

Primary Features of DRECP Alternatives

The following is a snapshot summary of the seven alternatives considered in the December 17, 2012, *Description and Comparative Evaluation of Draft DRECP Alternatives*. The seven alternatives are:

- Alternative 1 – Disturbed Lands/Low Resource Conflict Alternative
- Alternative 2 – Geographically Balanced/Transmission Aligned Alternative B
- Alternative 3 – West Mojave Emphasis Alternative
- Alternative 4 – Geographically Balanced/Transmission Aligned Alternative A
- Alternative 5 – Increased Geographic and Technology Flexibility Alternative
- Alternative 6 – Geographically Balanced/Transmission Aligned Alternative C with BLM Variance Lands
- Alternative 7 – No Action.

Factors common to all of the alternatives with the exception of Alternative 7, No Action, include:

- Renewable energy development would occur within identified development focus areas (DFAs) with variations in configuration of DFAs among the alternatives.
- Renewable energy development covered by the DRECP would be 20,323 megawatts (MWs) with variations in solar and wind technology distribution among the alternatives and geothermal (2,800 MWs) and ground-mounted distributed generation (2,417 MWs) constant.
- Transmission would be covered within and outside DFAs.
- Common conservation elements include the proposed covered species, natural communities and landscape processes to be addressed in the conservation strategy as well as plan-wide biological goals and objectives with alternative-specific variations depending on distribution of DFAs and technology mix.
- All alternatives, including No Action, include 7,563,773 acres of existing legally and legislatively protected lands.

The summaries below provide primary renewable energy development and conservation features for each of the alternatives. Quantitative summary information for each alternative is included in Tables ES-1 through ES- 6 of the Executive Summary to the December 17, 2012, *Description and Comparative Evaluation of Draft DRECP Alternatives*.

Primary Features of DRECP Alternatives

Alternative 1

“Disturbed Lands/Low Resource Conflict Alternative”

Primary Features

Renewable Energy Development

- Renewable energy development confined to low conflict disturbed lands defined primarily by disturbed and agricultural lands mapping and agency input;
- Minimum development flexibility with a total of 1,120,092 acres of DFAs and 161,361 acres estimated ground disturbance within DFAs;
- Estimated solar/wind mix is 14,304 MWs solar and 802 MWs wind;
- Estimated ground disturbance for transmission is 32,844 acres within the Plan Area and 32,495 acres outside the Plan Area;
- 5m/s wind threshold applied to identify available wind areas inside DFAs but restricted available wind areas inside DFAs to areas outside Department of Defense (DoD) concern areas.

Conservation

- Alternative-specific conservation area totals 16,185,416 acres;
- High and moderate biological sensitivity lands within DFAs total 70,559 acres;
- Lowest resource conflicts – biological and non-biological.



Primary Features of DRECP Alternatives

Alternative 2

“Geographically Balanced/Transmission Aligned Alternative B”

Primary Features

Renewable Energy Development

- Renewable energy development distributed across the Plan Area;
- Moderate development flexibility with a total of 1,823,319 acres of DFAs and 225,672 acres estimated ground disturbance within DFAs;
- Estimated solar/wind mix is 12,349 MWs solar and 2,757 MWs wind;
- Estimated ground disturbance for transmission is 31,228 acres within the Plan area and 29,095 acres outside the Plan Area;
- 5m/s wind threshold applied to identify available wind areas inside DFAs but restricted available wind areas inside DFAs to areas outside Department of Defense (DoD) concern areas.

Conservation

- Alternative-specific conservation area totals 15,931,946 acres;
- High and moderate biological sensitivity lands within DFAs total 477,051 acres;
- Moderate resource conflicts – biological and non-biological.



