



Exclusion Criteria

- Exclusion criteria identify lands that would be excluded from solar energy application under each of the action alternatives based on the presence of certain resources
 - BLM has identified 21 different exclusions in the Draft Programmatic EIS
 - Areas excluded will change over time as land use plans are revised or amended
 - Maps for the action alternatives reflect exclusion criteria to the extent that GIS data is available
 - Some resource exclusions remain unmapped due to information sensitivity or lack of GIS data
 - There is also an exclusion for slope – increased from 5% to 10% from 2012 plan
- 2012 Western Solar Plan exclusion criteria were reviewed and updated based on:
 - BLM experience in permitting and monitoring
 - Public and cooperating agency input, including updated information on resources and technology





Exclusion No.	Exclusion Type	Description
1	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	All ACECs identified in applicable land use plans.
2	Threatened and Endangered Species	All designated and proposed critical habitat areas for species protected under the ESA (https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/critical-habitat). Known occupied habitat for certain ESA-listed species, based on current available information or surveys of project areas.
3	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	All areas for which an applicable land use plan establishes protection for lands with wilderness characteristics.
4	Recreation	Developed recreational facilities and all Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) identified in applicable land use plans.
5	Habitat Areas	Dixie valley toad habitat, Wyoming toad habitat, and Carson wandering skipper habitat. All areas where the BLM has agreements with USFWS and/or state agency partners and other entities to manage sensitive species habitat in a manner that would preclude solar energy development, including habitat protection and other recommendations in conservation agreements/strategies.
6	Greater Sage-Grouse and Gunnison Sage-Grouse	Greater sage-grouse and Gunnison sage-grouse habitat as identified for exclusion in applicable land use plans.
7	Land Use Designations	All areas designated as no surface occupancy (NSO) in applicable land use plans. All ROW exclusion areas identified in applicable land use plans. All ROW avoidance areas identified in applicable land use plans to the extent the purpose of the ROW avoidance is incompatible with solar energy development.
8	Desert Tortoise	All desert tortoise translocation sites identified in applicable resource management plans, project-level mitigation plans, or Biological Opinions.
9	Big Game	All big game migratory corridors identified in applicable land use plans to the extent the land use plan decision prohibits utility-scale solar energy development. All big game winter ranges identified in applicable land use plans to the extent the land use plan decision prohibits utility-scale solar energy development.
10	Natural Areas and Other Conservation Areas	Research Natural Areas and Outstanding Natural Areas identified in applicable land use plans. All Backcountry Conservation Areas identified in applicable land use plans.



Exclusion No.	Exclusion Type	Description
11	Visual Resources	Lands classified as visual resource management (VRM) Class I or II throughout the 11-state planning area and, only in Utah (and small parts of Arizona and Colorado), some lands classified as Class III in applicable land use plans.
12	National Scenic Byways	All National Scenic Byways, including all BLM Back Country Byways (BLM State Director approved) identified in applicable BLM land use plans, including any associated corridor or lands identified for protection through an applicable land use plan.
13	National Recreation, Water, or Side and Connecting Trails	All Secretarially designated National Recreation Trails (including National Water Trails) and Connecting and Side Trails identified in applicable BLM and local land use plans, including any associated corridor or lands identified for protection through an applicable land use plan.
14	National Conservation Lands	<p>All units of BLM National Conservation Lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Monuments • National Conservation Areas and other areas similarly designated for conservation, including Cooperative Management and Protection Areas, Outstanding Natural Areas, Forest Reserves, and National Scenic Areas. • National Trails System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All National Scenic and Historic Trails designated by Congress, trails recommended as suitable for designation through a congressionally authorized National Trail Feasibility Study, or such qualifying trails identified as additional routes in law, including any trail management corridors identified for protection through an applicable land use plan, ○ Trails undergoing a Congressionally authorized National Trail Feasibility Study will also be excluded pending the outcome of the study. • National Wild and Scenic Rivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, including any associated corridor and lands identified for protection through an applicable river corridor plan (or comprehensive river management plan). Absent a river plan, protection corridors are ¼ mile to either side of the river from the ordinary high-water mark, unless otherwise provided by law. ○ Areas outside a designated wild and scenic river corridor when the project would “invade the area or unreasonably diminish” the wild and scenic river’s river values. ○ All segments of rivers determined to be eligible or suitable for Wild or Scenic River status as identified in applicable land use plans, including any associated corridor and lands identified for protection through an applicable land use plan. • Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas



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15	National Natural Landmarks	National Natural Landmarks identified in applicable land use plans, including any associated lands identified for protection through an applicable land use plan.
16	National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)	Lands within the boundaries of properties listed in the NRHP, including National Historic Landmarks, and any additional lands outside the designated boundaries identified for protection through an applicable land use plan.
17	Tribal Interest Areas	Traditional cultural properties (TCPs) and Native American sacred sites that are identified through consultation with Tribes and recognized by the BLM or that are the subject of a Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and a Tribe or Tribes.
18	Old Growth Forests	Old Growth Forests identified in applicable land use plans.
19	Lands Previously Found to Be Inappropriate for Solar Energy Development	Lands found to be inappropriate for solar energy development through a prior environmental review process.
20	Acquired Lands	All lands acquired by the BLM using funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund or the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, as amended (Public Law 105-263).
21	State- or Area-Specific	In Nevada, lands in the Ivanpah Valley, Coal Valley, and Garden Valley. Area surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park consistent with Public Land Order No. 7923. Rio Grande Natural Area (as established by Public Law 109-337).