

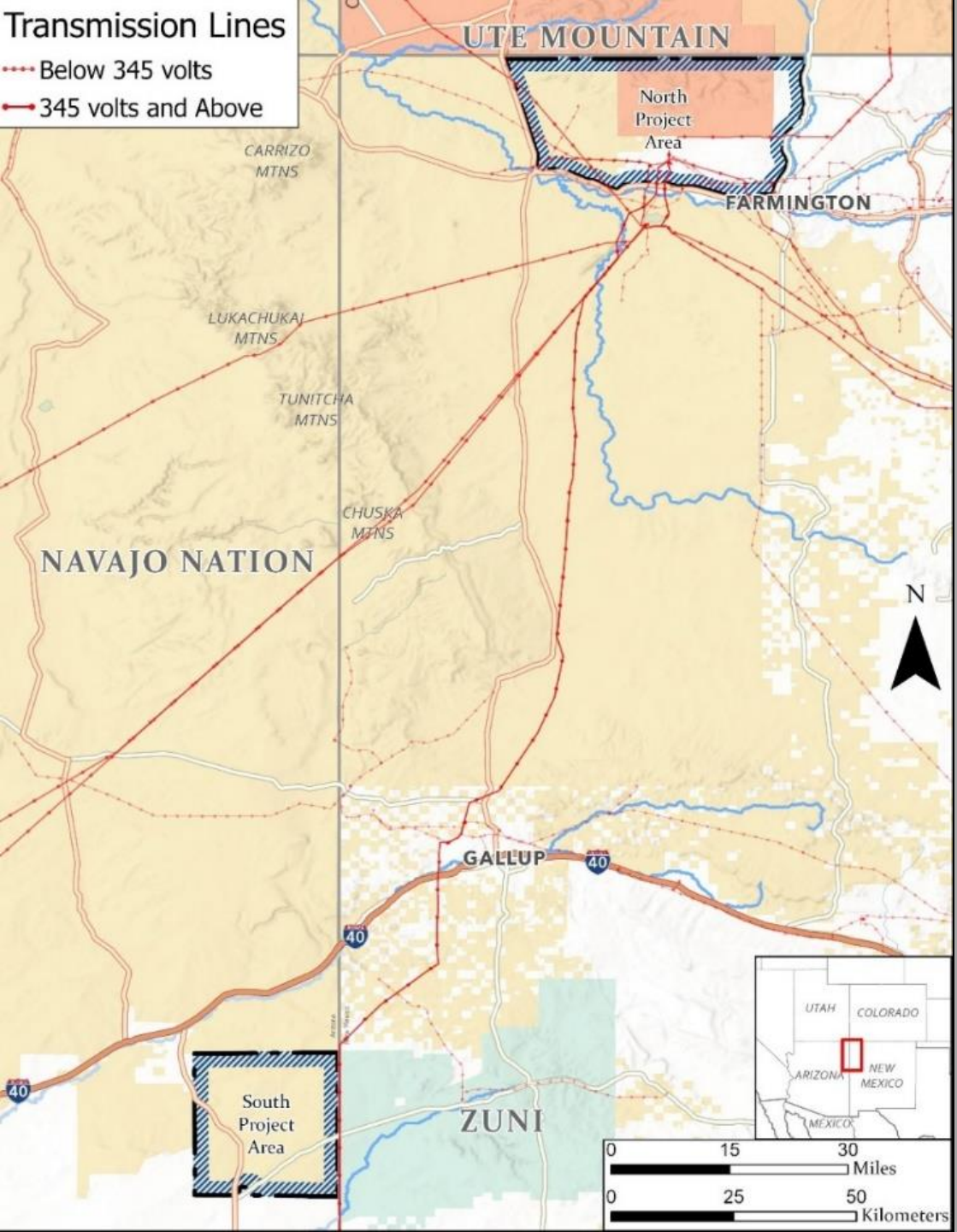


Siting Renewable Energy Projects for Wildlife

Michael Dax, Western Program Director,
michael@wildlandsnetwork.org

Transmission Lines

- Below 345 volts
- 345 volts and Above





