

Programmatic Design Features for National Scenic and Historic Trails, Suitable Trails, and Study Trails

The following design features have been identified to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate potential impacts on trails from solar energy development that were identified and discussed in Sections 5.3, 5.12 and 5.15 of the Draft and Final Solar PEIS.

General

NSHT1-1 Project developers shall consult with the BLM and the trail administering agency early in the project planning to help determine the proposed project's conformance with trail management prescriptions and other potential trail-related constraints.¹

- (a) Assessing conformance to trail management prescriptions and other potential trail related constraints shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
- Considering National Trail management corridors established through the land use planning process as exclusion areas (see Section 2.2.2.1 of the Final Solar PEIS) in order to prevent substantial interference with the nature and purposes of designated National Scenic and Historic Trails, and to make efforts to avoid activities incompatible with trail purposes (NTSA Sec. 7(c)). Where no National Trail management corridor is established in a land use plan, or in adequate protections for suitable trails or trails under study, an accepted National Trail inventory process must be conducted by the applicant, in consultation with the trail administering agency. The inventory process will identify the potential area of adverse impact on the resources, qualities, values, and associated settings, and the primary use or uses of the trails within the viewshed; prevent substantial interference; and determine any areas unsuitable for development. Residual impacts on trails will be avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated to the extent practicable according to program policy standards.
 - Determining the size of the area of possible adverse impact through the results of the required inventory, in consultation with the trail administering agency. There is no current established minimum or maximum limit on the size of the area of possible adverse impact. Other design feature requirements and coordination requirements, such as those for Cultural Resources,

¹ Further guidance will be included in the forthcoming BLM National Trails System manual series and other NLCS-related policy manuals.

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Recreation and Visitor Services, Visual Resources, or NLCS must also be met.

- Review adequacy of information from National Scenic or Historic Trail inventory projects underway during the development of the Solar PEIS by the BLM at the field office level in coordination with the trail administering agency, and application of the data to determine the area of possible adverse impact for any anticipated development. Such inventory projects may reveal unanticipated or undocumented remnants, artifacts, trail tread or trace, the location of high potential historic sites and high-potential route segments, trail features, and/or the associated settings for National Scenic or Historic Trails adjacent to or within SEZ.
- Applying on-site or off-site mitigation for any residual adverse impact according to program policy standards, and mitigation or impact reduction measures identified for related program areas in this document.