

photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, battery storage facilities, associated generation tie-line, and access road facilities.

The BLM has made substantial progress in the review of the Copper Rays Solar Project right-of-way application; however, the BLM needs additional time to complete the review and make a decision on the application. The BLM completed the application evaluation determination process required by regulations found at 43 CFR part 2800 and determined it was appropriate to continue processing the application. On November 14, 2022, the BLM published a Notice of Intent to Amend the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Copper Rays Solar Project in Nye County, Nevada in the **Federal Register** (87 FR 68187). The BLM is currently preparing the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment/ Environmental Impact Statement.

Authority: 43 CFR 2091.3–1(e) and 43 CFR 2804.25(f).

Jon K. Raby,

Nevada State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCA930000–L14400000–ET0000; CACA–054374]

Public Land Order No. 7931; Withdrawal of National Forest System Land in the San Bernardino National Forest; CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public land order.

SUMMARY: This Public Land Order (PLO) withdraws 2,841 acres of National Forest System lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral or geothermal leasing laws, or disposal under the Mineral Materials Act of 1947, for a period of 50 years, subject to valid existing rights, to maintain, protect, and conserve critical habitat for listed threatened and endangered plant species in the San Bernardino National Forest, California. This PLO also includes 280 acres of non-Federal lands within the boundaries of the San Bernardino National Forest that, if acquired, would be subject to this withdrawal.

DATES: This PLO takes effect on October 20, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Heather Daniels, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) California State Office, telephone: 916–978–4674, email: hdaniels@blm.gov; or Zareen Ali, Forest Service Regional Office, telephone: 707–562–8964 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. 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: The United States Forest Service will manage the lands to maintain, protect, and conserve critical habitat for listed threatened and endangered plant species in the San Bernardino National Forest, California.

Order

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f), it is ordered as follows:

1. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described lands are hereby withdrawn from location and entry under the United States mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral or geothermal leasing laws or disposal under the Mineral Materials Act of 1947, to maintain, protect, and conserve critical habitat for listed threatened and endangered plant species in the San Bernardino National Forest, California.

National Forest System Lands

San Bernardino National Forest

San Bernardino Meridian, California

T. 3 N., R. 1 E.,
Sec. 13, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 14, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 19, lot 4 and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 23,
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 24, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and
NW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 30, lots 1 and 2, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and
E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 3 N., R. 2 E.,

A parcel of land within Protracted Blocks 39, 40, 45, and 46 of Township 3 North, Range 2 East, San Bernardino Meridian, San Bernardino County, California adjoining the southeast quarter of section 13 and the northeast quarter of section 24 in Township 3 North, Range 1 East, San Bernardino

Meridian, and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the east quarter section corner of said section 13;

Thence along the easterly line of said section, South 1°30'20" East, 2935.53 feet to the easterly section corner of said sections 13 and 24;

Thence along the easterly line of said section 24, South 1°27'50" East, 2594.76 feet, to the east quarter section corner of said section 24;

Thence along the following 5 courses in the unsurveyed portion of Township 3 North, Range 2 East, San Bernardino Meridian:

1. North 90°00'00" East, 2441.85 feet;
2. North 1°27'50" West, 2594.76 feet;
3. North 90°00'00" East, 2308.15 feet;
4. North 1°30'20" West, 2935.53 feet;
5. South 90°00'00" West, 4750.00 feet to the Point Of Beginning;

Excepting therefrom any portion within Mineral Survey 5679A as patented August 8th, 1924 to Voorhies, et al (Patent Number 942560); Containing 430 acres, more or less.

T. 2 N., R. 3 E.,

Sec. 17, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 3 N., R. 1 W.,

Sec. 10, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 14, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 15, NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 22, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 23, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,

S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,

S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,

S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,

S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 26, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 27, lot 1, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described aggregates 2,841.

The following described non-Federal lands are within the boundaries of the San Bernardino National Forest. If title to these non-Federal lands are subsequently acquired by the United States, the lands will become subject to the terms and conditions of the withdrawal.

Non-Federal Lands

San Bernardino Meridian, California

T. 3 N., R. 1 E.,

Sec. 13, SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 14, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described aggregates 280 acres in San Bernardino County.

