



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Bureau of Land Management

Southern Nevada District – Renewable Energy Program Update

June 7, 2022



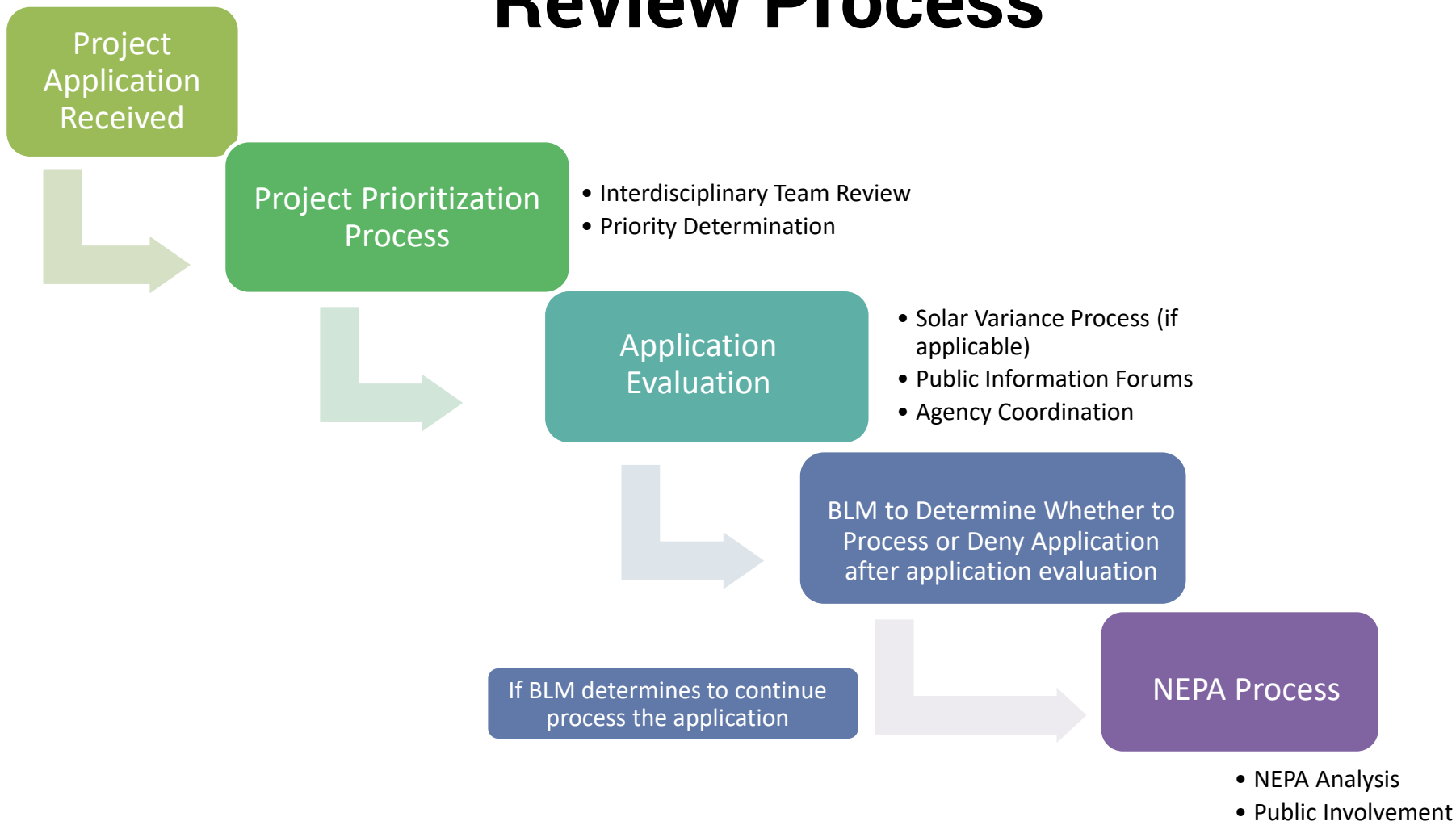


# Agenda

- Introductions
  - Beth Ransel, Energy & Infrastructure Team, Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District
  - Mark Slaughter, Natural Resource Supervisor, Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office
- Overview - Renewable Energy Application Review
- Workload Summary
- Project Overview By Area



# Renewable Energy Project Application Review Process





# Renewable Energy Application Evaluation Process

- The right-of-way regulations provide direction on solar and wind energy development applications located on BLM managed public lands.
- The BLM evaluates the appropriateness of right-of-way applications for utility-scale solar energy development on a case-by-case basis, based on:
  - Environmental considerations
  - Coordination with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and Tribes
  - Public outreach
- The regulations state information provided by the applicant and other parties can be utilized when evaluating the appropriateness of an application.
- As part of the evaluation, the BLM schedules a public information forum and an agency meeting to gather input.