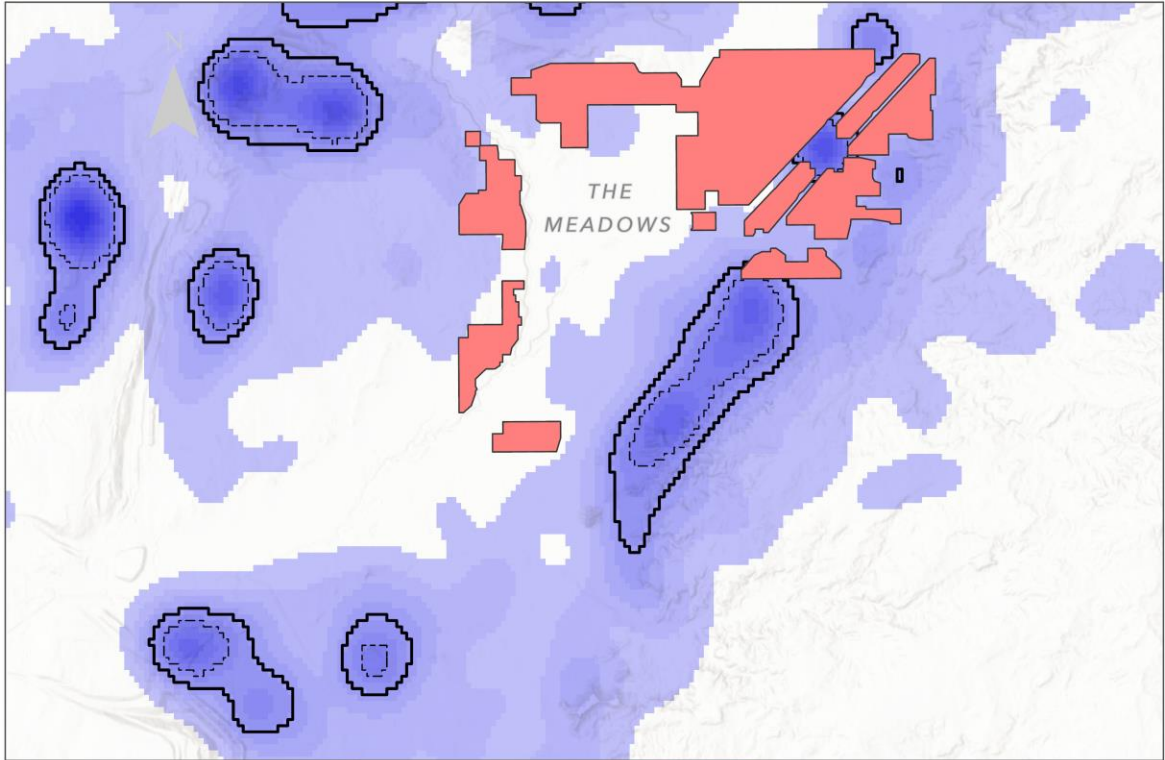
Fenced area: 4.45 km² (1100 acres)
Fenced perimeter: 34.2 km



- March 2024 – collared 60 females
- 30 collared within 13 km of ongoing solar
- GPS fixes every hour
- January 2025 – collared 15 additional females



