U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Borderlands Wind Project EIS & Resource Management Plan Amendment

FINAL SCOPING REPORT: APRIL 2019

DOI-BLM-NM-A020-2019-0002-RMP-EIS

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Draft Scoping Report

Bureau of Land Management
Socorro Field Office
Borderlands Wind Project
Environmental Impact Statement

DOI-BLM-NM-A020-2019-0002-RMP-EIS

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AZ	Arizona
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BLWP	Borderlands Wind Project
CEQ	Council for Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOI	Department of the Interior
DR	Decision Record
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
KOP	Key Observation Point
MW	Megawatt
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
NM	New Mexico
NMDOT	New Mexico Department of Transportation
NMSLO	New Mexico State Land Office
NOI	Notice of Intent
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROW	Right-of-Way
SFO	Socorro Field Office
SO	Secretarial Order
USFS	United Stated Forest Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Borderlands Wind LLC (a subsidiary of NextEra Energy) is proposing development of a 100-megawatt (MW) wind-powered electrical generation facility in western Catron County, New Mexico (NM). The Borderlands Wind Project (BLWP) would be built near the Arizona-New Mexico border on 40,342 acres of land south of U.S. Highway 60 (U.S. 60) (Figure 1). Wind turbines and ancillary facilities such as access roads, underground collection lines, and substation/switchyard areas would be located on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Socorro Field Office (SFO), New Mexico State Land Office (NMSLO), and privately owned lands. Borderlands Wind LLC has filed an application with the BLM for a Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) Right-of-Way (ROW) authorization. In order to meet the project's proposed action, an amendment to the BLM SFO Resource Management Plan (RMP) (2010) would be required and analyzed in the BLWP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This report is the result of the comments received during the external 30-day public scoping period, which occurred from November 9, 2018 to December 10, 2018 for the proposed BLWP EIS.

Public scoping for the BLWP was initiated on November 9, 2018, when BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS and a potential Plan Amendment to the 2010 Socorro Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) in the *Federal Register* (Appendix A). The NOI briefly described the purpose of and need for the BLWP, the proposed project location, infrastructure associated with the BLWP, and BLM's plan to hold a public scoping meeting.

As part of the NEPA process, all adjacent landowners, grazing permittees, ROW holders, special interest organizations, and land management agencies were sent scoping letters. A copy of the scoping letter sent to these groups and the list of the recipients are provided in Appendix B.

On November 14, 2018, the BLM hosted a public scoping meeting for the EIS in Quemado, NM. The scoping meeting was designed to provide information on project planning activities to date, as well as to provide members of the public the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Meeting attendees were encouraged to identify and provide comments on potential issues, discuss anticipated alternatives, and provide insight on the Proposed Action. All comments, questions, and concerns will be considered by the BLM with substantive comments addressed in the EIS.

1.2 SCOPING PROCESS

To comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the EIS being prepared will disclose the potential environmental impacts associated with the project's implementation of the Proposed Action that meet the purpose and need. Public involvement is an essential and legal component of the NEPA process. Public involvement invites the public into the decision-making process and allows for full environmental disclosure. Guidance for implementing public involvement under NEPA is codified in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 1506.6.

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. The process has two components: internal scoping and external scoping. Internal scoping is conducted within an agency or cooperating agencies to determine preliminary and anticipated issues and concerns. The BLM held an internal scoping meeting on June 20, 2018. External scoping is a public process designed to reach beyond the

