



Release Date: 10/25/13

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New Date for Close of the Site-specific Scoping Period for the Chokecherry/Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project as a Result of the Federal Government Shutdown

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the new date for the close of the scoping period for an infrastructure component environmental assessment (EA) for the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project (CCSM).

The BLM initially scheduled 30 days for comment, and the original date for the close of the scoping period was October 9. Due to the lapse in appropriations and the resulting Federal government shutdown, the documents were not available on the BLM website from October 1 through October 9, 2013. Accordingly, the new date for the close of the scoping period for the CCSM infrastructure component EA is November 4.

Public involvement is an essential and required part of the planning process, and comments submitted by November 4 will be considered before the BLM makes a final decision.

The CCSM Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision amended the Rawlins Resource Management Plan to allow for wind development, but did not identify individual turbine locations. Subsequent tiered EAs are needed to analyze site-specific issues. The first to be analyzed will be an infrastructure component EA which includes the Haul Road, West Sinclair Rail Facility and Road Rock Quarry. Future EAs include analyses of phase 1-development of approximately 500 turbines in the western portion of the project area and phase 2-development of the remaining roughly 500 turbines in the eastern portion of the project area.

Submit scoping comments on the proposed EA using the following methods:

- Email: BLM_WY_PCW_windfarm@blm.gov (please include "CCSM EA Scoping" in the subject line)
- Fax: 307-328-4224
- Mail: The BLM Rawlins Field Office, CCSM EA Scoping, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, WY 82301

Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Site-specific public meeting materials and other CCSM documents are available online at:

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/Chokecherry.html>. For further information, please contact Heather Schultz at 307-328-4215.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.

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Last updated: 10-28-2013

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