



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

Introduction to Renewable Energy on Public Lands

BLM Utah | September 23, 2021 | 1 p.m. (MDT)

We appreciate you joining us for this
Introduction to Renewable Energy
on Public Lands

hosted by the
Bureau of Land Management Utah

~ Please stand by, the meeting will begin shortly ~



WELCOME

Introduction to Renewable Energy on Public Lands

*hosted by the
Bureau of Land Management Utah*



Opening Remarks

Janea Scott

Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Land and
Minerals
Department of the Interior

Greg Sheehan

Utah State Director
Bureau of Land Management



Today's Panel

Rachel Wootton, Moderator, Public Affairs Specialist,
Canyon Country District

Michelle Campeau, Realty Specialist (Renewable Energy),
BLM Headquarters

Shered Mullins, Acting Lands and Realty Branch Chief, BLM
Utah

Mike Gates, District Manager, West Desert District

Gloria Tibbetts, District Manager, Color Country District

Paul Briggs, Field Manager, Cedar City Field Office



Laws/Policy/Administration Priorities

Executive Order 14008 – Administration’s goal of carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035.

Energy Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-260) – Congressional direction to permit 25 gigawatts of solar, wind, and geothermal production on public lands no later than 2025.

The Bureau of Land Management intends to revise regulations related to renewable energy permitting and linear rights-of-way on public lands.



Laws/Policy/Administration Priorities (2)

Wind and Solar Energy Projects:

- Title V – Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended
- Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 2800
- Authorized under a lease or grant
- First wind project approved in 1982
- First solar project approved in 2010

Geothermal Energy Projects:

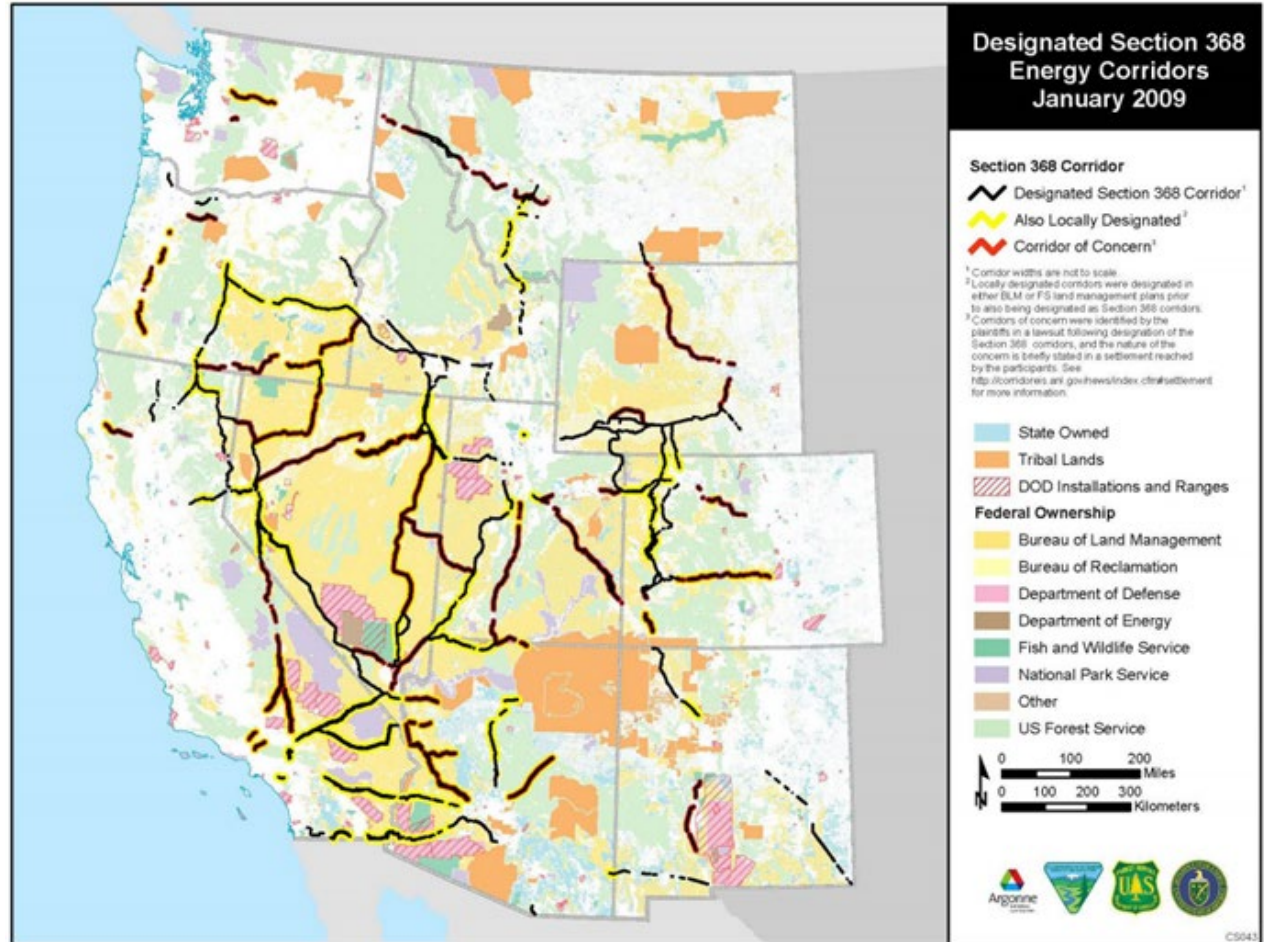
- Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended
- Title 43 CFR, Part 3200
- Authorized under a lease or permit
- First geothermal project approved in 1978



West-Wide Energy Corridors

Preferred Locations for energy transport projects:

- Oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines
- Electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure





BLM Headquarters Listening Sessions

- Rent schedules and fees for linear, solar, and wind energy rights-of-way
- Scenarios when reduced rents/fees are appropriate for wind and solar rights-of-way
- Competitive processes for wind and solar rights-of-way
- Potential extension beyond 30 years for wind and solar rights-of-way
- Application prioritization and screening rights-of-way
- Application processing time standards
- Other improvements to the BLM's administration of renewable energy and linear rights-of-way, including considerations related to environmental justice

- ~~**Session 1** – National Emphasis:
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, 12-3 p.m.~~
- ~~**Session 2** – National Emphasis:
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, 7-10 p.m.~~
- ~~**Session 3** – Regional emphasis
(Arizona, California, Nevada):
Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, 12-3 p.m.~~
- **Session 4** – Regional emphasis
(Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming): Friday, Sept. 24, 2021,
12-3 p.m.