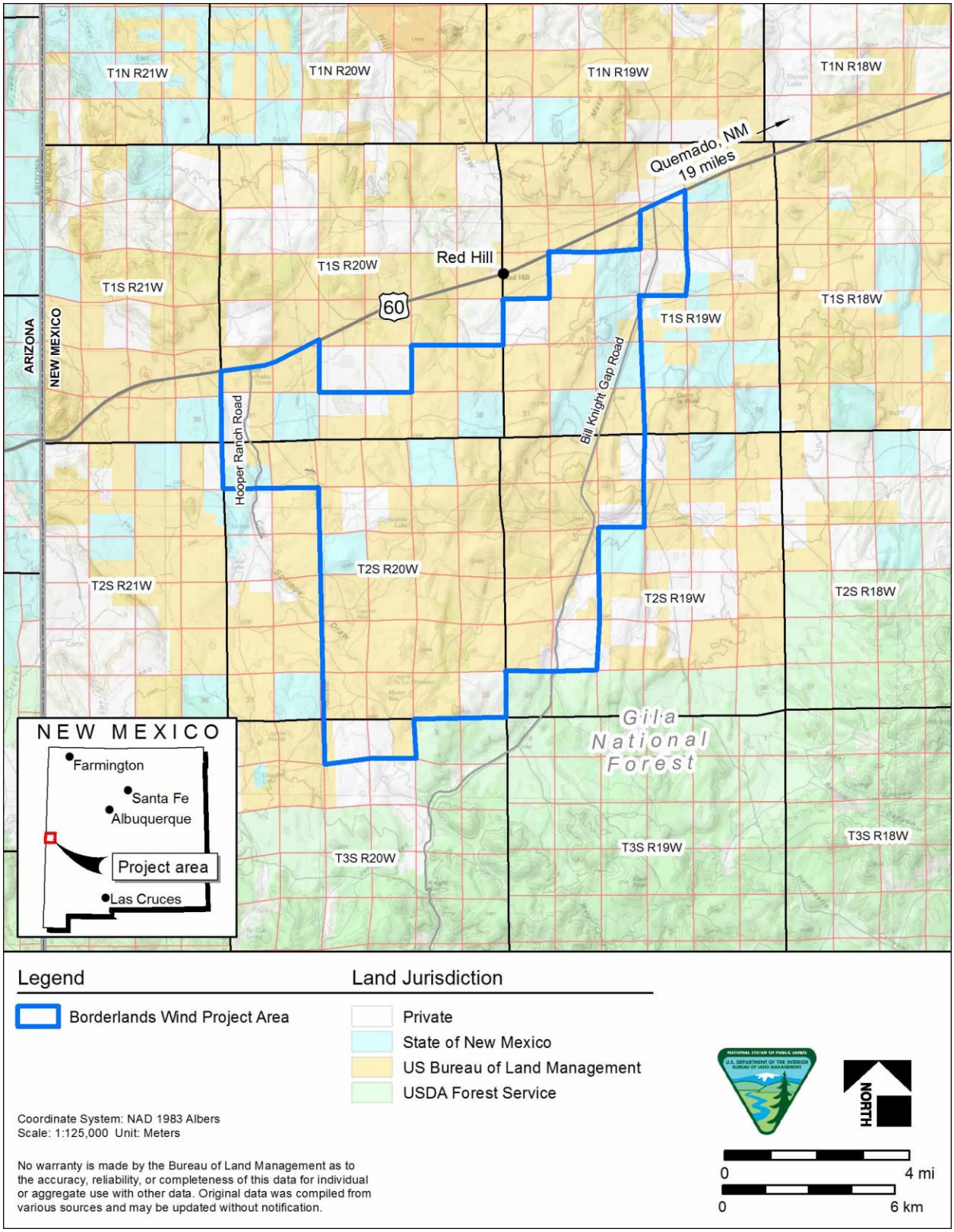

Figure 1. BLWP Project Location

BLM and identify the concerns of importance to the public. External scoping helps ensure that real problems are identified early and properly studied, that issues of no concern do not consume time and effort, and that the proposed action and alternatives are balanced and thorough.

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED

The BLM's purpose is to respond to a ROW application submitted by Borderlands Wind LLC to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a wind energy facility and associated infrastructure in compliance with FLPMA, BLM ROW regulations, and other applicable Federal laws and policies.

1.4 DECISIONS TO BE MADE

This EIS provides the information and environmental analysis necessary to inform the BLM's authorized officer and the public about the potential environmental consequences of the BLWP. It tiers to BLM's Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States and Record of Decision (Final Wind Energy PEIS and ROD [BLM 2005]). The BLM's Record of Decision (ROD) for the BLWP will either:

- Approve the proposed action and grant the ROW,
- Approve the proposed action with modification and grant the ROW, or
- Deny the ROW application.

1.5 DOCUMENT PURPOSE

BLM follows the public involvement requirements documented in Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1501.7 for scoping and 1506.6 for public involvement). The BLM also follows public involvement requirements described in the BLM's planning regulations (43 CFR 1601-1610 [BLM 2005]) and NEPA handbook H-1790-1 (BLM 2008). BLM solicits comments from relevant agencies and the public, organizes and analyzes all comments received, and then analyzes them to identify issues that will be addressed during the environmental analysis process.

