



NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION STANDARDS *for Solar and Wind Leases*

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Water and Natural Resources Committee

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WHO IS THE STATE LAND OFFICE

The Mission of NMSLO is to manage state trust land to raise revenue for public schools, universities, hospitals, and other vital public institutions, while protecting the long-term health and productivity of the land.

The Stewardship Program within the Surface Resources Division leads initiatives on land stewardship, conservation, and environmental compliance.



9 Million
Surface Acres
managed in trust

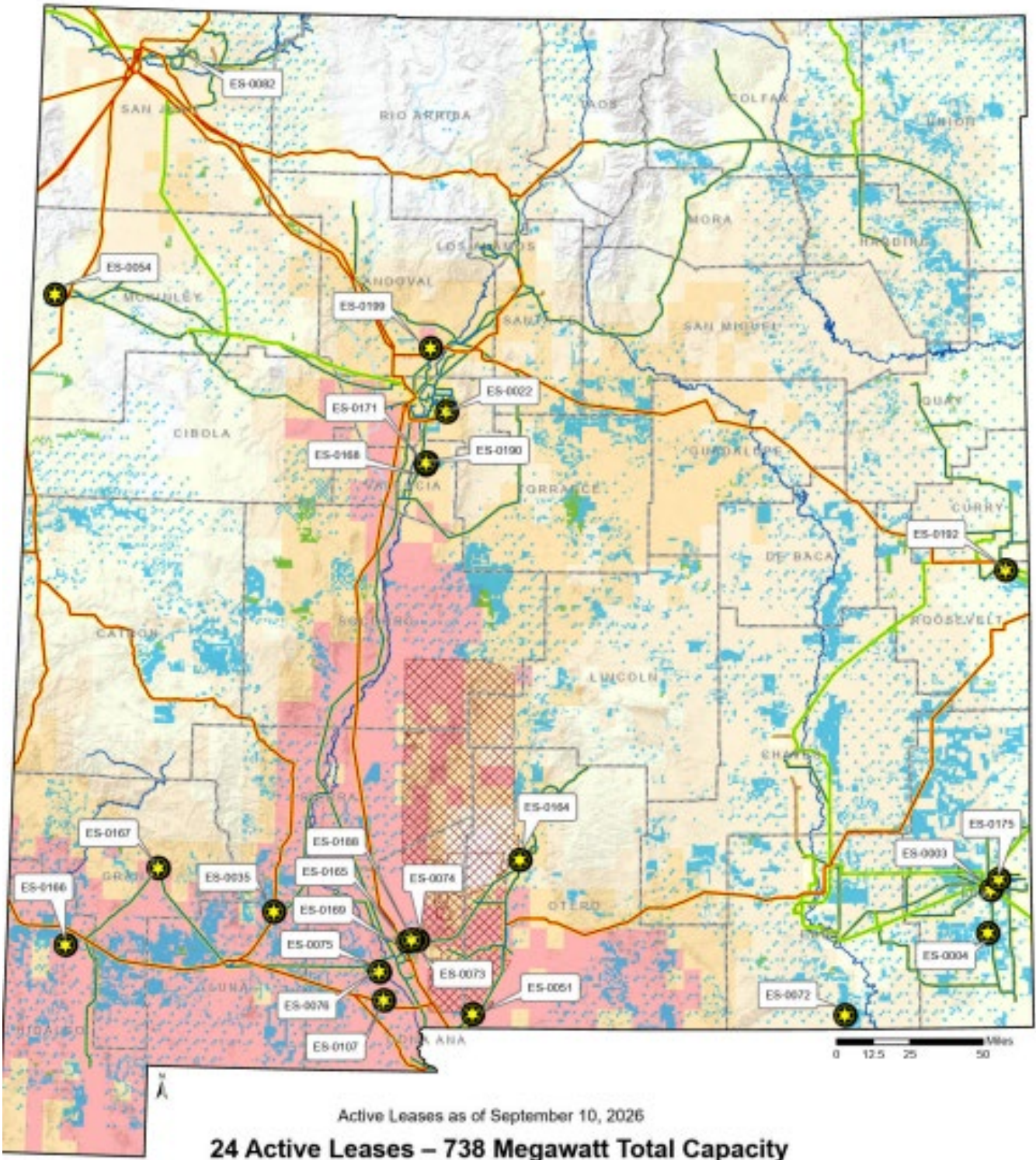


13 Million
Mineral Acres
managed in trust

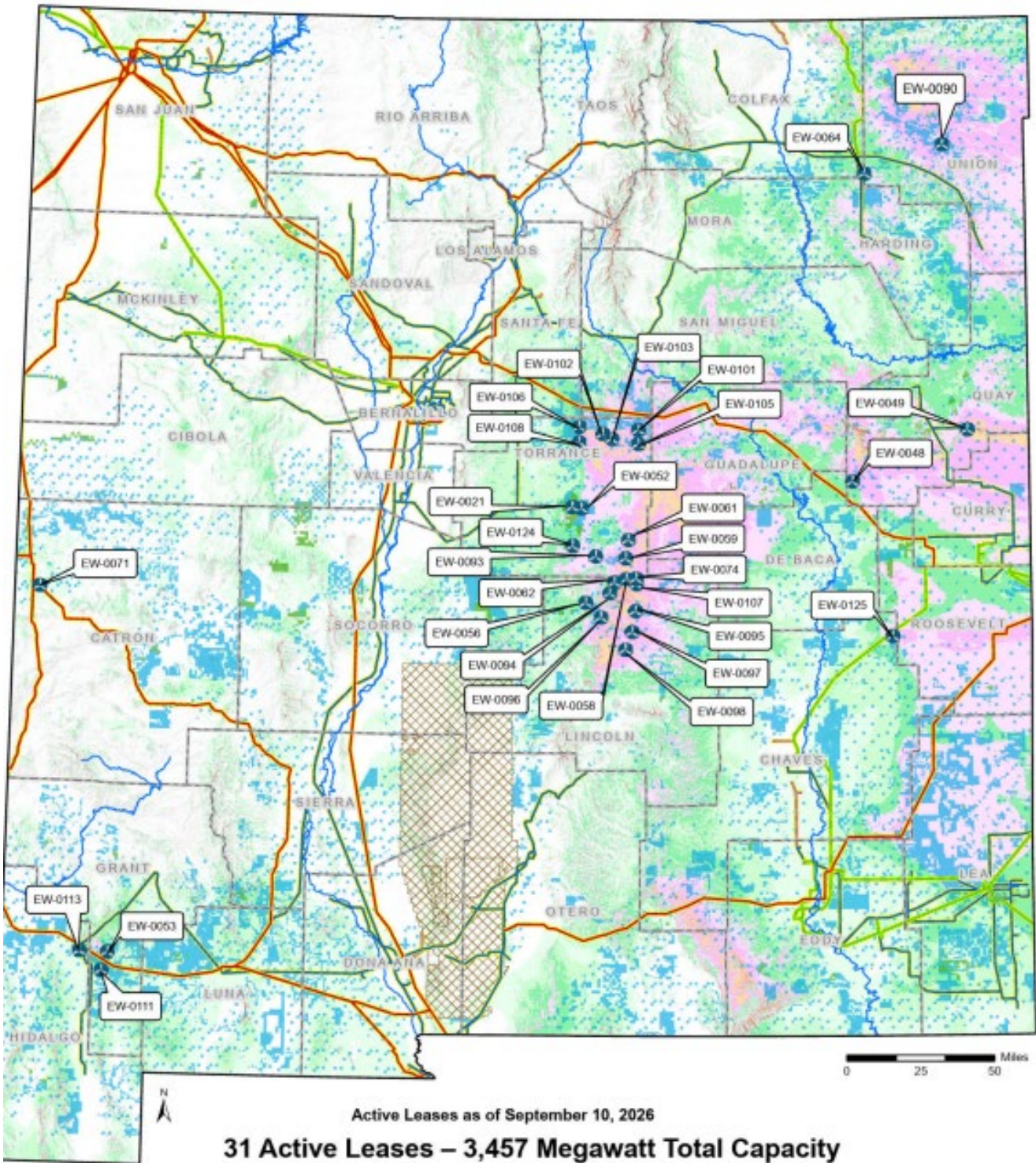
Renewable Energy Projects on State Trust Land

