FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Oklahoma GRANT NUMBER: F09AP00234 (E-71-HP-1)

GRANT PROGRAM: ESA Section 6 Planning Grants

GRANT NAME: Development of a Multi-State Whooping Crane and Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat Conservation Plan for Wind Development

GRANT PERIOD: August 11, 2009 – August 4, 2013

REPORTING PERIOD: August 11, 2009 – November 15, 2013

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: John M. Anderson, American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and Russ Horton, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

A. OBJECTIVE:

Develop a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), pertinent to wind power development, for the whooping crane and lesser prairie-chicken through the central region of the United States between the Gulf of Mexico and Canadian border for submission to, consideration by, and potential approval by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

B. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS:

This report summarizes progress made in developing the HCP, formally entitled the "Great Plains Wind Energy HCP" from August 11, 2009 – November 15, 2013. Three Interim Performance Reports (attached) have been submitted previously, covering reporting periods as follows:

B.1 PROGRESS DURING INITIAL YEAR OF PROJECT (August 11, 2009 – August 10, 2010)

Substantial effort and progress was made in developing the Whooping Crane and Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) during the 2009-2010 reporting year. To support this progress, in August 2009, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), on behalf of wind energy development companies who collectively represent the "applicant" in this process, selected a Technical and Legal Consulting Team to complete a preliminary draft HCP for the whooping crane and lesser-prairie chicken. AWEA selected prime contractor BHE

Environmental, Inc. (BHE) and BHE's subcontractor Western EcoSystems, Inc. (WEST) to manage development of the Section 10 consultation process and to write the HCP. Kearns & West (K&W), also under subcontract to BHE, was selected to provide facilitation services. Together, this Technical Team has worked with AWEA, the wind industry, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and state wildlife agencies during development of the HCP. In addition, AWEA selected the Legal Team of Crowell & Moring (CM) and Smith Robertson (SR) to provide legal expertise throughout the process.

A group of wind industry representatives are the applicants in this process and have provided their support, guidance, and advocacy in the development of the preliminary draft HCP. Collectively, this group is referred to as the Wind Energy Whooping crane Action Group (WEWAG) and currently is comprised of 14 wind development companies:

- Acciona North America
- Allete
- BP Wind Energy
- Clipper Wind Energy
- CPV Renewable Energy Company, LLC
- EnXco
- Duke Wind Energy
- Horizon Wind Energy
- Iberdrola Renewables
- MAP Royalty
- NextEra Energy Resources
- Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Americas
- Trade Wind Energy
- Wind Capital Group

Over the course of the first year, AWEA and WEWAG coordinated on a regular basis with their Technical and Legal teams, FWS, and state wildlife agencies on a variety of technical issues related to the development of the preliminary draft HCP. Since selection of the contractor team, just prior to the start of the reporting cycle, multiple in-person meetings took place, at least three of which included the FWS and state wildlife agencies. In addition, more than 30 scheduled conference calls, approximately 10 of which included the FWS and/or state wildlife agencies, also took place. Close and ongoing coordination was critical to development of the preliminary draft HCP during the first year.

During initial year, substantial progress was made in developing the preliminary draft HCP. The following list provides key accomplishments during work executed under the Section 6 Grant funds. This list is not exhaustive, but instead describes the focus of efforts undertaken during the first year.

- Drafted, revised per FWS comments, and finalized Annotated HCP Outline describing organization, content, and intent of the HCP document
- Drafted and revised per FWS comments a working draft HCP
- Defined the HCP Permit and Plan Area, including expansion of the initially proposed project area to include two additional states
- Defined the Permit Duration
- Drafted the description of Covered Activities

