

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

Western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*)

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.
 - Minimize the size of areas in which soil would be disturbed or vegetation would be removed.
 - Initiate habitat restoration of disturbed soils and vegetation as soon as possible after construction activities are completed. Restore areas of disturbed soil using weed-free native grasses, forbs, and shrubs, in consultation with land managers and appropriate agencies such as State or county extension offices or weed boards.

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. Surveys should include proper identification and survey techniques based on recommendations from the USFWS on the most current survey protocols.
- Do not site turbines, access roads, transmission line towers, or other project facilities in occupied habitats.
- Clearly delineate buffer zones around locations of plants within the project area and restrict activities within 100 ft (30.5 m) of those locations.

Species-Specific Minimization Measures

For projects that encompass occupied habitat or that occur near occupied habitat:

- Employ additional project-specific BMPs to control invasive plants in areas of suitable habitat disturbed by project activities.
- Employ additional project-specific BMPs during and after construction to control erosion and runoff along access roads adjacent to suitable habitat.
- Avoid actions that could alter surface water flow, infiltration, and groundwater levels in suitable habitat.
- Do not use herbicides within 100 ft (30.5 m) of areas where the species occurs.

Impact Information

Project within county with recorded western prairie fringed orchid?	<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:	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)	
If occupied, 100 ft (30.5 m) buffer zones delineated?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Map of project footprint and species habitat attached?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

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