# Renewable Energy Application Evaluation Process

- Information gathered during the input period will inform the application evaluation process including the BLM determination on whether to continue to process or to deny the right-of-way application.
- The application evaluation determination is separate and comes before the National Environmental Policy Act process.



# E&I Team Workload Summary

- **Construction: Active**
  - Yellow Pine Solar & Trout Canyon Substation (250MW of 500MW) (Pahrump Valley)
  - Gemini Solar (690MW)
- **Construction: Pending**
  - Dry Lake Solar (NV Energy) (150MW) (Dry Lake SEZ)
- **Support for Solar Development on Moapa Reservation** (Gen-tie lines and other supporting infrastructure)
  - Arrow Canyon Solar – Construction Active
  - Southern Bighorn Solar I & II (ROW pending)
  - Chuckwalla Solar – DEIS under development
  - Yah-Thumb Solar – DEIS under development



# E&I Team Workload Summary Cont'd

## 30 Pending Applications for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Development Projects (As of June 7, 2022)

- Pahrump Valley
- Amargosa (15 applications)
- Indian Springs
- Jean
- Laughlin
- APEX area
- Vicinity of Moapa Reservation

## 3 Pending Applications for Wind Energy Site Testing and Monitoring (Type II applications) (Not in FY2022-2025 Plan of Work)



# Pahrump Valley Overview Map

**BLM Southern Nevada District Office**

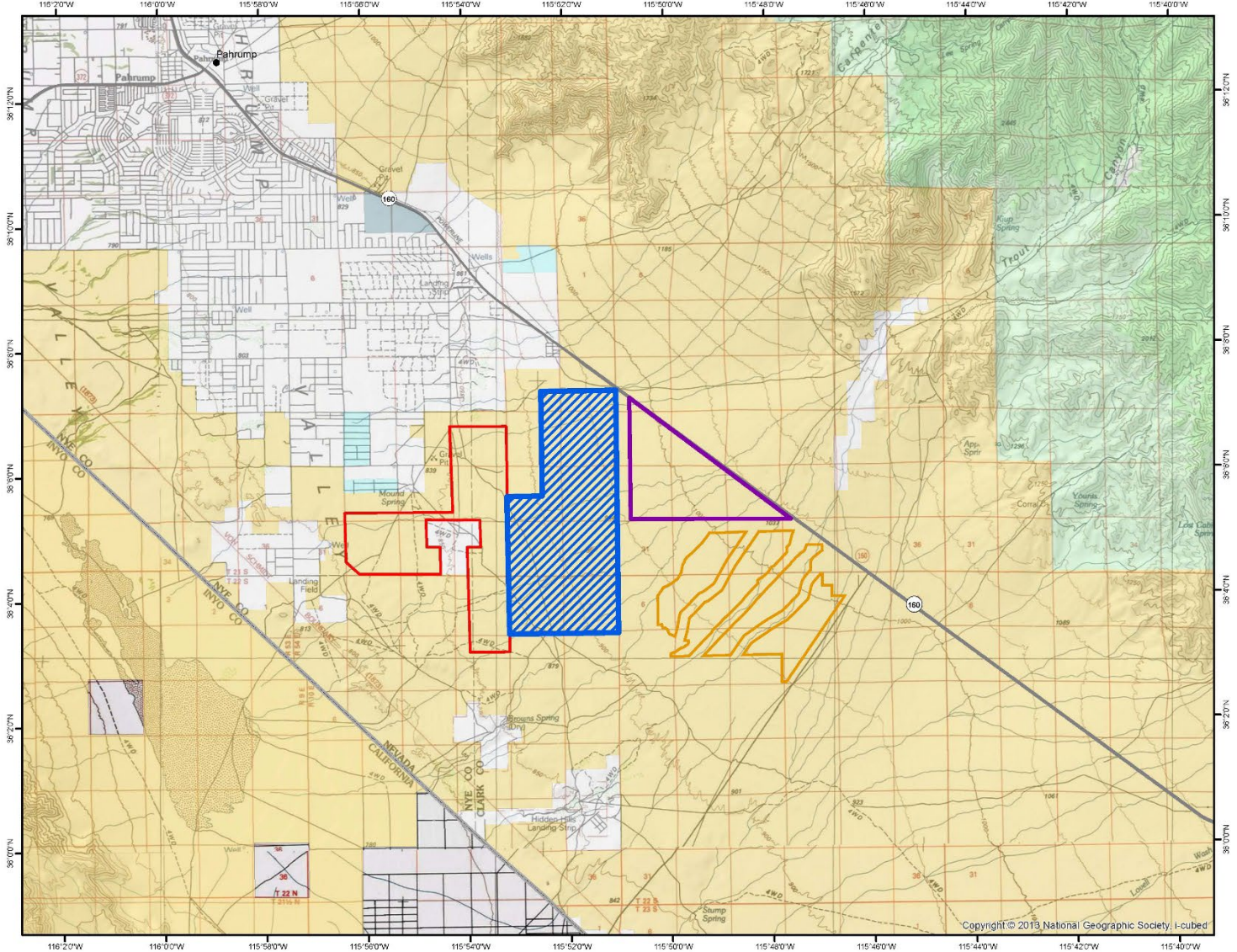
Copper Rays,  
Rough Hat Clark County,  
Rough Hat Nye County,  
and Yellow Pine Solar Projects

**Legend**

- Cities & Towns
- Copper Rays (proposed)
- Yellow Pine (approved)
- Rough Hat - Nye (proposed)
- Rough Hat - Clark (proposed)
- US Highways
- State Highways
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Nevada State
- Local Government
- Private

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Lat Long Grid - UTM Zone 11, NAD 1983  
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Prepared By: SHDO E&I Staff on 12/1/2021  
No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.







