matrix*
  - *DRAFT Dry Lake SEZ Regional Mitigation Plan Outline*
  - *DRAFT BLM Technical Note – Procedural Guidance Outline*

Proposed Methodology for Establishing an Off-site Mitigation Fee for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development Within Designated Solar Energy Zones

Michael Dwyer, BLM and Dave Murphy, Argonne

Solar energy mitigation fee

- Proposed fee model applies only to rights-of way within solar energy zones (SEZs)
- Fee decision to be made by BLM authorized officer
- Fee paid to BLM by a solar right-of-way grantee
- Purpose
  - Funding off-site mitigation designed to compensate for all or some of the unavoidable impacts associated with development
  - Avoid duplicate or redundant fees
- Obligations
  - Upon payment developer is released from further obligations for the successful accomplishment of off-site mitigation actions.
  - Does not relieve the developer of on-site mitigation (ROW stipulations)

Calculating the Off-site Mitigation Fee for Individual Right-of-Ways

- *Project Mitigation Fee =*

(Acres Leased) x (Per Acre Mitigation Fee)

Calculating the per acre off-site mitigation fee

- Calculated for each SEZ
- Formula:

  Per-acre Off-site Mitigation Fee =

  (Mitigation base fee – ESA Section 7 permit mitigation fee) x (landscape condition and resource value multiplier)*

Calculating the Base fee for off-site mitigation fee

- Approximate cost of replacing one developed acre with an equivalent intact acre of the same ecological character.
- ‘Replacement’ can be accomplished in several ways, including:
  - Acquisition of non-federal land or rights in land
  - Restoration of disturbed federal land
  - Prevention of the loss of imminently threatened federal land

Calculating the Base fee for off-site mitigation fee (continued)

- Costs
  - Front-end capital investment (acquisition)
  - Ongoing management to achieve long-term success
  - Can vary greatly depending on:
    - Market conditions
    - Location
    - Intensity of the restoration effort
    - Timing

Calculating the Base fee for off-site mitigation fee (continued)

- *Mitigation base fee* will be developed by conducting a market analysis just prior to a lease offering.
  - How much to:
    - Purchase and manage
    - Restore and manage
    - Effectively neutralize an imminent threat
  - One acre of same
    - Ecological characteristics
    - Ecological sub-region
    - State

Calculating the Base fee for off-site mitigation fee (continued)

- BLM authorized officer set the *Mitigation Base Fee* just prior to leasing, using:
  - Market analysis
  - Prioritized list of mitigation sites and actions

Adjusting the Mitigation Base Fee

- Rational
  - Some places are already disturbed by current or previous uses
  - Some ecological systems (and the economic, and/or social systems they support) are more valuable than others in terms of biological diversity and/or productivity, scenic values, habitat value, etc.

Quantifying Landscape Condition and Resource Values

- Multipliers (as percentages)

		Resource Value			
		Critical	High	Moderate	Low
SEZ Landscape Condition Relative to Ecoregion	SEZ Less Altered Than Ecoregion	100	80	60	40
	SEZ Similar to Ecoregion	80	60	40	20
	SEZ More Altered Than Ecoregion	60	40	20	0

Multiplier

Quantifying Landscape Condition

- Multipliers (as percentages)

		Resource Value			
		Critical	High	Moderate	Low
SEZ Landscape Condition Relative to Ecoregion	SEZ Less Altered Than Ecoregion	100	80	60	40
	SEZ Similar to Ecoregion	80	60	40	20
	SEZ More Altered Than Ecoregion	60	40	20	0

Landscape Condition

- Rationale:
  - Value of intact lands in SEZs is higher if the region in which that SEZ is located has relatively less intact land.
- Classes
  - More altered than the ecoregion as a whole
  - Similar alteration to the ecoregion as a whole
  - Less altered than the ecoregion as a whole

Quantifying Landscape Condition

- The proposed method compares the average landscape condition value, calculated over the entire SEZ, to the average landscape condition value of the entire ecoregion in which the SEZ is located.

Quantifying Landscape Condition

- Estimated using data on landscape condition from a BLM Rapid Eco-regional Assessment (REA), *and/or* from other data sources.
  - Mojave Basin and Range REA (BLM 2013a)
    - landscape condition maps
    - value between 0 and 1 for each 30 meter square within each ecoregion.
    - The higher the value, the more intact the natural landscape
    - The lower the value, the more altered the landscape is.

