

Fourmile East Solar Energy Zone (SEZ)
SEZ-Specific Design Features

(from Solar PEIS ROD, Section A.4.2)

- *Specially Designated Areas and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics*: As part of project-specific analysis, early consultation should be initiated with the entity responsible for developing the management plan for the Sangre de Cristo NHA to understand how development could be consistent with goals of the NHA.
- *Recreation*: As projects are proposed for the SEZ, the potential impacts on tourism should be considered and reviewed with local community leaders.
- *Soil Resources*: The need for a study of the eolian processes that maintain the sand dune fields in Great Sand Dunes National Park should be determined. The study would support the assessment of whether building a solar facility close to the park could have impacts on the sand dunes there (by disrupting these processes).
- *Water Resources*: Groundwater analyses suggest full build-out of wet-cooled technologies is not feasible; for mixed-technology development scenarios, any proposed wet-cooled projects would have to reduce water requirements to less than approximately 1,000 ac-ft/yr (1.2 million m³/yr) in order to secure water rights and comply with water management in the San Luis Valley.
- *Wildlife (Birds and Mammals)*: If present, prairie dog colonies (which could provide habitat or a food source for some raptor species) should be avoided to the extent practicable. This would also reduce impacts on species such as the desert cottontail and thirteen-lined ground squirrel.
- *Wildlife (Birds and Mammals)*: To the extent practicable, construction activities should be avoided while pronghorn are on their winter range within the immediate area of the proposed Fourmile East SEZ.
- *Visual Resources*: The development of power tower facilities should be prohibited within the SEZ.
- *Visual Resources*: Special visual impact mitigation shall be considered for solar development on lands in the SEZ visible from and within 5 mi (8 km) of the Sangre de Cristo WA and of the centerline of the high-potential segment of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.
- *Paleontological Resources*: The depth to the Alamosa Formation within the proposed Fourmile East SEZ should be determined to identify any design features that might be needed in that area if solar energy development occurs.
- *Cultural*: Development of an MOA may be needed among the BLM, Colorado SHPO, and other parties, such as the ACHP, to address the adverse effects of solar energy development on historic properties. The agreement may specify avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures. Should an MOA be developed to resolve adverse effects on the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, the Trail Administration for the Old Spanish Trail (BLM-NMSO and National Park Service [NPS] Intermountain Trails Office, Santa Fe) should be included in the development of that MOA.
- *Cultural*: The possibility of encountering Native American human remains in the vicinity of the proposed Fourmile East SEZ should be discussed during consultation.