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

Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*)

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.

- ☐ Projects shall be designed to utilize existing roads and utility corridors to the maximum extent feasible, and to minimize the number and length/size of new roads, laydown areas, and borrow areas.
- ☐ Locate stationary construction equipment (e.g., compressors or generators) outside of and as far as practical from Dakota skipper occupied habitat and proposed critical habitat.
- ☐ Minimize the size of areas in which soil would be disturbed or vegetation would be removed.
- ☐ When disturbed areas are reclaimed, reseed with obligate plant species of suitable habitat.

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 line towers, or other project facilities in occupied habitat or suitable habitat within 0.6 mi (1 km) of occupied habitat.

☐ Do not site turbines, access roads, transmission line towers, or other project facilities in proposed critical habitat or within a 0.6 mi (1 km) buffer zone.

Species-Specific Minimization Measures

For projects that encompass suitable, but unoccupied, habitat farther than 0.6 mi (1 km) from occupied habitat:

☐ Obtain a grassland easement of native prairie, equal to the amount disturbed that contains obligate plant species to minimize additional loss of suitable habitat, or improve existing nearby grassland easements to incorporate obligate plants to provide additional suitable habitat.

☐ Avoid broadcast applications of pesticides or herbicides that may be harmful to Dakota skippers or their nectar plants in Dakota skipper habitat. Ensure that field crews recognize target weeds to avoid adverse effects on important native species. Applications should be made by appropriately licensed applicators where required and applied only in accordance with label and application permit directions and stipulations for terrestrial and aquatic applications. Limit pesticide use to non-persistent immobile pesticides.

Impact Information

Project within county with recorded Dakota skippers?	☐ Yes	☐ No		
Preconstruction evaluations conducted with USFWS?	☐ Yes	☐ No	Dates:	_____
Parties involved:	_____			
Suitable habitat in or near project footprint?	☐ Yes	☐ No		
Distance from suitable habitat:	_____ Miles			
Distance from proposed critical habitat?	_____ Miles			_____
Has habitat been surveyed to protocol?	☐ Yes	☐ No	Dates of survey:	_____
Result of survey:	☐ Occupied (species detected)		☐ Not occupied (species not detected)	
If occupied, 0.6 mi (1km) buffer zones delineated?	☐ Yes	☐ No		
Map of project footprint and species habitat attached?	☐ Yes	☐ 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":