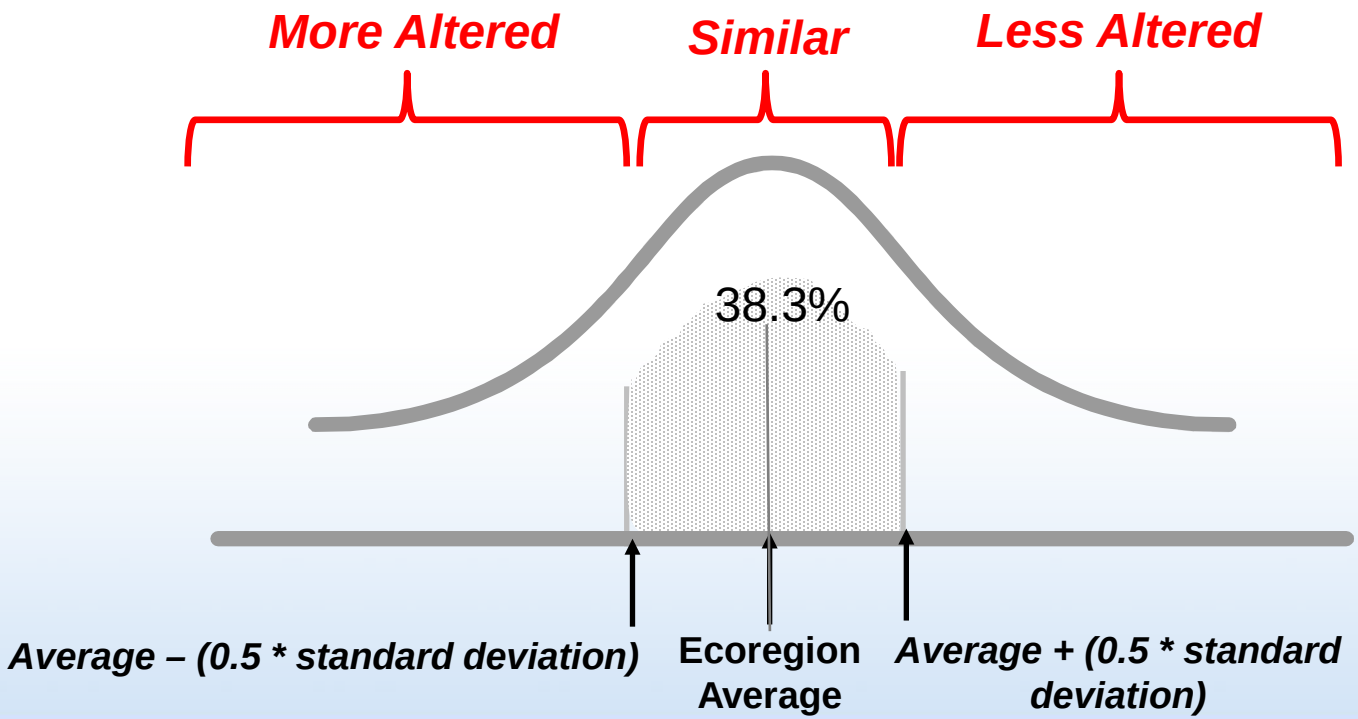
Landscape Condition

Ecoregion	Average Landscape Condition Value (x100)
Mojave Desert Ecoregion	76.6
Dry Lake SEZ	57.4

- More altered than the ecoregion?
- Similar alteration to the ecoregion?
- Less altered than the ecoregion?

