

# *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States*

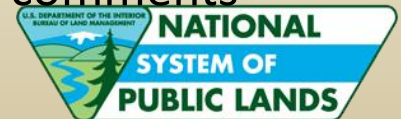
Linda Resseguie

10-13-2010



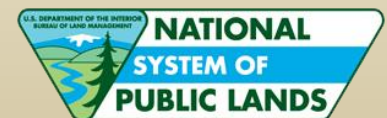
# *Solar PEIS: History and Status*

- Includes the States of AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, and UT
- BLM and DOE, Joint Lead Federal Agencies, published NOI May 2008
  - Both agencies will use the PEIS to create a program of policies and required design features/mitigation measures for solar projects & related transmission
  - BLM will amend land use plans in applicable areas to adopt the new Solar Energy Program and identify lands available for development
- Original Public Scoping ,including 11 meetings, June - July 2008
  - 595 meeting participants; 16,000 written comments; Scoping Summary
- 24 Solar Energy Study Areas added July 2009
  - Study Areas Segregated by Notice of Proposed Withdrawal
  - Supplemental scoping resulted in receipt of 300 written comments



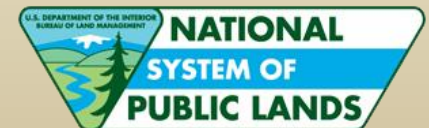
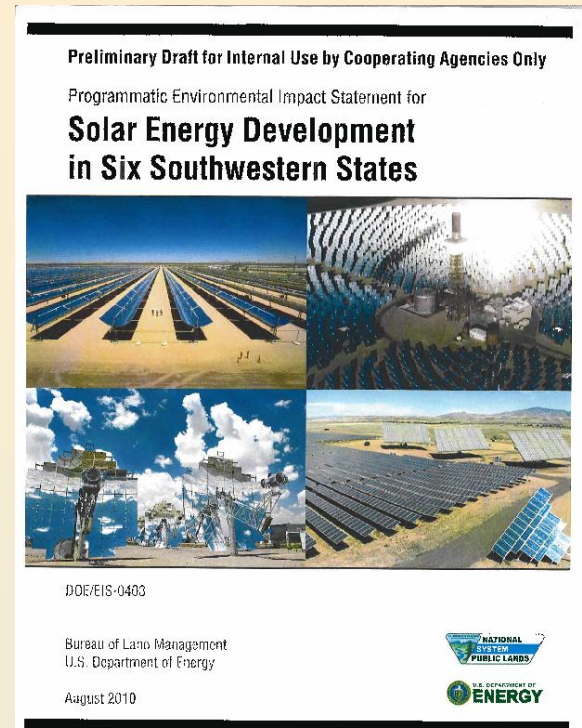
# *BLM's Purpose and Need for Proposed Action*

- Need to respond more efficiently to siting utility-scale solar
- BLM is considering whether to replace its current solar policy with a comprehensive program that would allow future solar projects to proceed in a more efficient and standardized manner
- Objectives for the Proposed Solar Energy Program include:
  - facilitating near-term utility-scale solar development on public lands
  - minimizing potential environmental, social, and economic impacts
  - providing flexibility to consider a variety of solar energy projects (location, facility size, technology, etc)
  - optimizing existing transmission infrastructure & corridors
  - standardize/streamline authorization process for solar development on BLM-administered lands