55 Active Projects; 14 Pending Applications

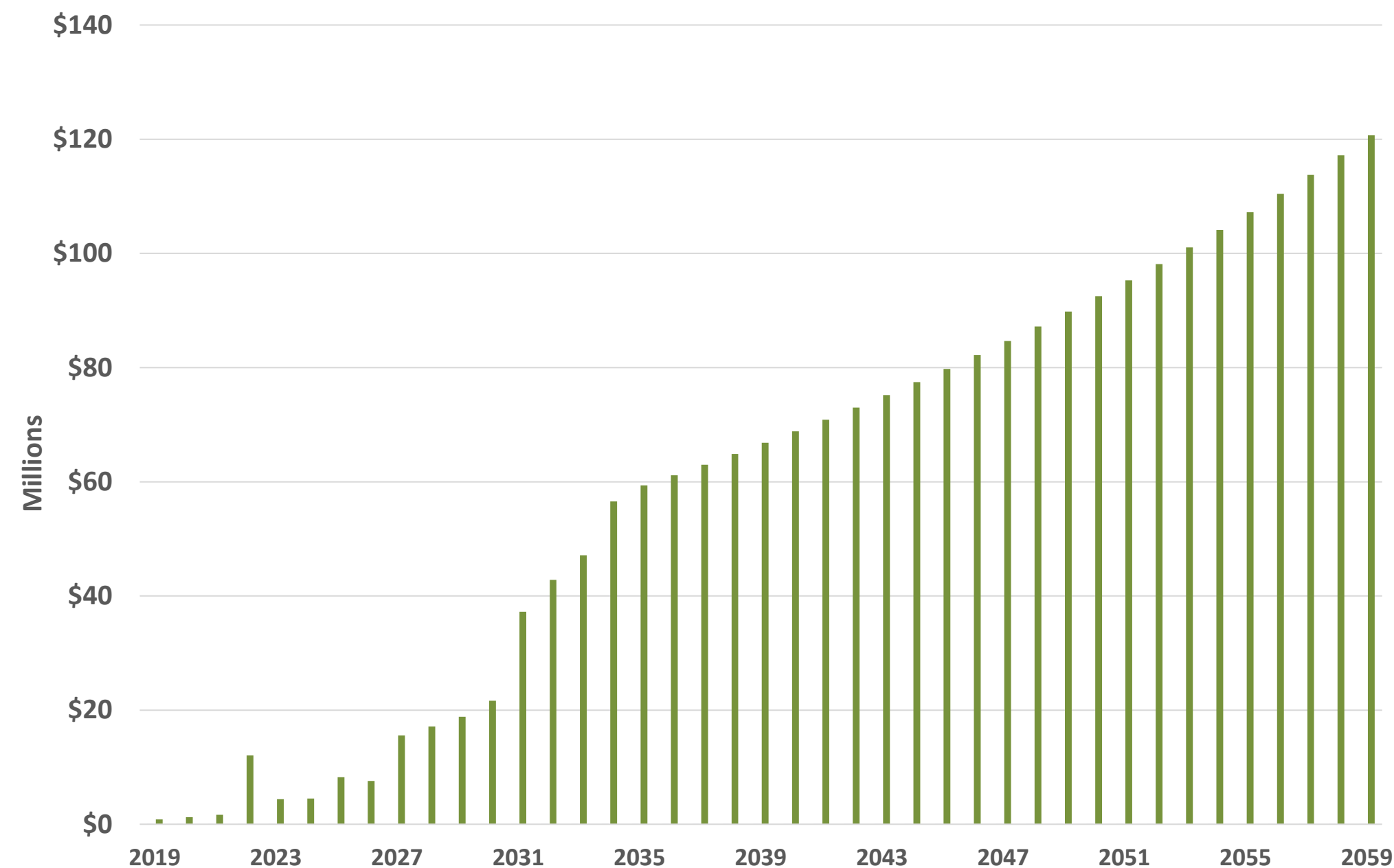
Active Solar Energy Leases on NM State Trust Land



Active Wind Energy Projects on NM State Trust Land



Wind and Solar Earnings



Existing Wind and Solar Leases (not forecasting future applications) are project to generate ~ *\$2.46 billion* *over 40 years*



Powering Rural New Mexico: Renewable Energy Development on State Trust Land



NM IDEA Economic Development Excellence Award – Rural Project of the Year (September 2026)



Projects are creating jobs, investment, economic activity, infrastructure and recurring revenue for New Mexico’s public schools, universities, and hospitals



WHAT ARE THE NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION STANDARDS?

