



DESERT **RENEWABLE ENERGY** CONSERVATION PLAN

Climate Change

The draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) presents innovative solutions at a landscape-scale that are critical to preparing for the impacts of climate change--change that is putting desert ecosystems and endangered species at risk. The plan is one of the first large-scale efforts of its kind to incorporate current and emerging research and strategies related to future climate risk.

Renewable Energy to Reduce Emissions

The DRECP is a key component of California's goal of reducing the 1990 level of greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050. It also is a part of the President's Climate Action Plan, which directs the Department of the Interior to prioritize renewable energy permitting on public lands. Energy generation from renewable solar, wind and geothermal resources lessens our dependence on fossil fuels and reduces climate change contributing greenhouse gas emissions.

Increasing the amount of generation from renewables, both large utility-scale and smaller scale distributed generation, is one important piece of an overall strategy that also includes energy efficiency improvements, energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction efforts from other sectors of the economy.

Climate Adaptation in DRECP's Conservation Strategy

Climate change presents new challenges for managing natural resources and protecting biodiversity. One way species are likely to respond to climate change is to migrate as their habitats shift, making habitat connectivity critical to facilitate the movement of species. The DRECP conservation strategy applies conservation land designations to key areas in order to create habitat connectivity and conserve important landscape and ecological processes. In addition, the DRECP uses modeling data to predict how the landscapes may change over time. The DRECP monitoring and adaptive management program creates the flexibility to integrate new climate change data and research into management decisions.

Climate change impacts include:

- ▶ Higher temperatures
- ▶ Changes in how much and where it rains
- ▶ Reduction or loss of plant communities
- ▶ Change in the use of the desert by plants and animals

DRECP Plan Area

