

RECORD OF DECISION

**Implementation of a Wind Energy Development Program
and Associated Land Use Plan Amendments**

DECEMBER 2005

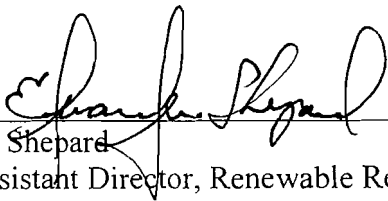
**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, D.C.**



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DEC 15 2005

Date



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RECORD OF DECISION

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1 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is responsible for the development of wind energy resources on BLM-administered public lands. Currently, about 500 megawatts (MW) of installed wind capacity occurs under right-of-way (ROW) authorizations administered by the BLM in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

This document records the decision that the BLM reached to implement a comprehensive Wind Energy Development Program in 11 western states, excluding Alaska, and to amend 52 BLM land use plans to adopt the new program. The elements of the Wind Energy Development Program and the associated land use plan amendments were evaluated through the preparation of the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States* (BLM 2005a). This Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the FLPMA. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) cooperated in the preparation of the PEIS in support of the BLM's proposed action.

The BLM prepared a Programmatic Biological Assessment (BA) evaluating the potential effects of wind energy development that could occur on BLM-administered public lands as a result of the proposed land use plan amendments (BLM 2005b). Specifically, the Programmatic BA considered the potential effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species and candidate species, and to their critical habitats, that have the potential to be present at locations where wind energy projects may be developed within the planning areas affected by the proposed land use plan amendments. The BLM submitted the Programmatic BA to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on July 27, 2005, for formal consultation. The USFWS issued a Biological Opinion (BO) on November 30, 2005, (USFWS 2005). For each of the nine species listed as likely to be adversely affected in the Programmatic BA, the USFWS concluded that the program is not likely to jeopardize the species or destroy or adversely modify any federally listed threatened and endangered species critical habitat. The USFWS further recommended that the BLM coordinate with the appropriate USFWS field office prior to planning the construction of any site-specific wind energy project to obtain the most current information on the distribution of listed species in the site-specific area.

2 DECISION

The decision is hereby made to implement a comprehensive Wind Energy Development Program to administer the development of wind energy resources on BLM-administered public

lands in 11 western states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The decision establishes policies and best management practices (BMPs) for the administration of wind energy development activities and establishes minimum requirements for mitigation measures. The policies and BMPs were evaluated in the Final Wind Energy PEIS (BLM 2005a) and are included in Attachment A. With the decision to implement the Wind Energy Development Program, the BLM Interim Wind Energy Policy (BLM 2002) will be replaced by a new policy that incorporates the programmatic policies and BMPs evaluated in the PEIS. Elements of the Interim Policy addressing applications, authorizations, competitive interests, and due diligence will not be changed by the new program requirements.

In addition, this decision amends 52 BLM land use plans in 9 of the states in the study area: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The land use plan amendments, identified in Attachment B, include the adoption of the Wind Energy Development Program policies and BMPs and, in a few instances, the identification of specific areas where wind energy development will be excluded.

3 ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Final Wind Energy PEIS (BLM 2005a) analyzed three alternatives. It analyzed the potential impacts associated with the BLM's proposed action to implement a Wind Energy Development Program. It also assessed potential impacts associated with two alternatives to the proposed action, which present different management options for wind energy development on BLM-administered public lands. The alternatives were defined as follows:

- *Proposed action: implement a Wind Energy Development Program.* Under this alternative, the BLM proposed to implement a comprehensive program to address issues associated with wind energy development on BLM-administered public lands under a maximum potential development scenario (MPDS). The program will establish policies and BMPs to address the administration of wind energy development activities and identify minimum requirements for mitigation measures. These programmatic policies and BMPs will be applicable to all wind energy development projects on BLM-administered public lands. Site-specific concerns, and the development of additional mitigation measures, will be addressed in project-level reviews, including NEPA analyses, as required. To the extent appropriate, future project-specific analyses will tier from the analyses conducted in the PEIS and the decisions in this Record of Decision (ROD) to allow project-specific analyses to focus just on the critical, site-specific issues of concern. In addition, under this alternative, a number of BLM land use plans will be amended to address wind energy development, including adoption of the programmatic policies and BMPs and identification of exclusion areas.
- *No action alternative.* Under this alternative, the BLM would continue administering wind energy development ROW authorizations in accordance

with the terms and conditions of the Interim Wind Energy Development Policy (BLM 2002). Analysis and review of wind energy development, including NEPA analyses and development of required mitigation measures, would be conducted on a project-by-project basis. Individual land use plan amendments would occur on a plan-by-plan basis without the benefit of the overarching, comprehensive analysis provided by the PEIS.

- *Limited wind energy development alternative.* Under this alternative, additional wind energy development on BLM-administered public lands would occur only in areas where it currently exists, is under review, or was approved for development prior publication of this ROD . For the purposes of establishing an upper bound on the potential impacts of this alternative, it was assumed that all proposed wind energy projects on BLM-administered public lands under review during preparation of the PEIS would be approved for development by the time this ROD was published. Future expansion of wind energy development would be allowed at existing project areas; however, no additional BLM-administered public lands would be made available for development. Under these restrictions, development would be limited to locations where development currently exists: Palm Springs, California; Ridgecrest, California; and Arlington, Wyoming; and locations where it is currently being reviewed: the Table Mountain Wind Generating Facility, Nevada; Cotterel Mountain Wind Farm Project, Idaho; and Walker Ridge, California.

Potential adverse impacts to natural and cultural resources could occur during each phase of wind energy development (i.e., site monitoring and testing, construction, operation, and decommissioning) if effective mitigation measures are not implemented. The nature and magnitude of these impacts would vary by phase and would be determined by the project location and size. Potential direct impacts would include use of geologic and water resources; creation or increase of geologic hazards or soil erosion; water quality degradation; localized generation of airborne dust; generation of noise; alteration or degradation of wildlife habitat or sensitive or unique habitat; interference with resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, including protected species; alteration or degradation of plant communities, including the occurrence of invasive vegetation; land use changes; alteration of visual resources; release of hazardous materials or wastes; increased traffic; increased human health and safety hazards; and destruction or loss of paleontological or cultural resources. More limited, potential indirect impacts also could occur to cultural and ecological resources.

Effective mitigation measures can be implemented to address many of the direct and indirect adverse impacts that could occur. For some resources, minimum requirements can be established that would effectively mitigate impacts at all potential development sites. For other resources, however, such as ecological and visual resources, mitigation will be better defined at the project level to address site-specific concerns.

The potential impacts of wind energy development on local and regional economies will be largely beneficial, depending upon the size of the project and the resultant wind power capacity.