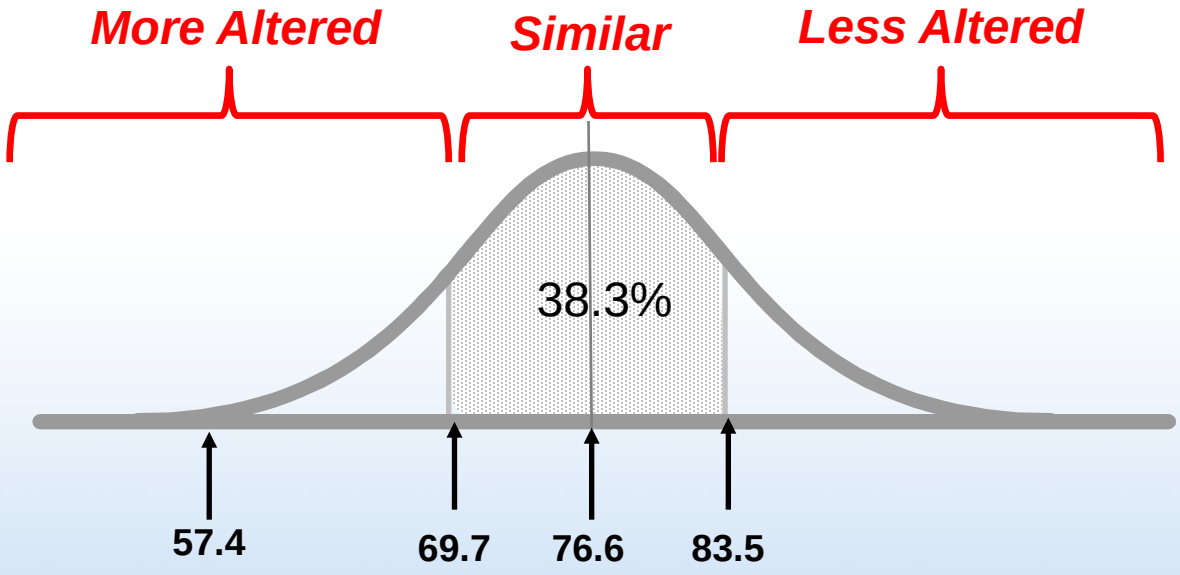
Assigning the Difference in Conditions between SEZ and Region to a Class

- SEZ average value was compared to the ecoregion average +/- (0.5*standard deviation)



Assigning the Difference in Conditions between SEZ and Region to a Class

Ecoregion	Average Landscape Condition Value	Standard Deviation (SD)	Average +/- 0.5 SD
Mojave	76.6	13.8	69.7 – 83.5
Dry Lake SEZ	57.4		



Category 1: SEZ Landscape Condition More Altered Than the Ecoregion

- SEZ condition is considered <u>more altered than the ecoregion</u> if the SEZ average landscape condition value is less than the average ecoregion landscape condition value minus one-half of one standard deviation unit of the average ecoregion condition

Category 2: SEZ Landscape Condition Similar to Ecoregion

- The SEZ condition is considered <u>similar to the ecoregion</u> if the SEZ average landscape condition value is within one-half of one standard deviation unit (+/-) of the average ecoregion landscape condition value

Category 3: SEZ Landscape Condition Less Altered Than the Ecoregion

- The SEZ condition is considered less altered than the ecoregion if the SEZ average landscape condition value is greater than the average ecoregion condition value plus one-half of one standard deviation unit of the average ecoregion condition

Results for SEZs in Mojave & Great Basin

SEZ	Ecoregion	Average SEZ Landscape Condition Value	SEZ Landscape Condition Category
Amargosa Valley	MBR	71.6	Similar to Ecoregion
Dry Lake	MBR	57.4	More Altered Than Ecoregion
Dry Lake Valley North	CBR	80.2	Similar to Ecoregion
Gold Point	CBR	82.4	Less Altered Than Ecoregion
Millers	CBR	79.2	Similar to Ecoregion
Escalante Valley	CBR	72.9	Similar to Ecoregion
Milford Flats South	CBR	68.1	Similar to Ecoregion
Wah Wah Valley	CBR	56.4	More Altered Than Ecoregion

Quantifying Resource Value

Multipliers as percentages

		Resource Value			
		Critical	High	Moderate	Low
SEZ Landscape Condition Relative to Ecoregion	SEZ Less Altered Than Ecoregion	100	80	60	40
	SEZ Similar to Ecoregion	80	60	40	20
	SEZ More Altered Than Ecoregion	60	40	20	0

Quantifying Resource Value

- Criteria
  - Value placed on the resource in the land use plan
  - Rarity of the resource
  - Legal status or state or national policy status of the resource
  - Resilience of the resource in the face of change and impact

Resource Value Point Scoring System

- Used to assign the relative importance of an area proposed for solar development
- Numerical score between 0 and 3 for each of the four categories
- The four scores would then be summed to derive a total score between 0 (least important) to 12 (most important)
- Resource values may be ecological, economic and/or social in nature
  - (for example, recreation)

