

# The “Perfect Storm” for Renewable Energy: Policy Drivers and Decision-Making

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# Objectives: how did we get here?

- Where is “here”?
- Policy drivers
- Response and innovation
- Shifting landscapes



# You are **here**: Fast Track Status

[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/renewable\\_energy/fast-track\\_renewable.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/renewable_energy/fast-track_renewable.html)

## Solar Fast Track Projects

Sonoran Solar (AZ)	375 MW	<b>Final</b> EIS pending
Stirling Imperial (CA)	709 MW	<b>ROD</b> pending
Stirling Calico (CA)	850 MW	<b>ROD</b> EIS pending
Ivanpah (CA)	400 MW	<b>ROD</b> pending
Desert Sunlight (CA)	350 MW	<b>Final</b> EIS pending
Palen (CA)	484 MW	<b>Final</b> EIS pending
Blythe (CA)	986 MW	<b>ROD</b> pending
Ridgecrest (CA)	745 MW	<b>Final</b> EIS pending
Genesis (CA)	250 MW	<b>ROD</b> pending
Lucerne Valley (CA)	45 MW	<b>ROD</b> pending
Silver State N/S (NV)	400 MW	<b>Final</b> EIS published
Crescent Dunes (NV)	180 MW	<b>Final</b> EIS pending
Amargosa Farm Road (NV)	484 MW	<b>Final</b> EIS pending

## Wind Fast Track Projects

Tule Wind (CA)	200 MW	Draft EIS pending
Daggett Ridge (CA)	84 MW	Draft EIS pending
Granite Mountain (CA)	74 MW	<b>Final</b> EIS pending
Searchlight (NV)	200 MW	Draft EIS pending
Spring Valley (NV)	150 MW	EA being prepared
West Butte (OR)	60 MW	<b>Final</b> EIS pending
Sand Hills Ranch (WY)	50 MW	EA being prepared

3 GW of solar with RODs pending in 2010



# Drivers: Renewable Energy Priority

## Energy Policy Act of 2005

- Section 211 – 10,000 MWs of non-hydro renewable energy projects on public land by 2015

## President – New Energy for America Plan

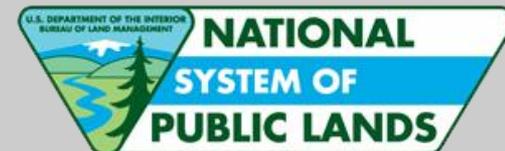
- Ensure 10 percent of electricity from renewable energy by 2012 and 25 percent by 2025

## Secretary – New Energy Frontier

- DOI goal - 9,000 MWs by 2011 and 10,000 MWs by 2012
- Secretary Order – March 2009
- Development of renewable energy is Department priority

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

- Drove permitting targets



# Response and Innovation

## □ Memoranda of Understanding

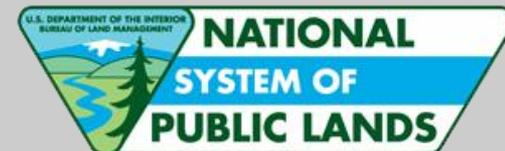
- November, 2008 – BLM and CA
  - Codified the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT)
- October, 2009 – CA and the Department of Interior
  - Defined State and Federal roles in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
- BLM and other agencies
  - Intent: increase permitting efficiencies

## Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

- Shift from west-wide analysis to “zone” analysis

## Renewable Energy Coordination Offices

- Clustered staffing in renewable energy hotspots



# Response and Innovation

- Establish Renewable Energy Coordination Offices – 66 positions
  - National Office                   6 positions
  - Arizona                           11 positions
  - California                       23 positions
  - Nevada                           17 positions
  - Wyoming                         9 positions
  
- Renewable Energy Support Teams – 40 positions
  - Colorado                         11 positions
  - Idaho                              6 positions
  - Montana                         5 positions
  - New Mexico                    3 positions
  - OR/WA                          4 positions
  - Utah                              11 positions



# Shifting Landscapes: Renewable Energy on the Public Lands



Potential - 206,000 MWs  
(20.6 Million Acres)



SEGS plant; Wikipedia Commons

Potential up to 2,300,000 MWs  
(23 Million Acres)



# Wind Energy – Status



## Status

- Programmatic EIS – June 2005
- 185 site testing authorizations
- 28 development authorizations  
(437 MWs installed capacity – CA, WY, AZ, UT)
- 39 pending development applications  
(5,000 MWs )
- 7 Fast Track projects  
(800 MWs)
- 200 site testing applications

## Challenges

- NEPA
- Birds (MBTA), Bats and Sage Grouse
- Visual resources
- Airspace and radar



# Solar – Status

## Status

- Programmatic EIS underway
  - 24 Solar Energy Study Areas
- 131 Active Applications (1.3 million acres)
  - 14 Fast Track projects (4,500 MWs)



## Challenges

- NEPA
- Intensive single-use land allocation
- Large land disturbance footprint
- Water demand (solar thermal)
- Sensitive wildlife habitat
- Visual resource impacts
- Military and aviation operations
- Other resource impacts

# Authorization Process

## Wind and Solar - Right of Way Authorization (Title V of FLPMA)

- Land Use Planning
  - Solar Programmatic EIS – Draft scheduled Dec 2010
  - Wind Programmatic EIS - Completed June 2005
- Right of Way Application and Cost Recovery Agreement
- Plan of Development (POD)
- Consultation and Coordination with other Federal/State Agencies
  - FWS, DOD, NPS
  - State Game & Fish, SHPO, Energy Commission
- Site Specific NEPA (EA/EIS) for development
  - Notice of Intent and Public Scoping
  - Release of Draft EIS and Public Comment
  - Release of Final EIS
  - Record of Decision
- Issue Right of Way Grant
  - Terms and Conditions
  - Rent (Base Rent at Issuance, MW Capacity Fee after generation)
  - Due Diligence
- Notice to Proceed





# BLM's Path Forward



- Next generation?

Insert current CDD  
map

# Thank you! Questions?

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Wikipedia Commons