The proposed action and its alternatives present options for the management of wind energy development on BLM-administered public lands. The proposed action, implementing the Wind Energy Development Program, was determined through the Final Wind Energy PEIS (BLM 2005a) to be the “environmentally preferable” alternative because it will establish a comprehensive set of policies and BMPs. The policies will identify specific lands on which wind energy development will not be allowed; establish requirements for public involvement, consultation with other federal and state agencies, and government-to-government consultation; define the need for project-level environmental review; establish requirements for the scope and content of the site-specific project Plan of Development (POD); and incorporate adaptive management strategies. The BMPs will establish environmentally sound and economically feasible mechanisms to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources. They identify the issues and concerns that must be addressed by project-specific plans, programs, and stipulations during each phase of development. Mitigation measures protecting these resources will be required to be incorporated into project PODs; this will include incorporation of specific programmatic BMPs as well as the incorporation of additional mitigation measures contained in other, existing and relevant BLM guidance, or developed to address site-specific or species-specific concerns. The no action and limited development alternatives do not provide the same level of assurance that comprehensive mitigation measures will be implemented across the 11 states.

In addition, in terms of facilitating wind energy development, implementation of the proposed action is expected to minimize some of the delays that currently occur for wind energy development projects, ensure consistency in the ROW application and authorization process, and reduce costs. These benefits will be realized as a result of the emphasis on site-specific concerns during the project-level environmental analyses, the amendment of numerous land use plans to address wind energy development, and the opportunity to tier future NEPA analyses from the Final Wind Energy PEIS (BLM 2005a) and decisions in this ROD. The no action and limited development alternatives do not provide these benefits in terms of facilitating wind energy development.

4 MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

On May 18, 2001, the President issued Executive Order (E.O.) 13212, “Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects,” which established a policy that federal agencies should take appropriate actions, to the extent consistent with applicable law, to expedite projects to increase the production, transmission, or conservation of energy. In that same month, the President’s National Energy Policy Development Group (NEPDG) recommended to the President, as part of the National Energy Policy, that the Departments of the Interior, Energy, Agriculture, and Defense work together to increase renewable energy production (NEPDG 2001). In July 2001, the Departments created an interagency task force to address the issues associated with increasing renewable energy production on federal lands (DOE and DOI 2002). The task force

developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and the members of the Western Governors' Association to establish a framework for cooperation between western states and the federal government to address energy problems facing the West and to facilitate renewable energy production.

To address increased interest in wind energy development and to implement the National Energy Policy recommendation to increase renewable energy production, the BLM undertook efforts to evaluate wind energy potential on public lands and establish a wind energy policy. In 2002, the BLM issued an Interim Wind Energy Development Policy (BLM 2002) that establishes requirements for processing applications for wind energy site testing and monitoring and commercial wind energy development projects. To further support wind energy development on public lands and also to minimize potential environmental and sociocultural impacts, the BLM decided to build on the interim policy and establish a comprehensive Wind Energy Development Program. The BLM initiated preparation of the PEIS in October 2003 and published the PEIS in June 2005. On August 8, 2005, the President signed into law the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58). Section 211 of the Act states, "It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of the Interior should, before the end of the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, seek to have approved non-hydropower renewable energy projects located on the public lands with a generation capacity of at least 10,000 megawatts of electricity."

The Wind Energy Development Program and the amendment of multiple land use plans to adopt the program will effectively support the directives of E.O. 13212, the recommendations of the National Energy Policy, and congressional direction provided in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 regarding renewable energy development on public lands. On the basis of the impact analyses presented in the Final Wind Energy PEIS (BLM 2005a), it appears that the proposed action will present the best approach for managing wind energy development on BLM-administered public lands. The Wind Energy Development Program is likely to result in the greatest amount of wind energy development over the next 20 years, at the lowest potential cost to industry. Simultaneously, the proposed action will provide the most comprehensive approach for ensuring that potential adverse impacts are minimized to the greatest extent possible. And, finally, the proposed action is likely to provide the greatest economic benefits to local communities and the region as a whole.

5 MITIGATION AND MONITORING

A primary purpose of the Wind Energy Development Program is the establishment of policies and BMPs to ensure that potential adverse impacts associated with the development of wind energy resources on BLM-administered public lands are minimized to the greatest extent possible. The policies and BMPs, included in Attachment A, address all identified issues associated with the administration of wind energy development and mitigation of potential impacts; these issues are either addressed directly in the policies and BMPs, or through requirements that they will be addressed as needed during site-specific reviews.

The program will establish specific monitoring requirements that must be met throughout all phases of development. The requirement for the BLM and operators of wind energy projects on BLM-administered public lands to adopt adaptive management strategies will further ensure that potential environmental impacts will be kept to a minimum. This includes requirements for periodic review and revision of programmatic policies and BMPs; comprehensive site monitoring programs, including metrics for measuring impacts; and protocols for incorporating monitoring observations and new mitigation measures into standard operating procedures and project-specific stipulations.

The amendment of 52 BLM land use plans to adopt the program ensures that the program will have a maximum effect. Additional land use plan amendments and revisions are expected to follow the issuance of this ROD in those remaining areas with potentially developable wind energy resources through ongoing and future land use planning efforts.

6 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The “Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to Evaluate Wind Energy Development on Western Public Lands Administered by the BLM” (the NOI) was published in Volume 68, page 201, of the *Federal Register* (68 FR 201) on October 17, 2003. This initiated the public scoping period, which lasted from October 17 to December 19, 2003. During that period, the BLM invited the public and interested groups to provide information and guidance on the scope of the PEIS and alternatives to the proposed action, suggest issues that should be examined, and express their concerns and opinions on resources in the western United States that wind energy development might impact. Public scoping meetings were held in Sacramento, California; Salt Lake City, Utah; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Boise, Idaho.

An estimated 5,000 people participated in the scoping process by attending public meetings, providing comments, requesting information, or visiting the Wind Energy Development PEIS Web site (<http://windeis.anl.gov>). All comments received equal consideration in developing the alternatives and analytical issues evaluated in the PEIS. The results of the scoping process were documented in a report issued in January 2004 (BLM 2004) that summarizes and categorizes the major themes, issues, and concerns of the written and verbal comments. The scoping summary report and copies of the individual letters, facsimiles, and comments received electronically during scoping are available on the Wind Energy Development PEIS Web site.

In addition to public scoping, government-to-government consultation was initiated with all Tribal entities with a potential interest in wind energy development on BLM-administered public lands.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft PEIS was published on September 10, 2004, (69 FR 175). This began a 90-day public comment period on the Draft PEIS, which lasted from September 10 to December 10, 2004. During this period, the BLM invited the public and interested groups to comment on the content of the Draft PEIS.

The Draft PEIS was posted in its entirety on the Wind Energy Development PEIS Web site. Printed copies of the document and CDs containing the electronic files comprising the document were mailed upon request. More than 120 people and organizations participated in the public comment process by providing Internet-based comments or postal letters. Approximately 718 individual comments were received. The BLM reviewed all comments and made changes to the PEIS, as appropriate. Responses to comments are provided in Volume 3 of the Final Wind Energy PEIS (BLM 2005a). The 30-day public protest period resulted in no protests.

In addition, on June 24, 2005, the BLM initiated a 90-day Governors Consistency Review of the PEIS in accordance with BLM planning regulations. The results of the review were favorable in that none of the Governors objected to the proposed plan amendments.