*Dates and Time are in Eastern Standard Time.
Attendees must pre-register.*



Common Steps – Solar, Wind & Gen-tie

#1 Preliminary Application Review Meeting(s)

The purpose:

- Determine whether lands are available for proposed right-of-way uses
- Identify potential environmental and siting constraints
- Discuss potential alternative sites
- Facilitate coordination with federal, state, Tribal and local government agencies
- Discuss timeframes for processing proposed applications
- Discuss financial obligations in processing
- Provide maps, plats and engineering diagrams



Common Steps – Solar, Wind, & Gen-tie

#2 SF-299

STANDARD FORM 299 (REV. 3/2020)

**APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION, UTILITY SYSTEMS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FACILITIES
ON FEDERAL LANDS AND PROPERTY**

FORM APPROVED
OMB Control Number: 0596-0249
Expiration Date: 2/28/2023

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

NOTE: Before completing and filing the application for an authorization (easement, right-of-way, lease, license or permit), the applicant should completely review this package, including instructions, and schedule a pre-application meeting with representatives of the agency responsible for processing the application. Each agency may have specific and unique requirements to be met in preparing and processing the application. Many times, with the help of the agency representative, the application can be completed at the pre-application meeting.

Application Number

Date Filed

1. Name and address of applicant

2. Name and address of authorized agent if different from item 1

3. Applicant telephone number and email:

Authorized agent telephone number and email:

4. As applicant are you? (check one)
- a. Individual
 - b. Corporation*
 - c. Partnership/Association*
 - d. State Government/State Agency
 - e. Local Government
 - f. Federal Agency

5. Specify what application is for: (check one)
- a. New authorization
 - b. Renewing existing authorization number
 - c. Amend existing authorization number
 - d. Assign existing authorization number
 - e. Existing use for which no authorization has been received *
 - f. Other*

* If checked, complete supplemental page

* If checked, provide details under item 7



Common Steps – Solar, Wind, & Gen-tie

#3 Plan of Development

A Plan of Development (POD) typically contains:

- Detailed description of the proposed project including location, size, construction methods, engineering details, equipment type, etc.
- Best management practices (BMPs)
- Relevant mitigation measures established in BLM or other applicable guidance
- Project site plan

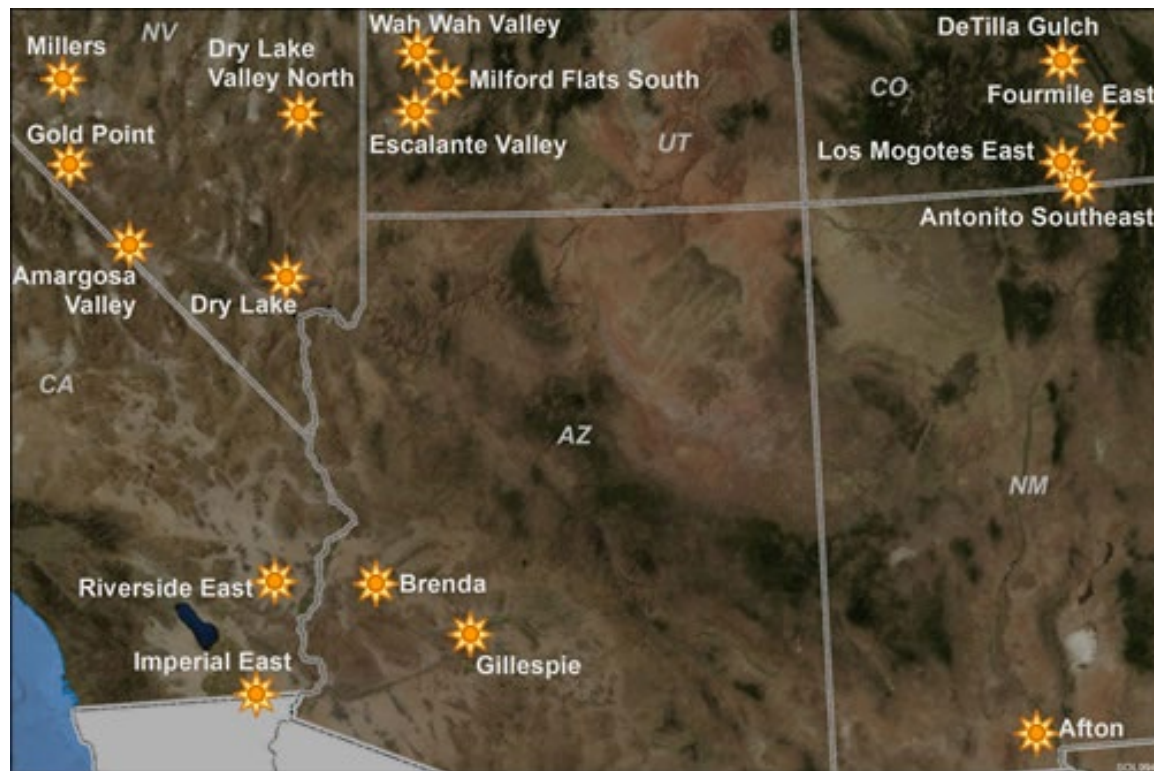




Solar Development

Solar Energy Zones (also known as Designated Leasing Areas):

- Established in October 2012 in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah
- Incentivizes development in areas with the highest generation potential and fewest resource conflicts