This scoping report is intended to aid the BLM in clarifying issues, concerns, and opportunities, determining the appropriate scope of environmental analysis, and gathering input as a result of public and agency comments received during the EA's scoping period. All comments received during the scoping period are recorded within this summary report. As part of the NEPA process all comments are given equal consideration, regardless of the method of their transmittal.

CHAPTER 2 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

This chapter will provide efforts and information from the scoping activities including the scoping meeting (scoping notices and news release).

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

One public scoping meeting was held for the BLWP EIS on November 14, 2018 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at the Quemado Elementary and High School cafeteria in Quemado, NM.

2.2 SCOPING NOTICES

Public notice of the scoping meetings was accomplished through a media release to news outlets and publishing in a local newspaper (Catron County Courier), distribution of scoping letters, and posting of flyers in public locations (see Appendix B).

In each format, the notices provided logistics, explained the purpose of the scoping meeting, gave the schedule for the public comment period, outlined additional ways to comment, and provided methods of obtaining additional information.

The BLM posted the public scoping flyers in the following locations on November 9, 2018:

- Magdalena, NM Post Office
- Magdalena Ranger Station, United Stated Forest Service (USFS), Cibola National Forest (NF)
- Eagle Guest Store/Restaurant in Datil, NM
- Datil, NM Post Office
- Public Billboard next to Post Office in Datil, NM
- Gathering Place Café in Pie Town, NM
- Pie Town, NM Post Office
- Top of The World Store near Pie Town, NM
- Quemado Ranger District Office, USFS, Gila NF
- Quemado, NM Senior Citizens Center
- Quemado, NM Post Office
- Rito Quemado Convenience Store in Quemado, NM
- The Country Store in Quemado, NM
- Largo Café in Quemado, NM
- Cimarron Ranch Convenience Station Billboard in Red Hill, NM
- Mailboxes in Red Hill, NM
- Springerville, Arizona (AZ) Post Office
- Springerville Ranger Station, USFS, Apache NF
- Rexall Drugs & Hardware Store in Springerville, AZ
- Booga Reds Café in Springerville, AZ
- County Road 4225 Mailboxes at Springerville Site (Escudilla Bonita Subdivision)
- Socorro, NM Post Office

2.3 MEETING SET-UP

The scoping meeting was held in an open house format where BLM and proponent project members were available to answer any questions attendees had about the proposed BLWP. Attendees were greeted at the entrance and asked to provide contact information on meeting sign-in sheets (see Appendix C). Attendees were provided a project information handout and a scoping comment form (Appendix D), on which they could submit written comments and/or questions in person, or mail at a later date. Also available to the meeting attendees were copies of the Federal Register NOI and a

project proponent handout. Attendees were informed about additional ways to submit comments to the BLM, including the project ePlanning website, and were informed about the flow of information on the display boards in the room.

2.4 OPEN HOUSE

Attendees were encouraged to walk around the room, look at the large BLM informational display boards and speak with the BLM and proponent project members for answers to any specific questions. This open house portion of the meeting allowed the public to speak directly to BLM and project proponent staff and gain additional understanding of the project and information that was available in the handout. In addition to the BLM display boards, the BLM had an interactive GIS station available for the public to examine the project spatially, a video simulation of the turbines in motion during the day and at night, and informational boards provided by the project proponent.

Ten BLM informational display boards (Appendix D) were arranged around the meeting room for review during the open house meeting. The display board resource topics consisted of:

- Welcome Board
- Project Location
- Project Components
- General Land Cover
- Existing Grazing Allotments
- Existing BLM-Authorized ROWs and Avoidance Areas
- Visibility Analysis (30-mile radius)
- Key Observation Point (KOP) Locations
- Visual Simulations from KOPs
- Visual Resource Management (VRM) Objectives

In addition a video simulation of the project from the Cimarron Ranch Subdivision was shown to portray the motion of the wind turbine blades and also the blinking aircraft warning red lights on the turbines during dusk/night conditions. NextEra also provide information on wind energy facilities. The information provided by NextEra is included in Appendix E.

2.5 METHODS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public and representatives of agencies were afforded several methods for providing comments:

- Comments could be recorded on comment forms at the scoping meeting. Comment forms (Appendix D) were provided to all meeting attendees.
- Comments could be submitted online, via the project ePlanning website: https://eplanning.blm.gov/
- Individual letters and comment forms could be sent by mail to Virginia Alguire, BLM Socorro Field Office, 901 S. Hwy 85, Socorro, New Mexico 87801 or by email at valguire@blm.gov.