7 REFERENCES

BLM 2002, "Instruction Memorandum No. 2003-020, Interim Wind Energy Development Policy," issued by the Director of the BLM, Washington, D.C., Oct. 16.

BLM, 2004, *Summary Report of Scoping Comments Received on the BLM Wind Energy Development Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*, prepared by Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill., for the BLM, Lands and Realty Group, Washington, D.C., Jan.

BLM, 2005a, *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States*, prepared by Argonne National Laboratory for BLM, Washington, D.C., June.

BLM, 2005b, *Programmatic Biological Assessment for the BLM's Proposed Land Use Plan Amendments to Adopt the Proposed Wind Energy Development Program*, BLM, Washington, D.C., July.

DOE and DOI (U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of the Interior), 2002, *White House Report in Response to the National Energy Policy Recommendations to Increase Renewable Energy Production on Federal Lands*, Washington, D.C., Aug.

NEPDG (National Energy Policy Development Group), 2001, *National Energy Policy, Reliable, Affordable, and Environmentally Sound Energy for America's Future*, Washington, D.C., May.

USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), 2005, *Biological Opinion for BLM Wind Energy Program*, Washington, D.C., Nov.

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ATTACHMENT A

**BLM WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
POLICIES AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)**

ATTACHMENT A

BLM WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM POLICIES AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)

The BLM's Wind Energy Development Program will establish a number of policies and BMPs, provided below, regarding the development of wind energy resources on BLM-administered public lands. The policies and BMPs will be applicable to all wind energy development projects on BLM-administered public lands. The policies address the administration of wind energy development activities, and the BMPs identify required mitigation measures that would need to be incorporated into project-specific Plans of Development (PODs) and right-of-way (ROW) authorization stipulations. Additional mitigation measures will be applied to individual projects, in the form of stipulations in the ROW authorization as appropriate, to address site-specific and species-specific issues.

These policies and BMPs were formulated through preparation of the Final Wind Energy PEIS (BLM 2005). The PEIS included detailed, comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of wind energy development and relevant mitigation measures; reviews of existing, relevant mitigation guidance; and reviews of comments received during scoping and public review of the Draft PEIS.

A.1 Policies

- The BLM will not issue ROW authorizations for wind energy development on lands on which wind energy development is incompatible with specific resource values. Lands that will be excluded from wind energy site monitoring and testing and development include designated areas that are part of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) (e.g., Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, National Monuments, NCAs,¹ Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Historic and Scenic Trails) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).² Additional areas of land may be excluded from wind energy development on the basis of findings of resource impacts that cannot be mitigated and/or conflict with existing and planned multiple-use activities or land use plans.
- To the extent possible, wind energy projects shall be developed in a manner that will not prevent other land uses, including minerals extraction, livestock grazing, recreational use, and other ROW uses.

¹ Wind energy development is permitted in one NCA, the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA), in accordance with the provisions of the *California Desert Conservation Area Plan 1980, as Amended* (BLM 1999).

² Although the MPDS developed for this PEIS (Section 2.2.1 and Appendix B) did not exclude all of these lands at the screening level, they will be excluded from wind energy development.

- Entities seeking to develop a wind energy project on BLM-administered lands shall consult with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies regarding specific projects as early in the planning process as appropriate to ensure that all potential construction, operation, and decommissioning issues and concerns are identified and adequately addressed.
- The BLM will initiate government-to-government consultation with Indian Tribal governments whose interests might be directly and substantially affected by activities on BLM-administered lands as early in the planning process as appropriate to ensure that construction, operation, and decommissioning issues and concerns are identified and adequately addressed.
- Entities seeking to develop a wind energy project on BLM-administered lands, in conjunction with BLM Washington Office (WO) and Field Office (FO) staff, shall consult with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) regarding the location of wind power projects and turbine siting as early in the planning process as appropriate. This consultation shall occur concurrently at both the installation/field level and the Pentagon/BLM WO level. An interagency protocol agreement is being developed to establish a consultation process and to identify the scope of issues for consultation. Lands withdrawn for military purposes are under the administrative jurisdiction of the DoD or a military service and are not available for issuance of wind energy authorizations by the BLM.
- The BLM will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). The specific consultation requirements will be determined on a project-by-project basis.
- The BLM will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). The specific consultation requirements will be determined on a project-by-project basis. If programmatic Section 106 consultations have been conducted and are adequate to cover a proposed project, additional consultation may not be needed.
- Existing land use plans will be amended, as appropriate, to (1) adopt provisions of the BLM's Wind Energy Development Program, (2) identify land considered to be available for wind energy development, and (3) identify land that will not be available for wind energy development.
- The level of environmental analysis to be required under NEPA for individual wind power projects will be determined at the FO level. For many projects, it may be determined that a tiered environmental assessment (EA) is appropriate in lieu of an EIS. To the extent that the PEIS addresses anticipated issues and

concerns associated with an individual project, including potential cumulative impacts, the BLM will tier off of the decisions embedded in the PEIS and limit the scope of additional project-specific NEPA analyses. The site-specific NEPA analyses will include analyses of project site configuration and micrositing considerations, monitoring program requirements, and appropriate mitigation measures. In particular, the mitigation measures discussed in Chapter 5 of the PEIS may be consulted in determining site-specific requirements. Public involvement will be incorporated into all wind energy development projects to ensure that all concerns and issues are identified and adequately addressed. In general, the scope of the NEPA analyses will be limited to the proposed action on BLM-administered public lands; however, if access to proposed development on adjacent non-BLM-administered lands is entirely dependent on obtaining ROW access across BLM-administered public lands and there are no alternatives to that access, the NEPA analysis for the proposed ROW may need to assess the environmental effects from that proposed development. The BLM's analyses of ROW access projects may tier off of the PEIS to the extent that the proposed project falls within the scope of the PEIS analyses.

- Site-specific environmental analyses will tier from the PEIS and identify and assess any cumulative impacts that are beyond the scope of the cumulative impacts addressed in the PEIS.
- The Categorical Exclusion (CX) applicable to the issuance of short-term ROWs or land use authorizations may be applicable to some site monitoring and testing activities. The relevant CX, established for the BLM in the DOI Departmental Manual 516, Chapter 11, Sec. 11.5, E(19) (DOI 2004), encompasses “issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.”
- The BLM will require financial bonds for all wind energy development projects on BLM-administered public lands to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the rights-of-way authorization and the requirements of applicable regulatory requirements, including reclamation costs. The amount of the required bond will be determined during the rights-of-way authorization process on the basis of site-specific and project-specific factors. The BLM may also require financial bonds for site monitoring and testing authorizations.
- Entities seeking to develop a wind energy project on BLM-administered public lands shall develop a project-specific Plan of Development (POD) that incorporates all BMPs and, as appropriate, the requirements of other existing and relevant BLM mitigation guidance, including the BLM's interim off-site mitigation guidance (BLM 2005a). Additional mitigation measures will be

incorporated into the POD and into the ROW authorization as project stipulations, as needed, to address site-specific and species-specific issues. The POD will include a site plan showing the locations of turbines, roads, power lines, other infrastructure, and other areas of short- and long-term disturbance.