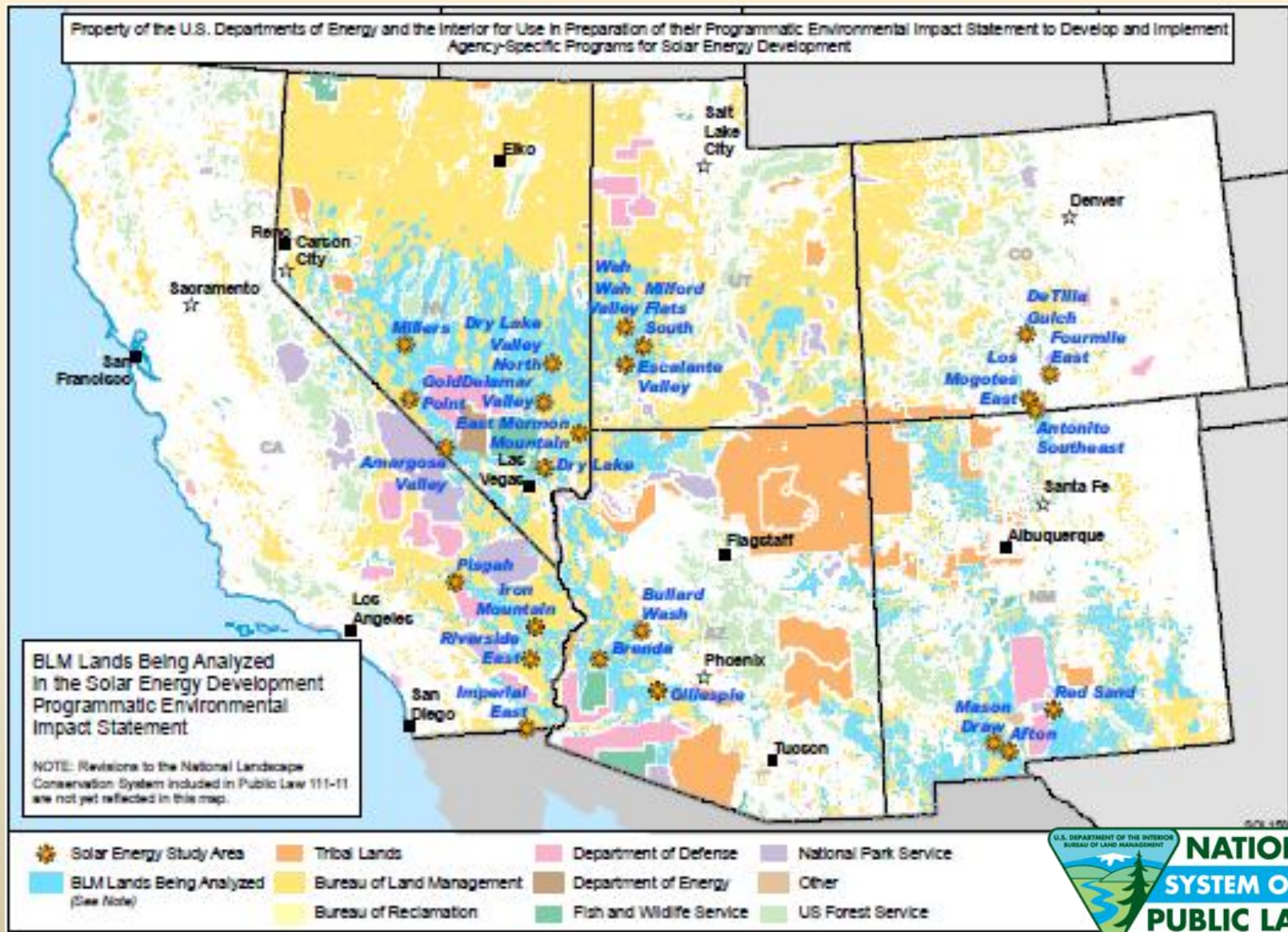


# Schedule

- August 27 – Released Administrative Draft for Internal/Cooperating Agency Review
- October 1 – Due Date for comments on 8/27 Administrative Draft
- October/November – Comment review and revisions; sponsor approval (BLM/DOE)
- December 10 – Draft PEIS to EPA
- December 17 – Publication of Draft PEIS; start of 90-day comment period
- Mid-late February 2011 – Up to 12 public meetings
- April 2011 – Evaluate comments; begin revisions
- Late Fall 2011 – Release Final EIS/Issue ROD



