

### ***Avoidance Areas***

Avoidance areas are areas to be avoided but may be available for location of rights-of-way with special stipulations, design features, and/or mitigation measures. The special stipulations would be required to reduce or mitigate impacts to the values for which the area is being avoided. These kinds of stipulations go beyond those normally contained in a right-of-way grant, and may result in special design, limitations on energy generation during specific time periods, or changes in standard industry standards of turbine color, design, and layout.

Again, avoidance areas may vary across the alternatives. Areas that appear prudent to consider include:

- ACECs
- VRM II
- VRM III
- Bald and Golden Eagle Migration Areas or Concentrations
- Sage Grouse Protection Priority Areas
- Sage Grouse Restoration Priority Areas

Planning units may identify other areas as avoidance areas, but should ensure that analysis and rationale are contained in the land use planning document.

Lands stipulated with timing limitations (usually to protect certain wildlife species) or lands where surface use or occupancy would be restricted if certain conditions apply should be included in the avoidance category **if there is evidence that wind energy activities impact species or the resources of concern**.

Wind farm developments include turbines and associated access roads, buried powerlines that connect turbines, operational buildings, and interconnections to the grid via transmission lines and substations. Wind turbines are large, and arrays can be visually intrusive. While development of a wind farm may result in substantial short-term surface disturbance related to foundation construction and placement, access roads, and lay-down areas, reclamation practices can downsize disturbance footprints to a great degree in the long term. Technology allows for turbine speeds and operations to be adjusted and/or shut down during specific periods to address resource concerns. However, restriction of operations during specific timeframes may be problematic if they are imposed when generation potential is greatest (i.e., best wind/generation potential is during 3 months in the spring, but BLM suggests shutdown during that period for a particular reason). These types of timing limitations or constraints may result in making an operation unfeasible, dependent upon the wind resource, the size of the farm, the power purchase agreement, etc. Thus, it is important to identify in the land use planning document if these types of constraints would be required to inform the public and potential applicants of challenges and resource concerns.