- The BLM will incorporate management goals and objectives specific to habitat conservation for species of concern (e.g., sage-grouse), as appropriate, into the POD for proposed wind energy projects.
- The BLM will consider the visual resource values of the public lands involved in proposed wind energy development projects, consistent with BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM) policies and guidance. The BLM will work with the ROW applicant to incorporate visual design considerations into the planning and design of the project to minimize potential visual impacts of the proposal and to meet the VRM objectives of the area.
- Operators of wind power facilities on BLM-administered public lands shall consult with the BLM and other appropriate federal, state, and local agencies regarding any planned upgrades or changes to the wind facility design or operation. Proposed changes of this nature may require additional environmental analysis and/or revision of the POD.
- The BLM's Wind Energy Development Program will incorporate adaptive management strategies to ensure that potential adverse impacts of wind energy development are avoided (if possible), minimized, or mitigated to acceptable levels. The programmatic policies and BMPs will be updated and revised as new data regarding the impacts of wind power projects become available. At the project-level, operators will be required to develop monitoring programs to evaluate the environmental conditions at the site through all phases of development, to establish metrics against which monitoring observations can be measured, to identify potential mitigation measures, and to establish protocols for incorporating monitoring observations and additional mitigation measures into standard operating procedures and project-specific stipulations.

A.2 Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The BMPs will be adopted as required elements of project-specific PODs and/or as ROW authorization stipulations. They are categorized by development activity: site monitoring and testing, development of the POD, construction, operation, and decommissioning. The BMPs for development of the POD identify required elements of the POD needed to address potential impacts associated with subsequent phases of development.

A.2.1 Site Monitoring and Testing

- The area disturbed by installation of meteorological towers (i.e., footprint) shall be kept to a minimum.
- Existing roads shall be used to the maximum extent feasible. If new roads are necessary, they shall be designed and constructed to the appropriate standard.
- Meteorological towers shall not be located in sensitive habitats or in areas where ecological resources known to be sensitive to human activities (e.g., prairie grouse) are present. Installation of towers shall be scheduled to avoid disruption of wildlife reproductive activities or other important behaviors.
- Meteorological towers installed for site monitoring and testing shall be inspected periodically for structural integrity.

A.2.2 Plan of Development Preparation

General

- The BLM and operators shall contact appropriate agencies, property owners, and other stakeholders early in the planning process to identify potentially sensitive land uses and issues, rules that govern wind energy development locally, and land use concerns specific to the region.
- Available information describing the environmental and sociocultural conditions in the vicinity of the proposed project shall be collected and reviewed as needed to predict potential impacts of the project.
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-required notice of proposed construction shall be made as early as possible to identify any air safety measures that would be required.
- To plan for efficient use of the land, necessary infrastructure requirements shall be consolidated wherever possible, and current transmission and market access shall be evaluated carefully.
- The project shall be planned to utilize existing roads and utility corridors to the maximum extent feasible, and to minimize the number and length/size of new roads, lay-down areas, and borrow areas.
- A monitoring program shall be developed to ensure that environmental conditions are monitored during the construction, operation, and

decommissioning phases. The monitoring program requirements, including adaptive management strategies, shall be established at the project level to ensure that potential adverse impacts of wind energy development are mitigated. The monitoring program shall identify the monitoring requirements for each environmental resource present at the site, establish metrics against which monitoring observations can be measured, identify potential mitigation measures, and establish protocols for incorporating monitoring observations and additional mitigation measures into standard operating procedures and BMPs.

- “Good housekeeping” procedures shall be developed to ensure that during operation the site will be kept clean of debris, garbage, fugitive trash or waste, and graffiti; to prohibit scrap heaps and dumps; and to minimize storage yards.

Wildlife and Other Ecological Resources

- Operators shall review existing information on species and habitats in the vicinity of the project area to identify potential concerns.
- Operators shall conduct surveys for federal and/or state-protected species and other species of concern (including special status plant and animal species) within the project area and design the project to avoid (if possible), minimize, or mitigate impacts to these resources.
- Operators shall identify important, sensitive, or unique habitats in the vicinity of the project and design the project to avoid (if possible), minimize, or mitigate impacts to these habitats (e.g., locate the turbines, roads, and ancillary facilities in the least environmentally sensitive areas; i.e., away from riparian habitats, streams, wetlands, drainages, or critical wildlife habitats).
- The BLM will prohibit the disturbance of any population of federal listed plant species.
- Operators shall evaluate avian and bat use of the project area and design the project to minimize or mitigate the potential for bird and bat strikes (e.g., development shall not occur in riparian habitats and wetlands). Scientifically rigorous avian and bat use surveys shall be conducted; the amount and extent of ecological baseline data required shall be determined on a project basis.
- Turbines shall be configured to avoid landscape features known to attract raptors, if site studies show that placing turbines there would pose a significant risk to raptors.

- Operators shall determine the presence of bat colonies and avoid placing turbines near known bat hibernation, breeding, and maternity/nursery colonies; in known migration corridors; or in known flight paths between colonies and feeding areas.
- Operators shall determine the presence of active raptor nests (i.e., raptor nests used during the breeding season). Measures to reduce raptor use at a project site (e.g., minimize road cuts, maintain either no vegetation or nonattractive plant species around the turbines) shall be considered.
- A habitat restoration plan shall be developed to avoid (if possible), minimize, or mitigate negative impacts on vulnerable wildlife while maintaining or enhancing habitat values for other species. The plan shall identify revegetation, soil stabilization, and erosion reduction measures that shall be implemented to ensure that all temporary use areas are restored. The plan shall require that restoration occur as soon as possible after completion of activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
- Procedures shall be developed to mitigate potential impacts to special status species. Such measures could include avoidance, relocation of project facilities or lay-down areas, and/or relocation of biota.
- Facilities shall be designed to discourage their use as perching or nesting substrates by birds. For example, power lines and poles shall be configured to minimize raptor electrocutions and discourage raptor and raven nesting and perching.

Visual Resources

- The public shall be involved and informed about the visual site design elements of the proposed wind energy facilities. Possible approaches include conducting public forums for disseminating information, offering organized tours of operating wind developments, and using computer simulation and visualization techniques in public presentations.
- Turbine arrays and turbine design shall be integrated with the surrounding landscape. Design elements to be addressed include visual uniformity, use of tubular towers, proportion and color of turbines, nonreflective paints, and prohibition of commercial messages on turbines.
- Other site design elements shall be integrated with the surrounding landscape. Elements to address include minimizing the profile of the ancillary structures, burial of cables, prohibition of commercial symbols, and lighting. Regarding

lighting, efforts shall be made to minimize the need for and amount of lighting on ancillary structures.

Roads

- An access road siting and management plan shall be prepared incorporating existing BLM standards regarding road design, construction, and maintenance such as those described in the BLM 9113 Manual (BLM 1985) and the *Surface Operating Standards for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development* (RMRCC 1989) (i.e., the Gold Book).