2.6 PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Forty individuals signed in at the public meeting on November 14th. The attendees included the Catron County Manager, a Catron County Commissioner, and individuals representing the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), the Socorro Electric Cooperative, the Arizona Archaeological Society, The Wilderness Society, and Quemado Public Schools in addition to 33 private citizens.

2.7 TRIBAL SCOPING

The BLM sent three scoping letters to two Native American Tribes (those officially recognized by the Federal government) whose reservations are within or adjacent to the project area, or who claim cultural affiliation with the project area, to inform them of the project and to inquire of their interest in the project. The Pueblo of Zuni (Governor and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer) and the Hopi Tribe were sent scoping letters.

2.8 TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Tribal consultation by the BLM is an ongoing effort throughout the EIS process. Through the consultation process, the BLM may obtain additional data regarding traditional cultural properties and other locations of concern to be considered in the EIS. The tribal scoping and consultation process for the proposed BLWP will be addressed in the EIS.

2.9 TRIBAL RESPONSES/COMMENTS

No responses to the scoping letter or comments regarding the proposed project were received from either of the tribes during the formal scoping period.

CHAPTER 3 SCOPING COMMENTS

The BLM reviews and considers all comments it receives. Particular consideration is given to those comments that are considered to be "substantive" in accordance with the CEQ NEPA regulations, because substantive comments are core to producing an effective EIS and informed decision-making. Per the BLM NEPA Handbook (Section 6.9.2.1), a substantive comment can provide an alternative; identify a different way to meet the project need; offer constructive solutions with documentation or resources to support recommendations; or point out an issue relevant to the project and why it is an issue. Comments are most helpful if the comment states specifics with suggested changes. Comment on topics unrelated to the NEPA document or activities under review are considered non-substantive. Simply disagreeing with the project in general or agreeing with a BLM policy are also considered non-substantive comments.

3.1 PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS

No comment forms were submitted and received at the public meeting. Three letters were mailed to the BLM from members of the public, 24 comments were received via the project ePlanning website (including one agency comment), and 24 emails were received with comments (including three agency comments). Of the 51 submissions (comment letters and/or emails), five people sent in the same comments twice and one organization sent the same comments from two different individuals, which resulted in 45 unique set of comments.

3.2 ISSUE/CONCERN CATEGORIES

Once the 51 submissions received during the public scoping process were entered into a database, the letters/emails were reviewed and coded according to issues/concerns categories. The issue categories that were identified most frequently in the comments included visual, light pollution, noise, property value, human health and safety, wildlife including sensitive species and game species, vegetation, local economic benefit, and cultural resources. Other issue categories that were identified in the public and agency submissions that were stated less frequently included soils, air, construction, flight hazards, water resources, wildfire hazard, climate change, recreation, flight training, and special management designations. There were also concerns submitted on the scoping process, purpose and need, wind energy facilities, alternative development, and mitigation measures.

CHAPTER 4 COMMENT SUMMARY BY RESOURCE/USE TOPIC

Table 4-1 summarizes the individual comments received during the formal scoping period by resource/use topics. Copies of all formal comments can be found in Appendix F.

Table 4-1. General Concerns/Issues by Resource/Use Topics

Resource/Use	General Concerns/Issues/Potential Impacts	Suggested Measures to Minimize Harm
Air Quality	• No comments made on resource/use.	• Dust reduction techniques to be used during construction.
Airspace	• Interference with military flight training or impeding the access to emergency aircraft for medical transportation within the project or surrounding area.	
Cultural Resources	• Consider culturally significant landscapes both in New Mexico and Arizona and include the review of the proposed project by both State Historical Preservation Offices since these landscapes extend beyond the state line. • Impacts on the character of Red Hill, NM, a recognized New Mexico Ghost Town. • Consider the viewshed from rock art panel sites during consultation with Native American Indian tribes. • Impacts to Native American rock art, which represent significant archaeological resources and are of religious and cultural importance to the Indian tribes in the region.	• Avoid any rock art sites during project construction. • Protect rock art panels from dust, vibration, and increased visitation during the construction phase of the project. • Complete discovery and recording of all Native American rock art by crew members who are trained or experienced in best practices for rock art discovery and documentation.
Fire Management	• Increased lighting strikes because of the presence of the wind turbines which in turn would increase the potential for wildfires. • Could create burden on the local firefighting services. • Grass fires may result from turbine malfunction, which would be difficult to contain and may damage/destroy nearby structures.	• Provide adjacent residents additional insurance for any fire damage caused by the construction, maintenance, operation, or decommissioning of the proposed wind facility.
Floodplains	• No comments made on resource/use.	

