

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**Approximately 128,000** Number of acres needed to meet California's Renewable Portfolio Standard with solar thermal energy<sup>1</sup>

**Approximately 351,000** Number of acres in Bureau of Land Management's Solar Energy Study Areas

**0** Number of acres of BLM Solar Energy Study Areas affected by the California Desert Protection Act



Photo: Barnes Miller



Photo: BLM

**A FUTURE BUILT AROUND BOTH CLEAN ENERGY AND CONSERVATION**

Americans have a historic opportunity to expand beloved national parks and preserves like Mojave and Joshua Tree and to protect California's spectacular desert heritage for our children and grandchildren. These parks and wilderness areas are being squeezed between two of the fastest growing regions in the country. This is our best chance to protect and connect migration routes for wildlife, like bighorn sheep, and the recreational and historic trails that are vital for the region's tourism economy while they are still intact. The region also has a unique opportunity to be a leader when it comes to renewable energy.

**PLENTY OF ROOM FOR RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT**

The good news is that there is plenty of room in the region for responsible energy development. According to California Energy Commission staff, approximately 128,000 acres of desert land are needed to meet California's Renewable Portfolio Standard with solar thermal energy. There are approximately 351,000 acres in the Bureau of Land Management's Solar Energy Study Areas alone and no acres will be affected by the Mojave National Monument.

Additional acres can be found by building renewable energy projects closer to cities and towns – and closer to consumers and workers. Locating energy projects here would minimize transmission lines, energy costs and commute time for employees. Projects could also be built on previously disturbed land.

Locating energy projects in appropriate places where little harm will be done to desert ecosystems, scenic vistas and sensitive wildlife habitat will give California consumers the confidence that the energy they are buying is really clean.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Monica Argandoña, Southern California Conservation Director, California Wilderness Coalition  
margandona@calwild.org | (951) 205 6004