Ground Transportation

- A transportation plan shall be developed, particularly for the transport of turbine components, main assembly cranes, and other large pieces of equipment. The plan shall consider specific object sizes, weights, origin, destination, and unique handling requirements and shall evaluate alternative transportation approaches. In addition, the process to be used to comply with unique state requirements and to obtain all necessary permits shall be clearly identified.
- A traffic management plan shall be prepared for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan shall incorporate measures such as informational signs, flaggers when equipment may result in blocked throughways, and traffic cones to identify any necessary changes in temporary lane configuration.

Noise

- Proponents of a wind energy development project shall take measurements to assess the existing background noise levels at a given site and compare them with the anticipated noise levels associated with the proposed project.

Noxious Weeds and Pesticides

- Operators shall develop a plan for control of noxious weeds and invasive species, which could occur as a result of new surface disturbance activities at the site. The plan shall address monitoring, education of personnel on weed identification, the manner in which weeds spread, and methods for treating infestations. The use of certified weed-free mulching shall be required. If trucks and construction equipment are arriving from locations with known

invasive vegetation problems, a controlled inspection and cleaning area shall be established to visually inspect construction equipment arriving at the project area and to remove and collect seeds that may be adhering to tires and other equipment surfaces.

- If pesticides are used on the site, an integrated pest management plan shall be developed to ensure that applications would be conducted within the framework of BLM and DOI policies and entail only the use of EPA-registered pesticides. Pesticide use shall be limited to nonpersistent, immobile pesticides and shall only be applied in accordance with label and application permit directions and stipulations for terrestrial and aquatic applications.

Cultural/Historic Resources

- The BLM will consult with Indian Tribal governments early in the planning process to identify issues regarding the proposed wind energy development, including issues related to the presence of cultural properties, access rights, disruption to traditional cultural practices, and impacts to visual resources important to the Tribe(s).
- The presence of archaeological sites and historic properties in the area of potential effect shall be determined on the basis of a records search of recorded sites and properties in the area and/or, depending on the extent and reliability of existing information, an archaeological survey. Archaeological sites and historic properties present in the area of potential effect shall be reviewed to determine whether they meet the criteria of eligibility for listing on the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP).
- When any rights-of-way application includes remnants of a National Historic Trail, is located within the viewshed of a National Historic Trail's designated centerline, or includes or is within the viewshed of a trail eligible for listing on the NRHP, the operator shall evaluate the potential visual impacts to the trail associated with the proposed project and identify appropriate mitigation measures for inclusion as stipulations in the POD.
- If cultural resources are present at the site, or if areas with a high potential to contain cultural material have been identified, a cultural resources management plan (CRMP) shall be developed. This plan shall address mitigation activities to be taken for cultural resources found at the site. Avoidance of the area is always the preferred mitigation option. Other mitigation options include archaeological survey and excavation (as warranted) and monitoring. If an area exhibits a high potential, but no artifacts were observed during an archaeological survey, monitoring by a qualified archaeologist could be required during all excavation and

earthmoving in the high-potential area. A report shall be prepared documenting these activities. The CRMP also shall (1) establish a monitoring program, (2) identify measures to prevent potential looting/vandalism or erosion impacts, and (3) address the education of workers and the public to make them aware of the consequences of unauthorized collection of artifacts and destruction of property on public land.

Paleontological Resources

- Operators shall determine whether paleontological resources exist in a project area on the basis of the sedimentary context of the area, a records search for past paleontological finds in the area, and/or, depending on the extent of existing information, a paleontological survey.
- If paleontological resources are present at the site, or if areas with a high potential to contain paleontological material have been identified, a paleontological resources management plan shall be developed. This plan shall include a mitigation plan for collection of the fossils; mitigation could include avoidance, removal of fossils, or monitoring. If an area exhibits a high potential but no fossils were observed during survey, monitoring by a qualified paleontologist could be required during all excavation and earthmoving in the sensitive area. A report shall be prepared documenting these activities. The paleontological resources management plan also shall (1) establish a monitoring program, (2) identify measures to prevent potential looting/vandalism or erosion impacts, and (3) address the education of workers and the public to make them aware of the consequences of unauthorized collection of fossils on public land.

Hazardous Materials and Waste Management

- Operators shall develop a hazardous materials management plan addressing storage, use, transportation, and disposal of each hazardous material anticipated to be used at the site. The plan shall identify all hazardous materials that would be used, stored, or transported at the site. It shall establish inspection procedures, storage requirements, storage quantity limits, inventory control, nonhazardous product substitutes, and disposition of excess materials. The plan shall also identify requirements for notices to federal and local emergency response authorities and include emergency response plans.
- Operators shall develop a waste management plan identifying the waste streams that are expected to be generated at the site and addressing hazardous waste determination procedures, waste storage locations, waste-specific management and disposal requirements, inspection procedures, and waste

minimization procedures. This plan shall address all solid and liquid wastes that may be generated at the site.

- Operators shall develop a spill prevention and response plan identifying where hazardous materials and wastes are stored on site, spill prevention measures to be implemented, training requirements, appropriate spill response actions for each material or waste, the locations of spill response kits on site, a procedure for ensuring that the spill response kits are adequately stocked at all times, and procedures for making timely notifications to authorities.

Storm Water

- Operators shall develop a storm water management plan for the site to ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion.

Human Health and Safety

- A safety assessment shall be conducted to describe potential safety issues and the means that would be taken to mitigate them, including issues such as site access, construction, safe work practices, security, heavy equipment transportation, traffic management, emergency procedures, and fire control.
- A health and safety program shall be developed to protect both workers and the general public during construction, operation, and decommissioning of a wind energy project. Regarding occupational health and safety, the program shall identify all applicable federal and state occupational safety standards; establish safe work practices for each task (e.g., requirements for personal protective equipment and safety harnesses; Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] standard practices for safe use of explosives and blasting agents; and measures for reducing occupational electric and magnetic fields [EMF] exposures); establish fire safety evacuation procedures; and define safety performance standards (e.g., electrical system standards and lightning protection standards). The program shall include a training program to identify hazard training requirements for workers for each task and establish procedures for providing required training to all workers. Documentation of training and a mechanism for reporting serious accidents to appropriate agencies shall be established.
- Regarding public health and safety, the health and safety program shall establish a safety zone or setback for wind turbine generators from residences and occupied buildings, roads, rights-of-ways, and other public access areas that is sufficient to prevent accidents resulting from the operation of wind turbine generators. It shall identify requirements for temporary fencing

around staging areas, storage yards, and excavations during construction or decommissioning activities. It shall also identify measures to be taken during the operation phase to limit public access to hazardous facilities (e.g., permanent fencing would be installed only around electrical substations, and turbine tower access doors would be locked).