# Pahrump Valley: Copper Rays Solar

Next Step: Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS & RMPA

Status: Application Evaluation Approved; proposed project lands segregated from mineral entry

## Project Stats –

- Applicant: Copper Rays Solar, LLC (Leeward)
- 5,127 acres
- 700 MW
- Nye County
- Interconnection at VEA Gamebird Substation

Project Website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2019523/510>



# Pahrump Valley: Rough Hat Clark County Solar

Next Step: Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS & RMPA

Status: Application Evaluation (Variance) Approved; proposed project lands segregated from mineral entry

## Project Stats –

- Applicant: Candela Renewables
- 2,400 acres
- 400 MW
- Clark County
- Interconnection at Trout Canyon Substation (Gridliance)

Project Website: Coming soon



# Pahrump Valley: Other Applications

## Rough Hat Nye County Solar

- Status – **Paused**
- Stats: Candela Renewables / 2,400 acres / 500MW / Nye County / proposed project lands segregated from mineral entry

## Golden Currant Solar

- Status – Medium Priority, Pre-Application Evaluation
- Stats: Noble Solar, LLC (Primergy) / 4,364 acres / 400 MW / Clark County

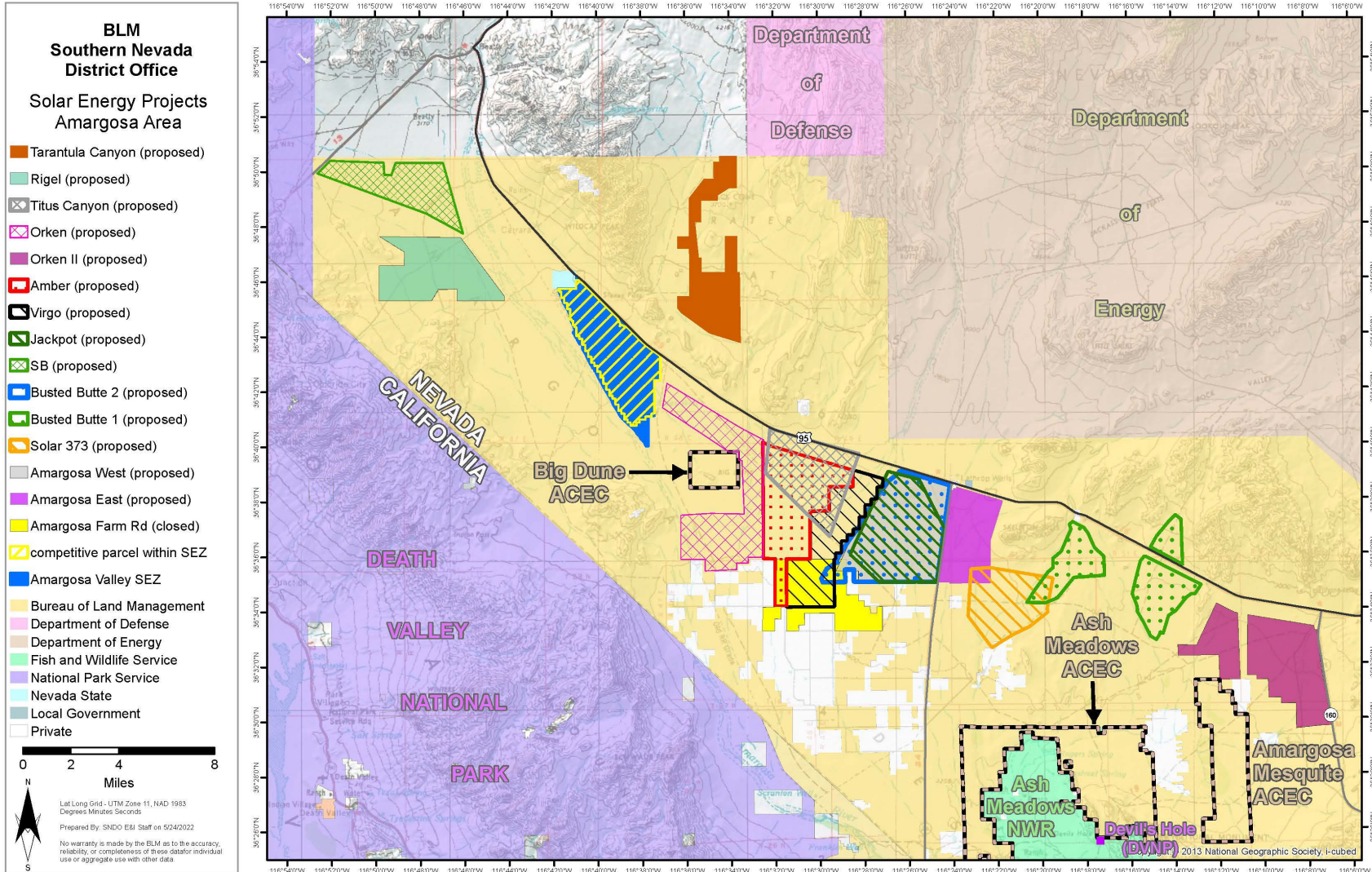
## Mosey Solar

- Status – Pending Prioritization
- Stats: Renew Development HoldCo LLC (Clearway) / 3,472 acres / 500 MW / Clark & Nye Counties



# Amargosa Valley – 15 pending applications

\* Application received 6/2/2022 not depicted on this map (Ponderosa Solar)





# Amargosa Valley Overview

Status: BLM is coordinating with NPS/FWS on next steps for considering Solar Energy Development outside the Solar Energy Zone in the Amargosa area.

## Information -

- Amargosa Valley is in Nye County
- Most of Amargosa Valley is identified as NPS Area of High Potential Resource Conflict (Solar PEIS).
- Most of the Amargosa Valley is identified as Priority 2 Desert Tortoise Connectivity Habitat (Solar PEIS).
- Sensitive beetle species endemic to Big Dune and Lava Dune.
- Concerns relating to groundwater use.
- Solar Exclusion (Solar PEIS) area – Orken II application wholly within Solar Exclusion.



