

# BLM Western Solar Plan

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## Recreation Talking Points for Public Comments

### Sample Comment Letter (Template):

Date: [insert date]

Bureau of Land Management  
Attn: Draft Solar EIS  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

OR Email to: solar@blm.gov  
With Copy to: Rose@UtahPLA.com

RE: Draft Solar PEIS (Document #DOI-BLM-HQ-3000-2023-0001-RMP-EIS)

Dear BLM Planning Team,

I am writing to provide public comment on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development (Document #DOI-BLM-HQ-3000-2023-0001-RMP-EIS). I recreate on BLM managed public lands throughout the 11 states where utility-scale solar facility development has been proposed, especially in [note the names of states where you recreate, and/or note that you hope to recreate in the remaining states in the future]. I have concrete plans to continue recreating in BLM managed public land on a regular, recurring basis in the future.

[Note something about you or your family's history and love for OHV recreation (and/or other outdoor recreation), your favorite BLM managed public lands, how OHV and/or outdoor recreation benefit your physical, mental, and spiritual health, how OHV and/or outdoor recreation allow you to have meaningful connections with your family and friends and build up your sense of community with others.]

[If you live near where proposed locations for utility-scale solar facilities may be developed, note how those facilities may negatively impact your community and local economy. IE: drive outdoor recreation to other areas and cause businesses that support outdoor recreation (such as OHV dealers and repair shops, outdoor recreation supply stores, hotels, restaurants, guide services, etc.) to decline or go out of business.]

I am concerned that plans for utility-scale solar energy development as described in the Draft Solar PEIS will negatively impact OHV recreation, and all outdoor recreation. This negative impact will directly affect me, my family, my community, and the communities and economies that are situated near the range of available land for solar projects.

While all of the 5 Alternatives proposed for the Western Solar Plan exclude Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) from solar energy development, there is a great deal of indirect negative impact on the quality and viability of the OHV riding experience at SRMAs if solar facilities are developed near to the borders of SRMAs.

Also, the potential for solar projects to close public access to designated OHV routes that are outside of SRMAs is a real threat to the future of OHV recreation in many popular areas of BLM managed land. The proposed plan states: *"Many BLM field offices have completed*

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*planning activities to designate lands for OHV use. Under these plans, areas open to application for solar energy development may be available for OHV use, and solar energy development in these areas would displace this use. Applications for solar energy facilities may include areas containing designated open OHV routes, thereby eliminating public access along those routes.”*

Additionally, the Draft Solar PEIS does not exclude BLM managed lands that are designated for other specific forms of outdoor recreation (other than OHV) from the lands available for solar facility development.

[Use the talking points above to cite your concerns here, or add in other points from your own research and perspective.]

In closing, I urge the BLM to incorporate the following as clearly defined exclusions within all 5 Alternatives of the Draft Solar PEIS:

- Exclude designated OHV routes and open OHV riding areas from the range of available land for construction of solar projects
- Maintain the exclusion of Special Recreation Management Areas within the final draft of the Solar Plan regardless of which Alternative or combination of Alternatives is selected
- Exclude construction of solar projects near the borders of Special Recreation Management Areas
- Exclude all designated outdoor recreation areas [including: list your favorite forms of outdoor recreation other than OHV recreation here, such as dispersed camping, designated camping, etc.]) from the lands available for construction of solar projects

Thank you for reviewing my concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your email]