- Operators shall consult with local planning authorities regarding increased traffic during the construction phase, including an assessment of the number of vehicles per day, their size, and type. Specific issues of concern (e.g., location of school bus routes and stops) shall be identified and addressed in the traffic management plan.
- If operation of the wind turbines is expected to cause significant adverse impacts to nearby residences and occupied buildings from shadow flicker, low-frequency sound, or EMF, site-specific recommendations for addressing these concerns shall be incorporated into the project design (e.g., establishing a sufficient setback from turbines).
- The project shall be planned to minimize electromagnetic interference (EMI) (e.g., impacts to radar, microwave, television, and radio transmissions) and comply with Federal Communications Commission [FCC] regulations. Signal strength studies shall be conducted when proposed locations have the potential to impact transmissions. Potential interference with public safety communication systems (e.g., radio traffic related to emergency activities) shall be avoided.
- The project shall be planned to comply with FAA regulations, including lighting regulations, and to avoid potential safety issues associated with proximity to airports, military bases or training areas, or landing strips.
- Operators shall develop a fire management strategy to implement measures to minimize the potential for a human-caused fire.

A.2.3 Construction

General

- All control and mitigation measures established for the project in the POD and the resource-specific management plans that are part of the POD shall be maintained and implemented throughout the construction phase, as appropriate.
- The area disturbed by construction and operation of a wind energy development project (i.e., footprint) shall be kept to a minimum.

- The number and size/length of roads, temporary fences, lay-down areas, and borrow areas shall be minimized.
- Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities shall be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.
- All areas of disturbed soil shall be reclaimed using weed-free native grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Reclamation activities shall be undertaken as early as possible on disturbed areas.
- All electrical collector lines shall be buried in a manner that minimizes additional surface disturbance (e.g., along roads or other paths of surface disturbance). Overhead lines may be used in cases where burial of lines would result in further habitat disturbance.
- Operators shall identify unstable slopes and local factors that can induce slope instability (such as groundwater conditions, precipitation, earthquake activities, slope angles, and the dip angles of geologic strata). Operators also shall avoid creating excessive slopes during excavation and blasting operations. Special construction techniques shall be used where applicable in areas of steep slopes, erodible soil, and stream channel crossings.
- Erosion controls that comply with county, state, and federal standards shall be applied. Practices such as jute netting, silt fences, and check dams shall be applied near disturbed areas.

Wildlife

- Guy wires on permanent meteorological towers shall be avoided, however, may be necessary on temporary meteorological towers installed during site monitoring and testing.
- In accordance with the habitat restoration plan, restoration shall be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
- All construction employees shall be instructed to avoid harassment and disturbance of wildlife, especially during reproductive (e.g., courtship and nesting) seasons. In addition, pets shall not be permitted on site during construction.

Visual Resources

- Operators shall reduce visual impacts during construction by minimizing areas of surface disturbance, controlling erosion, using dust suppression techniques, and restoring exposed soils as closely as possible to their original contour and vegetation.

Roads

- Existing roads shall be used, but only if in safe and environmentally sound locations. If new roads are necessary, they shall be designed and constructed to the appropriate standard and be no higher than necessary to accommodate their intended functions (e.g., traffic volume and weight of vehicles). Excessive grades on roads, road embankments, ditches, and drainages shall be avoided, especially in areas with erodible soils. Special construction techniques shall be used, where applicable. Abandoned roads and roads that are no longer needed shall be recontoured and revegetated.
- Access roads and on-site roads shall be surfaced with aggregate materials, wherever appropriate.
- Access roads shall be located to follow natural contours and minimize side hill cuts.
- Roads shall be located away from drainage bottoms and avoid wetlands, if practicable.
- Roads shall be designed so that changes to surface water runoff are avoided and erosion is not initiated.
- Access roads shall be located to minimize stream crossings. All structures crossing streams shall be located and constructed so that they do not decrease channel stability or increase water velocity. Operators shall obtain all applicable federal and state permits.
- Existing drainage systems shall not be altered, especially in sensitive areas such as erodible soils or steep slopes. Potential soil erosion shall be controlled at culvert outlets with appropriate structures. Catch basins, roadway ditches, and culverts shall be cleaned and maintained regularly.

Ground Transportation

- Project personnel and contractors shall be instructed and required to adhere to speed limits commensurate with road types, traffic volumes, vehicle types,

and site-specific conditions, to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow and to reduce wildlife collisions and disturbance and airborne dust.

- Traffic shall be restricted to the roads developed for the project. Use of other unimproved roads shall be restricted to emergency situations.
- Signs shall be placed along construction roads to identify speed limits, travel restrictions, and other standard traffic control information. To minimize impacts on local commuters, consideration shall be given to limiting construction vehicles traveling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time.

Air Emissions

- Dust abatement techniques shall be used on unpaved, unvegetated surfaces to minimize airborne dust.
- Speed limits (e.g., 25 mph [40 km/h]) shall be posted and enforced to reduce airborne fugitive dust.
- Construction materials and stockpiled soils shall be covered if they are a source of fugitive dust.
- Dust abatement techniques shall be used before and during surface clearing, excavation, or blasting activities.

Excavation and Blasting Activities

- Operators shall gain a clear understanding of the local hydrogeology. Areas of groundwater discharge and recharge and their potential relationships with surface water bodies shall be identified.
- Operators shall avoid creating hydrologic conduits between two aquifers during foundation excavation and other activities.
- Foundations and trenches shall be backfilled with originally excavated material as much as possible. Excess excavation materials shall be disposed of only in approved areas or, if suitable, stockpiled for use in reclamation activities.
- Borrow material shall be obtained only from authorized and permitted sites. Existing sites shall be used in preference to new sites.

- Explosives shall be used only within specified times and at specified distances from sensitive wildlife or streams and lakes, as established by the BLM or other federal and state agencies.

Noise

- Noisy construction activities (including blasting) shall be limited to the least noise-sensitive times of day (i.e., daytime only between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.) and weekdays.
- All equipment shall have sound-control devices no less effective than those provided on the original equipment. All construction equipment used shall be adequately muffled and maintained.
- All stationary construction equipment (i.e., compressors and generators) shall be located as far as practicable from nearby residences.
- If blasting or other noisy activities are required during the construction period, nearby residents shall be notified in advance.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- Unexpected discovery of cultural or paleontological resources during construction shall be brought to the attention of the responsible BLM authorized officer immediately. Work shall be halted in the vicinity of the find to avoid further disturbance to the resources while they are being evaluated and appropriate mitigation measures are being developed.

Hazardous Materials and Waste Management

- Secondary containment shall be provided for all on-site hazardous materials and waste storage, including fuel. In particular, fuel storage (for construction vehicles and equipment) shall be a temporary activity occurring only for as long as is needed to support construction activities.
- Wastes shall be properly containerized and removed periodically for disposal at appropriate off-site permitted disposal facilities.
- In the event of an accidental release to the environment, the operator shall document the event, including a root cause analysis, appropriate corrective actions taken, and a characterization of the resulting environmental or health and safety impacts. Documentation of the event shall be provided to the BLM authorized officer and other federal and state agencies, as required.

- Any wastewater generated in association with temporary, portable sanitary facilities shall be periodically removed by a licensed hauler and introduced into an existing municipal sewage treatment facility. Temporary, portable sanitary facilities provided for construction crews shall be adequate to support expected on-site personnel and shall be removed at completion of construction activities.

Public Health and Safety

- Temporary fencing shall be installed around staging areas, storage yards, and excavations during construction to limit public access.

