

# Implications of Solar Power for Wildlife Conservation

Solar power is an increasingly important source of energy and new facilities are being built with greater capacity. Although solar is considered a green energy source, the construction, operation, and maintenance of large scale facilities has the potential to impact many species of wildlife. Our first goal is to understand possible areas of conflict between solar facilities and wildlife. Our second goal is to identify the research questions in animal behavior that could have the greatest potential to reduce known impacts of solar facilities on wildlife. Our third goal is to provide this information to agencies, wildlife conservation managers, and academics, offering the tools from animal behavior that can help identify problems and potentially mitigate some impacts of large scale solar facilities on wildlife. We greatly appreciate your time and input.

If you choose to participate, the survey should take about 15-20 minutes and your identity will be kept anonymous. There are no risks of participation, your participation is voluntary and you may stop at any time. Benefits of participating include the opportunity to add your knowledge and help direct future research.

If you are interested in seeing results of the study or have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact the principle investigator [REDACTED]

If you have any concerns with this study or questions about your rights as a participant, please contact the [REDACTED]  
Subjects at [REDACTED]

Please print this informed consent form now and retain it for your future reference. If you agree to voluntarily participate in this research as described, please check the box below to begin the online survey. Thank you for your participation in this research.

\* Required

1. I have read and understood this consent information, and agree to participate in the survey \*

Check all that apply.

Yes

## Background Questions

Please respond to the below questions. Responses to these questions will help provide background for responses in Section 3.

2. How would you rate your familiarity with solar power facilities? \*

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
None - I have never encountered, studied or worked with solar power facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extensive - my work is directly involved with solar power facilities

**3. How would you rate your familiarity with applying concepts of animal behavior to conservation? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
None - I have never considered this connection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extensive - my work is directly involved with making these connections

**4. In what field do you mainly work? (Please check up to 2 fields) \***

*Check all that apply.*

- Applied wildlife conservation research
- Wildlife conservation management
- Conservation policy
- Environmental consulting
- Energy development
- Academia - Ecology
- Academia - Conservation
- Academia - Animal Behavior
- Other

**5. What are your areas of expertise? (Please check all that apply) \***

*Check all that apply.*

- Solar facilities - construction
- Solar facilities - development and design
- Solar facilities - research
- Non-solar energy facilities
- Birds
- Mammals
- Reptiles
- Amphibians
- Invertebrates
- Threatened/Endangered species recovery
- Conservation policy
- Invasive species research/management
- Habitat management/conservation
- Spatial ecology
- Predator-prey interactions
- Learning/memory/cognition
- Foraging behavior
- Social behavior
- Mating systems/sexual selection
- Habitat selection
- Animal communication

**6. In which country are you based? \***

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**7. In which country (countries) is your work primarily based? \***

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**8. If your work is in the United States, which state(s) is your work primarily based? \***

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## Survey Questions

Please respond to the questions below - responses can be of any length and you can list as many examples as you wish.

9. **1. In your opinion, what are some of the ways that large scale solar facilities could have impacts on wildlife conservation? These could be during the construction, operation, maintenance, or other phases. \***

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10. **2. From your responses to Question 1, please list the problems where you think knowledge of animal behavior could aid in identifying or reducing impacts of solar facilities. If none, please write "none".**

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11. **3. In your opinion, what research questions need to be answered to document or address the problem(s) you listed above? \***

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12. **4. In your opinion, which animal behaviors and/or animal behavior concepts could be the most useful conservation and management tools in regards to large scale solar facilities? \***

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**13. Thank you for your time and participation. If there are any other comments you would like to add, please include them below.**

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