

ARRTIS

Arizona Renewable Resource and Transmission Identification Subcommittee

Meeting #2

February 19, 2009



Agenda

- Participant Introductions
- Overview of Meeting #1
- Renewable resource mapping for Arizona
- Constraint criteria from the WREZ process
- Screening criteria for Arizona process
- Action Items and Next Steps

Introductions

- Name
- Organization you are representing

Please be sure to sign in for today's meeting

State and Regional REZ Identification Processes

*Presentation by Dr. Dave Hurlbut
National Renewable Energy Laboratory*

(overview of <http://mercator.nrel.gov/wrez>)

State and Regional REZ Identification Processes

*Presentation by Madeline West
Western Governor's Association*

WGA Western Renewable Energy Zone (WREZ)
Environment and Lands Working Group & Western Governors Wildlife Council
Exclusion & Initial Avoid List

The Environment and Lands Working Group (ELWG), working cooperatively with the Western Governors Wildlife Council (WGWC), has developed a list of lands that have been categorized within the Candidate Study Areas as either “Exclusion” or “Initial Avoids” for purposes of establishing the Qualified Resource Areas. The criteria for each of these categories are described below. The list was circulated and revised based on public comment feedback received in October 2008.

“Exclusion” Criteria

- Areas where development is already precluded by statute or regulation (federal, state, local)
[NOTE: WREZ ZITA resource exclusions will also be applied (urban areas, slope, watersheds, wetlands, military lands)]

“Initial Avoidance” Criteria

- Areas that should be avoided because of purpose, policy, or restrictions.

In developing the exclusion and initial avoidance areas, the following premises were used.

- (a) Categorization of areas as “avoidance” does not represent a binding preclusion from future development. These areas are solely used to refine candidate study areas into qualified resource areas and ultimately renewable energy zones targeted for utility-scale development of wind, solar, or geothermal energy.
- (b) These categorizations are not intended to replace, supplement, or reverse any project site specific placement or associated permit or other land use mechanism. Future projects, whether placed in renewable energy zones or not, will need to undergo the appropriate environmental and permitting reviews.
- (c) These categorizations will not directly apply, at this time, to the assessment of pathways for potential transmission lines or associated infrastructure, and another work process will be undertaken later in the renewable energy zone identification process to determine which of these land type determinations also apply to transmission siting.
- (d) The categorization will represent the current understanding of these lands as of this point in time, while recognizing that future changes in policy, law, and/or knowledge could change the categorization.
- (e) Categorization of lands within qualified resource areas will be limited to utility-scale wind, solar, and geothermal resources primarily, and hydropower and biomass in specific instances.
- (f) Identification of lands was limited to:
 - a. the United States located in the Western Interconnection;
 - b. areas of Baja, Mexico within the Western Interconnection; and
 - c. Alberta and British Columbia, Canada.

List of “Exclusion” Areas

Federal:

- BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for geothermal development
- BLM National Landscape Conservation System Units except as specifically for wind and geothermal development*
- BLM National Monuments
- BLM Wilderness Study Areas
- BLM, NPS, USFS and USFWS Designated Wilderness Areas
- Units of the National Park System
- US Forest Service designated primitive areas*
- US Forest Service Inventoried Roadless Areas in the 9th Circuit
- Units of the National Wildlife Refuge System
- Canadian Marine Protected Areas
- Canadian Marine Wildlife Areas*
- Canadian Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
- Canadian National Historic Sites*
- Canadian National Parks
- Canadian National Wildlife Areas

State/Province:

- State-held conservation easements where policy precludes development (can only map if data individually submitted by states)*¹
- State lands designated through a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) or Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) that are legally protected*²
- CA Existing Conservation and Mitigation Banks
- CA State Forests
- CA State Parks
- CA State Wetlands
- CA State Wildlife Areas
- CA State Wilderness Areas
- ID State Wildlife Management Areas and lands
- Jackson Pronghorn Migration Corridor (WY)
- WA State Natural Area Preserves
- WA State Natural Resource Conservation Areas
- Alberta Eastern Slopes Zone 1 & 2

¹ CA and MT data included in QRAs.

² CA and UT data included in QRAs.