2. The withdrawal made by this order does not alter the applicability of those laws governing the use of National Forest System lands under lease, license, or permit, or governing the disposal of the mineral or vegetative resources other than under the mining laws.

3. This withdrawal will expire 50 years from the effective date of this Order, unless, as a result of a review conducted prior to the expiration date pursuant to Section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of

1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f), the Secretary determines that the withdrawal shall be extended.

(Authority: 43 U.S.C. 1714)

Shannon A. Estenoz,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

[RR03040000, 23XR0680A1,
RX187860005004001]

Colorado River Reservoir Operations: Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior (Department) has issued a Scoping Summary Report on the Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Scoping Summary Report provides a summary of the comments received during the public scoping process and describes the Department's current, preliminary assessment of the proposed federal action, purpose and need, and scope of the environmental analysis to be included in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The Department anticipates the DEIS will be published in December 2024 for public review.

ADDRESSES: The Scoping Summary Report is available on the Bureau of Reclamation's website at <https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/post2026/scoping/index.html>. Printed copies of the report are available upon request from the point of contact listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amanda Erath, Colorado River Post-2026 Program Coordinator, Bureau of Reclamation, at (303) 445-2766, or by email at crbpost2026@usbr.gov. Please also visit the project website at <https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/post2026/index.html>. 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: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, the Department is publishing the Scoping Summary Report as a voluntary effort to assist in public understanding of this important NEPA process. Based on the information summarized in the report, the Department is preparing a DEIS starting with the development of a reasonable range of alternatives that are technically and economically feasible and meet the purpose and need for the proposed federal action (40 CFR part 1508). Considering public input received to date, the Department's current, preliminary assessment of the proposed federal action, purpose and need, and scope of the environmental analysis to be included in the DEIS are described below and in the Scoping Summary Report.

Proposed Federal Action

The Bureau of Reclamation, acting on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), proposes to take action to adopt specific guidelines and coordinated reservoir management strategies to address operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead through their full operating range. This action would provide improved predictability to all water users and managers in the Colorado River Basin by developing and adopting objective guidelines for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam to take effect when the current operating guidelines (the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead [2007 Interim Guidelines]) expire in 2026. In addition, this action is designed to provide for the sustainable management of the Colorado River system and its resources under a wide range of potential future system conditions due to a changing climate.

Based on public input, the Department anticipates the guidelines would include the following elements:

(1) Identification of circumstances under which the Secretary would allocate, reduce, or increase the annual amount of water available for consumptive use from Lake Mead to the Lower Division states (Arizona, California, and Nevada) at, below, or above 7.5 million acre-feet, pursuant to

the Supreme Court Decree in *Arizona v. California*.¹

(2) Coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, particularly under low reservoir conditions.

(3) Storage and delivery of conserved water in Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell to increase the flexibility to meet water use needs from both reservoirs, including the storage and delivery of non-system water; exchanges; and water conserved through extraordinary measures by or for tribal, agricultural, or municipal entities.

The proposed federal action allows for development of robust operating guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead without precluding upstream or downstream actions needed to protect critical reservoir elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead, such as the following:

- Approaches that consider total system storage in all major Colorado River reservoirs and/or actual inflows to determine coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

- Approaches that include opportunities for conservation, augmentation, demand management, or other water management strategies.

- Approaches that include opportunities for conservation, augmentation, demand management, or other water management strategies.

- Temporary emergency response operations at upstream Colorado River reservoirs to protect critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam, so long as the project-specific operations of those reservoirs remain within their respective Records of Decision.

The Department intends that the guidelines be interim in nature and extend for at least the same duration as the 2007 Interim Guidelines (approximately 20 years), subject to further consideration during the NEPA process. Adoption of new guidelines for an interim (or limited) period provides the opportunity to gain additional experience for operating the reservoirs, thereby informing future operational and water management decisions.

Recognizing additional authorities may be developed, it is the intent of the Department to adopt and implement the guidelines in a manner consistent with the Law of the River.² It is also the

¹ The Department intends to meet any consultation requirements identified in Article II(B)(3) of the Supreme Court Decree in *Arizona v. California* through the ongoing NEPA process initiated by the **Federal Register** Notice of June 16, 2023 (88 FR 39455-39458) and the annual implementation of guidelines developed through this process.

² The treaties, compacts, decrees, statutes, regulations, contracts, and other legal documents