Bureau of Land Management
Wind Energy Guidelines – Tiers 3 & 4
BLM’s Multiple-Use Mission

- FLPMA Section 102 (a) (8) “the public lands will be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmosphere, water resources and archeological values…”

- FLPMA Section 102 (a)(12) “the public lands shall be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber and fiber from public lands…”
BLM’s Multiple-Use Mission

- 245M surface acres (11% of all acres in U.S.)
- 700M acres of mineral estate
  - 5% U.S. oil production
  - 41% geothermal production
  - 45% U.S. coal production
- 18,000 grazing permits on 160M acres
- 57M annual recreation visits
- 27M acre National Landscape Conservation System
- 39,000 wild horses and burros
- 200MBF timber harvested annually
- 93,000 Right-of-way permits
Renewable Energy

• BLM established RECOs to facilitate permit processing and provide opportunities for State agency participation.

• Responsible for Geothermal, Solar, Wind Development

• **Wind** - 31 approved wind energy development projects producing 906 MWs and 43 pending wind energy development applications for 380,000 acres; potential for additional 3,340 MWs.

• BLM has 20.6M acres of public lands with wind potential, yet only accounts for ~2% of current wind energy production in the U.S.
Wildlife Management

- Ecologically diverse: Arctic to southwest
- 70 million acres key upland game bird habitat
- 13.6 million acres key raptor areas; 400 species migratory birds
- National Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy
- Annual contribution to local economies (hunting $800 Million*; wildlife viewing - $2.8 Billion*)

*From 2010 BLM Public Lands Statistics
Tier 3

- Field studies to document site and wildlife and habitat and predicted project impacts
- Opportunistic existing data/ongoing assessments
- BLM follows approved FWS, other protocols
- GeoBob - wildlife observation database
- Eagle, hawk nests monitoring
- Neotropical migrants bird counts
- Bat Counts/Grid Surveys; bat acoustic monitoring
Tier 3 cont’d.

- Pre-construction surveys: wetlands, habitat use monitoring, land use planning plan revisions, watershed analysis
- Other pre-project survey clearance work: oil/gas, range, timber harvest, mining…
- National Wind Coordination Collaborative – sage grouse research collaborative oversight committee – BLM technical monitor R. Sell
- Habitat Fragmentation
- Rapid Ecoregional Assessments
Tier 4

- Post-construction Studies to estimate Impacts
- Fatality Studies – research cooperative funding opportunities
- Coordination with developers; Assistance/expertise sharing efficiencies
- REA’s - Cumulative impacts addressed for wide ranging species at a regional scale (e.g. golden eagles, sage grouse)
Rapid Ecoregional Assessment

- BLM’s REAs – 11-91M acres
- Coordination with partner landscape assessments e.g. LCCs
- BLM regional (Western scale)
- Local, project specific
- Habitat fragmentation
- Cumulative impacts addressed for wide ranging species at a regional scale (golden eagles, sage grouse, mule deer)
Questions?