

6.0 Consultation and Coordination

This EIS was conducted in accordance with NEPA requirements, CEQ regulations, and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and BLM policies and procedures implementing NEPA. NEPA and the associated laws, regulations, and policies require the BLM to seek public involvement early in, and throughout, the planning process to develop a reasonable range of alternatives to PCW's Proposed Action and prepare environmental documents that disclose the potential impacts of alternatives considered. Public involvement and agency consultation and coordination, which have been at the heart of the process leading to this draft EIS, were achieved through Federal Register notices, public and informal meetings, individual contacts, media releases, and the project website.

From the initial proposal of the project, the public and agencies have been approached for input on the project scope and development, as discussed in Chapter 1.0. This chapter describes this public involvement process as well as other key consultation and coordination.

6.1 Agency Participation and Coordination

Specific regulations require the BLM to coordinate and consult with federal, state, and local agencies about the potential of the project and alternatives to affect sensitive environmental and human resources. The BLM initiated these coordination and consultation activities through the scoping process and has maintained them through regular meetings regarding key topics (e.g., alternatives and impact analyses) with cooperating agencies throughout the NEPA process.

The BLM invited interested agencies to serve as cooperating agencies for preparation of the EIS; the following agencies are serving as cooperators:

- Federal Agencies
 - Department of the Interior, USFS (Medicine Bow National Forest and Thunder Basin National 30 Grasslands)
- State Agencies
 - State of Wyoming (including 12 departments)
- Local Agencies
 - Carbon County (including 4 departments);
 - Little Snake River Conservation District;
 - Medicine Bow Conservation District;
 - SERCD; and
 - City of Rawlins.

Refer to Section 1.8.1.2 for further discussion regarding participation and coordination with other agencies during development of this EIS and to **Table 1.6-1** for coordination with agencies on permits, approvals, and authorizing actions.

6.2 Consultation

Federal laws require the BLM to consult with certain federal and state agencies and entities and Native American tribes (40 CFR 1502.25) during the NEPA decision making process. The BLM also is directed to integrate NEPA requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements to

reduce paperwork and delays (40 CFR 1500.4-5). The following section discusses activities conducted during the NEPA process to meet these requirements.

6.2.1 Tribal Consultation

Federal agencies are directed by the NHPA to consult with any Indian tribe that attaches religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by an undertaking. Tribal consultation is a government-to-government relationship. The BLM is responsible for this and will initiate Tribal Consultation regarding the CCSM Wind Energy Project as required by law. Tribal consultation is the active, affirmative process of: 1) identifying and seeking input from appropriate American Indian governing bodies, community groups, and individuals; and 2) considering their interests as a necessary and integral part of the BLM's decision making process. The aim of consultation is to involve affected American Indian groups in the identification of issues and the definition of the range of acceptable management options.

Under the auspices of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, EO 13007, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, and the NHPA 1966, as amended, the BLM must take into account the effects of land use decisions on places (i.e., physical locations) of cultural value to American Indian groups. The BLM works in cooperation with American Indian tribes to coordinate and consult before making decisions or approving actions that could result in changes in land use, physical changes to lands or resources, changes in access, or alienation of lands. Federal programs are required to be carried out in a manner sensitive to American Indian concerns and tribal government planning and resource management programs.

Formal consultation under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, began on July 25, 2008, when the BLM distributed letters to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Northern Arapaho Tribe, and the Northern Ute Tribe offering them cooperating agency status. Government-to-government consultation was conducted through tribal meetings held summer of 2009, and included the addition of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes. The BLM will conduct a Class II sample survey of areas with the potential for archaeological sites of traditional, cultural, and/or religious importance. The BLM also will be requesting the tribes be consulting parties to the PA. Input from the tribes will be requested throughout the development of the document to identify impacts and design mitigation measures that address impacts, pursuant to NHPA and other relevant historic preservation laws and regulations, along with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and EO 13007 (entitled Indian Sacred Sites).

6.2.2 Fish and Wildlife Consultation

To comply with Section 7(c) of the ESA of 1973, the BLM is consulting with the USFWS to develop the Draft Biological Assessment. The final Biological Assessment will be published concurrently with the Final EIS.

6.3 Public Involvement

NEPA requires full disclosure and open public participation in the federal decision making process, including those projects proposed by non-federal proponents that require federal approval. There are two key points during the development of an EIS that the general public is invited to participate in the process: 1) during the scoping period, and 2) during the 30-day review period of the Draft EIS.

Refer to Section 1.8.2 for information on the NOI publication, public meetings, and the interested agency meeting. The BLM continued to accept written comments throughout all stages of project development. Summaries of both written comments and those received at scoping meetings through September 23, 2008, are included in the Scoping Report, and are available online on the BLM webpage (<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfodocs/Chokecherry.html>). The issues and concerns identified by the public during the scoping period are summarized in Section 1.9.

The release of this Draft EIS will be followed by a 90-day comment period. Comments received will be reviewed and substantive comments will receive a response. Substantive comments and corresponding responses will be provided as an appendix to the Final EIS. Comments will be used to modify, clarify, and/or correct the Final EIS as appropriate.

6.4 List of Preparers and Reviewers

As required by NEPA regulations (40 CFR § 1502.17), **Table 6.4-1** lists the people responsible for preparing this Draft EIS. The BLM RFO has retained AECOM as a third-party consultant to assist with the preparation of this EIS (**Table 6.4-2**). AECOM was selected by the lead agency to avoid any conflict of interest. AECOM has certified that it does not have any financial or other interest in the decisions to be made pursuant to this EIS.