    - Developed the list of activities associated with siting, construction, commissioning, operation, and decommissioning of a wind project; identified activities within the list likely to result in take of species covered in the HCP. Developed graphics ("schematics") to accompany and depict the list of activities.
    - Modeled, based on industry input, the Program Buildout across the Permit and Plan Area, which includes all or portions of 9 states.
- Reviewed and provided input to revise documentation and approach for integrating information provided by the FWS to address:
    - Species take-avoidance measures for non-covered species within the HCP Permit Area
    - Conservation Frameworks for evaluating project-related impacts and conservation measures for whooping cranes and lesser prairie-chickens within the HCP Permit and Plan Areas
- Drafted, revised, and began to finalize whooping crane resource selection function analysis in coordination and with feedback from FWS and state wildlife agencies
- Completed pilot resource selection function analysis for lesser prairie-chicken; discussed with and received feedback from FWS and state wildlife agencies
- Gathered information from and compiled an annotated list of other studies, initiatives, programs, and activities within the HCP Permit/Plan area
- Drafted and discussed with FWS and state wildlife agencies conceptual approaches for species take estimation, mitigation, and alternatives
- Completed initial outreach interviews to all state wildlife agencies within the Permit and Plan area to determine each state's interest in the type and level of participation desired during preparation of the preliminary draft HCP and to gather information to inform the HCP
- Coordinated extensively, including exchange of white papers, with FWS related to 'other' federally listed species in the Permit and Plan Area; undertook research and data mining to assess need and feasibility of including additional species as covered in the preliminary draft HCP
- Coordinated extensively with FWS related to defining a working, legal structure for the HCP and resulting permit(s)

The following list provides select major current activities and immediate or planned next steps toward completion of the preliminary draft HCP. The list is not inclusive of all efforts being undertaken by AWEA, WEWAG, or its contractors, but instead describes the current focus of HCP efforts.

- Continue work on HCP, specifically:
    - Finalize whooping crane resource selection modeling and begin pilot lesser prairie-chicken resource selection modeling

- Finalize refining Program Buildout modeling
- Draft take estimation (which builds from overlaying the species resource selection models with Program Buildout model)
- Refine described mitigation options, alternatives, changed circumstances, and Purpose & Need
- Define and describe HCP structure
- Determine need and feasibility to include other federally listed species as covered in the HCP
- Complete literature review and compilation of background materials/environmental baseline for piping plover and interior least tern for consideration of inclusion in the preliminary draft HCP

- Submit request to extend the Section 6 grant project timeline

B.2 PROGRESS DURING THE SECOND YEAR OF THE PROJECT (August 11, 2010 – October 31, 2011)

Additional industry companies joined the Wind Energy Whooping Crane Action Group (WEWAG, HCP proponent) during the August 11, 2010 – October 31, 2011 reporting period. The WEWAG now is comprised of the following 19 wind development companies:

- Acciona, North America
- Allete, Inc.
- Alternity Wind Power
- BP Alternative Energy
- Clipper Wind Energy
- Competitive Power Ventures, Inc.
- Duke Wind Energy
- Element Power
- EDP Renewables North America LLC
- enXco
- Iberdrola Renewables
- Infinity Wind Power
- MAP Royalty
- NextEra Energy Resources
- Own Energy
- RES Americas
- TerraGen
- Trade Wind Energy
- Wind Capital Group

However, per prior agreement between WEWAG and USFWS, the HCP development process was closed to further participants after the publication of the NEPA Notice of Intent (NOI) on July 14, 2011. Therefore the current list of 19 companies will stand as final for the remainder of the process, barring any companies withdrawing from the process.

During the reporting period, AWEA and WEWAG coordinated on a regular basis with the Technical (BHE/WEST and K&W) and Legal (CM and SR) teams, HDR (NEPA Contractor), USFWS, and state wildlife agencies on a multitude of technical issues related to the development of the preliminary draft HCP (PDHCP) and the EIS scoping process. During the reporting cycle, six in person meetings related to development of the PDHCP occurred, four of which included the USFWS and/or state wildlife agencies. In addition, more than 50 scheduled conference calls occurred to support development of the PDHCP, nearly half of which included USFWS and/or state wildlife agency participation. The Technical Team also began providing biweekly summary reports directly to the USFWS and state wildlife agencies in September 2011. These reports provide a summary of calls and meetings, tasks undertaken during the reporting period, tasks planned for the next reporting period, and known or anticipated challenges to the project scope or schedule. Frequent and thorough communication among the parties continues to prove instrumental in efficient development of a sound and legally defensible PDHCP and EIS.

Substantial progress was made during the reporting period. The following list is not exhaustive, but rather describes key efforts undertaken and accomplishments made relative to the PDHCP during the reporting period.

