



Study Examines Disturbed Lands as Possible Clean Energy Sites



This former mine site near Tucson, Ariz., is among those being evaluated in the Restoration Design Energy Project.

The BLM in Arizona is analyzing the feasibility of siting renewable energy projects on already-disturbed lands once used for mining, farming, or garbage disposal. Often such lands have roads and electrical lines nearby. And, because the lands already have been developed to some extent, people are more likely to consider solar panels or wind turbines to be a welcome change.

The BLM is taking this idea to the next step through its Restoration Design Energy Project. A programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will study the use of previously-disturbed lands for energy generation. In June 2010, the BLM awarded a \$1.4 million contract to produce the EIS to EMPS Inc. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is funding this work.

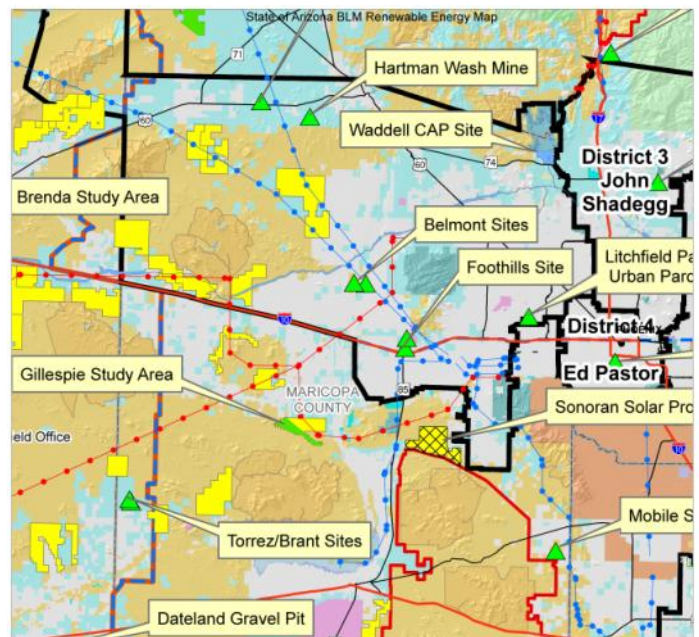
The project already has been the subject of a public scoping process to identify issues and potential sites to be considered in the EIS. The BLM has identified 57 potential sites in Arizona encompassing more than 156,000 acres.

Identified sites are located in 11 of Arizona's 15 counties, with the majority near the major population centers of Phoenix and Tucson. The sites are of varying sizes and have had a range of prior uses.

The EIS will not evaluate each site. It will study characteristics across sites to determine what makes a site most suitable for renewable energy projects (i.e. proximity to transmission or roads). The EIS also will help identify remediation needed to make sites viable for renewable energy development.

BLM's resource management plans covering the sites likely will be amended as a result of the EIS. The amendments would address land use allocations and make development possible on these lands.

Work on the EIS has begun, employing more than 40 people; a final EIS and record of decision are expected in early 2012.



Portion of map showing nominated sites.

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