# Amargosa Valley: Amargosa Valley Solar Energy Zone Map

**BLM**  
Southern Nevada  
District Office

Amargosa Valley  
Solar Energy Zone  
Competitive Parcel

competitive parcel

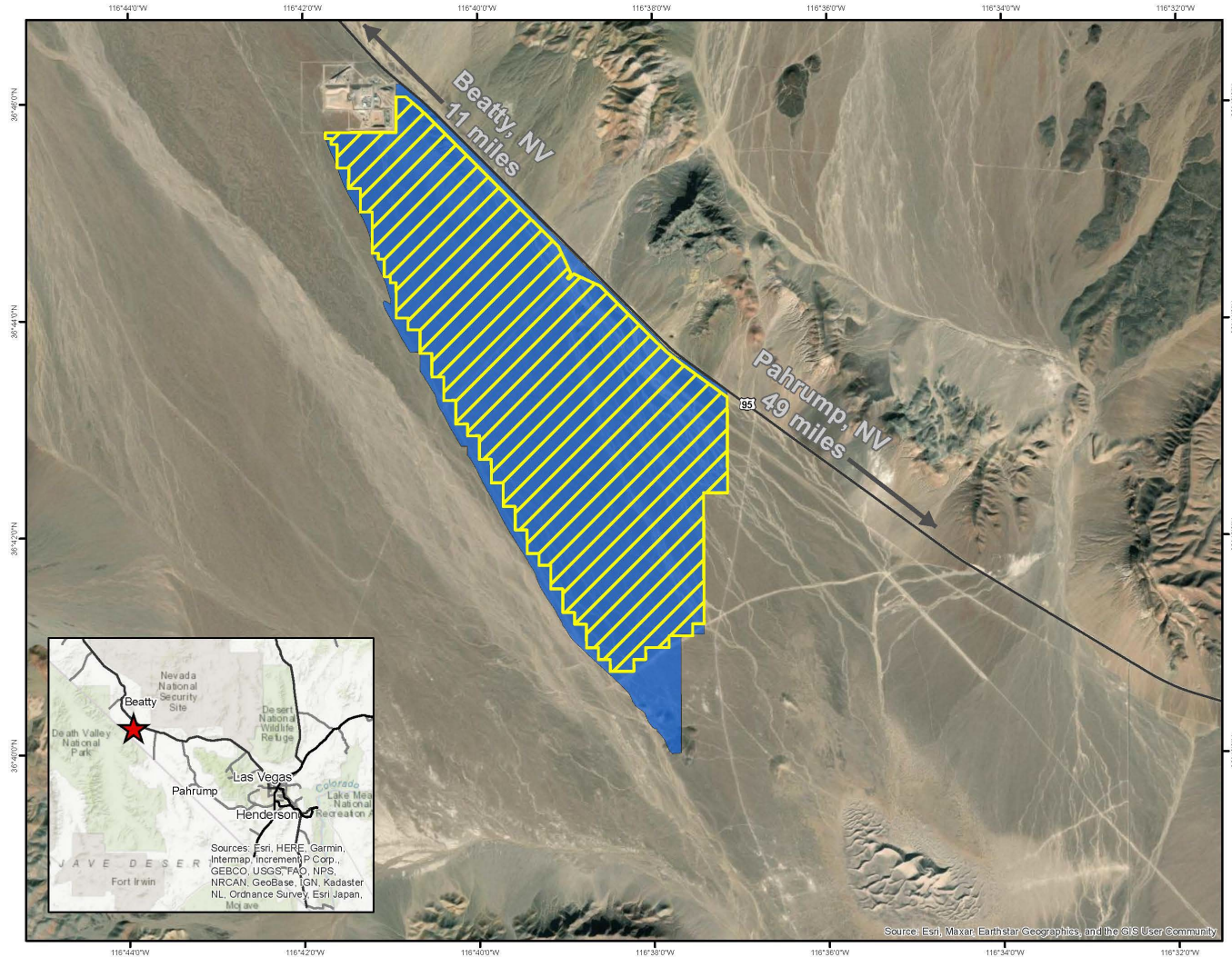
Amargosa Valley SEZ

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No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Lat Long Grid - UTM Zone 11, NAD 1983  
Degrees Minutes Seconds

Prepared By: SNDO staff on 5/24/2022



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



# Amargosa Valley: Amargosa Valley Solar Energy Zone

Status: **Open public comment period** - Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) for leasing action