- Completed working PDHCP Chapters 1 (*Introduction*) and 3 (*Affected Environment and Biological Resources*) in coordination with USFWS, and following discussion and two rounds of review and comment from USFWS
- Continued literature and database research, gathered information, and continually revised as needed an annotated list of other studies, initiatives, programs, and activities within the HCP Permit and Plan areas
- Refined the Permit and Plan area boundaries in coordination with USFWS and state wildlife agencies
- Refined working PDHCP Chapter 2 (*Covered Activities*) to reflect robust discussions related to existing and future transmission and revise the list of activities for which WEWAG is seeking incidental take authorization of one or more covered species
- Revised working PDHCP Chapter 4 (*Effects Assessment and Environmental Consequences*) using information resulting from revised, draft final modeling
    - Completed wind developer resource selection modeling and revised program build-out to address comments from WEWAG, USFWS, and state wildlife agencies; revised draft technical white paper detailing modeling approach and methods (will be an appendix to the PDHCP)

    - Completed whooping crane resource selection function analysis in coordination and with feedback from USFWS and state wildlife agencies; revised draft technical white paper detailing modeling approach and methods (will be an appendix to the PDHCP)
    - Revised draft final impact assessment modeling for the whooping crane, including modeled migration simulation of approximately 50,000 individual whooping cranes; revised draft technical white paper detailing modeling approach and methods (will be an appendix to the PDHCP)
    - Completed draft impact assessment modeling for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken, including ongoing and thorough coordination with the Western Governors Association DSS Modeling effort
- Drafted working PDHCP Chapter 6 (*Alternatives*) and revised based on discussions with, and at least two rounds of review and comment by, USFWS
- Began drafting working PDHCP Chapter 5 (*Conservation Program*), including approaches to best management practices, and minimization and mitigation opportunities
- Began drafting PDHCP Chapter 7 (*No Surprises Assurances*, including *Changed Circumstances*) and Chapter 8 (*Monitoring and Reporting*)
- Continued revising, updating, and making current PDHCP Chapter 13 (*Literature Cited*)
- Continued discussions with USFWS and WEWAG related to other federally-listed species in the Permit and Plan areas; continually assessed need and feasibility of including additional covered species in the PDHCP
- Coordinated with USFWS to define a working, legal structure for the HCP and resulting permit(s)
- Coordinated with potential third party Master Permittee to identify opportunities and process for involvement in implementing the Whooping Crane and Lesser Prairie-Chicken HCP pending final decision on structure
- Coordinated with state wildlife agency points of contact to keep them informed of progress and obtain their feedback on an ongoing basis
- Developed a fact sheet about the HCP on behalf of WEWAG, and coordinated its distribution at NEPA scoping meetings; drafted talking points for WEWAG members; launched a website about the HCP to provide information about the project, timeline, and contacts; developed a draft press release for future distribution by AWEA; developed a target list of stakeholders in the HCP region; evaluated the best approaches for reaching target audiences
- Continued, ongoing development of the working PDHCP for delivery to WEWAG, AWEA, and its Legal Team by December 31, 2011

Also during the reporting period, the NEPA process was initiated and substantial progress was made. The following list is not exhaustive of efforts undertaken, but rather describes key efforts performed and accomplishments made relative to the NEPA process during the reporting period.

- Kickoff meeting to engage HDR and start the NEPA process was held in USFWS offices in Albuquerque on April 21, 2011
- Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on July 14, 2011
- Public and agency scoping letters were sent and newspaper notices were published to invite participation in agency and public scoping meetings and to request comments during the scoping period (July 14, 2011 – October 12, 2011)
- Scoping meetings were held in the following locations:
    - Pueblo, CO - Tuesday, August 9, 2011
    - Amarillo, TX - Wednesday, August 10, 2011
    - Clovis, NM - Thursday, August 11, 2011
    - Pierre, SD - Tuesday, August 23, 2011
    - Bismarck, ND - Wednesday, August 24, 2011
    - Glendive, MT - Thursday, August 25, 2011
    - Kearney, NE - Tuesday, August 30, 2011
    - Great Bend, KS - Wednesday, August 31, 2011
    - Woodward, OK - Thursday, September 1, 2011
    - Austin, TX - Wednesday, September 7, 2011
    - Corpus Christi, TX - Thursday, September 8, 2011
- Scoping comments received by October 14, 2011 were summarized in a draft Scoping Report

The following tentative schedule was developed during the second reporting period to identify milestones (and projected timelines) to completing the PDHCP and subsequent iterations of the document to completion and finally, to submission of the Final HCP as part of a complete ITP application package.

