

Fact Sheet

Restoration Design Energy Project

Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments

January 2013

- Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments identifies lands across Arizona that may be suitable for the development of renewable solar and wind energy and establishes baseline environmental protection measures for such projects.
- Amends eight Resource Management Plans (RMPs) to identify areas with low resource conflicts and previously disturbed areas where the impacts to sensitive resources would be minimized by renewable energy development;
- Serves as a complementary effort to the national Solar Energy Development Program by identifying Renewable Energy Development Areas (REDAs) within Solar Program Variance Areas, and establishing a third Solar Energy Zone (SEZ);
- REDAs are located within the Solar Program Variance Areas and have met many of the factors to be considered for project siting, including providing areas identified as suitable for solar energy developments in areas of low resource conflict, opportunities for combining Federal and non-federal lands, and opportunities for projects to be developed on disturbed lands;
- Establishes 192,100 acres of Renewable Energy Development Areas (REDAs) on public lands in Arizona;
- Identifies a third Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) in Arizona, the 2,550-acre Agua Caliente SEZ;
- Includes design features, best management practices, and management actions to ensure the most environmentally responsible development and delivery;

- Incorporates the decisions of the national Solar Energy Program for any utility-scale solar energy development;
- Recognizes the importance of transmission, load centers, water conservation and land tenure issues in the identification of suitable lands for renewable energy development;
- Incorporates important feedback from interested stakeholders, including industry, conservationists, sportsmen, tribal, state and local governments.
- The BLM released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in February 2012. The Final EIS was published in October 2012.