Source: Draft BLM Handbook on Offsite Mitigation 2013

Resource Value Point Rating System

Points	Value in the RMP	Rarity	Legal/Policy Status	Resilience
3	Afforded special designation in law and/or in the RMP, and is specifically identified as an exclusion area.	Resources values specifically identified as rare at a national level are present	Special permitting required by law (ESA, BGEPA, etc.)	Not resilient
2	Afforded a special designation in the RMP (ACEC, SRMA, etc.) and identified as an avoidance area.	Resources values specifically identified as rare at a regional level are present	Special permitting required by policy	Low resilience
1	Not avoidance, but specific protective management prescriptions	Resources values specifically identified as rare in the planning area are present	Special protection measures required by policy	Somewhat resilient
0	Not avoidance, no specific protective management prescriptions	Resources values specifically identified as rare in the planning area are not present	General protection measures required by policy	Highly resilient

Assigning Scores to Resource Value Classes

Total Score		Resource Value Category
Low End	High End	
10	12	Critical
7	9	High
4	6	Moderate
0	3	Low

- IDT does the rating; authorized officer makes final determination

Quantifying Landscape Condition and Resource Values

- Multipliers (as percentages)

		Resource Value			
		Critical	High	Moderate	Low
SEZ Landscape Condition Relative to Ecoregion	SEZ Less Altered Than Ecoregion	100	80	60	40
	SEZ Similar to Ecoregion	80	60	40	20
	SEZ More Altered Than Ecoregion	60	40	20	0

Calculating the per acre mitigation fee

- Calculated for each SEZ
- Formula: *Per-acre Mitigation Fee =*

  (Mitigation base fee – ESA Section 7 mitigation fee) x

  (landscape condition and resource value multiplier)

Example: Hypothetical SEZ A

- *Mitigation Base Fee Example*
  - *Mitigation Base Fee =$1,728/acre*
    - The amount is taken from *The Nature Conservancy 2013 Dry Lake SEZ: Candidate Compensatory Mitigation Sites and Actions for Unavoidable Impacts*
      - Coyote Springs acquisition and management
        - » Includes both the acquisition and management costs

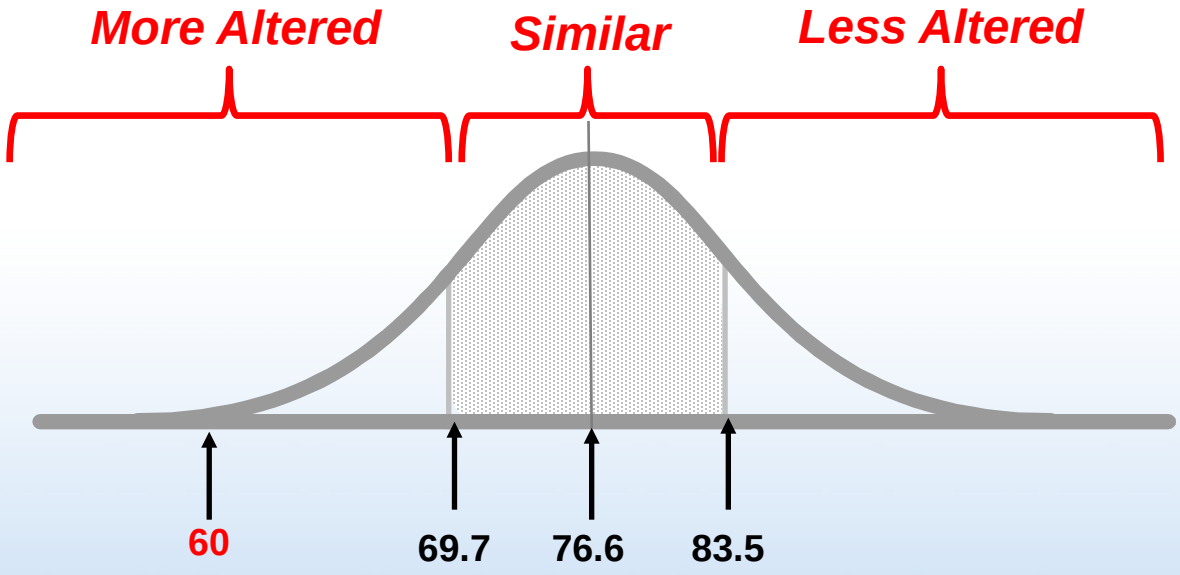
ESA Section 7 Mitigation Fee

- *Hypothetical SEZ A is in an area covered by a Section 7 permit issued to the BLM for Desert Tortoise under the Endangered Species Act*

