

## Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System: BrightSource Energy, Inc.

**Mitigation  
Implementation:**  
Endangered  
Species Act

**Partner:** Bureau of  
Land Management

### The Challenge

The demand for solar power in the U.S. is higher than ever. In 2013 to meet growing demand, BrightSource Energy aimed to build one of the world's largest solar energy plants. The scale of this 377MW plant required 4,500 acres, all located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in southern California's Ivanpah Valley. While it may be hard to imagine that this harsh desert landscape provides important wildlife habitat, the valley is home to the desert tortoise, a federal and state-listed endangered species. BrightSource turned to The Conservation Fund when it needed help finding solutions to minimize the plant's impact on the habitat of the desert tortoise.

### The Conservation Solution

The Conservation Fund engaged early with the company as well as federal land and resource management agencies to identify potential solutions to effectively offset impacts to the desert tortoise habitat. Together with BLM, The Conservation Fund identified grazing lands that provided important desert tortoise habitat in the immediate vicinity of the BrightSource project. The Conservation Fund planned and executed a program to purchase and retire grazing rights on BLM land on behalf of BrightSource. The grazing rights were transferred to BLM, along with a stewardship fund, also provided by BrightSource.

### Outcome Highlights

**Conservation:** The Conservation Fund was able to permanently protect over 120,000 acres of desert tortoise habitat using the mitigation funds provided by BrightSource.

**Economic:** California generates enough solar energy to power over 4.7 million homes, more than any other state. The electricity generated by the plants in the Ivanpah complex serves more than 140,000 homes in California during the peak hours of the day.



“The desert tortoise community is eager to learn from the wealth of data we’re gathering about this important species. We’re pleased to support this important research, learn more about the species, and determine additional ways to help the Ivanpah Valley desert tortoise population once again flourish.”

Kristin Hunter, Communications Manager,  
BrightSource

