

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN IDAHO-CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

Energy resource development is increasing in Idaho, including traditional and renewable energy sources. Energy development is necessary but there often are environmental impacts that need to be considered. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office (IFWO) provides developers, landowners, other federal agencies, states, and tribal entities with information and guidance regarding wildlife issues and federal laws and regulations to ensure that impacts are avoided and minimized where possible.

Listed Species

The Endangered Species Act provides a means to conserve the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend. Take of ESA listed fish and wildlife species without authorization is prohibited under section 9 of the ESA. For assistance search Information for Planning and Consultation at ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov to determine if your project may impact listed species or their habitat.

At-Risk Species

Species (including plants) may be classified as "candidate", "proposed", or "listed" for protections under the ESA. A search of the project area at ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov may help shape initial project design but is not intended to replace direct coordination with the IFWO.

Greater Sage-grouse

This is a state managed species, however both the BLM and the USFS have enacted land-use plans with specific guidance on energy development within sage-grouse habitats. For guidance see: species.idaho.gov/wildlife-species/greater-sage-grouse/ [BLM Sage-grouse Plans | Bureau of Land Management](#) [Boise National Forest - Home \(usda.gov\)](#)

Bird and Bat Conservation

The Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines at fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines provides technical assistance to developers to reduce impacts to birds and other wildlife through siting recommendations and best management practices. A Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy should be considered.

Bald and Golden Eagles

Wind or other energy developers may apply for an Eagle Incidental Take Permit under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (fws.gov/law/bald-and-golden-eagle-protection-act) and develop an Eagle Conservation Plan (fws.gov/media/eagle-conservation-plan-guidance) to avoid and minimize impacts.

IFWO Contacts / Website

Chris Reign: listed species consultation / chris_reighn@fws.gov
Charles Sandford: greater sage-grouse / charles_sandford@fws.gov
Kathleen Hendricks: general inquiries / kathleen_hendricks@fws.gov
Colleen Moulton: migratory birds & eagles / colleen_moulton@fws.gov
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office:

<https://www.fws.gov/office/idaho-fish-and-wildlife>