

Thank you for your comment, Lynne Harkins.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50551.

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Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50551

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To All Whom It May Concern:

Below please find my concerns and comments regarding the BLM Solar Energy Development PEIS.

* It is a mistake for BLM to keep programs and policies for wind power and solar power separated and may well lead again to your working at cross purposes within BLM at the expense of the public's best interests. The goal is to encourage the use of renewables; there has to be some flexibility as to which is most appropriate in each case. Integrated planning for diversified renewable energy sources-big and small- will yield the greatest public and planetary benefit.

* Protection of all sensitive habitats, National Monuments, State Parks, agriculturally useful lands, protected species, etc. absolutely should be given prime consideration. That means not only those actual solar sites, but also nearby protected areas where industrial activity would have a pronounced negative impact on the protected species and habitats.

* Solar installations can be located in already degraded areas such as old oil fields. Clean up is past due in such places and this could get that job done, while opening those sites to new and positive use!

* A guiding principle should be that generation of electricity is most efficient if located close to where the power is needed, this because of the loss of energy in long-range transmission. BLM should always consider this in evaluating a project and compare it by asking the question of whether the power needed could be more efficiently provided by ROOF -TOP PV"S.

* BLM should also evaluate who benefits financially: the utility proposing the project vs the general public who might be more benefited by roof-top installation. You are stewards of the public's land and the energy pathway that most benefits the public's financial/energy interests should be sought and supported by BLM.

* In cases where damaging impact is unavoidable, BLM should require mitigation by providing support for roof-top PV's somewhere and funds for protecting other areas of the type that will be damaged by solar installations.

* BLM must not assume that they can only fulfill the requirement of 10,000 MW within 10 years by large industrial projects. BLM should seek and develop programs to provide incentives for the use of renewables in many different small ways within their jurisdiction.

Thank you for your thoughtful, science-based deliberations in the interest of the well-being of the public's land, as you explore how our land might be part of developing renewable energy sources. Public benefit, not private profit, should and must always be the paramount concern in these deliberations.

Sincerely,

Lynne Harkins