

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan

Lead Agency: USDI Bureau of Land Management

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Project Location: Statewide

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has developed the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Final Programmatic EIS) and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments (Proposed RMPA) for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development. The planning area is located within the States of Arizona, California (excluding the lands covered by the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan in the southern California deserts), Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Proposed RMPA would amend BLM land use plans throughout the planning area to exclude solar energy development in areas that need protection. The amendments would also update design features and environmental evaluation processes and incorporate new information and analysis.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The intent of the Proposed Plan is to limit impacts associated with utility-scale solar energy on lesser disturbed lands and focus development into areas closer to the transmission grid. In response to comments on the Draft Programmatic EIS, the BLM updated some exclusion criteria to be more protective of certain resources, while applying changed definitions of transmission proximity and previously disturbed lands in order to provide sufficient available lands to allow for flexibility to identify potentially suitable locations for applications while ensuring that areas with high resource concerns are protected.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Commenters have raised resource-related concerns during their review of the Draft Programmatic EIS. All comments can be reviewed on the BLM's NEPA register for the project on the "Documents" page at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022371/570>. More information regarding comments received by the public and agencies, including responses can be found in the Proposed Plan and Final Programmatic EIS.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management