

**Programmatic Biological Assessment Species Consistency Evaluation Form
Upper Great Plains Region Wind Energy Development Program
Impact Information and Consistency Determination**

Interior least tern (*Sternula antillarum*)

Project Name: _____

Company: _____

Best Management Practices

- All general BMPs, as stated in the final *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Upper Great Plains Region Wind Energy Program* and table 4.5-1 of the final *Programmatic Biological Assessment for the Upper Great Plains Region Wind Energy Program*, will be implemented where appropriate, during each phase of the project (i.e., site characterization, construction, operations, and decommissioning). Although not all-inclusive, several of the more important BMPs for the conservation of this species follow.
- Meteorological towers shall not be located in sensitive habitats or in areas where resources known to be sensitive to human activities (e.g., wetlands, cultural resources, and listed species) are present. Installation of towers shall be scheduled to avoid disruption of wildlife reproductive activities or other important behaviors, and the disturbed area will be minimized.
- The use of guy wires on meteorological towers shall be avoided or minimized. Any needed guy wires shall have guys appropriately marked with bird flight diverters.
- Place approved marking devices on any newly constructed or upgraded transmission lines, where appropriate, within suitable habitats for sensitive bird species.

Species-Specific Avoidance Measures

- Conduct preconstruction evaluations and/or surveys in areas of potential occurrence to identify suitable habitat and areas of occurrence within project boundaries.
- Do not site turbines, access roads, transmission lines, or other project facilities within the Missouri (including Niobrara River) and Yellowstone River system floodplains or any closer than 1.5 mi (2.4 km) from known/suitable sandbar habitat and reservoir shorelines with nesting, resting, and foraging areas.
- Do not site turbines, access roads, transmission lines, or other project facilities within the Platte River (including Loup and Elkhorn Rivers) system floodplain or any closer than 1.5 mi (2.4 km) from known/suitable riverine habitat.
- Do not site turbines, access roads, transmission lines, or other project facilities within 1.5 mi (2.4 km) of known sandpit nesting, resting, and foraging areas along the Platte River (including Loup and Elkhorn Rivers) system.

Species-Specific Minimization Measures

Additional minimization measures specifically intended to reduce the potential for adverse effects on the interior least tern have not been identified at this time. The identified avoidance measures together with general BMPs to reduce ecological impacts from wind energy under the proposed program adequately address the conservation measures for this species.

Impact Information

Project within county with recorded interior least tern?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Preconstruction evaluations conducted with USFWS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Dates: _____
Parties involved: _____			
Suitable habitat in or near project footprint?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Distance from suitable Missouri River system habitat:	_____	Miles	
Distance from suitable Platte River system riverine habitat:	_____	Miles	
Distance from suitable Platte River system sandpit habitat:	_____	Miles	
Has habitat been surveyed to protocol?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Dates of survey: _____
Result of survey:	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied (species detected)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not occupied (species not detected)	
New overhead distribution/transmission lines proposed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Distance from occupied habitat:	_____	Miles	
Marking with bird flight diverters proposed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Map of project footprint and species habitat attached?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

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Effects—Explanation of consistency determination with programmatic effects determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" or "no effect":