Construction



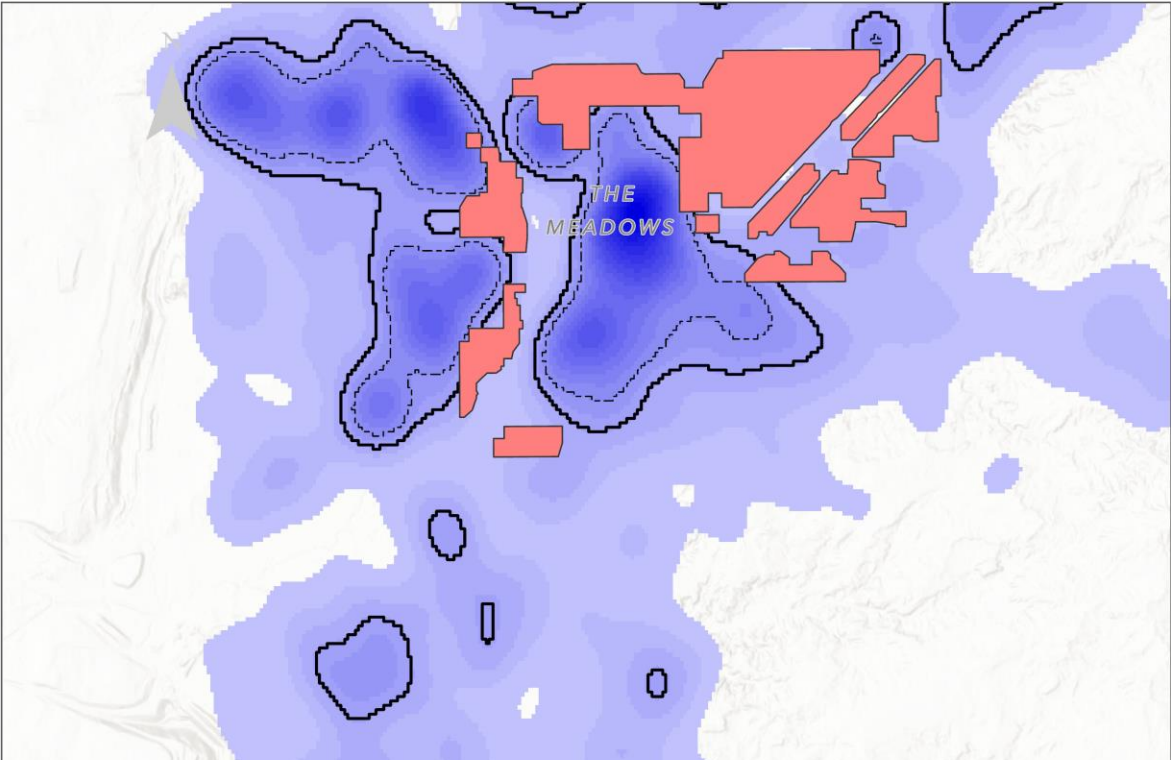
March 2024 - August 2024

0 2 4 Kilometers

San Juan Solar Facility
50% Contour 30% Contour