# BLM Lands Being Analyzed – 1.76 mil in CA

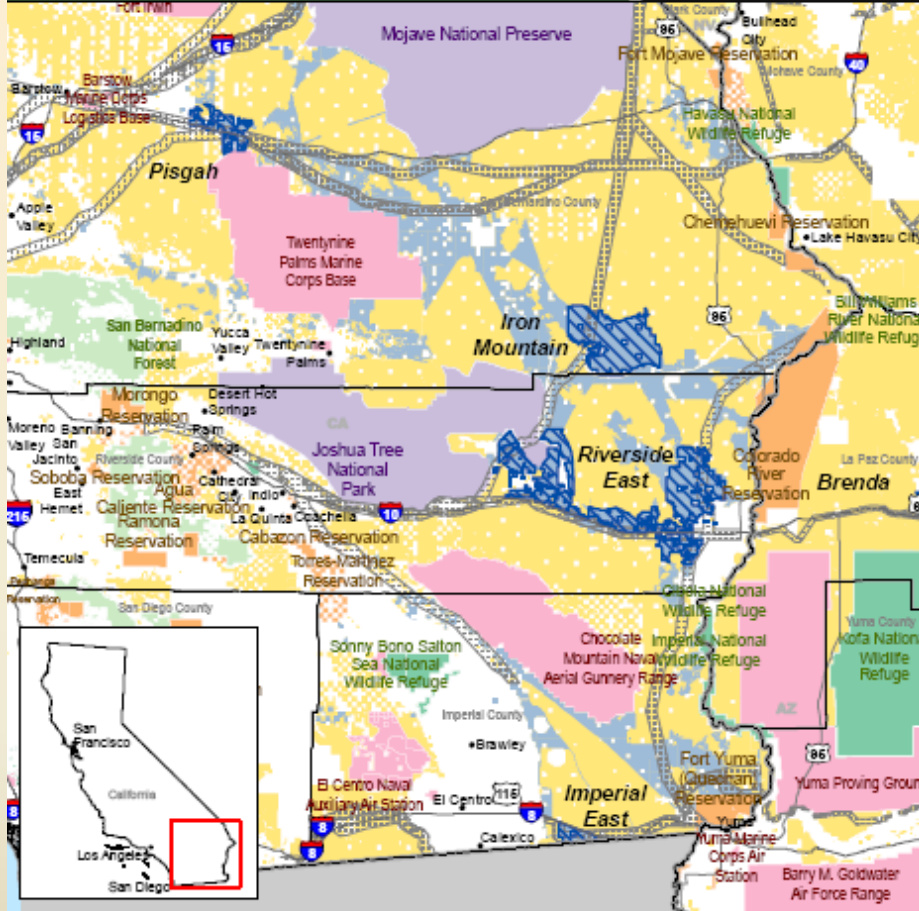




# Solar Energy Study Areas in California

Map Prepared July 21, 2009

Property of the U.S. Departments of Energy and the Interior  
for Use in Preparation of their Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement  
to Develop and Implement Agency-Specific Programs for Solar Energy Development



**Surface Management Agency**  
As of 3/26/2009

Orange	Tribal Lands	Pink	DOD	Light Blue	NPS
Yellow	BLM	Brown	DOE	Light Green	OTHER
Light Yellow	BCR	Dark Green	FWS	Light Blue-Green	USFS

- State Line
- County Boundary
- ▨ Solar Energy Study Area (As of 6/5/2009)
- ▤ Existing Designated Corridor (See Note 2) (As of 7/21/2009)
- ▥ BLM Lands Being Analyzed for Solar Development in PEIS (As of 6/5/2009)



NOTE 1: Revisions to the National Landscape Conservation System included in Public Law 111-11 are not yet reflected in this map.

NOTE 2: Designated Corridors are developed for federal land use planning purposes only and are not applicable to state-owned or privately-owned land.

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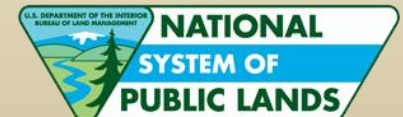
# Proposed SEZs

Pisgah 23,950/10,652

Iron Mountain 106,522/73,984

Riverside East 203,092/103,113

Imperial East 5,722/?



# *Moving Forward*

*A starting set of exclusion areas has been identified and can continue to be refined*

*All solar projects will continue to have NEPA review*

*Proposed policies, design features, and ongoing coordination with other agencies and stakeholders should address most issues*

*Solar PEIS effort began in May of 2008; we have information and ideas on which we want to get public comment*