- **ESA Section 7 permit mitigation fee = $810 per acre**

Assigning the Difference in Conditions between SEZ and Region to a Class

Ecoregion	Average Landscape Condition Value	Standard Deviation (SD)	Average +/- 0.5 SD
Mojave	76.6	13.8	69.7 – 83.5
Hypothetical SEZ A	60		



Example: Hypothetical SEZ A Resource Value

Points	Situation in the SEZ (Example)	Score
Value in the RMP	Not avoidance, but specific protective management prescriptions	1
Rarity	Resources values specifically identified as a rare at a regional level are present	3
Policy Status	General protection measures required by policy	3
Resilience	Low resilience	2
TOTAL		**9**

Assigning Scores to Resource Value Classes

Total Score		Resource Value Category
Low End	High End	
10	12	Critical
7	9	High
4	6	Moderate
0	3	Low

Resource Importance Category for a score of 9 (from Table 3): High

Quantifying Landscape Condition and Resource Values

- More Altered than Ecoregion
- High Resource Value

		Resource Value			
		Critical	High	Moderate	Low
SEZ Landscape Condition Relative to Ecoregion	SEZ Less Altered Than Ecoregion	100	80	60	40
	SEZ Similar to Ecoregion	80	60	40	20
	SEZ More Altered Than Ecoregion	60	40	20	0

Per Acre Mitigation Fee

- **Formula:**

  Per Acre Mitigation Fee = (Mitigation Base Fee – ESA Section 7 permit mitigation fee) x (Resource Value and Landscape Condition Multiplier)

Per Acre Mitigation Fee for Hypothetical SEZ A

= ($1,728/acre - $810/acre) x (40%)

= $367 per acre

Example: Mitigation Fee for a 500 Acre Solar Development in the Hypothetical SEZ

Mitigation Fee for a 500 acre lease in the Hypothetical SEZ =

500 acres x $367 per acre mitigation fee = $183,600

Example: Total Mitigation Fund for a 5,000 acre Hypothetical SEZ with 2,500 developable acres

Mitigation Fund = 2,500 acres x $367 = **$917,500**

Questions?

DRAFT Candidate Site Screening Tool

Konnie Wescott
Argonne

Evaluating Candidate Sites for Implementing Mitigation Actions

- Candidate sites must be appropriately located and meet key criteria to support attainment of SEZ-specific regional mitigation goals and objectives.
- BLM has developed a tool to screen and evaluate candidate sites; the tool is presented in a matrix.
- The purpose of the tool is to support a systematic and objective comparison and ranking of mitigation sites/actions by BLM and to communicate with stakeholders and inform BLM Authorized Officer's decision.
- A copy of the matrix developed for the Dry Lake SEZ has been posted on the project website for review.
  - Only partially populated with information about Dry Lake SEZ.
  - Main objective is to get input on the individual criteria, proposed scoring system, and general utility of tool.

Evaluation Criteria

- Sources for developing the criteria
  - BLM's proposed methodology for *Development of Regional Mitigation Goals & Objectives, Selection and Screening of Candidate Tools and Sites to Direct Off-site Mitigation Investments* (presented at February workshop)
  - Conservation NGOs
  - Other stakeholders

Five Proposed Categories of Evaluation Criteria

1. Site Characterization Criteria
   - Characteristics that are largely known/measureable
   - Help determine whether the candidate site is comparable to the SEZ and/or can support effective mitigation actions
2. Effectiveness/Additionality Criteria
   - Factors that measure how effective mitigation actions will be in terms of meeting goals/objectives
   - Factors that assess whether actions at the site meet the requirements for additionality

Five Proposed Categories of Evaluation Criteria, *continued*

3. Feasibility Criteria
   - Factors that measure the difficulty of implementing mitigation actions, the timelines required, and the total and per-acre costs
4. Durability Criteria
   - Factors that measure the durability of the mitigation in terms of permanence and stability of the mitigation site
5. Risk Criteria
   - Factors that measure the degree to which multiple factors might jeopardize long-term success of the mitigation actions.

Proposed Scoring System

- A numerical score will be assessed for most of the criteria.
  - Criteria that require a numerical score are shaded in blue.
  - Guidance on scoring is provided in the matrix.
  - For many criteria the scores range from 0 or 1 to 5, with 5 being the most favorable score in terms of suitability of the candidate site.
  - For some criteria, the absence of a specific feature/attribute will result in a negative value (e.g., -2).
- A total score for each candidate site will be calculated by summing the individual criteria scores.
- Higher total scores generally mean more favorable candidate sites.
- Some criteria cannot be assigned a score; they provide relevant information to be considered in assessing scores for other criteria and for making final decisions about mitigation sites.

