

Draft EIS will allow the consulting parties and the public an opportunity to review and comment on the process as provided in 36 CFR 800.8(c)(2).

Purpose and Need

The need for the BLM's action (processing the Applicant's application) is to respond to the Applicant's request for a right-of-way (ROW) authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the proposed Project in accordance with the BLM's responsibility under title V of FLPMA and 43 CFR part 2800. The BLM's action of considering the ROW application also would meet the BLM's obligation to contribute towards the legislative and administrative goals of advancing the development of renewable energy production on Federal public lands as directed by section 3104 of the Energy Act of 2020 and Executive Order 14057.

The Project as proposed would not conform to the 1998 Las Vegas RMP as required by 43 CFR 1610.5–3(a). The BLM would need to amend the RMP to bring it into compliance. In particular, the Applicant's proposed Project does not conform with the management objectives of the Project area's VRM classification (Class III).

The purpose of the BLM's action is to determine if the Applicant's Project and alternatives are consistent with relevant laws, regulations, and policies, and to consider whether to grant, grant with modifications, or deny the ROW. The purpose of the RMP Amendment is to ensure that any development of renewable energy production in the general vicinity of the Applicant's proposed Project area conforms with the RMP's provisions, as provided for in 43 CFR 1610.5–3(c), specifically by reclassifying this geographic area as VRM Class IV.

The Draft EIS addresses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives. Alternatives to the Proposed Action were developed by the BLM to avoid or reduce various resource conflicts. Key resource constraints include habitat for and presence of Mojave desert tortoise, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, presence of waters of the United States, limited groundwater resources, vegetation at the Project site, and generation of dust.

Alternatives Including the Preferred Alternative

The BLM has analyzed three alternatives in detail, including the no action alternative. These are the Applicant Proposed Action, Alternative Action 1, and the No Action Alternative.

Alternative Action 1 (referred to as the Resources Integration Alternative) was identified in response to issues raised by the public and agency considerations. The intent of the Resources Integration Alternative is to minimize disturbance to vegetation and soils within the solar facility by setting maximum allowable disturbance thresholds to vegetation during construction, setting restoration goals, and utilizing topography-spanning technologies for solar panel array installation. Setting a disturbance cap would ensure a consistent comparison of alternatives and outcomes for NEPA analysis purposes. Specifically, Alternative Action 1—Resources Integration Alternative would implement non-traditional development methods (overland travel), as this construction method is less intensive than traditional methods and is expected to improve the retention of native vegetation, wildlife habitat, soils, seed banks, and biological soil crusts while minimizing water quality impacts and air quality impacts from fugitive dust.

The No Action Alternative would be a continuation of existing conditions and no new action would be taken.

The BLM further considered seven additional alternatives but dismissed these alternatives from detailed analysis as explained in the Draft RMP Amendment/EIS.

The State Director has identified Alternative Action 1—Resources Integration Alternative as the Preferred Alternative. Alternative Action 1—Resources Integration Alternative was found to best meet the State Director's planning guidance and is designed to be a Project lifecycle alternative to not only address the impacts of construction, but also operations, maintenance, and decommissioning of the solar facility. Alternative Action 1—Resources Integration Alternative minimizes disturbance to vegetation and soils within the solar facility, thereby minimizing impacts to wildlife habitat, soils, air quality, and water quality.

Mitigation

The BLM included seven mitigation measures: dust control and stabilization (MM AIR–1), reducing the Project footprint (MM WILD–1), holding a job fair in a nearby community (MM EJ–1), facilitating Tribal consultation (MM NA–1), fire prevention and safety (MM PS–3), reducing cumulative transportation effects (MM TRAF–1), and advanced notification to Clark County Department of Aviation (MM V–1). These mitigation measures, along with required Solar Programmatic EIS

Programmatic Design Features (PDFs), Southern Nevada District Office PDFs, and required management plans, are described in appendix B of the Draft RMP Amendment/EIS.

Schedule for the Decision-Making Process

The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation consistent with the NEPA and land use planning processes, including a 30-day public protest period and a concurrent 60-day Governor's consistency review on the Proposed RMP Amendment. The Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS is anticipated to be available for public protest by August 2024 with an Approved RMP Amendment and Record of Decision by October 2024.

The BLM will continue to consult with Indian Tribal Nations on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175, BLM MS 1780 and other Departmental policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2)

Jon K. Raby,
State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS–WASO–BSAD–CONC–NPS0036729;
PPWOBASADC6, PPMVSCS1Y.Y00000, (244)
P103601; OMB Control Number 1024–0233]

Agency Information Collection Activities; National Park Service Leasing Program

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the National Park Service (NPS) are proposing to renew an information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 12, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this information collection request (ICR) can be sent by mail to Phadrea Ponds, NPS Information Collection Clearance Officer (ADIR-ICCO), 13461 Sunrise Valley Drive (MS-244) Reston, VA 20192 (mail); or phadrea_ponds@nps.gov (email). Please reference Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 1024-0233 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Gordy Kito, Leasing Program Manager, Commercial Services Division by email at gordy_kito@nps.gov; or by telephone at 202-354-2096. Please reference Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 1024-0233 in the subject line of your comments. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point of contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility.

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract: The NPS Leasing Program allows any person or entity to lease buildings and associated property administered by the Secretary of the Interior as part of the National Park System, under the authority of the Director of the NPS. A lease may not authorize an activity that could be authorized by a concessions contract or commercial use authorization. All leases must provide for the payment of fair market value rent. The Director may retain rental payments for park infrastructure needs and, in some cases, to provide administrative support of the leasing program.

The authority to collect information for the Leasing Program is derived from 54 U.S.C. 102101 *et seq.*, 54 U.S.C. 306121, and 36 CFR part 18. For competitive leasing opportunities, the regulations require the submission of proposals or bids by parties interested in applying for a lease. The regulations also require that the Director approve lease amendments, construction or demolition of structures, and encumbrances on leasehold interests.

We collect information from anyone who wishes to submit a bid or proposal to lease a property. The Director may issue a request for bids if the amount of rent is the only criterion for award of a lease. The Director issues a request for proposals when the award of a lease is based on selection criteria other than the rental rate. A request for proposals may be preceded by a request for qualifications to select a "short list" of potential offerors that meet the minimum management, financial, and other qualifications necessary for the submission of a proposal.

We use the information collected to evaluate offers, proposed subleases or assignments, proposed construction or demolition, the merits of proposed lease amendments, and proposed encumbrances. The completion times for each information collection requirement vary substantially depending on the complexity of the leasing opportunity.

Title of Collection: National Park Service Leasing Program, 36 CFR part 18.

OMB Control Number: 1024-0233.

Form Number: NPS Forms 10-352, 10-353, 10-354, 10-355A and 10-355B.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public:

Individuals and businesses seeking to submit a bid or proposal to lease NPS property.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 250.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: Varies from 4 hours to 45 hours, depending on activity.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1,649.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: None.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Phadrea Ponds,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,
National Park Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0037229;
PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: University of Rhode Island, South Kingstown, RI

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the University of Rhode Island, South Kingstown, RI (URI) has completed an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects and has