Task	Duration (days)	Start Date	Finish Date
WEWAG delivers PDHCP to USFWS/States/AWWI	1	06/29/12	06/29/12
USFWS/States/AWWI provide written comment to WEWAG	60	06/30/12	08/28/12
AWWI makes decision regarding Master Permittee role	60	06/30/12	08/28/12
WEWAG prepares DHCP	60	08/29/12	10/27/12
WEWAG delivers DHCP to USFWS/States/AWWI	1	10/28/12	10/28/12
USFWS/States/AWWI provide written comment to WEWAG	60	10/29/12	12/27/12
WEWAG revises Draft HCP for publication	45	12/28/12	02/10/13
USFWS completes Draft EIS for publication	569	07/14/11	02/01/13

USFWS prepares NOA	30	01/03/13	02/01/13
Draft HCP/EIS published	30	02/02/13	03/03/13
Public Comment Period	90	03/04/13	06/01/13
USFWS finalizes EIS and ROD	120	06/02/13	09/29/13
WEWAG finalizes HCP	90	06/02/13	08/30/13
USFWS publishes NOA and Final HCP and EIS	30	09/30/13	10/29/13
Waiting Period	30	10/30/13	11/28/13
USFWS publishes NOA/ROD	45	11/29/13	01/12/14

Based on this schedule, which was subject to change based on unforeseen challenges in the coming year, completion and subsequent publication in the Federal Register of the Final HCP and EIS was anticipated to be completed by October 2013, with issuance of an ITP or its equivalent (pending HCP structure) in January 2014.

During this reporting period, we continued to see challenges and opportunities related to development of new and innovative approaches that are both scientifically rigorous and legally sound. We anticipated we would continue to encounter such challenges and opportunities, and that we had the appropriate Team and parties engaged to successfully address them as they arose.

B.3 PROGRESS DURING THE THIRD YEAR OF THE PROJECT (August 11, 2011 – August 10, 2012)

Industry companies belonging to the Wind Energy Whooping crane Action Group (WEWAG, HCP proponent) as of the end of the third reporting period (August 10, 2012) were:

- Acciona, North America
- Allete, Inc.
- Alternity Wind Power
- BP Alternative Energy
- CPV Renewable Energy Company, LLC
- Duke Wind Energy
- Element Power
- EDP Renewables North America LLC
- EDF Renewable Energy
- Iberdrola Renewables
- Infinity Wind Power
- MAP Royalty
- NextEra Energy Resources
- RES Americas
- TerraGen
- Trade Wind Energy
- Wind Capital Group

The HCP development process was closed to further participants after the publication of the NEPA Notice of Intent (NOI) on July 14, 2011 and the WEWAG member group is final barring any companies withdrawing from the process.

During the reporting period, AWEA and WEWAG continued coordination on a regular basis with the Technical (BHE/WEST and K&W) and Legal (CM and SR) teams, HDR (NEPA Contractor), USFWS, and state wildlife agencies on a multitude of technical issues related to the development of the preliminary draft HCP (PDHCP) and the EIS scoping process. During the reporting cycle, three in person meetings related to development of the PDHCP occurred, two of which included the USFWS and/or state wildlife agencies. In addition, more than 40 scheduled conference calls and webinars occurred to support development of the PDHCP, nearly half of which included USFWS and/or state wildlife agency participation. The Technical Team continued providing biweekly summary reports directly to the member companies, USFWS, and state wildlife agencies. These reports provide a summary of calls and meetings, tasks undertaken during the reporting period, tasks planned for the next reporting period, and known or anticipated challenges to the project scope or schedule. Frequent and thorough communication among the parties continues to prove instrumental in efficient development of a sound and legally defensible PDHCP and EIS.

Substantial progress was made during the reporting period. The following list is not exhaustive, but rather describes key efforts undertaken and accomplishments made relative to the PDHCP during the third reporting period.

- Revised draft PDHCP Chapters 1 (*Introduction*) and 4 (*Ecology of the Covered Species*) per review and comment by USFWS and state wildlife agencies
- Continued building background literature library to support the HCP
- Refined draft PDHCP Chapter 2 (*Covered Activities*)
- Revised working PDHCP Chapter 5 (*Effects Assessment and Environmental Consequences*) using information resulting from revised, draft final modeling
    - Completed wind developer resource selection modeling and revised program build-out to address comments from WEWAG, USFWS, and state wildlife agencies; revised draft technical white paper detailing modeling approach and methods (will be an appendix to the PDHCP)
    - Revised draft final impact assessment modeling for the whooping crane, including modeled migration simulation of migrating whooping cranes and collision risk model for whooping cranes; revised draft technical white paper detailing modeling approach and methods (will be an appendix to the PDHCP)
    - Completed draft impact assessment modeling for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken, including ongoing and thorough coordination with the Western Governors Association DSS Modeling effort; acquired and utilized Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool habitat mapping in the LEPC impact assessment.