Pronghorn Space Use
Lower Higher

Esri, NASA, NOAA, USGS

Post-construction

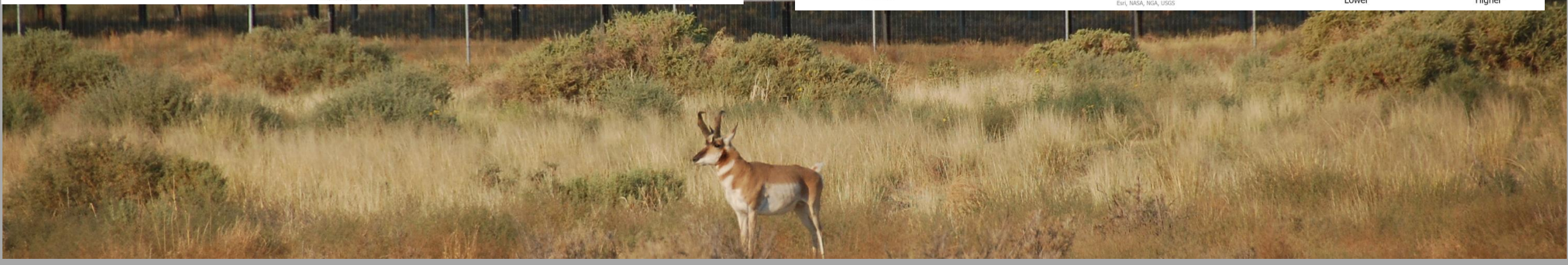


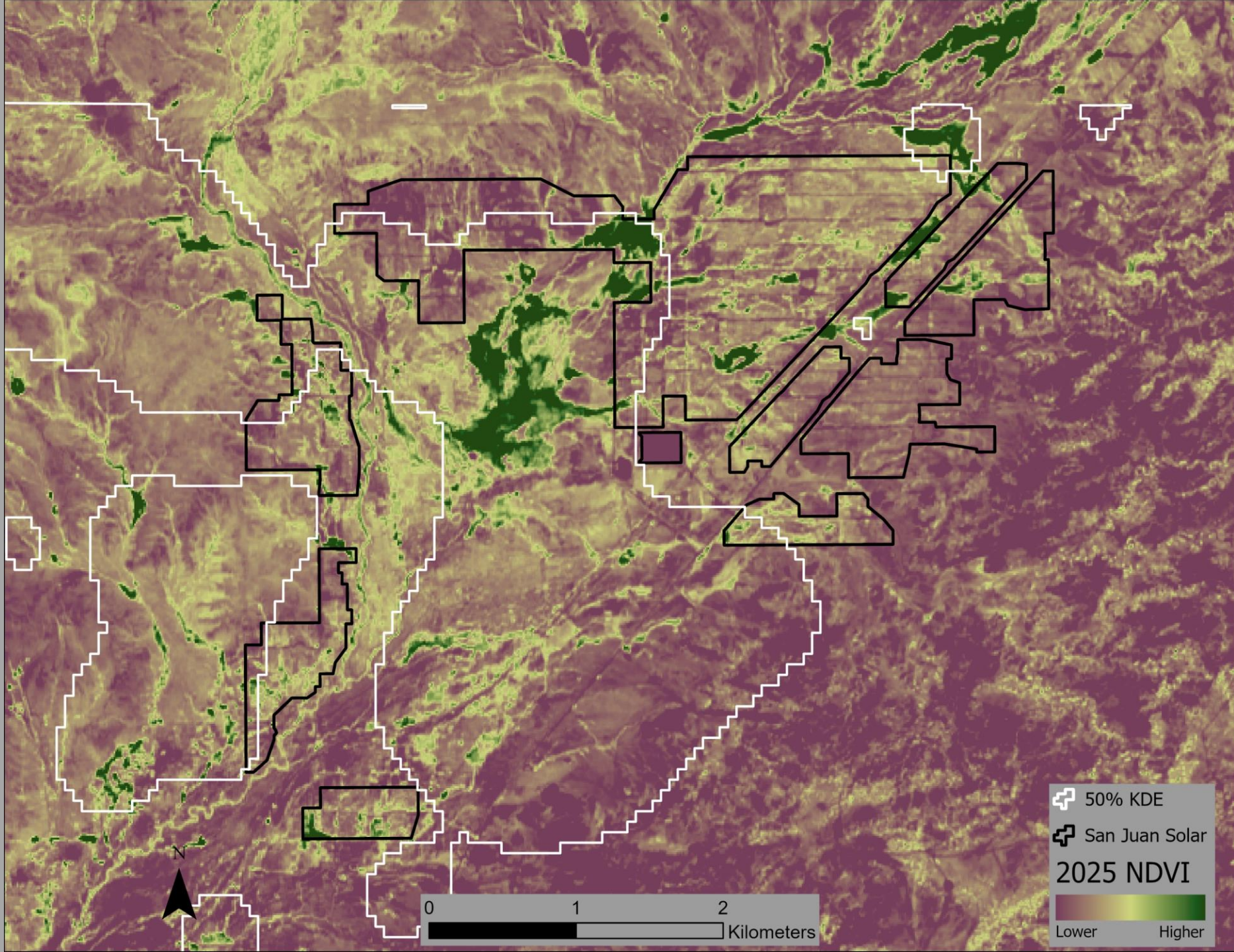
