

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

Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)

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.
- None.

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.
- Avoid siting turbines, transmission lines, access roads, or other project facilities on prairie dog colonies where black-footed ferrets have been reintroduced or are known to occur.
- If project facilities cannot avoid prairie dog colonies where ferrets are expected to live, then conduct preconstruction surveys in areas of suitable habitat where the project may impact prairie dog colonies.

Species-Specific Minimization Measures

- Report observations of ferrets, their sign, or carcasses on the project area to the USFWS within 24 hours and work with the black-footed ferret coordinator or local Ecological Services Office to determine whether additional measures need to be undertaken.
- Do not commence construction activities until any needed ferret surveys are completed and reviewed by the local USFWS Ecological Services Office.
- Ensure that prairie dog colonies are not poisoned or compromised due to wind development on the site.
- If black-footed ferrets have been or are being considered to be reintroduced at a location where wind development is proposed, project proponents will partner with the local ferret recovery team to exchange information and provide assistance or management as may be appropriate at that site.

Impact Information

Project within county with recorded black-footed ferret?	<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 habitat (per 1989 survey protocols):	_____	Miles	
Distance from reintroduction or proposed reintroduction sites:	_____	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)	
Observations of ferrets, sign, or carcasses?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Documentation provided?	<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":