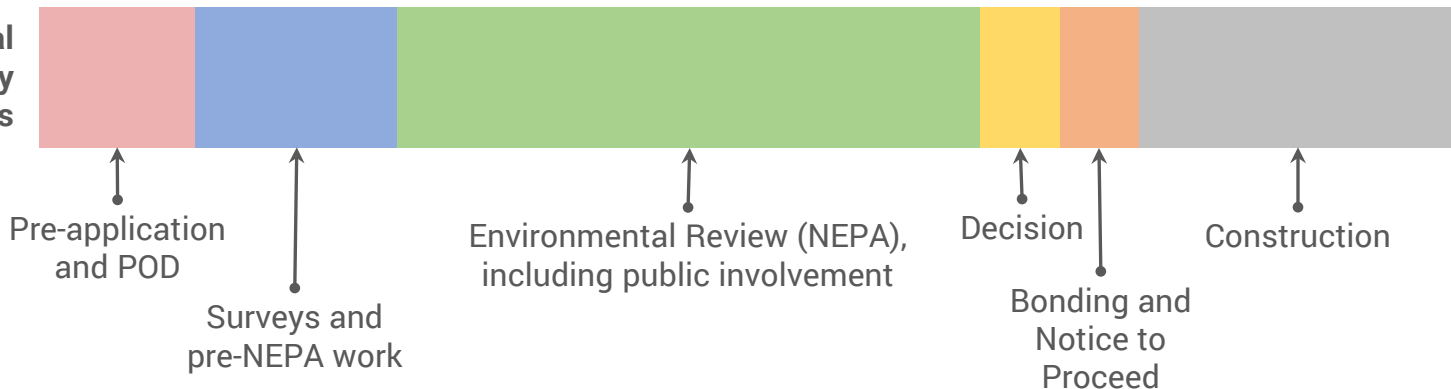


Solar Development



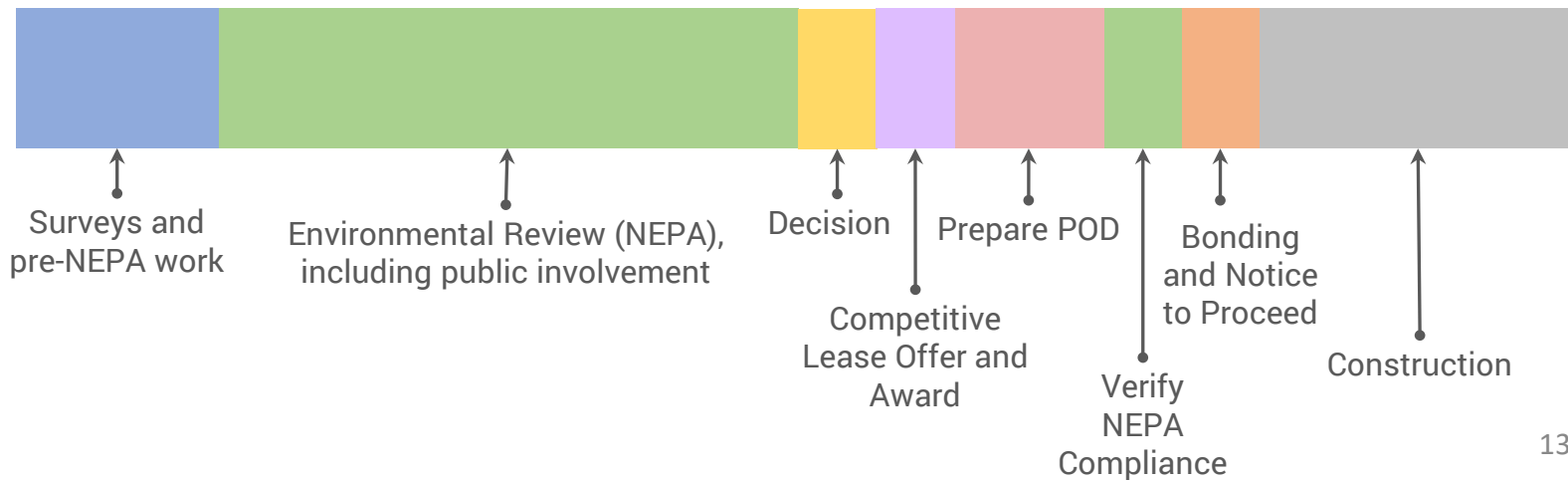
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Typical
Right-of-way
Grant Process



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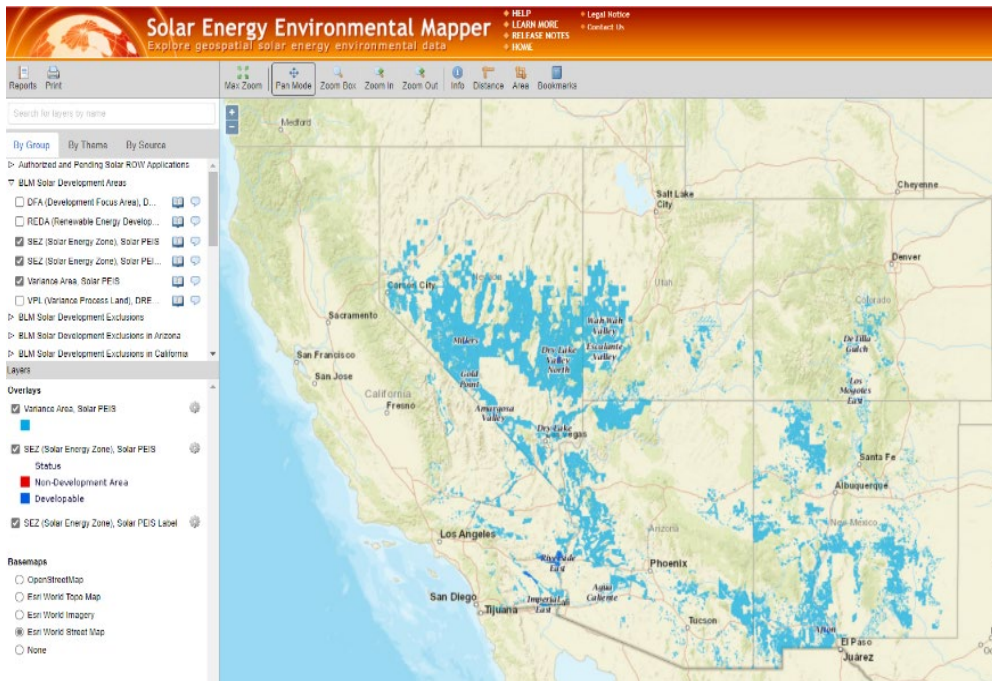
Typical
Lease
Process
Inside Solar
Energy Zones