- Revised draft PDHCP Chapter 7 (*Alternatives*) based on ongoing coordination with USFWS and state wildlife agencies
- Developed and refined per WEWAG comment draft Chapter 6 (*Conservation Program*), including biological goals and objectives, conservation measures intended to avoid, minimize, and mitigate effects of anticipated take to covered species
- Developed and refined draft PDHCP Chapter 8 (*No Surprises Assurances*, including *Changed Circumstances*) in coordination with USFWS
- Developed draft PDHCP Chapter 9 (*Monitoring and Reporting*)
- Continued revising, updating, and making current PDHCP Chapter 14 (*Literature Cited*)
- Refined method to address other federally listed or candidate species within the Plan Area and in the HCP using Species Take Avoidance Measures
- Coordinated with USFWS to define a working, legal structure for the HCP and resulting ITP(s)
- Coordinated with state wildlife agency points of contact to keep them informed of progress and obtain their feedback on an ongoing basis
- Continued, ongoing development of the working PDHCP for delivery to WEWAG, AWEA, and its Legal Team by September 29, 2012

Also during the reporting period, progress was made relative to the NEPA portion of the project. The following list is not an exhaustive list of efforts undertaken, but rather describes key efforts performed and accomplishments made.

- Scoping meetings were held in the following locations:
    - Pueblo, CO - Tuesday, August 9, 2011
    - Amarillo, TX - Wednesday, August 10, 2011
    - Clovis, NM - Thursday, August 11, 2011
    - Pierre, SD - Tuesday, August 23, 2011
    - Bismarck, ND - Wednesday, August 24, 2011
    - Glendive, MT - Thursday, August 25, 2011
    - Kearney, NE - Tuesday, August 30, 2011
    - Great Bend, KS - Wednesday, August 31, 2011
    - Woodward, OK - Thursday, September 1, 2011
    - Austin, TX - Wednesday, September 7, 2011
    - Corpus Christi, TX - Thursday, September 8, 2011

- Scoping comments received by October 14, 2011 were summarized in a draft Scoping Report submitted to USFWS on October 28, 2011.
- USFWS compiled their comments on the draft Scoping Report and submitted them on December 2, 2011.
- All comments were incorporated into a final Scoping Report that was submitted to USFWS on January 27, 2012.
- A conference call was held with USFWS on May 2, 2012.

The following schedule identifies revisions and new target dates for milestones to completing the PDHCP and subsequent iterations of the document to completion and finally, to submission of the Final HCP as part of a complete ITP application package.

Tasks/Milestone	Duration (Days)	Dates
WEWAG delivers PDHCP to FWS/States	1	10/8/2012
FWS/States review PDHCP	30	10/9/12-11/7/12
Quarterly Meeting	2	11/8/12-11/9/12
FWS/States provide written comment to WEWAG	31	11/10/12-12/10/12
WEWAG prepares DHCP	70	12/11/12-2/18/13
WEWAG delivers DHCP to FWS/States	1	2/19/13
FWS/States provide written comment to WEWAG	62	2/20/13-4/22/13
WEWAG revises Draft HCP for publication	63	4/23/13-6/24/13
FWS completes Draft EIS for publication	1	6/25/13
FWS prepares NOA	30	6/26/13-7/25/13
Draft HCP/EIS published	32	7/26/13-8/26/13
Public Comment Period	92	8/27/13-11/26/13
FWS completes BO and SOF	462	12/11/12-3/17/14
FWS finalizes EIS and ROD	120	11/27/13-3/26/14
WEWAG finalizes HCP	120	11/27/13-3/26/14
FWS publishes NOA and Final HCP and EIS	30	3/27/14-4/25/14
Waiting Period	30	4/26/14-5/25/14
FWS publishes NOA/ROD	45	5/26/14-7/9/14

Based on this schedule, which remained subject to change based on unforeseen challenges or decisions by the involved companies and agencies, we anticipated completion and subsequent publication in the Federal Register of the Final HCP and EIS in April 2014, with issuance of an ITP or its equivalent (pending HCP structure) in July 2014.