#	Criteria	SEZ	Recommended Sites			Criteria Notes
		Dry Lake SEZ	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	
SITE CHARACTERISTICS						
1	Contiguous area of site (acres)	3,471				Enter the size, in acres, of the candidate site.
4	In SEZ Ecoregion?	Mojave Basin and Range				Enter 1 if criterion is met, -2 if not.
EFFECTIVENESS / ADDITIONALITY						
15	To what extent can the full spectrum of regional mitigation goals/objectives be met simultaneously? Use scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high)	Enter succinct summary of goals/objectives for each SEZ mitigation plan.				Rate the extent to which the regional mitigation goals/objectives can be met simultaneously through mitigation actions at the site, based on the following scale: all (100%) of the goals and objectives can be met (score of 5); 75-99% can be met (score of 4); 50-75% (score of 3); 25 - 49% can be met (score of 2); less than 25% can be met (score of 1); none of the goals/objectives can be met (score of 0).
16	How effective will the mitigation be in the context of achieving mitigation goals/objectives for conserving/restoring ecosystem intactness? Use scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high)	n/a				Rate the effectiveness of the mitigation actions at the site in terms of achieving mitigation goals/objectives, based on the following scale: highly effective (score of 5); moderately effective (scores of 2-4), and minimally effective (score of 1).
17	Mitigation action adds to/goes beyond BLM's existing mandates for resource management (i.e., the additionality requirement is met).	n/a				Enter 1 if criterion is met, -2 if not.
FEASIBILITY						
18	Based on action required (e.g., restoration, BLM land management action, land acquisition, Congressional action), how difficult will implementation be? Use scale of 1 (difficult) to 5 (relatively easy)	n/a				Rate the mitigation action, based on the following scale: restoration/enhancement actions (score of 5); BLM planning decisions (score of 3-4); land acquisition actions (score of 1-3); Congressional actions (score of 1). Ratings should be adjusted on the basis of factors such as cost of the action; time and effort requirements; public and/or BLM support for or opposition to action; and, for land acquisitions, willingness of seller.
19	Time frame needed to es location (estimated years					Enter the estimated number or range of years required to establish the site as the location for mitigation action (e.g., number of years to establish priority on restoration actions at the site, number of years to acquire parcel of land).
DURABILITY						
22	How durable would the mitigation be from a timeframe and management perspective? Use scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high)	n/a				Rate the temporal and managerial durability of the mitigation action, based on the following scale: Congressionally protected lands would be very durable (score of 5); other federally administered lands specifically designated in land use plans or withdrawn by public land order would be moderately to very durable (score of 4-5); federally administered lands without any special designation but with enforcement oversight would have limited durability (score of 2); lands without special designation or enforcement oversige would not be very durable (score of 1).
RISK						
25	What is the relative probablility of success? Use scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high)	n/a				Rate the relative probability of success of the actions at the mitigation site, based on the combination of factors evaluated in criteria 15 through 24, giving a score of 5 (high probability of success), a score of 1 (low probability of success), and scores of 2-4 to represent moderate degrees of probability of success.
PRELIMINARY SCORING						Calculate score by summing the entries in blue-shaded cells.

Guidance for populating the matrix and assigning scores

A Cropped Image of the Proposed Matrix

Site Characterization Criteria

1. Contiguous area *(provide size in acres)*
2. Reason for ACEC designation *(list reason[s], if site encompasses land within an ACEC)*
3. Mitigation tool (e.g., restoration, acquisition, banking, withdrawal, special designation) *(identify tool)*
4. Same SEZ Ecoregion *(score 1 if met, -2 if not)*
5. Same SEZ ecological subregion *(score 1 if met, -2 if not)*
6. Meets ESA recovery unit priorities *(score 1 if met, -2 if not)*
7. Meets ESA mitigation priorities in adjoining state *(score 1 if met, -2 if not, 0 if not near state boundary)*
8. Same HUC 4 watershed *(score 1 if met, -2 if not)*

Site Characterization Criteria, *continued*

9. Mitigates impacts to most sensitive/valuable resources *(score 1 if met, -2 if not)*
10. Mitigates all unavoidable impacts that warrant offsite mitigation *(score 1 if met, -2 if not)*
11. Similar landscape values, ecological functionality, resources, etc. *(score 1 if met, -2 if not)*
12. Adequate level of protection *(score 1 if met, -2 if not)*
13. Presence of unique/valuable resources *(calculate score on basis of number of resources listed for criteria 13a-13f)*
14. Data source(s) *(list data sources)*