Solar Tools and Resources

- Solar Mapper: <https://bogi.evs.anl.gov/solmap/portal/>
- Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, July 2012



FES 12-24 • DOE/EIS-0403

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States

Volume 1
Executive Summary
Chapters 1-7, 14-16

July 2012

Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Energy





Wind Energy Development

Three project types:

1. Site-specific testing

- Individual meteorological towers and instrumentation facilities
- Short-term right-of-way grant (3 years or less)
- Does not establish exclusive or preferential rights regarding future wind energy development

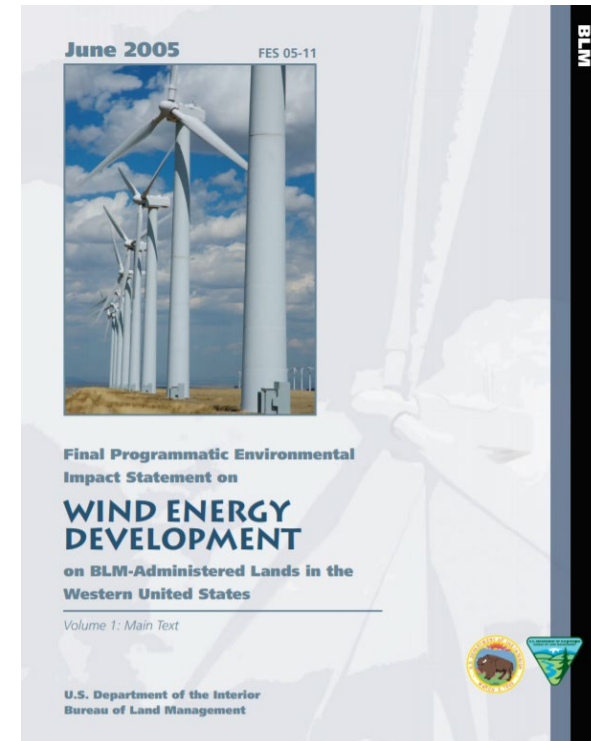
2. Project-area testing

- Short-term right-of-way grant (3 years or less)
- Optional renewal for up to 3 years if renewal accompanied by an energy development application
- Holder retains an interest in the site testing and monitoring project area

3. **Development authorization** with a term that is not limited by regulation, but will generally be 30 years

Wind Tools and Resources

- Wind Mapper: <https://bogi.evs.anl.gov/wwmp/portal/>
- Wind Energy Development Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, June 2005





Geothermal Leasing

- In 2009, the BLM completed a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for geothermal resources to consider potential geothermal activities
- If compatible parcels are nominated, the BLM will hold a lease sale at least every two years

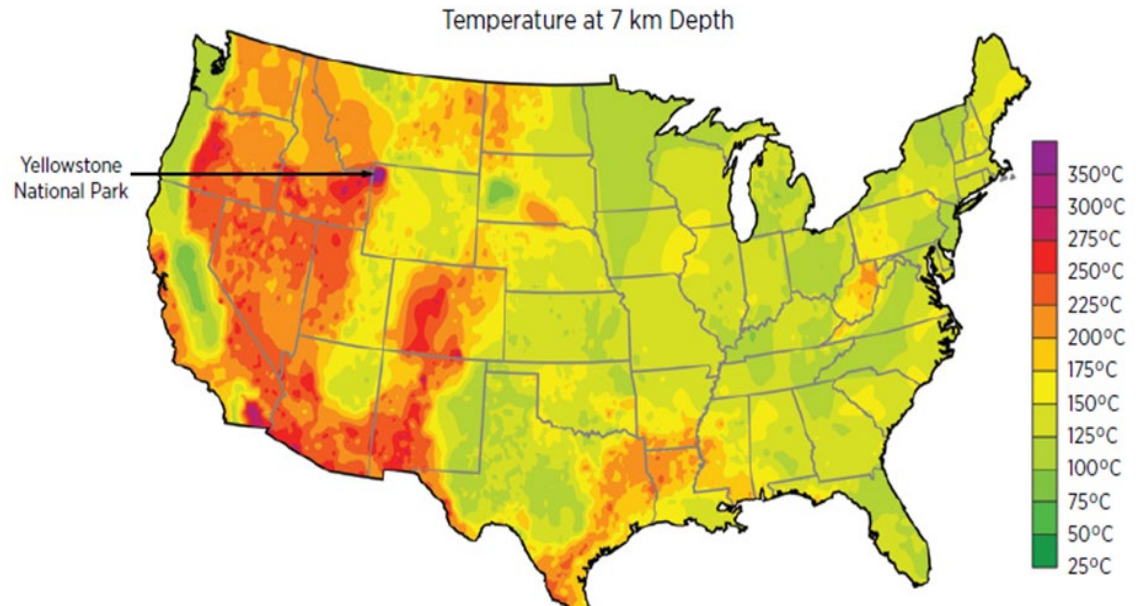




Geothermal Development

Competitive Leasing

1. Lands are nominated
2. Parcels are reviewed for compatibility, environmental impacts, etc. and stipulations/mitigation may be applied
3. Lease sale is held and successful bidder gains the sole right to develop the site
4. Once a Lease has been issued, Holder submits a permit request to authorize improvements