March 2025 - August 2025

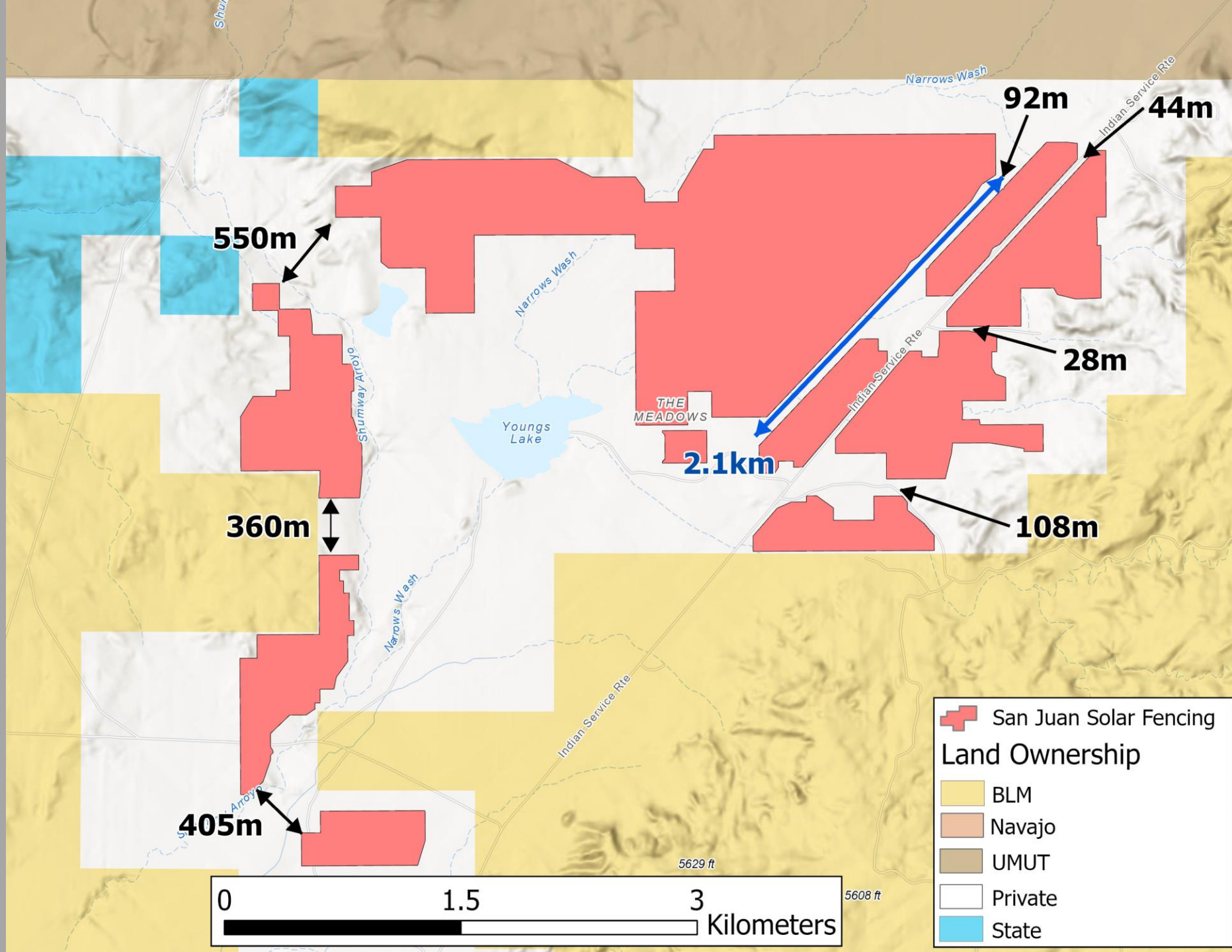
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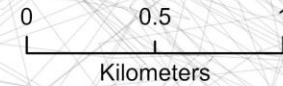