During this reporting period, we have continued to see challenges and opportunities related to development of new and innovative approaches that are both scientifically rigorous and legally sound. We anticipated that in the next reporting period, we would continue to encounter such challenges and opportunities, and that we had the appropriate

Team and parties engaged to successfully address them as they arose, with the further understanding that frequent and open communication would remain critical as the HCP continued to progress toward its intended goals.

B.4 PROGRESS DURING THE FINAL YEAR OF THE PROJECT (August 11, 2012 – August 4, 2013)

While throughout the process the number of industry participants have changed over time, increasing to a maximum of 19 and decreasing to the final group of 15, the same core group of companies participated in this process throughout and all participants contributed an equal amount of resources, in terms of both time, money, staff, etc., in the development of the HCP. As of the end of this project (August 4, 2013) the industry companies belonging to the Wind Energy Whooping Crane Action Group (WEWAG) who collectively made up the "HCP proponent" were:

- Acciona, North America
- Allete, Inc.
- Alternity Wind Power
- BP Alternative Energy
- CPV Renewable Energy Company, LLC
- Duke Wind Energy
- Element Power
- EDP Renewables North America LLC
- EDF Renewable Energy
- Iberdrola Renewables
- Infinity Wind Power
- MAP Royalty
- NextEra Energy Resources
- RES Americas
- Trade Wind Energy
- Wind Capital Group

During the final year of this project, AWEA and WEWAG continued coordination with the Technical (WEST/POWER and K&W) and Legal (Sedgwick LLP) teams, HDR (NEPA Contractor), USFWS, and state wildlife agencies on a multitude of issues related to the development of the draft HCP (DHCP) and EIS. Seven in-person meetings related to development of the DHCP occurred, one of which included USFWS and state wildlife agencies. In addition, more than 35 scheduled conference calls and webinars, designed to inform the development of the DHCP, occurred, nearly half of which included USFWS and/or state wildlife agency participation. The Technical Team provided continuous biweekly summary reports directly to the member companies, USFWS, and state wildlife agencies. These reports provided a summary of calls and meetings, tasks undertaken during the reporting period, tasks planned for the next reporting period, and known or anticipated challenges to the project scope or schedule.

Substantial progress and HCP development, including re-structuring of elements of the document, was completed. The following list is not exhaustive, but rather

describes key efforts undertaken and accomplishments made relative to the PDHCP during the final year of this project.

- Continued building background literature library to support the HCP
- Continued coordination with USFWS to define a working, legal structure for the HCP and resulting ITP(s)
- Revised the DHCP per review and comment by USFWS and state wildlife agencies on the October 2012 preliminary DHCP; discussed comments and responses in a series of teleconferences, and provided an initial comment response matrix.
- Revised DHCP Chapter 1 (*Introduction*) to include a complete discussion of:
    - HCP structure and governance
    - HCP issuance criteria
- Refined draft DHCP Chapter 2 (*Covered Activities*)
- Revised draft DHCP Chapter 5 *(Take Minimization and Mitigation Measures)* using information from:
    - Additional revisions to the program build-out to address comments from WEWAG, USFWS, and state wildlife agencies; revised draft technical white paper describing modeling approach and methods (provided be an appendix to the DHCP)
    - Revised biological goals and objectives per WEWAG and USFWS comments
    - Revised per WEWAG and USFWS comment the conservation measures intended to avoid, minimize, and mitigate effects of anticipated take to covered species
    - Revised final impact assessment modeling for the whooping crane, including modeled migration simulation of migrating whooping cranes and collision risk model for whooping cranes; revised draft technical white paper detailing modeling approach and methods
    - Revised the whooping crane impact assessment to incorporate the Gil-Weir population growth model methodology, per the suggestion of the USFWS.
    - Revised impact assessment modeling for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken.
- Revised DHCP Chapter 6 (*Alternatives*) based on ongoing coordination with WEWAG, USFWS and state wildlife agencies
- Refined DHCP Chapter 7 (*No Surprises Assurances*)
- Revised and substantially developed DHCP Chapter 8 (*Monitoring, Reporting, and Adaptive Management*) to reflect changes in take minimization and mitigation measures, as well as WEWAG and USFWS comments

- Developed DHCP Chapter 9 (*Funding*) to address WEWAG and USFWS comments
- Developed DHCP Chapter 11 (*Eligibility Standards and Participation Procedures*) incorporating structure decisions
- Continued revising, updating, and making current PDHCP Chapter 12 (*Literature Cited*)
- Continued, ongoing development of the working DHCP for delivery to USFWS and the State agencies on November 15, 2013.