Generation-tie Line Development

- Utility line that supports an energy production development
- Follows typical right-of-way grant application process
- Section 368 Mapping Tool - <https://bogi.evs.anl.gov/section368/portal/>





Development Considerations

Grant Process

1. Pre-application coordination and preparation of POD
2. Application
3. Surveys and other preparation
4. Environmental review (NEPA) & consultation
5. Decision
6. Right-of-way grant/lease issuance
7. Final design, Notice to Proceed, & construction
8. Operation
9. Decommission and Reclamation

Lease Process



Development Considerations (2)

Typical Applicant commitments

- Pre-application meeting(s) with BLM staff
- Preparation of the Plan of Development
- Resource surveys (e.g., cultural, wildlife, etc.)
- Third-party contractor (if applicable) for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document and cost recovery for BLM staff
- Performance and Reclamation Bond





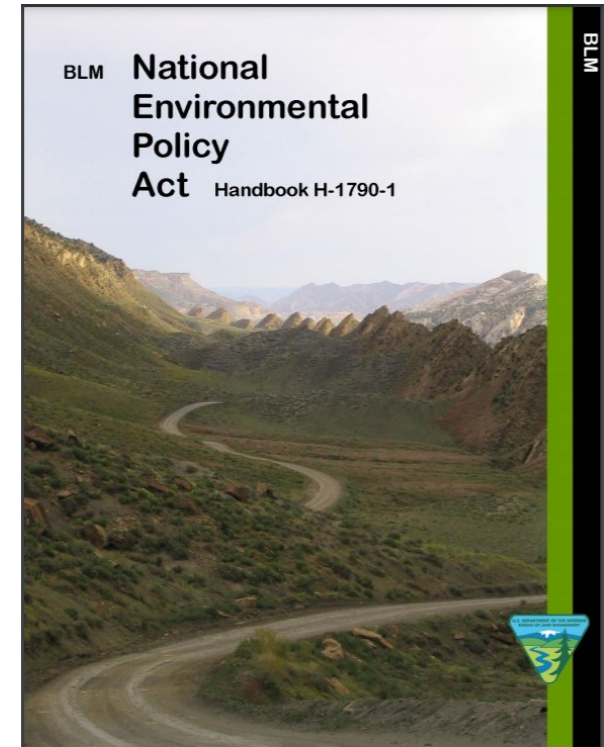
NEPA Basics

Levels of NEPA Review

- Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Prepared when significant impacts are not anticipated or to determine if they are present
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Prepared when there is potential for significant impacts

Resource Management Plans

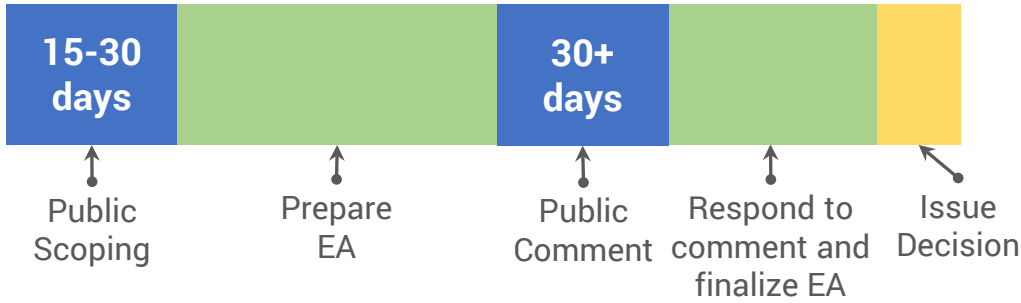
- Provide overall management approach for public lands
- If projects do not conform, amendments may be considered as part of the NEPA process





NEPA Basics - Timing

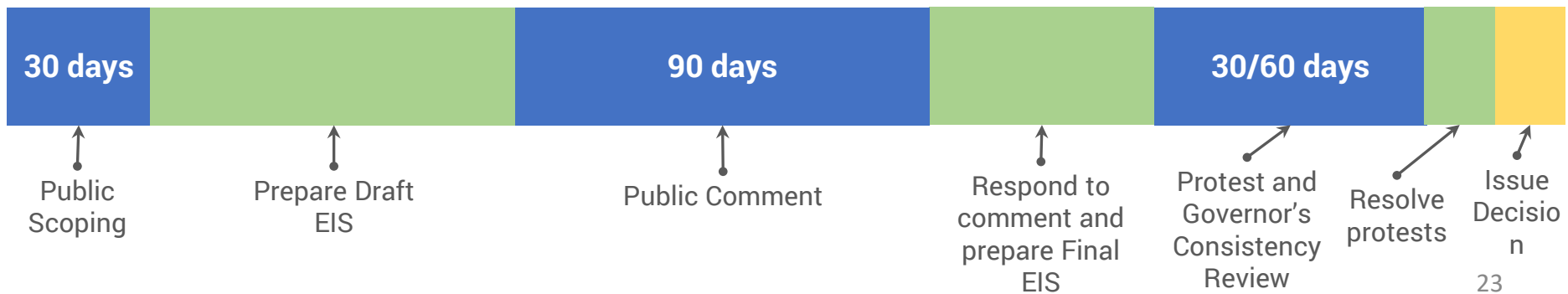
Environmental Assessment (EA)