Effectiveness/Additionality Criteria

15. Extent to which regional mitigation goals and objectives can be met *(score of 0-5)*
16. Effectiveness of mitigation action(s) in context of achieving goal for conserving/restoring ecosystem intactness *(score of 1-5)*
17. Whether or not the action adds to/goes beyond BLM's existing mandates for resource management (i.e., meets the additionality requirement*) (score 1 if met, -2 if not)*

Feasibility Criteria

18. Based on type of action required (e.g., restoration, BLM planning decision, land acquisition, Congressional action), how difficult will implementation be *(score of 1-5)*
19. Time frame to establish site as a mitigation location *(provide number or range of years)*
20. Time frame (from implementation) to achieve mitigation goals and objectives *(provide number or range of years)*
21. Cost estimate *(provide total and per-acre cost)*

Durability Criteria

22. How durable will the action be from the perspective of time and management requirements *(score of 1-5)*

Risk Criteria

23. Constraints or threats to success *(list)*
24. Extent to which surrounding land uses might impact success *(score of 1-5)*
25. Relative probability of success *(score of 1-5)*

Requested Feedback

- Are the listed evaluation criteria clear and appropriate?
- Is the guidance for assessing each criterion clear and appropriate?
- Are there any missing evaluation criteria?
- What do you think of the scoring system?
  - For specific criteria?
  - For a total score?
- Do you have concerns about applying this matrix at other SEZs?
- Comments due to BLM by March 28, 2013

DRAFT OUTLINES

Regional Mitigation Plan for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone

BLM Technical Note on Procedural Guidance and Framework for Solar Regional Mitigation Planning

Joe Vieira, BLM
3/21/2013

Regional Mitigation Plan for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone

- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Introduction and Purpose
- Mitigation Plan – Dry Lake
- References

Regional Mitigation Plan for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone

- Introduction and Purpose
  - Purpose of the Plan
  - Background
  - Process

Regional Mitigation Plan for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone

- Mitigation Plan – Dry Lake
  1. Description of the Dry Lake SEZ
  2. General description of proposed action
  3. Summary of Impacts
  4. Mitigation Strategy (Hierarchy)
  5. Regional Mitigation Objectives and Mitigation Investments
  6. Mitigation Fee
  7. Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan
  8. Regional Mitigation Plan Implementation and Maintenance

Mitigation Plan – Dry Lake SEZ

1. **Description of the Dry Lake SEZ**
    1. General Description
    2. Resource values present
    3. Landscape conditions
    4. Regional setting
        1. General description
        2. Problematic regional trends

2. **General description of proposed action**
    1. Description of what development will look like at full build-out
    2. Description of existing ROWs and impact on size/extent of developable area

Mitigation Plan – Dry Lake SEZ

3. **Summary of Impacts (from the Solar PEIS)**

4. **Mitigation Strategy (Hierarchy)**
   1. Avoidance
   2. Minimization
   3. Off-site Mitigation
      1. Unavoidable impacts
      2. Unavoidable Impacts that Warrant Off-site Mitigation

Mitigation Plan – Dry Lake SEZ

5. **Regional Mitigation Objectives and Mitigation Investments**
    1. Goals and Objectives
    2. Compensatory Mitigation projects/actions
        1. Summary
        2. Individual project descriptions & cost estimates
    3. Explanation of implementation strategy (immediate action, banking, etc.)

Mitigation Plan – Dry Lake SEZ

6. Mitigation Fee
    1. Base Fee Amount and explanation
        1. Summary of market analysis
    2. Landscape Condition Assessment
    3. Resource Value Assessment
    4. Total Mitigation Fee

Mitigation Plan – Dry Lake SEZ

7. Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan
    1. Monitoring plan
        1. What will be monitored
        2. How it will be monitored
        3. Success criteria
    2. Adaptive Management Plan
        1. What will the BLM do if mitigations actions are not achieving their desired objectives?