A.2.4 Operation

General

- All control and mitigation measures established for the project in the POD and the resource-specific management plans that are part of the POD shall be maintained and implemented throughout the operational phase, as appropriate. These control and mitigation measures shall be reviewed and revised, as needed, to address changing conditions or requirements at the site, throughout the operational phase. This adaptive management approach would help ensure that impacts from operations are kept to a minimum.
- Inoperative turbines shall be repaired, replaced, or removed in a timely manner. Requirements to do so shall be incorporated into the due diligence provisions of the rights-of-way authorization. Operators will be required to demonstrate due diligence in the repair, replacement, or removal of turbines; failure to do so could result in termination of the rights-of-way authorization.

Wildlife

- Employees, contractors, and site visitors shall be instructed to avoid harassment and disturbance of wildlife, especially during reproductive (e.g., courtship and nesting) seasons. In addition, any pets shall be controlled to avoid harassment and disturbance of wildlife.
- Observations of potential wildlife problems, including wildlife mortality, shall be reported to the BLM authorized officer immediately.

Ground Transportation

- Ongoing ground transportation planning shall be conducted to evaluate road use, minimize traffic volume, and ensure that roads are maintained adequately to minimize associated impacts.

Monitoring Program

- Site monitoring protocols defined in the POD shall be implemented. These will incorporate monitoring program observations and additional mitigation measures into standard operating procedures and BMPs to minimize future environmental impacts.
- Results of monitoring program efforts shall be provided to the BLM authorized officer.

Public Health and Safety

- Permanent fencing shall be installed and maintained around electrical substations, and turbine tower access doors shall be locked to limit public access.
- In the event an installed wind energy development project results in EMI, the operator shall work with the owner of the impacted communications system to resolve the problem. Additional warning information may also need to be conveyed to aircraft with onboard radar systems so that echoes from wind turbines can be quickly recognized.

A.2.5 Decommissioning

General

- Prior to the termination of the rights-of-way authorization, a decommissioning plan shall be developed and approved by the BLM. The decommissioning plan shall include a site reclamation plan and monitoring program.
- All management plans, BMPs, and stipulations developed for the construction phase shall be applied to similar activities during the decommissioning phase.
- All turbines and ancillary structures shall be removed from the site.

- Topsoil from all decommissioning activities shall be salvaged and reapplied during final reclamation.
- All areas of disturbed soil shall be reclaimed using weed-free native shrubs, grasses, and forbs.
- The vegetation cover, composition, and diversity shall be restored to values commensurate with the ecological setting.

ATTACHMENT B

**BLM LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENTS TO ADOPT THE
WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

ATTACHMENT B

BLM LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENTS TO ADOPT THE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Final Wind PEIS (BLM 2005) evaluated all BLM land use plans within the 11-state study area. The decision has been made to amend 52 land use plans in 9 of those states: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The amendments include (1) adoption of the Wind Energy Development Program policies and best management practices (BMPs), and (2) identification of specific areas where wind energy development will not be allowed.

Some plans within the 11-state study area were excluded from amendment in this Record of Decision (ROD) for a variety of reasons, including (1) if developable wind resources are not present in the planning area, (2) if the plan was previously amended or revised to adequately address wind energy development, (3) if the plan currently is being amended or revised in a separate National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) review and that amendment or revision will address wind energy development, or (4) if some other reason(s) exist(s) to exclude the plan from amendment under the PEIS (e.g., a plan revision is scheduled in the foreseeable future).

None of the land use plans in Arizona or California are included for amendment in this ROD. Ongoing and upcoming land use plan amendments being conducted will address wind energy development in these states for areas where developable wind resources are present.

Table B-1 provides information describing the amendment change for each land use plan that is amended in this ROD. The rationale for the change also is provided.

TABLE B-1 Changes and Rationales for Land Use Plan Amendments^a

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
<i>Colorado</i>		
Royal Gorge RMP, Royal Gorge Field Office	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The current RMP does not address wind energy development, and the Field Office has received two recent inquiries about wind energy development. The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
San Luis RMP, includes La Jara, Saguache, and Del Norte Field Offices and the San Luis Valley Public Lands Center	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The current RMP does not address wind energy development, and the Field Office has received two recent inquiries about wind energy development. The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in the planning area.
<i>Idaho</i>		
Cascade RMP, Four Rivers Field Office	Wind energy development will be restricted from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.	Restricted areas are not appropriate for wind energy development because of resource management conflicts.
	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The BMPs are appropriate for wind energy development in this planning area.
Challis RMP, Challis Field Office	Wind energy development will be restricted from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.	Restricted areas are not appropriate for wind energy development because of resource management conflicts.
	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The BMPs are appropriate for wind energy development in this planning area.

TABLE B-1 (Cont.)

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
Jarbidge RMP, Jarbidge Field Office	Wind energy development will be restricted from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.	Restricted areas are not appropriate for wind energy development because of resource management conflicts.
	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The BMPs are appropriate for wind energy development in this planning area.
Kuna MFP, Four Rivers Field Office	Wind energy development will be restricted from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.	Restricted areas are not appropriate for wind energy development because of resource management conflicts.
	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The BMPs are appropriate for wind energy development in this planning area.
Lemhi RMP, Salmon Field Office	Wind energy development will be restricted from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.	Restricted areas are not appropriate for wind energy development because of resource management conflicts.
	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The BMPs are appropriate for wind energy development in this planning area.
Owyhee RMP, Owyhee Field Office	Wind energy development will be restricted from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.	Restricted areas are not appropriate for wind energy development because of resource management conflicts.
	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The BMPs are appropriate for wind energy development in this planning area.
Twin Falls MFP, Burley Field Office	Wind energy development will be restricted from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.	Restricted areas are not appropriate for wind energy development because of resource management conflicts.
	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.

TABLE B-1 (Cont.)

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
<i>Montana</i>		
Billings RMP, Billings Field Office	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted with restrictions as indicated in the PEIS.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area. The Billings RMP is scheduled for revision in 2007; however, Billings also has an active wind testing and monitoring permit (MTM92391) with an effective date of September 28, 2003. If this potential project goes to full field development, it is doubtful that the RMP revision would be completed in time to address wind energy development on public lands. The current RMP does not address wind energy development.
Garnet RMP, Missoula Field Office	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
	RMP MA 9 will be identified as an exclusion area where wind energy and its associated development will be prohibited.	Wind energy development would be inconsistent with the BLM's management decisions and objectives.
	RMP MAs 1, 4, 10, and 11 will be identified as avoidance areas where wind energy and its associated development will be discouraged.	These areas contain important riparian areas; threatened and endangered species habitat; big game winter range; and/or recreation, and historic and cultural sites where wind energy development would be inconsistent with the BLM's management decisions and objectives.
Headwaters RMP, Butte Field Office	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Judith-Valley-Phillips RMP, Lewistown Field Office	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.

TABLE B-1 (Cont.)