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

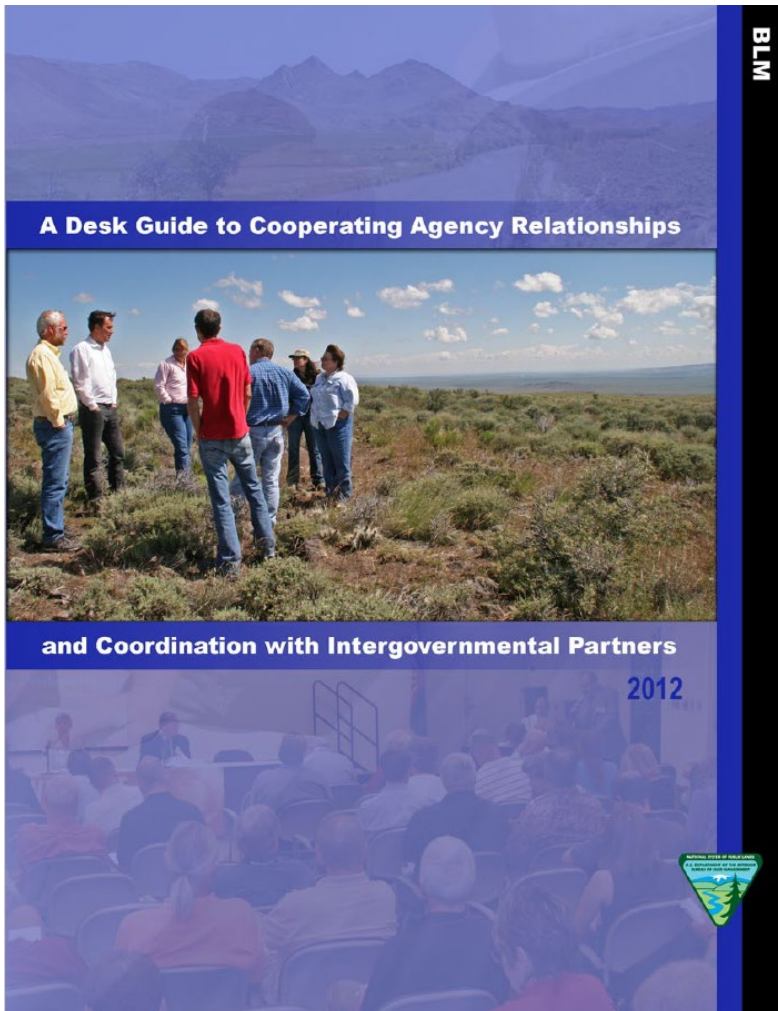


EIS with Resource Management Plan Amendment





NEPA Basics – Working with Others



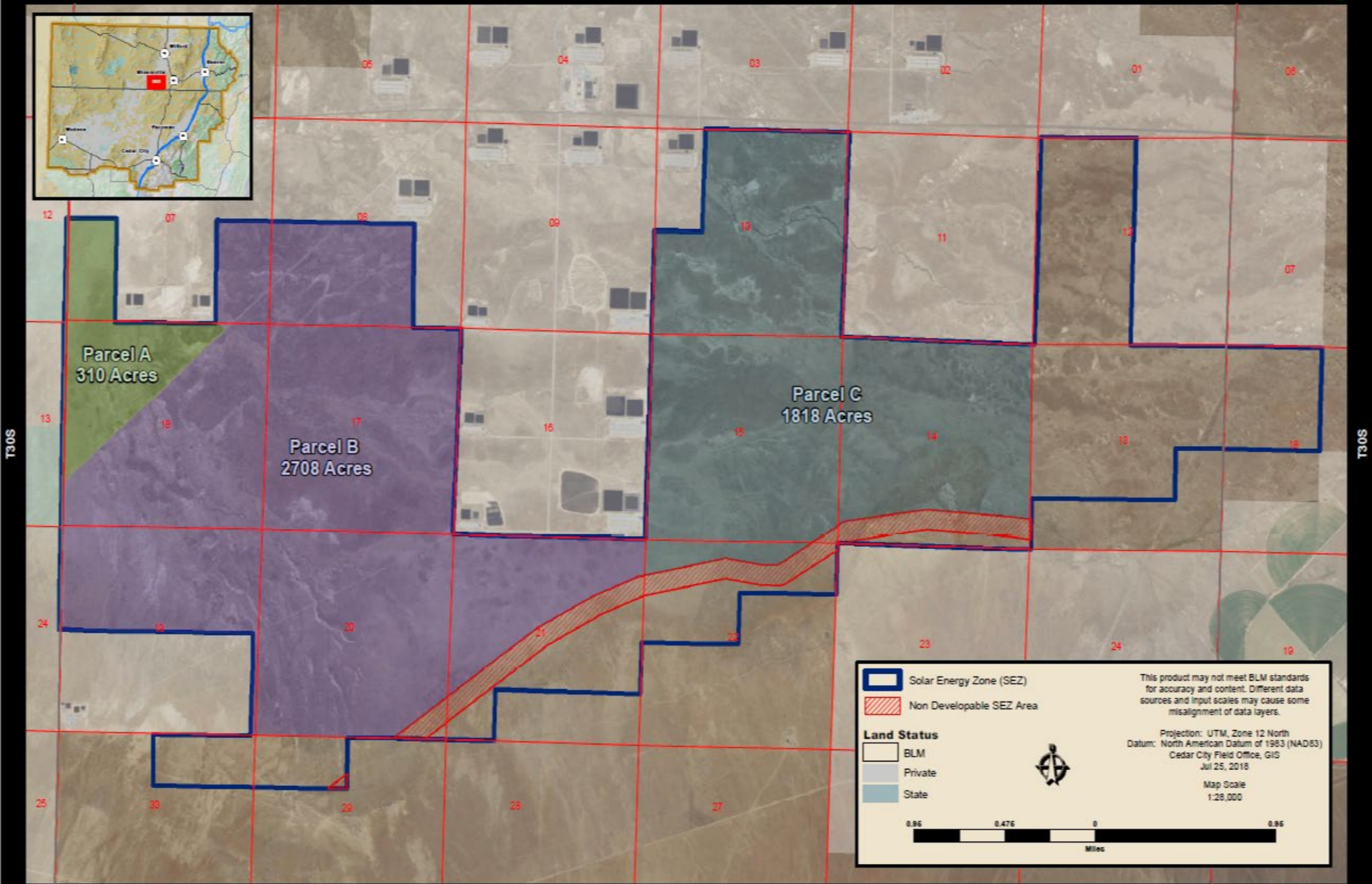
- Consultation
 - Native American Tribes
 - State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Cooperating Agencies
- Multi-agency requirements (e.g., Federal/state/municipal permits or concurrence)



