

Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project



National Environmental Policy Act Documents

Volume I and Volume II – Project Document Purpose and Overview

The document has been arranged into 2 volumes; Volume I-the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment and, Volume II-the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Proposed Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project (CCSM Project). Each volume is described below.

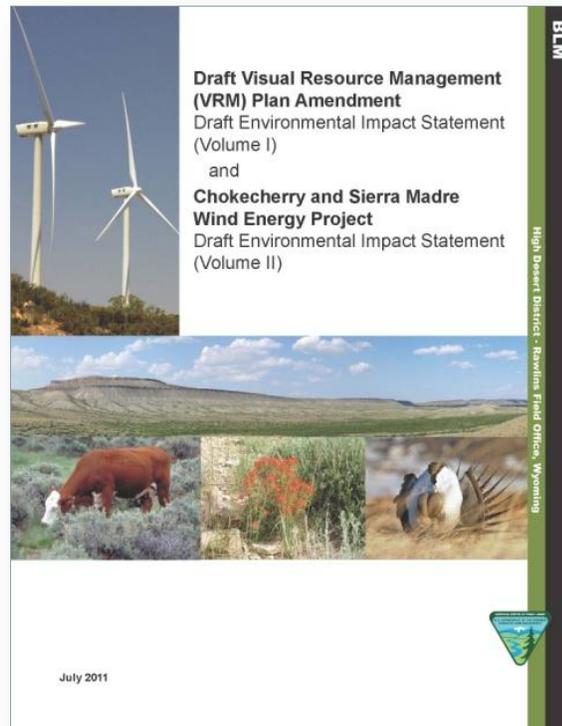
Draft RMP Amendment (Volume I)

Volume I, the Draft EIS Plan Amendment, describes and analyzes Visual Resource Management (VRM) planning alternatives for public lands administered by the BLM in portions of the Rawlins Field Office area.

The Rawlins Field Office (RFO) Resource Management Plan (RMP) Record of Decision (ROD) included a remand (re-evaluation) of the VRM class designation and decision portions of the approved RFO RMP. Because an area-wide plan amendment and reevaluation for VRM decisions in the RFO has not yet occurred, a VRM-targeted plan amendment is being conducted concurrently with the development of the CCSM Wind Energy Project EIS (detailed in Volume II).

Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project (Volume II)

Volume II, the CCSM Project Draft EIS, addresses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of constructing, operating, and decommissioning the CCSM Project. Impacts are evaluated on a broad, project-wide level to enable the BLM to determine whether the Application Area is suitable for



development of the proposed project and identifies appropriate development strategies. Decisions may include restrictions on development in relation to Greater Sage-grouse core areas, construction sequencing, and reclamation practices. The impact analysis in this Draft EIS is based on resource-specific assumptions, estimated project disturbance, and appropriate project-specific stipulations. All project alternatives conform to the Rawlins RMP (2008) and the Preferred Alternative in the VRM-targeted Plan Amendment in Volume I.

