

CHAPTER 5 – CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

This EA is tiered to the analysis in the CCSM Project FEIS including the analysis of cumulative impacts for the entire CCSM Project (BLM 2012b; pages 5-1 to 5-60). Section 5.0.4 in the CCSM Project FEIS (BLM 2012b) identifies the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions considered for the cumulative impacts analysis for the CCSM Project, which cover the actions that would contribute to cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action. The BLM has reviewed the list of current and planned projects disclosed in Table 5.0-1 of the CCSM Project FEIS (BLM 2012b; pages 5-2 through 5-5), to determine if any new projects, not included in this table, are applicable to this EA. No new reasonably foreseeable actions were identified. As a result, the reasonably foreseeable actions disclosed in the CCSM Project FEIS (BLM 2012b) are applicable to the Proposed Action of this EA. Therefore, the cumulative impacts anticipated from the Proposed Action are within the scope of the cumulative impact analysis disclosed in the CCSM Project FEIS (BLM 2012b). No additional cumulative impacts analysis is warranted for this EA.

Section 6.4.3 of the Final Programmatic EIS on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States (BLM 2005) (Wind Energy PEIS) indicates that planning for new transmission would require interagency coordination and cooperation between federal agencies and the Western Governors' Association. The Wind Energy PEIS identifies issues the BLM should consider to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of building new transmission lines and feeder lines to connect wind power facilities to the grid. As identified in the CCSM Project FEIS (BLM 2012b), the BLM would incorporate information from the Wind Energy PEIS, such as Section 6.4.3, regarding related transmission line construction, into the project-specific NEPA analyses.

Table 5.0-1 in the CCSM FEIS (BLM 2012b) identifies all the projects considered in the FEIS cumulative impacts analysis, including four transmission line projects: Gateway South, Gateway West, TransWest Express, and Zephyr. The impacts identified in the Gateway South Draft EIS, Gateway West FEIS and ROD, and TransWest Express Draft EIS were considered in the CCSM Project FEIS cumulative impacts analysis and are within the range of impacts analyzed in Chapter 5 of the CCSM Project FEIS (BLM 2012b). Although the Zephyr transmission project is on hold, the potential impacts for that project were also considered and within the impacts identified in the CCSM Project FEIS cumulative impacts analysis. No other transmission line projects, not already analyzed in the CCSM Project FEIS, are planned within or adjacent to the CCSM Project Area.

Table 5-1 summarizes the status of the current and future projects identified in the CCSM Project FEIS (BLM 2012b).

Table 5-1. Status of Current and Planned Projects Identified in the CCSM Project FEIS

Project	Owner/ Proponent	Location	County	Timing in Relation to CCSM Construction (Existing, Concurrent, After)	Current Status
Mining					
Jonathon Project Limestone Quarry	Pete Lien	North of Laramie	Albany	Existing and Concurrent	No change
Lost Creek in situ Uranium Project	UR Energy	North of Rawlins/Wamsutter	Sweetwater	Concurrent	No change
Medicine Bow Fuel & Power Coal-to-Liquids Project	Medicine Bow Fuel & Power	South of Medicine Bow	Carbon	After	Delayed, final completion in 2018
Other mine projects	Various	Various	Sweetwater, Carbon, Albany	After	No change
Oil and Gas					
Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Field Development Project	Anadarko E&P Company, and other operators	Atlantic Rim Project Area (ARPA)	Carbon	Existing and Concurrent	No change, ROD issued in 2007
Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Development Project Area	British Petroleum America Production company and other operators	N and S of I-80 near Wamsutter	Carbon, Sweetwater	Concurrent	No change, DEIS issued 12/2012
Desolation Flats Natural Gas Field Development Project	Marathon Oil Company and other operators	South Central Wyoming	Carbon, Sweetwater	Existing and Concurrent	No change, Decision Record issued 11/2013
Echo Springs TXP4 Gas Treatment Plant Expansion	Williams, Inc. dba Wamsutter LLC	Near Wamsutter	Carbon	Existing	No change
South Baggs Area Natural Gas Development Project	Merit Energy Company	South-central Carbon County, near the Wyoming/Colorado border	Carbon	After	No change, ROD issued in 2000
Other oil and gas projects	Various	Various	Sweetwater, Carbon, Albany	Existing and Concurrent	

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Project	Owner/ Proponent	Location	County	Timing in Relation to CCSM Construction (Existing, Concurrent, After)	Current Status
Road					
Highway 71 Improvement Project	Department of Transportation	Rawlins south 53 miles to intersection with WSH 70	Carbon	Concurrent	No change
Other roads	Various	Various	Carbon	Existing and After	
Transmission Line					
Gateway South Transmission Project (http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway_south.html)	PacifiCorp Energy	Wyoming to central Utah	Carbon, Sweetwater	Concurrent	Draft EIS comment period closes 5/22/2014
Gateway West Transmission Project (http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/)	PacifiCorp Energy and Idaho Power	Windstar Substation at Glenrock, Wyoming, to the 20 miles southwest of Boise, Idaho	Converse, Natrona, Albany, Carbon, Sweetwater, Lincoln, and west into Idaho	Concurrent	ROD released 11/14/2013
TransWest Express Transmission Project (http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/transwest.html)	TransWest Express LLC and Western Area Power Administration	South of Rawlins to Northwest Colorado, through Utah and terminating in Las Vegas, Nevada	Carbon, Sweetwater	Concurrent	Public review of Draft EIS complete; Final EIS being prepared for release in 2014
Zephyr Transmission Project (http://wyia.org/projects/transmission-projects/zephyr-project-ztp/)	Duke American Transmission	Southern Wyoming and Idaho south to Las Vegas, NC	Carbon, Sweetwater	After	Preliminary ROW application filed with BLM, delayed
Other transmission line projects	Various	Various	Carbon	Existing	

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Project	Owner/ Proponent	Location	County	Timing in Relation to CCSM Construction (Existing, Concurrent, After)	Current Status
Wind					
Dry Creek Wind Power Project	Eurus Dry Creek LLC	North of Medicine Bow	Carbon	After	Withdrawn, within Greater Sage-Grouse core area; retesting area
Dunlap Wind Energy Project	PacifiCorp Energy	North of Medicine Bow	Carbon	Existing	No change
Footo Creek Wind Energy Project Phase I	SeaWest, PacifiCorp Energy, Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)	Near Arlington	Carbon	Existing	No change
Footo Creek Wind Energy Project, Phases II, III, and IV	SeaWest, PacifiCorp Energy, EWEB, and BPA	Near Arlington	Carbon	Existing	No change
High Plains and McFadden Ridge Wind Energy Projects	PacifiCorp Energy	Near McFadden	Albany, Carbon	Existing	No change
Middlewood Wind Power Project	Eurus Middlewood Wind LLC	South-central Carbon County	Carbon	After	Withdrawn, within Greater Sage-Grouse core area; retesting area
Sand Hills Ranch Wind Farm	Shell Wind Energy LLC	Near Rock River	Albany	Concurrent	EA released to public 5/2011; Proponent working with USFWS to prepare an APP and ETP
Seven-Mile Hill Wind Energy Project	PacifiCorp Energy	West of Medicine Bow	Carbon	Existing	No Change

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White Mountain Wind Energy Project	Teton Wind, LLC (subsidiary of Tasco Engineering)	Top of White Mountain, west, north-west of Rock Springs	Sweetwater	Concurrent	Cancelled
Other wind projects	Various	Various	Carbon	Existing	

APP Avian and Bat Protection Plan
 ETP eagle take permit
 USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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