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Milford Flats South Solar Energy Zone





	Solar Energy Zone (SEZ)	<p>This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.</p> <p>Projection: UTM, Zone 12 North Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) Cedar City Field Office, GIS Jul 25, 2018</p> <p>Map Scale 1:28,000</p>
	Non Developable SEZ Area	
Land Status		
	BLM	
	Private	
	State	
<p>Miles</p>		

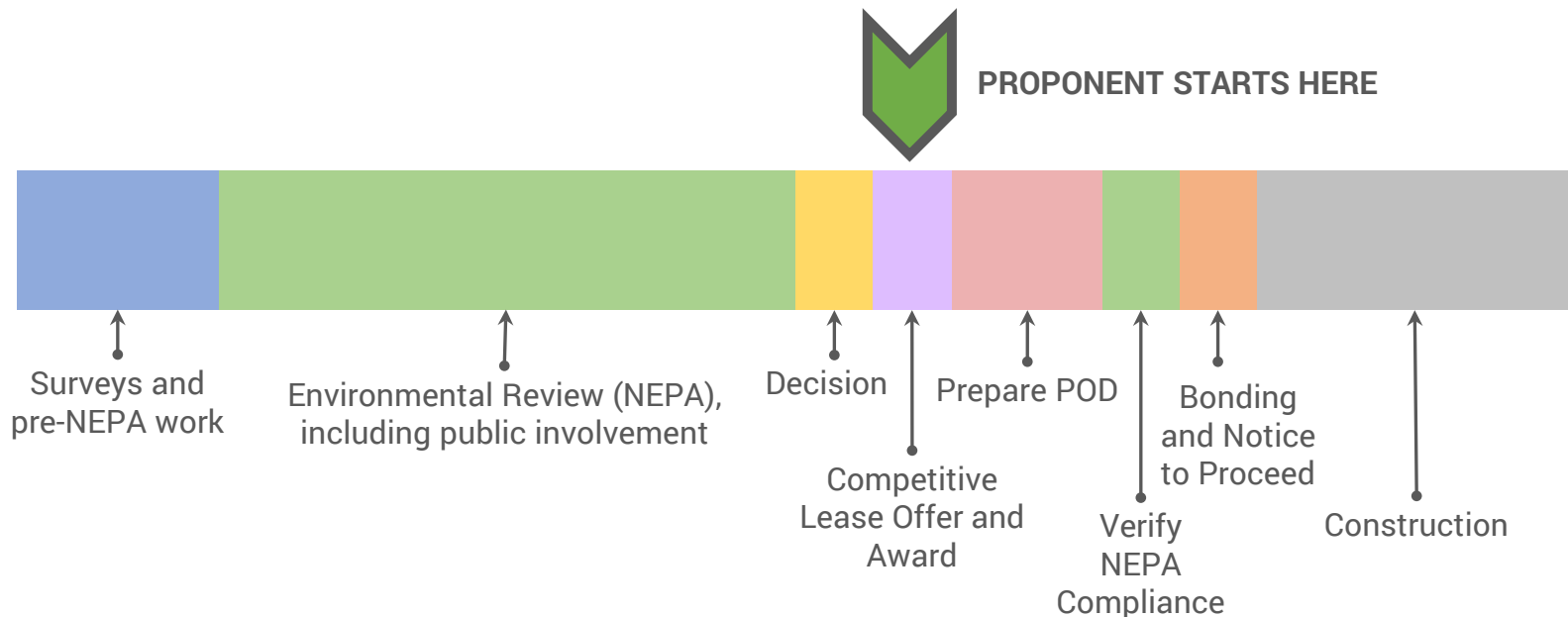


Next Steps – Milford Flats South SEZ