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
Judith-Valley-Phillips RMP, Malta Field Office	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
	Wind energy development will be excluded from large reservoirs/waterfowl complexes.	Development will be restricted within 2 mi (3 km) of these sites because of the potential for bird/tower strikes.
	Wind energy development will be excluded from Montana Air National Guard Training sites.	This area is in S. Phillips County and within the Hays Military Operations Area. Wind energy development would conflict with training missions.
	Wind energy development will be excluded from developed recreation sites.	Development within viewsheds will be restricted within 1 mi (2 km) unless topography can screen the project.
West Hi Line RMP, Lewiston FO	Wind energy development will be excluded from backcountry byways.	Development should not be seen within the viewshed of the byway.
	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
<i>New Mexico</i> Carlsbad RMP, Carlsbad FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate in some areas for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
	Wind energy development will be restricted in those areas along the face of the Guadalupe Mountains located in the western portion of the planning area and grassland areas in the northwestern portion of the planning area.	This area provides critical habitat for Kuenzlers cactus and Aplamado falcon. Wind energy development in this area would be inconsistent with the BLM's management decisions and objectives for the critical habitat.

TABLE B-1 (Cont.)

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
Carlsbad RMP, Carlsbad FO (Cont.)	Wind energy development will be restricted in those areas within the viewshed of Carlsbad Caverns National Park.	Carlsbad Caverns National Park receives heavy tourist traffic throughout the year. Because of the significance of the park, wind energy development in the viewshed for the park would be inconsistent with the BLM's management decisions and objectives as well as those of the National Park Service.
	Wind energy development will be restricted in those areas that are within known cave/karst areas within the planning area.	Much of the known cave/karst areas have been designated as "high wind resource levels"; however, wind energy development in this area would have to be restricted because of the numerous cave/karst features in the area.
	Wind energy development will be restricted in those areas that are within the Guadalupe National Backcountry Byway and the Guadalupe Escarpment Scenic Area.	Any wind development in these areas would have a negative impact on the VRM ratings for these areas, which would be inconsistent with current BLM management decisions and objectives.
	Wind energy development will be restricted in designated Special Management Areas.	Wind development in these areas would be inconsistent with BLM management decisions and objectives.
Mimbres RMP, Las Cruces FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Roswell RMP, Roswell FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
White Sands RMP, Las Cruces FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.

TABLE B-1 (Cont.)

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
<i>Nevada</i>		
Elko RMP, Elko FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Las Vegas RMP, Las Vegas FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Paradise-Denio MFP, Winnemucca FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Shoshone-Eureka RMP, Battle Mountain FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Sonoma-Gerlach MFP, Winnemucca FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Tonopah RMP, Battle Mountain FO, Tonopah Field Station	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Wells RMP, Elko FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.

TABLE B-1 (Cont.)

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
<i>Oregon</i>		
Andrews/Steens RMP, Andrews/Steens FO	Wind energy development will be restricted from ROW, realty use, and renewable energy avoidance and exclusion zones as identified in the RMP and the portion of the Steens Mountain CMPA in the planning area.	Wind energy development would be incompatible with the purposes and objectives of the special designations (ACECs, WSAs, RNAs, and ONAs) that were identified as avoidance and exclusion areas in the RMP. Although the RMP does not designate the portion of the Steens Mountain CMPA in the planning area as an avoidance/exclusion zone, the restrictions on facility development contained in the language of the Steens Mountain CMPA exclude wind energy development in this area.
Brothers/LaPine RMP, Deschutes and Central Oregon FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Coos Bay RMP, Coos Bay FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Eugene RMP, Eugene FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
John Day RMP, Central Oregon FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Medford RMP, Medford FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Salem RMP, Salem FO	BMPs and automatic avoidance/exclusion zones included in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The BMPs and automatic avoidance/exclusions zones included in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.

TABLE B-1 (Cont.)

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
Southeast Oregon RMP, Malheur and Jordan Resource Areas	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Three Rivers RMP, Three Rivers FO's	It will be clarified that wind energy development is allowable on a case-by-case basis in areas outside rights-of-way and land use authorization avoidance and exclusion zones.	The RMP does not contain any explicit discussion on wind energy development, although the plan designates avoidance and exclusion areas for rights-of-way and land use authorizations.
	Wind energy development will be restricted from rights-of-way and land use authorization avoidance and exclusion zones identified in the RMP and the portion of the Steens Mountain CMPA in the planning area.	Wind energy development would be incompatible with the purposes and objectives of the special designations (ACECs, WSAs, RNA, and ONAs) that were identified as avoidance and exclusion areas in the RMP. Although the RMP does not designate the portion of the Steens Mountain CMPA in the planning area as an avoidance/exclusion zone, the restrictions on facility development contained in the language of the Steens Mountain CMPA exclude wind energy development in this area.
	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Two Rivers RMP, Deschutes and Central Oregon Field Offices	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Upper Deschutes RMP, Deschutes FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.

TABLE B-1 (Cont.)

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
<i>Utah</i> Cedar-Beaver-Garfield-Antimony RMP, Cedar City FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Escalante MFP, Kanab FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Paria MFP, Kanab FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Pinyon MFP, Cedar City FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Randolph MFP, Salt Lake FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
St. George RMP, St. George FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Vermillion MFP, Kanab FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.
Zion MFP, Kanab FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.

TABLE B-1 (Cont.)

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
<p><i>Washington</i> Spokane RMP, Wenatchee and Border Field Offices</p>	<p>BMPs and automatic avoidance/exclusion zones included in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.</p>	<p>The BMPs and automatic avoidance/exclusion zones included in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.</p>
<p><i>Wyoming</i> Buffalo RMP, Buffalo FO</p>	<p>Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.</p>	<p>The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.</p>
<p>Cody RMP, Cody FO</p>	<p>Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.</p>	<p>The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.</p>
<p>Grass Creek RMP, Worland FO</p>	<p>Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.</p>	<p>The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.</p>
<p>Green River RMP, Rock Springs FO</p>	<p>Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.</p>	<p>The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.</p>
<p>Lander RMP, Lander FO</p>	<p>Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.</p>	<p>The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.</p>
<p>Newcastle RMP, Newcastle FO</p>	<p>Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.</p>	<p>The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.</p>

TABLE B-1 (Cont.)

Plan/Field Office	Change	Rationale
Washakie RMP, Worland FO	Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.	The programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program are appropriate for wind energy development activities in this planning area.

- ^a Abbreviations: ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern; BMP = best management practice; CMPA = (Steens Mountain) Cooperative Management and Protection Area; MA = management area; MFP = Management Framework Plan; ONA = Outstanding National Area; RMP = Resource Management Plan; RNA = Research Natural Area; ROW = right-of-way; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WSA = Wilderness Study Area.
- ^b The Andrews/Steens RMP is currently being revised; upon completion, it will replace the Andrews MFP and revise part of the Three Rivers RMP. The amendments listed in this table will be applied to whatever plans are in existence at the time the Record of Decision (ROD) is issued.
- ^c The Upper Deschutes RMP is currently being revised; upon completion, it will replace a portion of the Brothers/LaPine RMP. The amendments listed in this table will be applied to whatever plans are in existence at the time the ROD is issued.