REWI Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute

FACT SHEET
September 2023

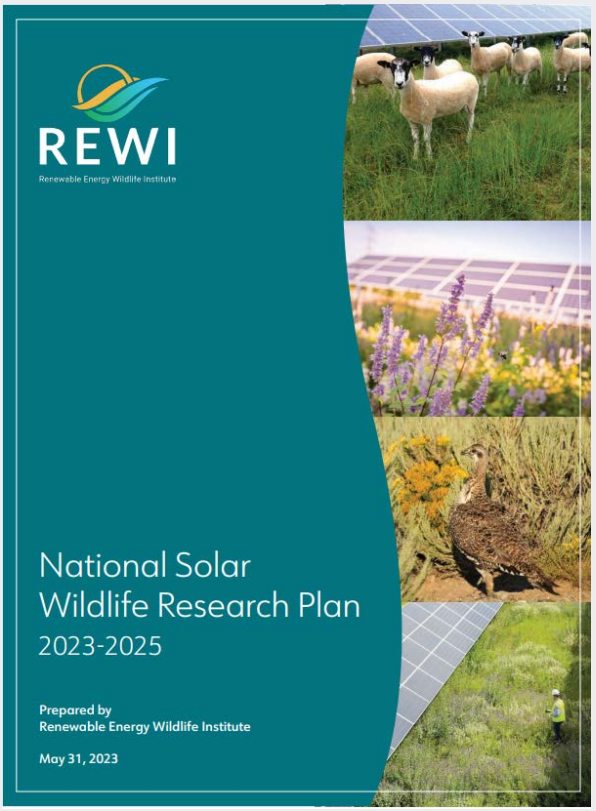
REWI National Solar Wildlife Research Plan

The Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute (REWI) is developing a solar-focused program. To guide this Program, REWI has developed a National Solar Wildlife Research Plan outlining REWI's strategic priorities and approach to solar-wildlife challenges and opportunities. The topics covered by the Plan are selected to target key scientific research priorities that are appropriate to the pace and scale of utility-scale solar deployment over the next 10-20 years, and ultimately to advance research that maximizes beneficial effects and minimizes wildlife and ecosystem impacts.

In anticipation of the **rapid growth of large-scale photovoltaic (PV) solar** in the coming years, the Plan seeks to identify and prioritize areas where additional, strategically targeted research investments are needed to advance our understanding of:

- Trends and impacts related to the **conversion of land** for PV solar facilities, and the cumulative impacts on wildlife, their habitat, and movement;
- How **wildlife interacts with PV solar facilities**, including demographic, metapopulation, and wildlife community considerations within PV facilities and within the landscape, and identifying changes to these interactions and mitigation opportunities at various scales;
- How **ecosystem functions are affected or enhanced** within PV solar facilities due to various management decisions across regions.

The Plan will also support the development and evaluation of strategies to **avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse impacts** when necessary to conserve healthy wildlife populations and ecosystems.



In this Plan, REWI describes a strategy for evaluating interactions between utility-scale PV solar projects and wildlife by considering solar energy developments and operations as ecosystems within a larger landscape. REWI's strategy, an ecosystem framework, provides a holistic approach to unite research and priorities related to solar-natural resource challenges, such as fatalities, habitat loss, and interactions, with an interest in ecosystem function and service and biodiversity enhancements.

Through science and collaboration, accelerate responsible deployment of renewable energy to mitigate climate change and protect wildlife and ecosystems.

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