WEWAG continued public outreach to the NGO community through a series of in-person presentations and follow-up coordination. WEWAG also supported presentation of information to the public about the HCP at both the 9th Biennial National Wind Coordinating Collaborative Wind-Wildlife Research Meeting held in Denver on November 28-30, 2012 and the 4th International EcoSummit Conference – Ecological Sustainability in Columbus Ohio, on September 30-October 5, 2012.

During the final year of the project, progress was also made relative to the NEPA portion of the project. The following is not an exhaustive list of efforts undertaken, but rather describes key efforts performed and accomplishments made.

- The National Park Service (NPS) requested that it be included as a cooperating agency on the EIS. USFWS accepted and NPS has been included on EIS coordination calls.
- Approximately 17 conference calls were conducted during the reporting period to discuss progress on the EIS. Members of the NPS were introduced and the NPS expressed its interest/concerns with potential visual impacts to 18 NPS managed sites and portions of 8 National Historic Trails within the Plan Area.
- HDR was invited to participate in Tech Team conference calls in January 2013 to discuss the minimization and mitigation strategies for the affected species.
- The first two chapters of the EIS – Chapter 1: Introduction and Purpose and Need, and Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives – were prepared with the cooperation of the USFWS and NPS.
- The initial draft of Chapters 1 and 2 was submitted to USFWS on 8 February 2013. Comments were received from USFWS and NPS reviewers in April 2013.
- HDR began preparation of the third chapter of the EIS – Chapter 3: Affected Environment – in May 2013.
- As of the end of the reporting period, HDR had completed 13 of the 15 resource areas for the Affected Environment chapter.
- Upon receipt of the draft HCP and USFWS approval of the Proposed Action and Alternatives, HDR will continue preparation of the EIS.

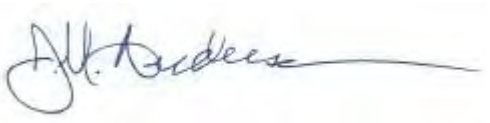
B.2 FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

The Objectives of the Section 6 Grant Proposal (August 27, 2008) for *Development of a Multi-Sate Whooping Crane and Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat Conservation Plan for Wind Development* have been addressed in the enclosed *Draft Great Plains Wind Energy Habitat Conservation Plan.* The DHCP has been developed to gain the expected Results or Benefits described in the proposal. While some efforts to complete the final HCP, EIS, and ITP package remain, the DHCP is consistent with the Project Statement provided in the proposal, and has been developed to meet the purpose identified therein. Details of the effort to meet the grant standards as described in the proposal have been provided in the three Interim Reports and in this Final Report.

The draft HCP has been submitted to the states and the USFWS for review. As the review of the draft HCP by states and the USFWS continues, and prior to issuance of the ITP, major milestones will include delivery of a DHCP for public review in March 2014. Based on current timelines discussed with HDR and the USFWS staff we anticipate completion and subsequent publication in the Federal Register of notice of the availability of the Final HCP and EIS on or before October 2015, with issuance of an ITP on or before December of 2015. Development of the draft EIS will continue to occur between now and issuance of the ITP. During this time, coordination will continue between WEWAG, the HCP Technical Team, USFWS, and HDR. Meetings, conference calls, webinars, and ongoing coordination among involved parties will continue to be utilized to discuss technical topics, present new as well as revised information and draft material prior to official submission, receive feedback and comments from USFWS and state wildlife agencies, and optimize efficient and successful development of the HCP and EIS documents.

The effort remains on-track with the approach identified in the grant application and with the expectation that the HCP will provide the specific benefits described therein. As noted in all the interim reports and widely understood, the magnitude of this effort makes it both important and complex. We have continued to see challenges and opportunities related to development of new and innovative approaches that are both scientifically rigorous and legally sound. Frequent and open communication to successfully address issues which may arise will remain critical as the HCP continues to progress toward its intended goals.

C. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS: None



E. PREPARED BY: John M. Anderson
American Wind Energy Association

F. DATE: November 15, 2013

G. APPROVED BY: _____

Wildlife Division Administration
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

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