Resource/Use	General Concerns/Issues/Potential Impacts	Suggested Measures to Minimize Harm
General Wildlife	• Disruption or fragmentation of wildlife travel corridors within the project area, which would disrupt access to or from the Gila National Forest either through the air or on the ground. • Contribution to habitat fragmentation in the region through placement of long-term infrastructure that impedes the movement of wildlife across the landscape and through upgrading and construction of roads. • Potential adverse genetic effects such as reducing genetic diversity by isolating populations from fragmentation of connected habitat. • Fencing would interrupt wildlife corridors/migration. • Increase in pests and flying insects, which would damage crops. • Impacts to bats and birds including Golden and Bald eagles and raptors from collisions with the turbines to habitat displacement, and behavioral changes that include breeding and nesting success. • Loss of substantial land area would impact the ecosystem dramatically as well as impacting the habitat for endangered plants and animals and native wildlife. • Disturbance to wildlife from construction and maintenance in addition to the noise when the turbines and other equipment are in operation. • Long term value of wind power is more important as the birds would modify their behavior over time. • Impacts to migration path for several species of hummingbirds. • Disturbance to natural habitat and associated elk, antelope, and game birds would result in jeopardizing these animal populations and would affect local businesses from loss of hunting revenue. • Impacts to elk habitat and elk migration in New Mexico. The area's medium quality habitat, which includes more than 26,000 sq. km. in west central New Mexico, is directly connected to the high-quality core elk habitat in northern New Mexico through a migration corridor determined to be of high priority. The migration corridor is the second largest migration corridor for elk in New Mexico accounting for more than 13% of connectivity in the state.	• Fencing the entire wind generating facility with high enough fencing that elk cannot leap it and perhaps fencing the north side of HW 60 (along the length on the complex) and installing game over-ramps as is done in Canada to direct north/south highway crossings west and east of the complex enclosure. • Use a higher 'kick in speed' at night since most birds avoid migrating when wind speed is high. • Another recent development is that the doppler radar systems in use across the country actually records when large numbers of birds are migrating. • Install fencing designed to allow wildlife to pass through in conjunction with wildlife easement corridors. • Developing best management practices and requiring Bird and Bat Conservation Strategies (BBCS) for the project. • Colocate project infrastructure with existing roads and powerlines and other fragmenting features.

Resource/Use	General Concerns/Issues/Potential Impacts	Suggested Measures to Minimize Harm
	• Disturbance to many species of ground burrowers, including prairie dogs, badgers, and burrowing owls would likely be killed in the process of clearing the ground, and since their habitat would continue to be disturbed, those species might never repopulate. • Impact to public health and safety from the loss of raptors, which would result in increase of deer mouse population. New Mexico also has the highest occurrence of Hanta Virus in the United States, and the primary vector for this virus is the deer mouse. • Concern about the qualifications for mortality monitoring workers. • Modifications of animal behavior through reductions in habitat use due to human activity and interference with wildlife functions such as courtship, nesting, and migration. • Changes in habitat composition by direct loss of vegetation from road construction and changes in microclimates in road edge habitats potentially resulting in changes in type and quality of food base and reduction in habitat cover • Spread of exotic species that may lead to competition with preferred forage species. • Increased alteration and use of habitats by humans through activities including increased unethical hunting practices and increased dispersion of recreation impacts, particularly by off-road vehicles due to a proliferation of roads. • Impacts on wildlife from the upgrading and construction of roads; the use levels anticipated over the life of the Project for project-related activities as well as roads being used by the public resulting in wildlife mortality and/or temporarily or permanently displace wildlife.	
Invasive Plant Species and Noxious Weeds	• Establishment and spread of noxious or invasive plants into the area and then spreading onto the forest by vehicles, wildlife, wind, or other vectors from new ground disturbing activities and equipment being brought in from other locations.	• Ensure vehicles and equipment would be cleaned, especially the undercarriage, prior to starting work. • Recommend that design feature be included to ensure vehicles and equipment be cleaned, especially the undercarriage, prior to starting work.