The NRPS provide a framework for *renewable energy development* *responsible* on State Trust Land.



Provide detailed biological and environmental requirements of renewable energy leases



Set clear expectations for project planning and support efficient environmental review by NMSLO



Ensure Natural Resources are adequately protected for current and future New Mexico trust beneficiaries



WHY DID NMSLO CREATE THE NRPS FOR WIND AND SOLAR?

Stephanie Garcia Richard, the Commissioner of Public Lands,
renewable energy development on state trust land.

prioritized



The NMSLO Office of Renewable Energy (ORE) was created in 2019 to support and process renewable energy development lease applications



With increasing interest in renewable energy, NMSLO began reviewing all renewable energy projects for environmental impacts but lacked a clear roadmap



New guidance needed to be developed in tandem with ORE to ensure compliance work was being completed consistently and practically



Comprehensive guidance needed to ensure efficient review standards despite limited capacity



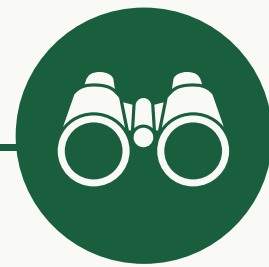


WHAT IS IN THE NRPS?

GUIDANCE FOR THE NRPS REVIEW PROCESS



Conduct
Desktop
Review



Perform
Field Studies



Propose
Avoidance
Measures



Propose
Mitigation



Document
the Process
in a BA



Report and
Coordinate
Findings
with NMSLO

PROTECTION FOR SENSITIVE NATURAL RESOURCES



Protected
Wildlife



Protected
Plants



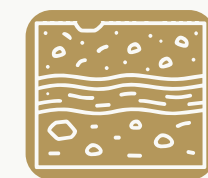
Wildlife
Corridors and
Habitat
Connectivity



Surface
Water
Resources



Cave and
Karst
Features



Sensitive
Soils



Special
Status Lands

IMPACT OF THE NRPS

Our goal is to *support industries in responsibly developing renewable energy on state trust land*, and we believe the NRPS is a successful tool to accomplish this.



COLLABORATION

Facilitated conversations with developers, environmental consultants, agency partners, and mitigation practitioners



REDUCED IMPACTS

Real, measurable reductions in impact to the landscape and natural resources



CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Provides a pathway for clear communication and flexible solutions



SUCCESS STORIES



NextEra Buena Vista Solar III

Clear, well-presented Biological
Assessment with wildlife
corridor analysis



Pattern Energy SunZia Wind

Comprehensive migratory bird
survey plan and creative
approach to wildlife/habitat
avoidance and mitigation



ForeFront Pluma Solar Silver City

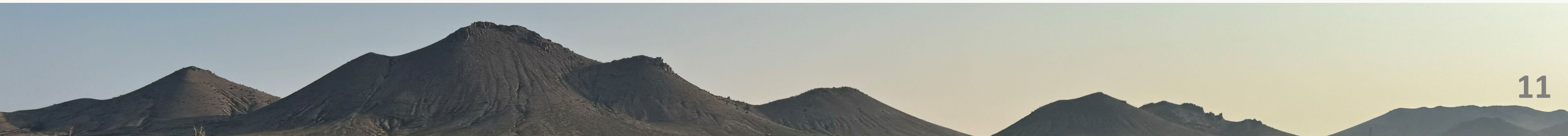
Thoughtful fencing design to
accommodate wildlife
movement by creating islands
of panels with rounded corners

THE FUTURE OF THE NRPS

The NRPS is still relatively new guidance so
coordination with developers and consultants

implementation and
will continue over time.

BEING MORE PROACTIVE THROUGH LANDSCAPE SCALE PLANNING EFFORTS



Thank You

