

## **Appendix L**

### **Biological Assessment/ Biological Opinion Status**

### **Status of the Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion**

The purpose of a Biological Assessment (BA) is to review a proposed action in sufficient detail to determine the extent to which that action may affect species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of October 15, 1966 (80 Statute 926; 16 United States Code [USC] 668aa(c)) or proposed for such listing. A BA was prepared for the BLM-preferred alternative (Alternative 1R with modifications) evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre (CCSM) Wind Energy Project (Project) in Carbon County, Wyoming.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead federal agency for the evaluation of anticipated impacts of the proposed Project as they administer the public lands included within the area potentially impacted by the Project. Federal agencies, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), are required to ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out would not adversely affect a federally listed species or species proposed for federal listing. A BA is required under Section 7(c) of the ESA if listed species or their critical habitat may be present in the area potentially impacted by any aspect of the BLM-preferred alternative.

The BA was submitted to the USFWS who will subsequently issue a Biological Opinion (BO). Any project constraints and conservation measures identified in the BO would be available prior to issuance of the ROD for the project and in turn, associated stipulations would be incorporated into subsequent ROW grants.