Resource/Use	General Concerns/Issues/Potential Impacts	Suggested Measures to Minimize Harm
Lands and Realty	• Use previously disturbed lands and those near existing transmission lines for wind generating facilities and avoid locating these facilities in remote, pristine, and un-fragmented lands. • Open space, land use, and character of the land would be destroyed.	
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	• An updated lands with wilderness characteristics inventory of the project area should be conducted demonstrating that BLM has assessed the area and determined if it does or does not have wilderness characteristics. • Project footprint should be adjusted to eliminate and reduce any potential overlap with lands of wilderness characteristics.	
Livestock Grazing	• Concern that there would be harm/damage to grazing animals. • Impact to livestock grazing while vegetation is re-establishing because revegetating arid areas is challenging and sometimes arid-area revegetation projects fail, especially in drought years.	• Measures should be taken if initial revegetation attempts fail.
Migratory Birds	• Projects should also be discouraged in bird migration corridors or areas of high bat concentrations. • Concern that there should be early coordination with USFWS since the agency has had serious concerns in the past about potential eagle mortality at a wind farm in western New Mexico (Macho Springs). • BLM needs to ensure that the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Electrocution Prevention In-lieu Fee Program mitigation is additive and does not relieve third-party utility companies of their own responsibility for preventing electrocutions of eagles at their own existing power lines.	• Radar should be considered to stop turbines when a flock of birds is detected as approaching. • Project should meet current Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) guidelines. • Underground all transmission power lines to prevent eagle mortality from power line electrocutions and collisions.
Noise	• Wind turbines creates noise that causes, at least, irritation and annoyance, sleep difficulties, and stress, which has its own long list of consequences. The stress of noise and sleep disturbance means that one cannot completely rule out effects on the cardiovascular system after prolonged exposure to wind turbine noise, despite moderate levels of exposure. • 2017 study shows evidence that wind turbine complexes lead to significant increases in suicide as a result of low frequency noise. The suicide effect concentrates among individuals who are vulnerable to noise-induced illnesses such as the elderly, who are predominantly represented in the adjacent area. • Noise generated from the turbines could be heard 24 hours a day.	

Resource/Use	General Concerns/Issues/Potential Impacts	Suggested Measures to Minimize Harm
Recreation	• Impacts to existing hiking and other recreational uses. • Loss of desired recreation experiences. For example, construction would result in a total loss of resource for primitive recreation because hikers, campers, horseback riders and other recreationists seeking a primitive wilderness experience would not desire to have those experiences in an industrialized landscape such as a wind farm.	
Socioeconomics	• Degrading the natural beauty and resources of the area would be harmful to the local economy. • Catron County has only two resources - tourism and hunting. Both of those rely heavily on the natural habitat of the area and destroying 44,000 acres of that makes a significant impact on both tourism and hunting. • Concern that the project would damage the locals and not bring more affordable energy to the local community. • Permanent impacts to the quality of life for local residents. • Reduction in property values; potentially be 15 to 30 percent for lands close to the project area. • No local benefit with few or no jobs available for local resident, no manufacturing or local construction company that can handle project, none of the energy produced would be used locally, and no tax benefit to Catron County	
Soils	• Concern that if the caliche is spread around on the surface as a result of construction excavation activities, no vegetation would come up through it to restore any ground cover. The lack of vegetation would increase dust and runoff, and compaction of the ground surface would decrease recharge of the aquifer from precipitation. • Construction would damage the topsoil by its removal or compaction, which would inhibit regrowth of vegetation for decades.	• Immediate and continuing remediation of the land surface, not just restoration at the end of the approved period. • Design and install trenches alongside road corridors to minimize impact and create erosion control to prevent watershed damages.
Threatened or Endangered Species	• Impacts to threatened or endangered species, specifically concern regarding the Mexican grey wolf recovery area	