8. Regional Mitigation Plan Implementation and Maintenance

Mitigation Plan – Dry Lake SEZ

ATTACHMENTS

A. Specialist Reports
B. Sample Conceptual Model
C. Unavoidable Impacts Summary Table
D. Candidate Site Evaluation Table
E. Mitigation Fee Calculation Formula for Dry Lake SEZ

Technical Note Basics

- ***BLM Procedural Guidance & Framework Document***
  - *Tiered to BLM Offsite Mitigation Manual (2013)*

- ***Intended Users:***
  - *Parties involved in development of Solar Regional Mitigation Plans (SRMPs) for individual Solar Energy Zones (SEZs)*
    - *BLM management and implementing staff*
    - *Coordinating agencies*
    - *Stakeholders*

- ***Structure, Content, Length:***
  - *TOC, Executive Summary, Intro/Purpose, Framework, References, Attachments*
  - *25-30 pages*

Technical Note Outline

- **Table of Contents**
- **Executive Summary**
- **Introduction and Purpose**
  - Drivers and Objectives for SRMP
    - Solar PEIS and ROD
    - Issues and concerns of other federal, state, and local agencies
    - Stakeholder input
  - Relevant Authorities
    - CEQ NEPA Regulations: 40 CFR 1508.20, Mitigation
    - Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA): requirement to "prevent unnecessary or undue degradation" of lands
    - BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 : Section 6.8.4, Mitigation and Residual Effects

Technical Note Outline

- **Introduction and Purpose** (*continued)*
  - Integration with Other Elements of BLM Solar Energy Program
    - Solar Energy Zone incentives
    - Competitive leasing
  - Integration with Other BLM initiatives
    - BLM Off-site Mitigation Policy (2008 interim policy and forthcoming 2013 manual)
    - Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) Strategy
    - Rapid Ecoregional Assessments (REAs)
  - BLM Nevada Dry Lake SEZ Pilot Project
    - A forum for developing and testing each element of the methodology
    - Cooperation with other federal, state, and local agencies
    - Stakeholder involvement
    - Results

Technical Note Outline

- **Solar Regional Mitigation Planning Framework**
  - Mitigation Hierarchy
    - Avoidance and minimization
    - Offset of unavoidable impacts
  - Seven Framework Elements
    1. Engage stakeholders transparently and consult Tribes
    2. Define a regional baseline for assessing unavoidable impacts
    3. Assess unavoidable impacts and identify which warrant off-site mitigation
    4. Establish mitigation fees for SEZs and individual solar energy projects within SEZs
    5. Prioritize regional mitigation objectives and corresponding mitigation investment locations and/or actions. Provide a process to reevaluate priorities as conditions change

Technical Note Outline

- **Solar Regional Mitigation Planning Framework** *(continued)*
  - Seven Framework Elements
    6. Identify and establish a structure to hold and apply mitigation investment funds
    7. Integrate solar long-term monitoring, understand mitigation effectiveness and employ adaptive management
  - Options for Developing Solar Regional Mitigation Plans
    - *Pre-Competitive Lease/Pre-Project Strategy Planning* – developing a regional mitigation strategy using the process described in this Technical Note (i.e., Dry Lake SEZ pilot project)
    - *NEPA/Right-of-Way Application Processing* – developing a regional mitigation plan concurrent with the processing of a solar ROW application in an SEZ and implementing the plan via a NEPA Decision Record
    - *Land Use Planning/NEPA* – developing a regional mitigation plan concurrent with the revision of the local Resource Management Plan and implementing the plan via a NEPA Decision Record

Technical Note Outline

- **Solar Regional Mitigation Planning Framework** *(continued)*
  - SRMP Team Composition, Roles, and Responsibilities
    - BLM Washington Office
    - BLM State, District, and Field Office and the Interdisciplinary Team
    - BLM AIM and REA technical staff
    - Technical support contractor
    - Coordinating Federal, state, and local agencies
    - Stakeholders

Technical Note Outline

- **References**

- **ATTACHMENTS**
  - Stakeholder Engagement Examples
  - Example Map of SEZ Developable Area Revisions
  - Specialist Report Template
  - Example Conceptual Models
  - Unavoidable Impacts Summary Table Template
  - Example Evaluation of SEZ Landscape Condition and Resource Value
  - Candidate Site Evaluation Matrix
  - Mitigation Fee Calculation Formula and Detailed Examples
  - Other attachments as needed to present detailed supporting information

Questions?

Stakeholder Comments Due: March 28, 2013

1. Draft Mitigation fee methodology document
2. Candidate Site/Actions Screening Matrix
3. Draft Outlines: Dry Lake SEZ Regional Mitigation Plan and Framework Technical Note Outlines