List of “Initial Avoidance” Areas

Federal:

- BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for wind and solar development
- BLM National Landscape Conservation System Units for solar development except as specifically excepted*
- BLM Visual Resource Management Class I and Class II*
- BLM RMP designated lands which have development constraints*, such as:
 - Seasonal restriction areas
 - ROW avoidance areas
 - Special Recreation Management Areas
 - OHV open areas
 - No Surface Occupancy (NSO) Restriction areas
 - Research Natural Areas
 - Wildlife Management Areas (and Sikes Act tracts)
 - Lands inventoried by BLM and found to have wilderness characteristics
 - BLM lands managed for wilderness characteristics
- Lands proposed for designation in federal legislation (Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, California Wild Heritage Act of 2007, California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness Act, and Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act)*
- US Forest Service Inventoried Roadless Areas in the 10th Circuit
- Canadian Forces Bases

State/Provincial:

- Lands acquired through federal funds for conservation purposes (i.e. Pittman-Robinson or Section 6 grants)*³
- State Wildlife Areas (those specific states where development is excluded are listed on the exclude list)*⁴
- State Parks (those specific states where development is excluded are listed on the exclude list)*⁵
- Existing Conservation and Mitigation Banks (those specific states where development is excluded are listed on the exclude list)*⁶
- Habitat Conservation Plans and NCCPs that are not legally protected (legally protected areas occur on the exclusion list)*⁷
- British Columbia Biodiversity Areas*
- Alberta Sensitive Habitat Areas

*Data is incomplete or does not exist. For incomplete data, we used what was available and will continue to collect available data for inclusion in revised maps. Where data does not exist, the information was not used to develop the WREZ Qualified Resource Area maps.

³ CA and MT data included in QRAs.

⁴ CA, ID, MT, NV, OR, WA, WY data included in QRAs.

⁵ CA, MT, OR, WA and WY data included in QRAs.

⁶ CA data included in QRAs.

⁷ CA data included in QRAs.

WREZ Constraint Criteria

- **Exclusion Areas**

- Areas where development is already precluded by statute or regulation (federal, state, local)
- In WREZ process, also includes resource exclusions such as urban areas, slope, watersheds, wetlands, military lands

WREZ Constraint Criteria

- **WREZ Exclusion Criteria – Federal**
 - BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for geothermal development
 - BLM National Landscape Conservation System Units except as specifically for wind and geothermal development*
 - BLM National Monuments
 - BLM Wilderness Study Areas
 - BLM, NPS, USFS and USFWS Designated Wilderness Areas
 - Units of the National Park System
 - US Forest Service designated primitive areas*
 - US Forest Service Inventoried Roadless Areas in the 9th Circuit
 - Units of the National Wildlife Refuge System

WREZ Constraint Criteria

- **WREZ Exclusion Criteria – State**
 - State-held conservation easements where policy precludes development (can only map if data individually submitted by states)
 - State lands designated through a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) or Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) that are legally protected

WREZ Constraint Criteria

- **Initial Avoidance Areas**
 - Areas that should be avoided because of purpose, policy, or restrictions

WREZ Constraint Criteria

- **Initial Avoidance Areas – Federal**

- BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for wind and solar development
- BLM National Landscape Conservation System Units for solar development except as specifically excepted*
- BLM Visual Resource Management Class I and Class II*
- BLM RMP designated lands which have development constraints*, such as:
 - Seasonal restriction areas
 - ROW avoidance areas
 - Special Recreation Management Areas
 - OHV open areas
 - No Surface Occupancy (NSO) Restriction areas
 - Research Natural Areas
 - Wildlife Management Areas (and Sikes Act tracts)
 - Lands inventoried by BLM and found to have wilderness characteristics
 - BLM lands managed for wilderness characteristics

WREZ Constraint Criteria

- **Initial Avoidance Areas – State**

- Lands acquired through federal funds for conservation purposes (i.e. Pittman-Robinson or Section 6 grants)*
- State Wildlife Areas (those specific states where development is excluded are listed on the exclude list)*
- State Parks (those specific states where development is excluded are listed on the exclude list)*
- Existing Conservation and Mitigation Banks (those specific states where development is excluded are listed on the exclude list)*
- Habitat Conservation Plans and NCCPs that are not legally protected (legally protected areas occur on the exclusion list)*

ARRTIS Discussion - Arizona Constraints

- Exclusion and initial avoidance / high sensitivity categories?
- Federal, state, and other sources?
- Which WREZ designations are appropriate for carry-over in Arizona?
- Which should be added, deleted, or modified?

Action Items / Next Steps

- Development of Arizona constraint criteria for ARRTIS review
- Gathering of resource and constraint data from NREL
- Development of initial data maps specific to Arizona
- Establishment of web repository for files
- Next meetings (every other Thursday)
 - March 5th and 19th
 - April 2nd, 16th, and 30th

Questions / Comments

ARRTIS

Arizona Renewable Resource and
Transmission Identification
Subcommittee

Thank you for your participation!

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