

Thank you for your comment, Glendon Collins.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50033.

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Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarS50033

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Attachment:

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The presentation at the June 24 public meeting in Phoenix, Arizona focused, of course, on the BLM public lands, but it gave the impression that the BLM lands were going to have to "carry the whole load" of meeting the Nation's needs for renewable solar energy.

The Programmatic EIS on Solar Energy Development should also include a discussion of the opportunities on private lands to meet the need for solar energy development. The energy minerals, like oil, gas and coal, are where you find them, and there are many deposits on federal public lands. However, sunshine falls on public and private land alike. There are many opportunities in Arizona, and the other 5 States in this study area, to use private lands, and their existing water supplies, for solar facilities, instead of converting BLM public lands to solar energy fields and trying to find the water to operate them.

The BLM public lands are becoming the "outdoor enjoyment areas" of the West, and there is no need to lose the "public values" on these public lands in places where private lands are available to meet the need. Those farms west of Gila Bend, Arizona are a good example. The water that is used to grow alfalfa on those flat lands could be better used in the generation of electricity. It would probably be as profitable for the land owner, and it would help save the wilderness, wildlife and other public values on nearby BLM public lands.

This Programmatic Solar Energy Development EIS should not just be about the environmental impact of solar generation on public lands. It should also include a discussion of the merits of putting the facilities on private lands where water as well as sunshine is available. The PEIS needs to weigh the benefits of putting solar facilities on private lands to help preserve the public values and public uses on the BLM public lands which private lands cannot provide.