Attachment 1

Wildlife Best Management Practices

The following BMPs where derived from the Wind Energy Development Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of June 2005 and the WO IM 2009-043 issued on December 19, 2008 for processing right-of-way applications for wind energy projects on public lands and associated best management practices.

Policies:

1) The BLM will not issue ROW authorizations for wind energy development for areas in which wind energy development is incompatible with specific resource values. Specific lands excluded from wind energy site monitoring and testing and wind energy development include designated areas that are part of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) (e.g., Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Historic and Scenic Trails). Additional areas may be excluded from wind energy development based on resource impacts that cannot be mitigated and/or conflict with existing and multiple-use activities or land use plans. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) are not universally excluded from wind energy site monitoring and testing or wind energy development, but will be managed consistent with the management prescriptions for the individual ACEC.

2) 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.

3) The BLM will incorporate management goals and objectives specific to habitat conservation for species of concern (e.g., sage-grouse, raptors, bats), as appropriate, into the POD for proposed wind energy projects.

Site Monitoring:

Meteorological towers shall be located to avoid sensitive habitats or areas where ecological resources known to be sensitive to human activities are present. Installation of towers shall be scheduled to avoid disruption of wildlife reproductive activities or other important behaviors, and shall be consistent with sage grouse management strategies.

Guy wires on permanent meteorological towers shall be avoided, however, may be necessary on temporary meteorological towers installed during site monitoring and testing. If guy wires are necessary, the meteorological towers shall be periodically inspected to determine whether permanent markers (bird flight diverters) attached to the guy wires are necessary to increase visibility.

A study design strategy shall be required for any environmental studies initiated or baseline data collected during the site testing and monitoring period. The operator shall submit the study design strategy to the BLM authorized officer for review.

Wildlife 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 priority wildlife and special status plant and animal species) within the project area and design the project to avoid, 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, 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 federally listed plant species under the Endangered Species Act.

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). Avian and bat use surveys consistent with current methodologies and standards 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) and design the project to provide for spatial buffers and timing restrictions for surface disturbing activities. Measures to reduce raptor use at a project site (e.g., minimize road cuts, maintain either no vegetation or plant species that are unattractive to raptors around the turbines) shall also be identified.

A habitat restoration plan shall be developed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate negative impacts on vulnerable wildlife while maintaining or enhancing habitat values for other species. The plan shall identify reclamation, 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 and other priority wildlife species. Such measures may 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.

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.

Timing restrictions for construction activities may be implemented to minimize impacts to wildlife.

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.

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.

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 impacts, including wildlife mortality, shall be reported to the BLM authorized officer immediately.