****Currently Accepting Bids****

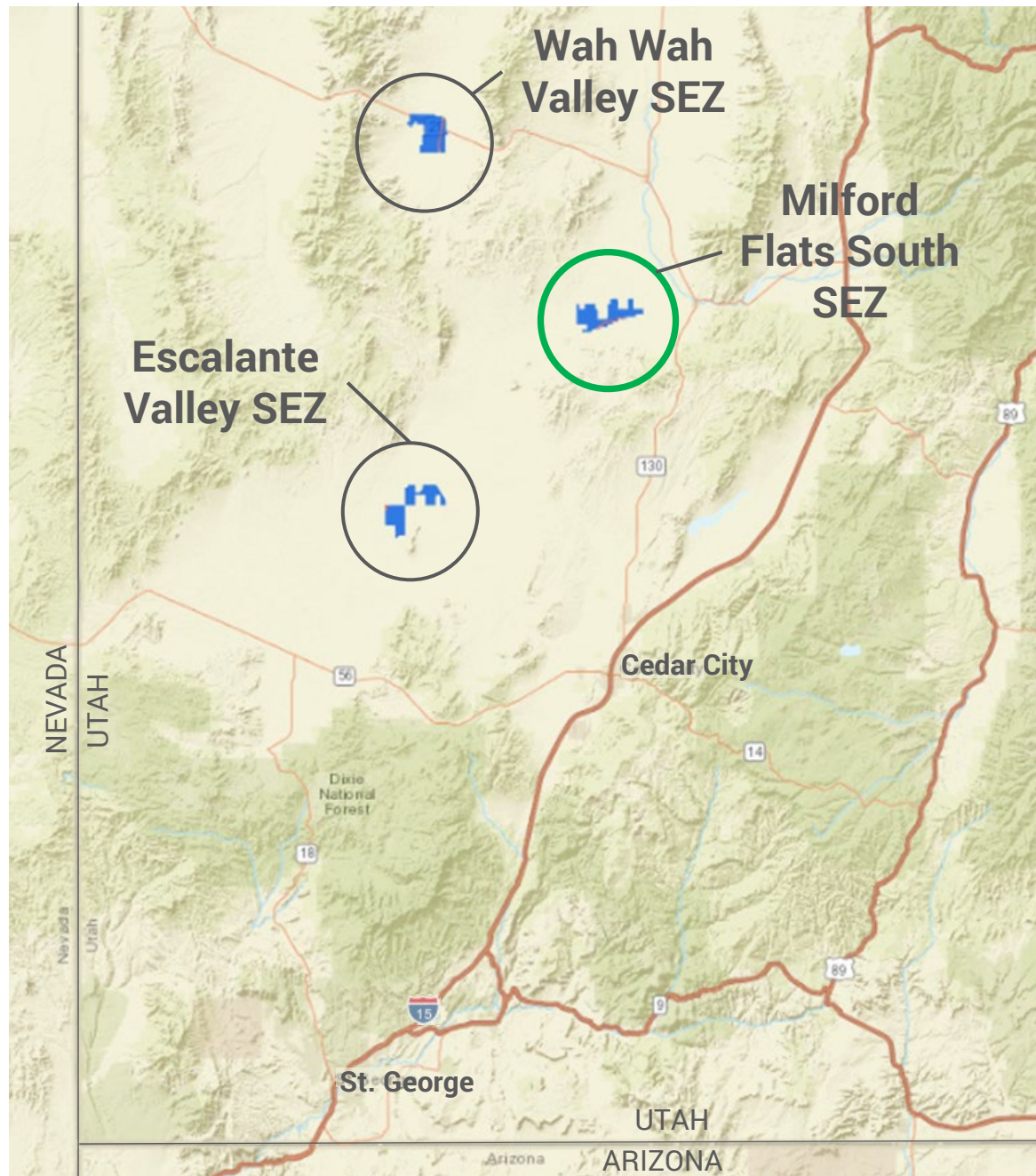
until bidding closes at

10 a.m. MST on Tuesday, November 9, 2021





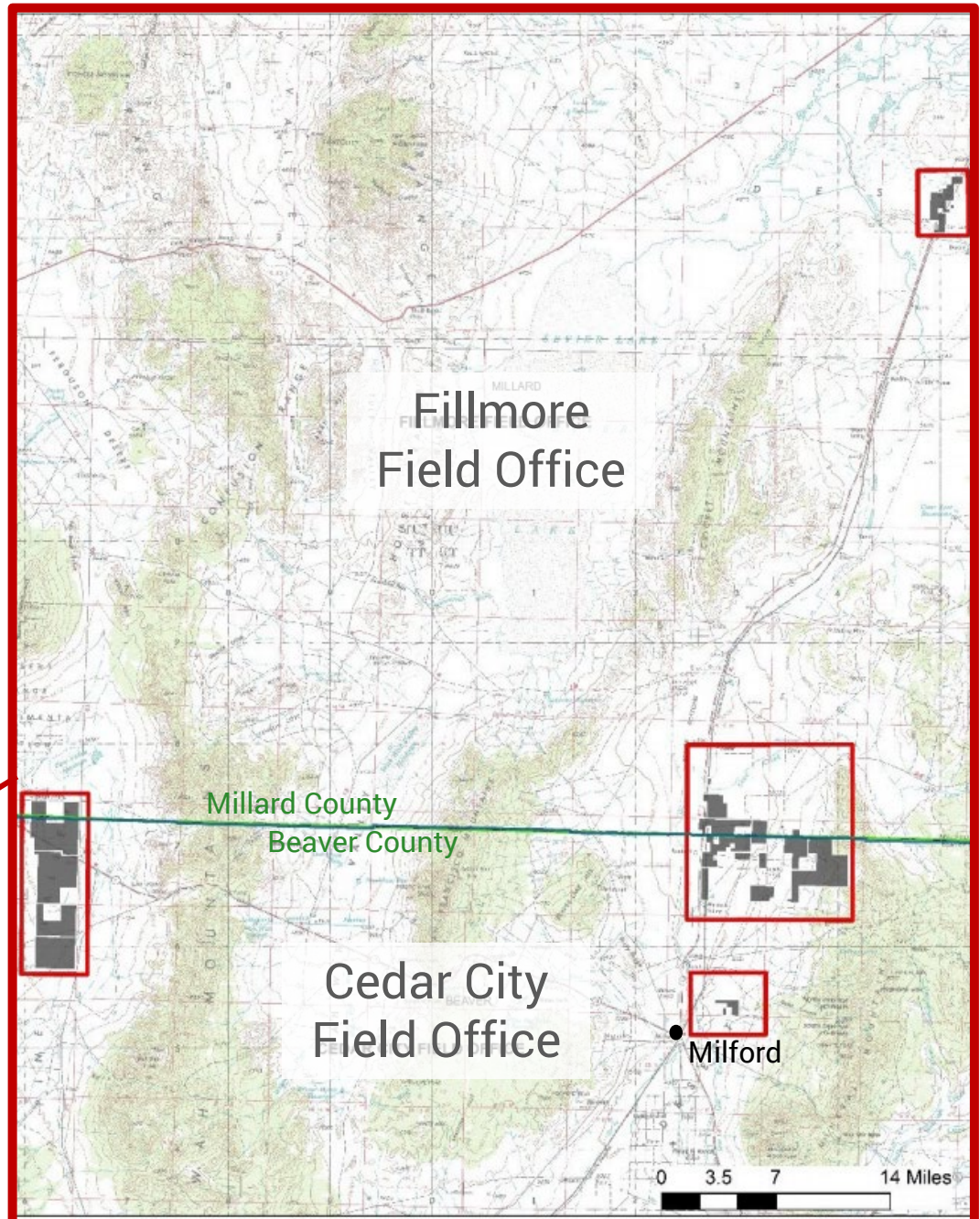
Solar Energy Zones in Utah





Geothermal Lease Sale

- 1st Quarter 2022 (tentative)
- 11 parcels
- 32,527 acres of Federal mineral estate





Questions?

~ Submit questions with **Q&A** button ~

More information available at:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-resources-utah>