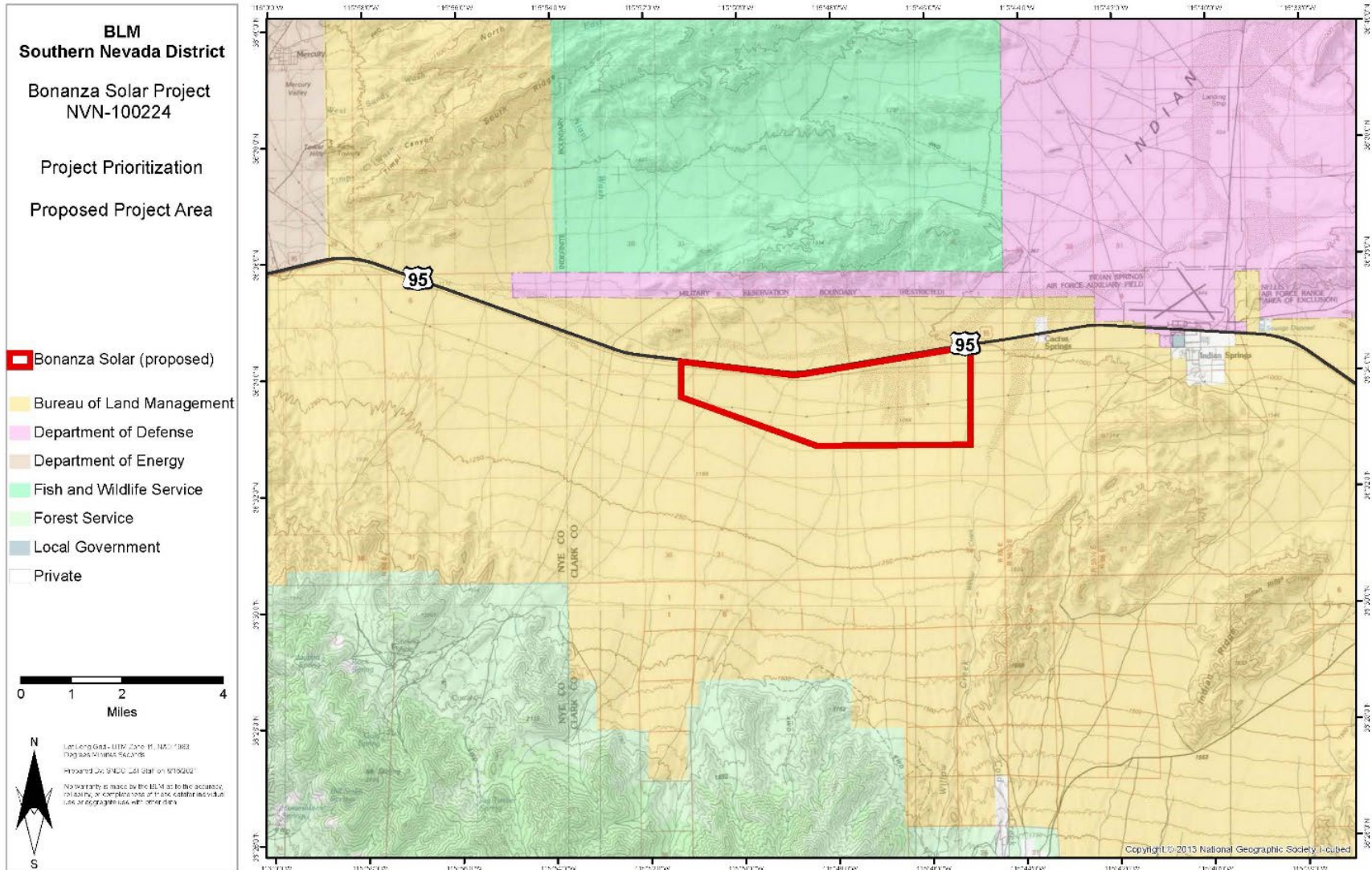
- DNA relies on analysis in Solar PEIS Record of Decision - <https://solareis.anl.gov/documents/index.cfm>
- Comments that would be the most helpful during the review period are those that identify any new or changed circumstances that may affect the development of the Solar Energy Zone.
- Written comments can be submitted by 4:30pm on June 17, 2022
  - email: [BLM\\_NV\\_SND\\_EnergyProjects@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov)
  - mail: Bureau of Land Management, Pahrump Field Office, Attn: Energy & Infrastructure Team, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89130.

