

BLM Solar Energy Program Design Features

Programmatic Design Features for Wild Horses and Burros

The following design features have been identified to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate potential impacts on wild horses and burros from solar energy development identified and discussed in Section 5.4.2.1 and 5.4.2.2 of the Draft and Final Solar PEIS.

General

WHB1-1 Project developers shall coordinate with the BLM and other stakeholders early in the project planning process to assess and consider options to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts on wild horses and burros and their management areas.

- (a) Assessing impacts on wild horses and burros and their management areas shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Identifying wild horses and burros and their management areas in proximity to the proposed projects. In coordination with the BLM, developers shall consult existing land use plans and updated inventories.
 - Evaluating potential impacts on wild horses and burros and their management areas as part of the environmental impact analysis for the project and considering options to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate adverse impacts in coordination with the BLM.
- (b) Methods to minimize impacts on wild horses and burros and their management areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Installing fencing and access control.
 - Providing for movement corridors.
 - Delineating open range.
 - Requiring traffic management measures (e.g., vehicle speed limits).
 - Ensuring access to or replacement of water sources.
 - Incorporating key elements to mitigate impacts on wild horses and burros in a WEAP that is provided to all project personnel prior to entering the project worksite. The WEAP shall be provided on a regular basis, covering multiple resources, to ensure the awareness of key wild horse and burro mitigation

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efforts of the project worksite during all phases of the project's life. The base information the WEAP provides shall be reviewed and approved by the BLM prior to the issuance of a Notice to Proceed and incorporates adaptive management protocols for addressing changes over the life of the project, should they occur.

Site Characterization, Siting and Design, Construction

- WHB2-1** Project access roads shall be sited, designed, constructed, fenced, and/or improved to minimize potential wild horse and burro collisions. Fences, or other appropriate structures, should be constructed to exclude wild horses and burros from solar energy project site facilities. Either water sources or access routes to water sources for horses and burros should be excluded from the solar energy development area, or alternate water sources or routes should be provided.