



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region



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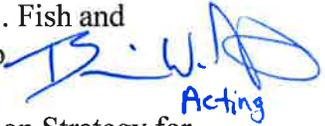
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January 13, 2017

Memorandum

To: Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins, Wyoming

From: Clint Riley, Assistant Regional Director for Migratory Birds U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region, Lakewood, Colorado 

Subject: Review of Eagle Conservation Plan and Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy for Chokecherry Sierra Madre Phase I Wind Energy Project

This memorandum is written to address the requirement in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) 2012 Chokecherry and Sierra Madre (CCSM) Record of Decision (ROD), which states that the BLM will obtain the concurrence of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) as to the adequacy of Avian Protection Plans (APPs) and Eagle Conservation Plans (ECPs) for rights-of-way relating to the Power Company of Wyoming's (PCW's) proposed CCSM Phase I Wind Energy Project.

We have reviewed the ECP and the APP, which is now more accurately termed a Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy or BBCS, that were submitted in conjunction with PCW's application for a standard and a programmatic Eagle Take Permit (ETP) concerning take likely to occur during the construction and operation, respectively, of the CCSM Phase I Project. Our review of these documents was described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement issued for public comment on April 29, 2016, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement issued publicly on December 9, 2017, as part of those documents' assessment of the potential impacts of issuing the ETPs. We have now completed a Record of Decision (ROD) which identifies Alternative 1, issuing ETPs for the proposed action, as the selected Alternative. Consequently, we anticipate issuing the standard and programmatic ETPs upon PCW's completion of the conditions specified in the ROD.

This memorandum therefore constitutes our concurrence regarding the ECP and BBCS for the CCSM Phase I Project, based on the analysis described in the above documents. Subject to

completion of the conditions identified in these documents, we find the ECP adequate to support issuance of standard and programmatic ETPs. We also find that the revised BBCS and Amendment 1 submitted in support of the ETP applications provide information, conservation measures, and monitoring activities appropriate to conserve birds and bats during construction and operation of the CCSM Phase I Project.¹

This memorandum does not itself constitute authorization for any take of bald or golden eagles or other migratory birds, nor does it constitute concurrence for any additional right-of-way associated with the CCSM project that may be proposed for development in the future.

Thank you for your interest in conserving eagles and migratory birds. If you have questions regarding the contents of this memorandum, please feel free to contact me, at (303) 236-5231 or clint_riley@fws.gov.

¹ We note that adaptive management approaches for the conservation of birds and bats may be necessary as data and knowledge are gained throughout the life of the project.