Website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2019939/510>

Next Step: Competitive offering for issuance of solar energy development lease of parcel (7,232 acres).



# Indian Springs: Bonanza Solar Map







# Indian Springs: Bonanza Solar

Next Step: Application Evaluation (Variance Process) – Target Fall of 2022

Status: Working on Variance Factor - Priority 1 Desert Tortoise Connectivity

Project Stats –

- Applicant: Bonanza Solar, LLC (EDF Renewables)
- 5,133 acres
- 300-600 MW
- Nye and Clark Counties
- Desert View Substation Interconnection



# Indian Springs: Other Application

## South Ridge Solar

- Status: Not in FY2022-2025 Plan of Work
- Stats: Solar PEIS “Pending Application” / 2,250 acres / 50 MW / Medium Priority / (Leeward)



# Dry Lake East Designated Leasing Area

**BLM**  
**Southern Nevada**  
**District Office**

**Dry Lake East**  
**Designated Leasing Area**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Government
- Private

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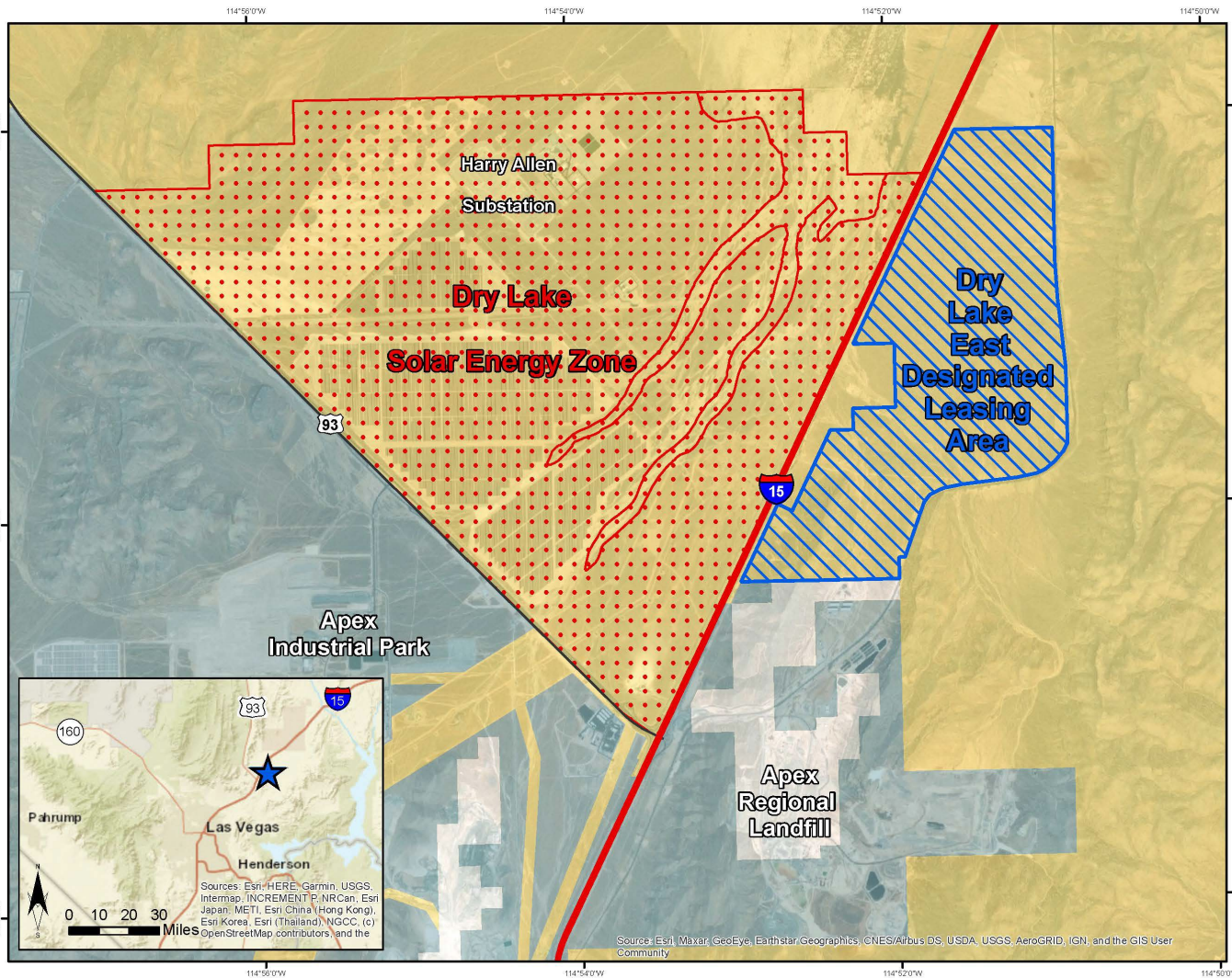
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Degrees Minutes Seconds