Primary Features of DRECP Alternatives

Alternative 3 “West Mojave Emphasis Alternative”

Primary Features

Renewable Energy Development

- Renewable energy development concentrated on public and private lands in West Mojave;
- High development flexibility in West Mojave, low elsewhere, with a total of 1,668,793 acres of DFAs and 191,976 acres estimated ground disturbance within DFAs;
- Estimated solar/wind mix is 13,374 MWs solar and 1,732 MWs wind;
- Estimated ground disturbance for transmission is 32,210 acres within Plan Area and 21,342 acres outside Plan Area;
- 5m/s wind threshold applied to identify available wind areas inside DFAs but restricted available wind areas inside DFAs to areas outside Department of Defense (DoD) concern areas.

Conservation

- Alternative-specific conservation area totals 15,898,053 acres;
- High and moderate biological sensitivity lands within DFAs total 507,827 acres;
- Highest resource conflicts in West Mojave, moderate elsewhere.



Primary Features of DRECP Alternatives

Alternative 4

“Geographically Balanced/Transmission Aligned Alternative A”

Primary Features

Renewable Energy Development

- Renewable energy development distributed across the Plan Area;
- Moderate development flexibility with a total of 1,472,498 acres of DFAs and 195,294 acres estimated ground disturbance within DFAs;
- Estimated solar/wind mix is 13,273 MWs solar and 1,833 MWs wind;
- Transmission not yet analysed for this alternative;
- 5m/s wind threshold applied to identify available wind areas inside DFAs, but restricted available wind areas inside DFAs to areas outside Department of Defense (DoD) concern areas.

Conservation

- Alternative-specific conservation area totals 16,217,961 acres;
- High and moderate biological sensitivity lands within DFAs total 191,427 acres;
- Moderate resource conflicts – biological and non-biological (on BLM lands).



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Alternative 5

“Increased Geographic and Technology Flexibility Alternative”

Primary Features

Renewable Energy Development

- Renewable energy development distributed across the Plan Area;
- Maximum geographic and technology flexibility with a total of 2,294,356 acres of DFAs and 353,725 acres estimated ground disturbance;
- Estimated solar/wind mix is 8,457 MWs solar and 6,649 MWs wind;
- Estimated ground disturbance for transmission is 33,965 acres within Plan Area and 29,065 acres outside Plan Area;
- 5m/s wind threshold applied to identify available wind areas inside DFAs but did not restrict by the Department of Defense (DoD) concern areas.

Conservation

- Alternative-specific conservation area totals 15,789,102 acres;
- High and moderate biological sensitivity lands within DFAs total 690,013 acres;
- Moderate to high resource conflicts – biological and non-biological.



Primary Features of DRECP Alternatives

Alternative 6

“Geographically Balanced/Transmission Aligned
Alternative C with BLM Variance Lands”

Primary Features

Renewable Energy Development

- Renewable energy development distributed across the Plan Area;
- Moderate development flexibility with a total of 1,662,439 acres of DFAs and 219,216 acres estimated ground disturbance within DFAs;
- Estimates solar/wind mix is 12,546 MWs solar and 2,560 MWs wind;
- Estimated ground disturbance for transmission is 29,549 acres within the Plan Area and 31,656 acres outside the Plan Area;
- 5 m/s wind threshold applied to identify available wind areas inside DFAs, but restricted available wind areas inside DFAs to areas outside Department of Defense (DoD) concern areas.

Conservation

- Alternative-specific conservation area totals 15,517,297 acres;
- High and moderate biological sensitivity lands within DFAs total 1,327,690 acres;
- Moderate to high resource conflicts – biological and non-biological.



Primary Features of DRECP Alternatives

Alternative 7 "No Action"

Primary Features

Renewable Energy Development

- Renewable energy development excluded from existing exclusion areas including legally and legislatively protected lands, military lands, military expansion mitigation lands, tribal lands, and Imperial Sand Dunes Open OHV area. Solar development excluded from existing ACECs.
- Total area estimated to be available for renewable energy development is 10,309,278 acres.

Conservation

- Total area of conservation is 7,563,773 acres of existing legally and legislatively protected lands.

