

# Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project

# Welcome to the Public Scoping Meeting

for the Environmental Impact Statement for  
Eagle Take Permitting for the Chokecherry  
and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project Phase I  
Wind Turbine Development



# Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project

## Assessing Potential Impacts to Eagles

Analysis of how Phase I Wind Turbine Development of the proposed Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project (CCSM) will affect eagles is governed by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act implementing regulations, and involves a number of interrelated considerations.

### Eagle Use Data

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) uses available information to assess eagle presence in the CCSM Project Area, and what eagle activities occur, such as breeding, foraging, or migrating. On-site surveys contracted by Power Company of Wyoming (PCW) constitute a vital component of this information.



### Avoidance and Minimization



To be eligible for a programmatic permit authorizing a specific level of take over the permit's timeframe, the project must demonstrate that impacts to eagles have been avoided and minimized, and that any remaining take of eagles is unavoidable. Using available eagle data, the USFWS has been working with PCW to identify measures to avoid and minimize impacts to eagles. Potential measures to avoid risk may include relocating turbines, eliminating some proposed turbine locations, or curtailing turbine operations during specified seasons or times.



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## Estimate of Eagle Take

The USFWS uses a statistical fatality model to estimate the likely number of eagle fatalities due to wind project operations. The model incorporates data including eagle use patterns, turbine number and location, and turbine size. The model's accuracy depends on the quality of data used in the model. If the USFWS decides to issue a permit for this project, the level of unavoidable take of eagles authorized under the permit will be based on the estimates derived from this fatality model.

## Compensatory Mitigation



By regulation, not only must any eagle take authorized by a programmatic permit be unavoidable, the project must also provide compensatory mitigation to offset the authorized take of golden eagles. In practice, this is intended to ensure that for every eagle killed, one eagle is added, so that the net impact to the eagle

population is zero. The most likely compensatory mitigation requirement is to retrofit older power poles so that eagle deaths may be prevented.

The USFWS will consider all of these factors in its Environmental Impact Statement for the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project eagle take permit. Comments or questions on this process are encouraged and welcomed.



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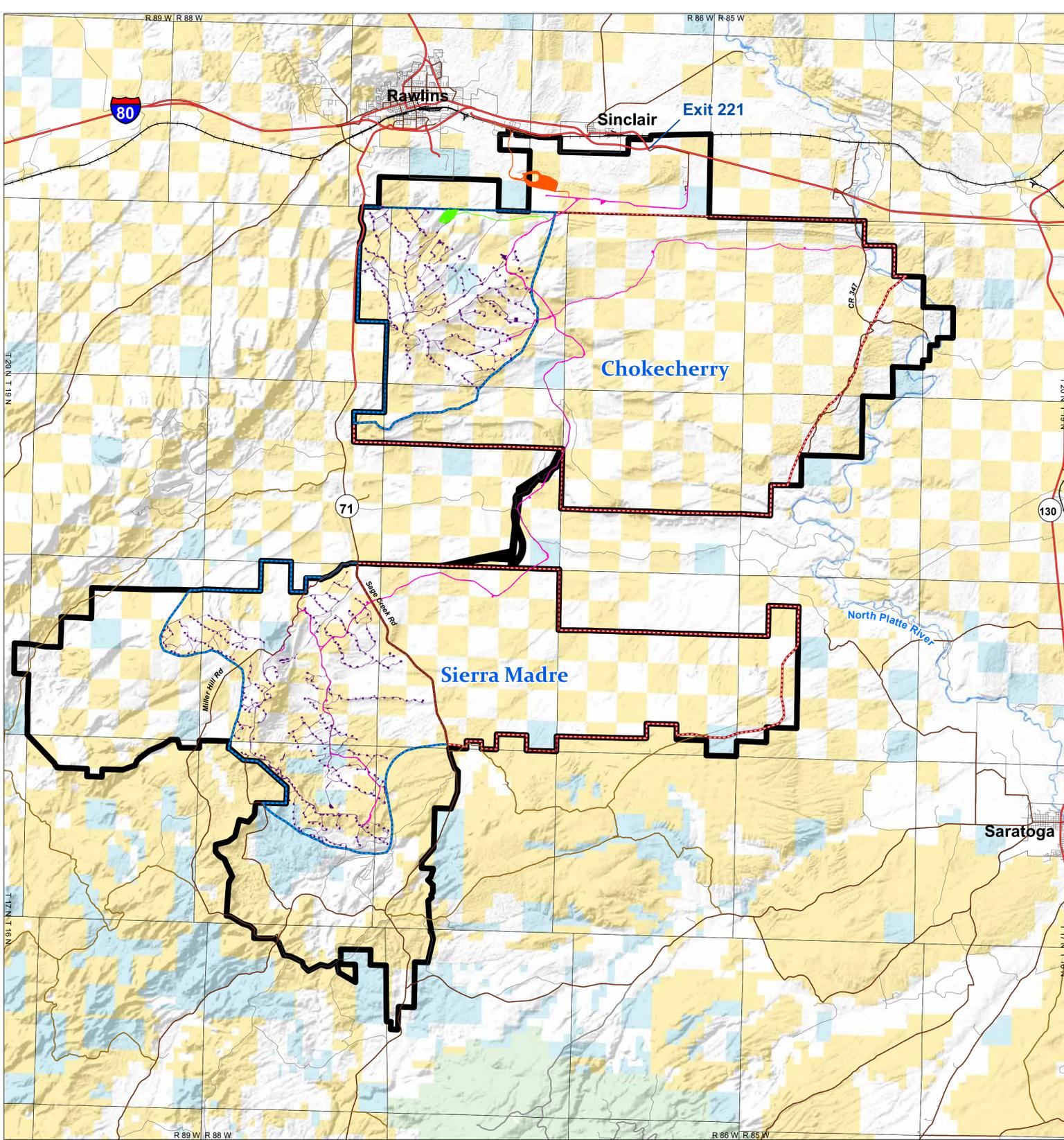
## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process



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## Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project (CCSM) Phase I Wind Turbine Development

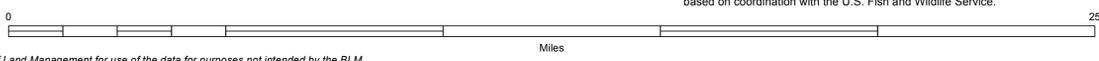


**Surface Ownership**  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 State  
 Private  
 U.S. Forest Service

CCSM Wind Energy Project 2012 Record of Decision Boundary  
 CCSM Wind Energy Project Phase I Wind Development Area  
 CCSM Wind Energy Project Phase II Wind Development Area  
 Haul Road and Facilities for Phase I (Haul Road for Phase II not shown)

Wind Turbine Facilities Initial Disturbance  
 Road Rock Quarry  
 West Sinclair Rail Facility

Note: Wind turbine pad locations shown on this map have not been finalized. Final wind turbine locations will be determined based on coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM



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## Keys to Making Effective Comments:

- Be specific. Give defined reasons, not broad statements or opinions.
- Share site-specific observations, data, or knowledge.
- Detail important environmental and community factors.
- Be timely. Comments must be received by February 3, 2014 to be considered in the environmental assessment.

### Project website:

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/wind/ChokecherrySierraMadre/index.html>

## Please Send Comments to:

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Migratory Birds Program  
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