Prepared By: SINDO Esri Staff on 12/20/2021

No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the





# Dry Lake East Designated Leasing Area

Next Step: Environmental Analysis / Development of Regional Mitigation Strategy

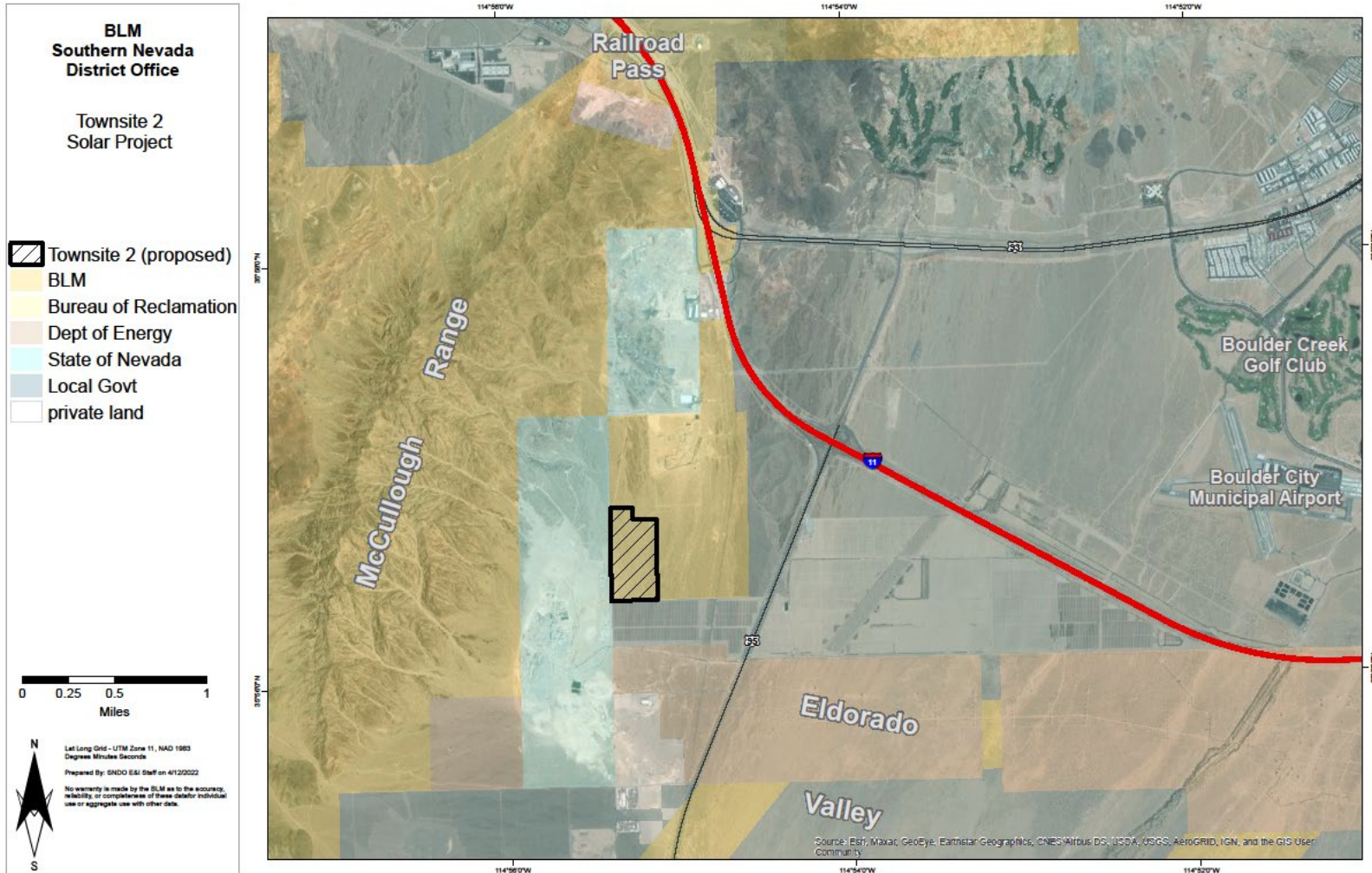
Status: Preferred Applicant Determined (13 bids received, winning bid \$10,288,780); Application Filing Due June 20<sup>th</sup>; Plan of Development Filing Due July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Project Stats –

