Resource Areas Addressed in the Solar Programmatic EIS

- Acoustic Environment
- Air Quality
- Climate Change
- Cultural Resources
- Ecological Resources
  - o Vegetation
  - o Aquatic Biota
  - o Wildlife
  - o Special Status Species
- Environmental Justice
- Geology and Soil Resources
- Hazardous Materials and Waste
- Health and Safety
- Lands and Realty

- Military and Civilian Aviation
- Minerals
- Paleontological Resources
- Rangeland Resources
  - o Livestock Grazing
  - o Wild Horses and Burros
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics

- Specially Designated Areas and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
- Transportation
- Tribal Interests
- Visual Resources
- Water Resources
- Wildland Fire

Figure from Solar Programmatic EIS Visual Resources Analysis

Please provide your comment on the Draft Solar Programmatic EIS, at: https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022371/510

Design Features

- Design features are project requirements that have been incorporated into all the alternatives to avoid, minimize, or compensate for adverse impacts.

- The proposed design features in the Draft Solar Programmatic EIS would update the design features established through the Western Solar Plan that are currently in effect

- Design features are presented in Appendix B of the Programmatic EIS, and address all of the resource areas evaluated. They include requirements for specific plans to address resource-specific impacts.

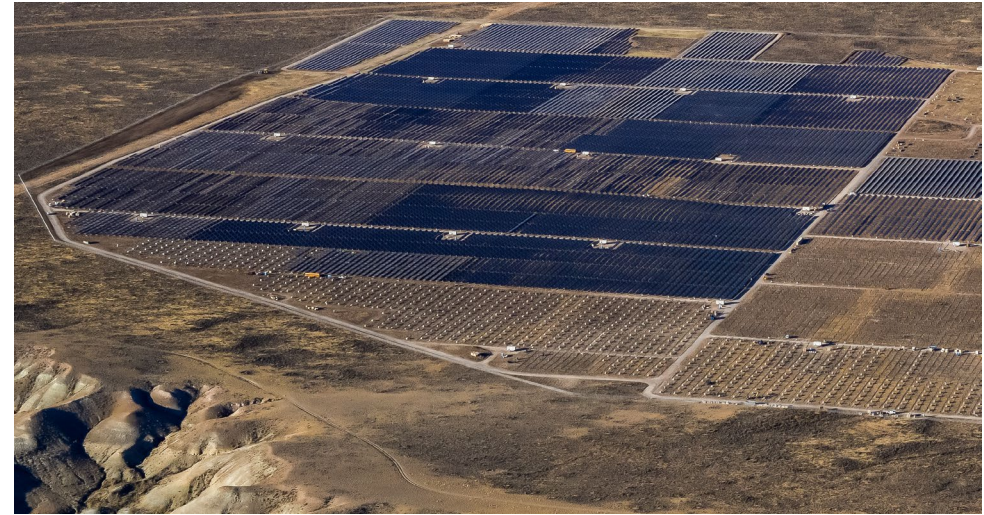| |
|---|
| **Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (includes Nesting Bird Management Plan)** |
| **Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan** |
| **Dust Abatement Plan** |
| **Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan** |
| **Health and Safety Plan** |
| **Lighting Plan** |
| **Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan** |
| **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan** |
| **Threatened and endangered species protection plan** |
| **Transportation Plan** |
| **Traffic Management Plan** |
| **Vegetation/Weed Management Plan** |
| **Worker Education and Awareness Plan (WEAP)** |

Individual Plans Required for Projects through Updated Design Features

Requirements for Further Environmental Analysis

- This Programmatic EIS:
  - Builds a consistent framework to have solar proposals avoid areas with high levels of resource conflicts
  - Identifies areas with fewer known resource conflicts
  - **Does not** affirmatively designate particular areas as suitable for development
  - **Does not** approve any solar project

- Project-specific screening and detailed analysis will be required to:
  - Ensure consistency with the applicable land use plan
  - Conduct detailed environmental review
  - Consider Areas of Special Concern, resource-related impacts, public concerns, and proximity to important resources

Sweetwater Solar Facility, Wyoming. Source: BLM

Even in areas identified as available for application, BLM may not approve solar applications.

Requirements for Further Environmental Analysis

BLM Restoration Landscapes

- Areas of Special Concern were identified based on input from the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), cooperating agencies, and BLM subject matter experts

- Appendix H presents 4 categories of Areas of Special Concern: BLM Restoration Landscapes, Oil and Gas Lease Areas, Big Game Use Areas, and NPS Areas of Special Concern

- Developers would propose avoidance and/or other mitigation measures for projects that intersect with these areas

Please provide your comment on the Draft Solar Programmatic EIS, at:
https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022371/510