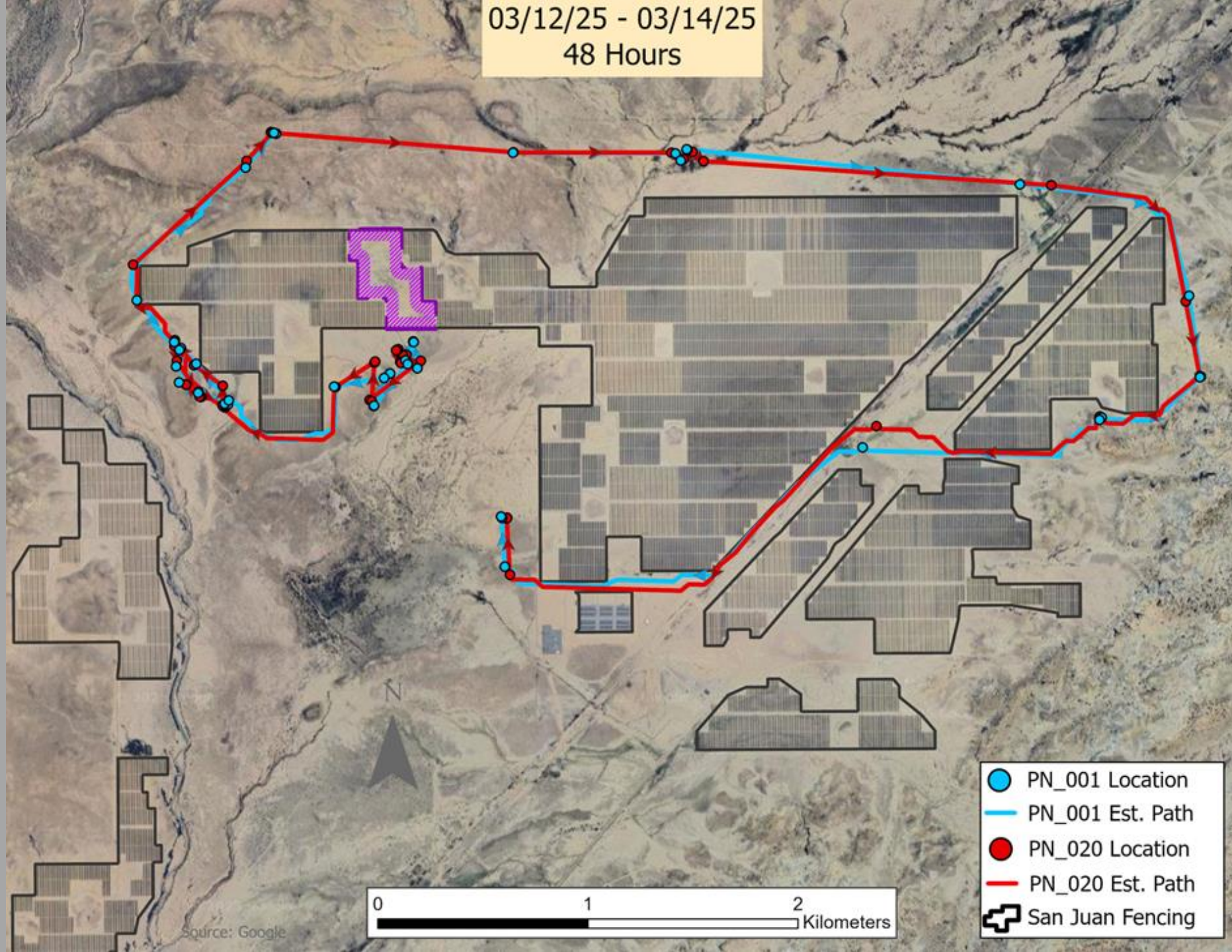
**San
Juan
Solar**

N

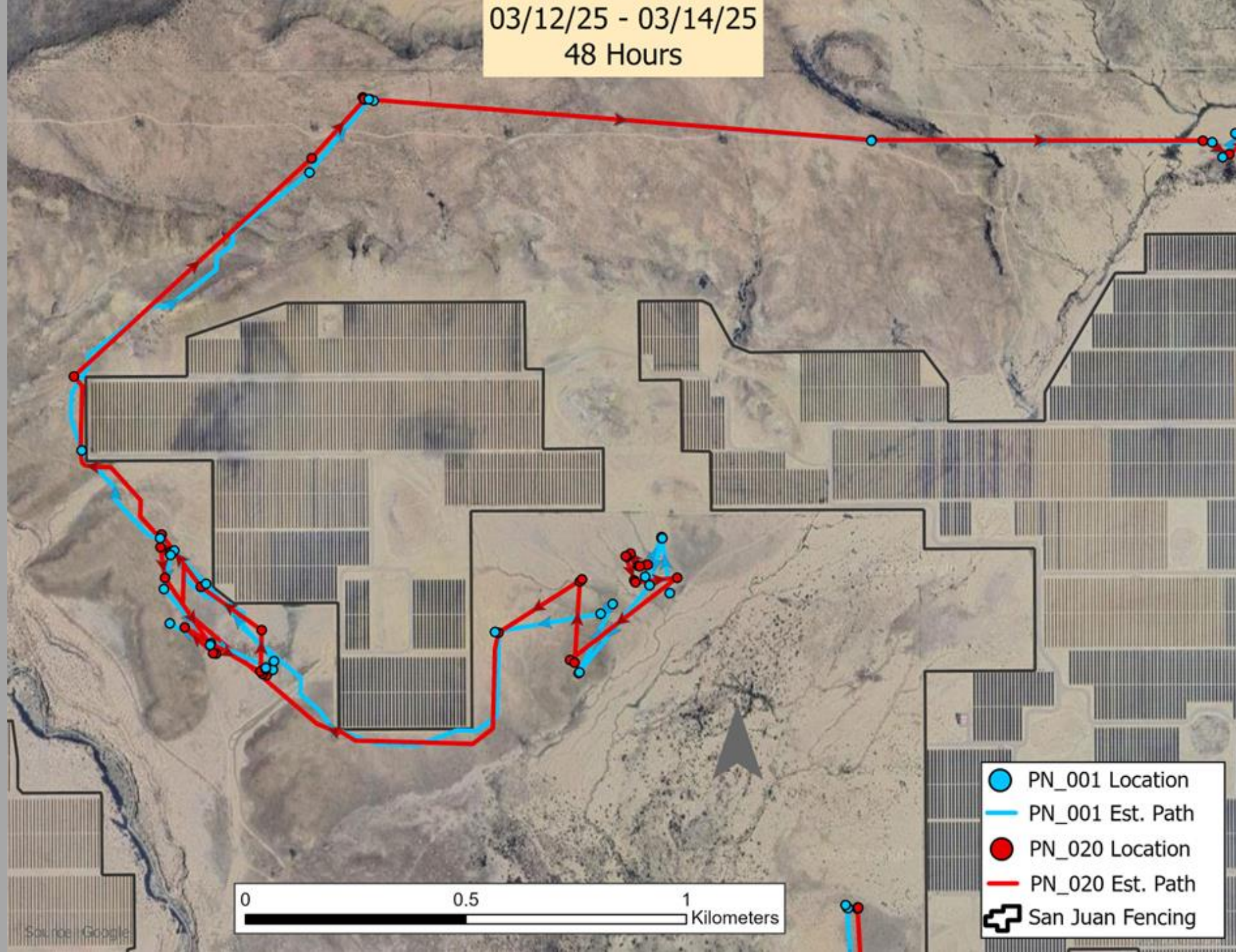


— Estimated Path

03/12/25 - 03/14/25
48 Hours

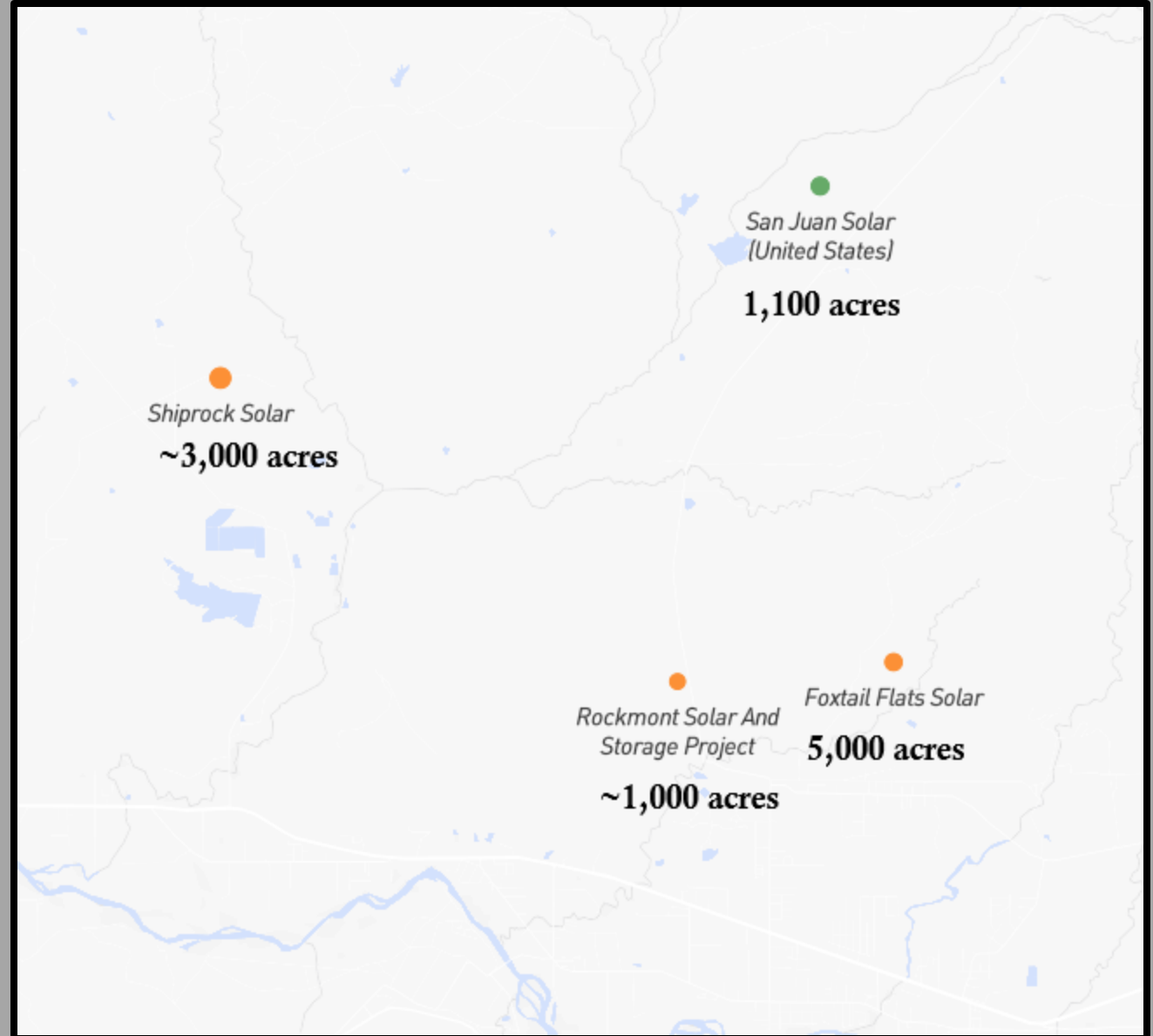


03/12/25 - 03/14/25
48 Hours



Cumulative effects

- Environmental reviews don't necessarily account for what's happening across jurisdiction?
- What's the Tipping Point?
 - 1,000 acres
 - 5,000 acres
 - 10,000 acres



Why does it matter

- Climate Change vs. Habitat Loss
- Learning from past mistakes when building out novel infrastructure
- Can renewable energy be green?



What can New Mexico do?

- Permitting on federal and state lands includes wildlife consultation
- Permitting on private lands does not require consideration of wildlife
- Utah HB 412 created a precedent for requiring a review by Division of Wildlife Resources

42 (2) As part of an application for a permit to the appropriate local jurisdiction, an owner or
43 operator of a utility scale renewable energy facility shall consult with the Division of
44 Wildlife Resources regarding potential impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat.
45 (3) The consultation described in Subsection (2) shall include:
46 (a) submission by the owner or operator to the Division of Wildlife Resources of project
47 location, layout, timeline, and any wildlife surveys conducted;
48 (b) a meeting between the owner or operator and Division of Wildlife Resources
49 personnel; and
50 (c) the Division of Wildlife Resources' recommendations for avoiding, minimizing, or
51 mitigating potential impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat.
52 (4) The Division of Wildlife Resources shall:
53 (a) within 30 days after the day on which the Division of Wildlife Resources receives a
54 complete consultation request, provide the owner or operator with written
55 recommendations; and
56 (b) make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
57 Rulemaking Act, establishing consultation procedures and standards.
58 (5) An owner or operator shall include with an application to the appropriate local
59 jurisdiction proof of consultation with the Division of Wildlife Resources and a
60 description of measures the owner or operator will implement to address the Division of
61 Wildlife Resources' recommendations.



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