- Applicant: Boulevard Associates, LLC (NextEra)
- 1,635 acres
- TBD MW
- TBD Interconnection



# Eldorado Valley: Townsite Solar 2





# Eldorado Valley: Townsite Solar 2

Next Step: Application Evaluation Input Meetings (Agencies / Public)

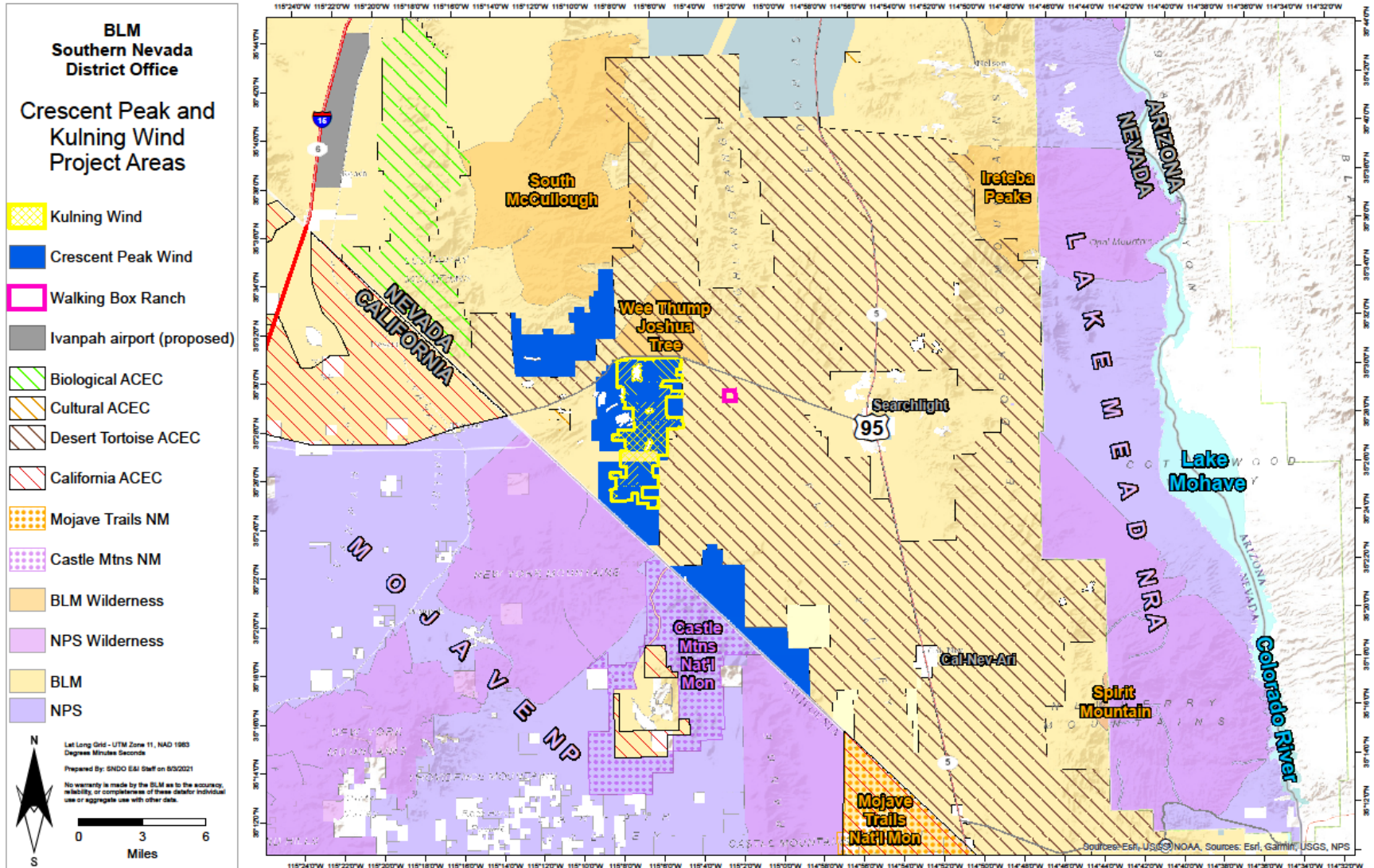
Status: Prioritization Completed – High Priority

Project Stats –

- 80 acres
- 19 MW
- Clark County
- Interconnection at WAPA Substation



# Searchlight: Kulning Wind Energy Project





# Searchlight: Kulning Wind Energy Project

(Not in FY2022-2025 Plan of Work)

Next Step: Application Evaluation (CPP - Initiate work 2026)

Status: Low Priority Project, may not be feasible to authorize

Project Stats –

- Applicant: Crescent Peak Renewables (Eolus)
- 9,264 acres
- 308 MW
- Clark County
- Sloan Canyon Switching Station Interconnection

FAST-41 Dashboard: <https://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-project/kulning-wind-energy-project>





# Contact Information

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Las Vegas, NV 89130