Resource/Use	General Concerns/Issues/Potential Impacts	Suggested Measures to Minimize Harm
Transportation and Travel Management	• Impacts from construction would create many months of noise and dust (or mud), and a tremendous amount of heavy vehicle traffic (heavy traffic and heavy vehicles) on US 60 that would create damage and extra stress on the highway both during and for a short time after the construction phase. • Public access should in no way be impeded by this project. • Concern about how internal access roads would be reclaimed after the project's useful life ends. • Consider public safety along US 60. Since US 60 is an east-west highway, during times near sunrise and sunset, driving visibility is greatly impeded. The strobe like effects created by wind turbines could greatly increase the risk to drivers on this highway.	• During and after a construction, US 60 should have ongoing maintenance and be left in the same or better condition that before construction commences.
Vegetation	• Livestock grazing at the project site may inhibit revegetation of disturbed areas.	• Monitor revegetation efforts and revegetate if necessary over the life of the project.
Visual Resource	• Impacts to visual resources, to both National Forest users and from elevated locations important for tribal traditional uses due to the location, height and quantity of proposed wind turbine generators. • Concern that the turbines would not conform to the characteristic landscape and would therefore not comply with the BLM VRM Class IV designation: - "Every effort should be made to minimize the impact of these projects by carefully locating activities, minimizing disturbance, and designing the projects to conform to the characteristic landscape." • Amending the VRM class in the project area to accommodate totally inappropriate industrial use of that land cannot be tolerated. There is no point in a plan for management of resources if the protections imposed by that plan can be arbitrarily shunted aside whenever they are considered inconvenient. • Extensive visibility of the proposed project for miles in every direction. • Visibility from the Continental Divide Trail, National Forest, Wilderness areas and surrounding private lands. The natural beauty and breathtaking landscapes sought by countless trail users would be greatly diminished by the dominating presence of the wind turbines. • Because of the project's nearness to US 60, it would impact members of the public who take scenic drives or ride horses in this area.	

Resource/Use	General Concerns/Issues/Potential Impacts	Suggested Measures to Minimize Harm
	• Spinning blades would create constant shadow and light and sound interferences. • Views from residential areas changed from natural landscape to industrial landscape for decades as well as the loss of natural beauty, vistas, and night skies. • Concern flashing lights would interfere with dark sky and would violate the spirit of the Night Sky Protection Act. • Concern about the impact to The Cosmic Campground, a designated Dark Sky Sanctuary, located on USFS land almost due south of the project, and in the northern part of the county Top of the World Subdivision advertises property sales as "an undeveloped area that it features Bortle Class 1 skies, the best possible for astronomy. The New Mexico Tourism Department promotes astro-tourists as the type of visitor New Mexico is trying to attract. Blinking red lights on the top of wind turbines, which would be visible for miles, would not be conducive to astro-tourism and would be a form of light pollution.	
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	• No comments made on resource/use.	
Water Quality (Surface/Ground)	• Concern about creating a tremendous strain on the ground water resource, which would deplete the resource for livestock producers and residents within the vicinity of the project. • Implementation of the project may involve the use of heavy equipment thereby leading to a possibility of contaminant releases (e.g., fuel, hydraulic fluid, etc.) associated with equipment malfunctions. • Contamination of ground water is a concern if the wind turbine construction leaks oil that can then leak into the aquifer. Pile-driving of the steel beams during construction may cause the already present arsenic in the ground surrounding Red Hill to filter into the aquifer, making it non-potable. • Impacts to the aquifer, riparian areas, wetlands, floodplains, and surface waters. • Concern about the amount and source of water that would be used during construction and operation. • Dewatering of existing wells if groundwater is used in the project's construction and operation.	• Prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the site and that appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) be installed and maintained both during and after construction to prevent, to the extent practicable, pollutants (primarily sediment, oil & grease, and construction materials from construction sites) in storm water runoff from entering waters of the U.S.

Resource/Use	General Concerns/Issues/Potential Impacts	Suggested Measures to Minimize Harm
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	• Playa lakes are unique wetlands that occur within the project area. These areas should be avoided in the construction of turbines and roads. The secondary effects should also be mitigated in construction.	• Avoid placement of facilities and any construction activities in playa lakes.
Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)	• No comments made on resource/use.	

CHAPTER 5 REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2005. Handbook H-1601-1—Land Use Planning Handbook. BLM, Washington, DC. March 11, 2005.

_____. 2008. National Environmental Policy Act *Handbook*. H-1790-1. U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM, Washington, D.C. January 30. http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/regulations/Instruction_Memos_and_Bulletins/blm_handbooks.html.

APPENDIX A – NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) PUBLISHED IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*

APPENDIX B – SCOPING LETTER AND RECIPIENTS, NEWS RELEASE, NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS, AND PUBLIC FLYER

APPENDIX C – PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING SIGN-IN SHEETS

APPENDIX D – BLM SCOPING MEETING DISPLAY BOARDS, HANDOUTS, AND COMMENT FORM

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APPENDIX F – PUBLIC AND AGENCY SCOPING COMMENTS RECEIVED