Table 6.4.1 Bureau of Land Management EIS Team

BLM Office/Team Member	Resource/Responsibility
Rawlins Wyoming Field Office	
Pamela Murdock	Project Manager
Dennis Carpenter	Field Office Manager
Rebecca Spurgin	Assistant Field Manager & Reclamation
Ester McCullough	Assistant Field Manager
Heather Nino	Realty Specialist
Heath Cline	Wildlife
Patrick Walker	Archaeology
Jennifer Fleuret	Hydrology
Brian R. Smith	Outdoor Recreation/Visual
Cheryl Newberry	Range/Vegetation
Patrick Lionberger	Fisheries Biologist
Susan Foley	Soils/Weeds
Lorraine Keith	Public Affairs Officer
Gary McDonald	Minerals
Mark Newman	Geologist
Bruce Estvold	Engineering
Lynn McCarthy	GIS
Travis Sanderson	USFWS Liaison - Energy

Table 6.4.1 Bureau of Land Management EIS Team

BLM Office/Team Member	Resource/Responsibility
Wyoming State Office	
Janelle Wrigley	Realty Officer
Tom Lahti	RECO Project Coordinator
Roy Allen	Socioeconomist
Delissa Bixler	RECO NEPA Coordinator
Melissa Hovey	Air Quality

Table 6.4.2 AECOM EIS Team (Third-party Consultant)

AECOM Team Member	Responsibility/Resource	Degree/Certification	Experience (years)
Phil Hackney	Principal-in-Charge	B.S. Botany	34
Scott Ellis	Strategic/NEPA Advisor	B.S. Biology & English	36
Mark Degner	Project Manager, Project Description, Project Alternatives, Review	B.S. Geology	28
Melanie Martin	Assistant Project Manager, Project Alternatives, Review	M.S. Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management B.S. Agriculture, Environmental Protection	13
Jamelle Schlangen	Assistant Project Manager, Review	M.S. Applied Ecology MPA Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management B.S. Wildlife Ecology	16
Janie Castle	Project Coordinator, QA/QC Review	B.S. Aquatic Biology B.S. Environmental Microbiology	14
Peggy Roberts	Public Involvement, Scoping	M.S. Public Communications and Technology B.S. Journalism/Public Relations	18
Vince Scheetz	Air and Climate	M.S. Systems Management B.S. Mathematics	35
Bill Berg	Geology, Minerals, Paleontology, and Hazardous Materials	M.S. Geology B.S. Geology	30
Russ Moore	Range Resources	Ph.D. Ecology B.S. Range Management	36

Table 6.4.2 AECOM EIS Team (Third-party Consultant)

AECOM Team Member	Responsibility/ Resource	Degree/Certification	Experience (years)
Chris Dunne	Range Resources	B.S. Natural Resource Management	12
Kim Munson	Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	M.A. Anthropology B.A. Anthropology	18
Steve Graber	Noise Impacts	B.S. Natural Resources Management B.A. Economics	6
Lisa Welch	Recreation/Land Use	B.S. Earth Sciences	18
Jeremy Call	Visual Resource Management Recreation, Special Designation Areas, Land Use	Masters of Landscape Architecture B.A. Humanities	8
Terra Mascarenas	Soils Resource	B.S. Soil & Crop Science	13
John Ko	Vegetation and Plant Communities	B.S. Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation	16
Tom Keith	Human Resources Lead	M.S. Regional Resource Planning	30+
Dan Gregory	Physical Sciences Lead, Review	M.S. Geology/ Geomorphology B.A. Geology	28
David Fetter	Water Resources	B.S. Watershed Science	7
Charles Johnson	Biological Resources Lead	M.S. Ecology B.S Wildlife Biology AA Education	23
Matt Brekke	Wildlife/T&E, Review	B.S. Wildlife Biology	4
Brent Read	GIS	M.S. Watershed Science B.S. Forestry	9
Dale Strickland, WEST	Wildlife and T&E Lead	Ph.D. Ecology M.S. Wildlife Biology B.S. Zoology	35
Greg Johnson, WEST	Wildlife and T&E Survey	M.S. Zoology & Physiology B.S. Wildlife Conservation	23
Gretchen Norman, WEST	Wildlife and T&E Survey	M.S. Range Science B.A. Biology	19
Troy Rintz, WEST	Wildlife and T&E Survey	B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries	20

Table 6.4.2 AECOM EIS Team (Third-party Consultant)

AECOM Team Member	Responsibility/ Resource	Degree/Certification	Experience (years)
Hall Sawyer, WEST	Wildlife and T&E Survey	Ph.D. Zoology & Physiology M.S. Zoology B.S. Wildlife Biology	17
Kurt Flaig, WEST	Wildlife and T&E Survey	M.S. Range Ecology B.S. Natural Resource Management B.A. Political Science	16
Elizabeth Lack, WEST	Wildlife and T&E Survey	B.S. Forestry	20
Ron Dutton, Sammons/Dutton, LLC	Socioeconomics, Fiscal Effects; Environmental Justice	M.S. Economics B.S. Economics	33
George Blankenship, Blankenship Consulting	Social & Community Effects Lead Transportation Lead	M.A. Regional Planning/Community Development B.A. Anthropology B.A. Social Work	31