



DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

Conservation Strategy

The California desert is home to unique species and natural communities, a rich cultural heritage, and recreational opportunities that attract visitors from around the world. A major goal of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is to identify conservation areas for plant and wildlife species, and provide a framework for adaptive management in the face of climate change. Specifically, the strategy identifies areas where biological resource values are high and where management actions should occur to protect, conserve, enhance and restore 37 covered species of plants and animals and 31 natural communities, their habitats and ecosystem function. Additionally, the DRECP conservation strategy provides protection for recreation, cultural, scenic, wilderness and other natural resource values. The DRECP uses the best available science to identify areas with high biological value for conservation, and areas with lower biological value appropriate for renewable energy projects and associated transmission across southern California.

In order to conserve the covered species and natural resource values in the plan area, the DRECP conservation strategy also focuses on landscape and ecological processes, including wildlife movement and habitat linkages, hydrological processes and Aeolian (wind) processes.

Conservation land designations used in the DRECP include both existing and new National Landscape Conservation Lands, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wildlife Allocations and Conservation Planning Areas. Based on the resource values within each conservation unit, proposed management directives specify compatible land uses, disturbance caps and management and monitoring priorities.

The DRECP Conservation Strategy is designed to:

- ▶ Meet federal General Conservation Plan and California Natural Community Conservation Plan standards.
- ▶ Add between 1.6 million to 5.3 million acres of BLM lands to the National Landscape Conservation System, meeting the requirements of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11).
- ▶ Address species, ecosystem and climate adaptation requirements for 37 species and 31 natural communities covered by the plan.
- ▶ Protect recreation areas, cultural areas, scenic values and other desert resources through recreation designations on 2.7 million to 3.6 million acres of BLM-managed lands.

Covered Species

Reptiles and Amphibians	Agassiz's desert tortoise Flat-tailed horned lizard	Mojave fringe-toed lizard Tehachapi slender salamander
Birds	Bendire's thrasher Burrowing owl California black rail California condor Gila woodpecker Golden eagle Greater sandhill crane	Least Bell's vireo Mountain plover Swainson's hawk Tricolored blackbird Western yellow-billed cuckoo Willow flycatcher (including southwestern) Yuma clapper rail
Fish	Desert pupfish Mohave tui chub	Owens pupfish Owens tui chub
Mammals	California leaf-nosed bat Desert bighorn sheep Mohave ground squirrel	Pallid bat Townsend's big-eared bat
Plants	Alkali mariposa-lily Bakersfield cactus Barstow woolly sunflower Desert cymopterus Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus	Mojave monkeyflower Mojave tarplant Owens Valley checkerbloom Parish's daisy Triple-ribbed milk-vetch

Natural Communities

California Forest and Woodland	California Broadleaf Forest and Woodland	Californian Montane Conifer Forest
Chaparral and Coastal Shrub	Californian Mesic Chaparral Californian Pre-Montane Chaparral Californian Xeric Chaparral Central and South Coastal California Seral Scrub	Californian Coastal Sage Scrub Western Mojave and Western Sonoran Desert Borderland Chaparral
Desert Conifer Woodland	Great Basin Pinyon-Juniper Woodland	
Desert	North American Warm	
Outcrop and Badland	Desert Bedrock Cliff and Outcrop	
Desert Scrub	Arizonian upland Sonoran Desert scrub- Sonoran Desert scrub Intermontane Deep or Well-Drained Soil Scrub- Sonoran Desert Scrub Intermontane Seral Shrubland Inter-Mountain Dry Shrubland and Grassland	Intermountain Mountain Big Sagebrush Shrubland and Steppe Lower Bajada and Fan Mojavean-Sonoran Desert Shrub Mojave and Great Basin Upper Bajada and Toeslope Shadescale-Saltbrush Cool Semi-Desert Scrub Southern Great Basin Semi-Desert Grassland
Dunes	North American Warm Desert Dunes and Sand Flats	
Grasslands	California Annual and Perennial Grassland	California Annual Forb/Grass Vegetation
Riparian	Madrean Warm Semi-Desert Wash Scrub Mojavean Semi-Desert Wash Scrub Sonoran-Coloradan Semi-Desert Wash Woodland/Scrub	Southwestern North American Riparian Evergreen and Deciduous Woodland Southwestern North American Riparian/Wash Scrub
Wetland	Arid West Freshwater Emergent Marsh Californian Warm Temperate Marsh/Seep	North American Warm Desert Alkaline Scrub and Herb Playa and Wet Flat Southwestern North American Salt Basin and High Marsh