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The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.



Conservation Objectives:

- Mojave Desert
- Eastern Sierra Nevada
- Sagebrush Ecosystems
- Water
- Climate Action



Smart Siting of Energy Infrastructure

- RPS in Nevada and other states
- Low impact, minimal conflict siting
- Power of Place study for California
- Mining the Sun in Nevada

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BLM rejects massive wind farm along California-Nevada border



Joshua trees at Castle Mountains National Monument in eastern California on Feb. 1, 2016. The Bureau of Land Management has rejected plans for a sprawling wind energy project in Nevada, just across the border form the



Power of Place Land Conservation and Clean Energy Pathways for California

Can the high renewable build needed to achieve deep decarbonization in 2050 under a high electrification scenario (80% GHG reduction) be achieved while limiting impacts to natural and agricultural lands across the West?

What are the implications and tradeoffs to natural and agricultural lands, selected resources (generation mix), and annual resource cost of:

- 1) Availability of regional renewables
- 2) Applying varied levels of land protection

Power of Place

Land Conservation and Clean Energy Pathways for California



https://www.scienceforconservation.org/products/power-of-place

Power of Place - Key Takeaways

- *It's possible*: With planning, California can scale up the clean energy infrastructure needed for deep decarbonization while limiting impacts to natural and agricultural lands across the West.
- Total acres of wind and solar across the scenarios: 1.6 3.1 million
- In the absence of a plan to limit land impacts and scale up renewables, impacts to natural and agricultural lands could be high.
- When clean energy can be sourced across a larger area, there are more cost-effective opportunities to create balanced solutions for clean energy and land conservation.
- In-state and regional portfolios differ in their technology mixes. The in-state portfolio relies heavily on solar and battery storage. In the regional scenarios, wind resources complement solar and reduce heavy reliance on battery storage.
- Disturbed energy resources can play an important role in decarbonization. High roof-top scenarios reduced the amount of land needed for utility-scale generation by 49,000-110,000 acres.

Power of Place Policy Recommendations



- Incorporate conservation data into long-term energy planning
- Promote inter-state and inter-agency coordination
- Invest in new west-wide planning to improve outcomes
- Pursue policies and programs in increase energy efficiency, demand response and distributed energy resources
- Promote siting of clean energy technologies on already disturbed or degraded land, including brownfields

Mining the Sun in Nevada

- Goal: Accelerate renewable energy development on mine lands and brownfields in Nevada.
- Scale-up across West and globally
- Regulatory change NAC 519A.070
- Technical assessment
- **Opportunities:** low-conflict, low-impact siting, economic development opportunities, benefits to mines, cost-effective
- **Challenges:** cost, financing, liability concerns, permitting



Mining the Sun Next Steps



- Stakeholder outreach and connections
 - Mines/landowners
 - Renewable developers
 - Off-takers
 - Land managers BLM, USFS
 - Nevada Agencies DCNR, GOE, PUC
- Address permitting concerns
- Incentives to build RE on mine lands and brownfields
- Project installation
- Best practices and development model
- Scale Up

Thank You!

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