



DAVID EVANS
AND ASSOCIATES INC.

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 23, 2008
TO: Scott Williams, Puget Sound Energy
FROM: Gray Rand, Senior Biologist
SUBJECT: Sage Grouse Surveys for Expansion of Wild Horse Wind Facility
PROJECT: Wild Horse Expansion
PROJECT NO: PSEN00000134
COPIES: Ron Bockelman, Jennifer Diaz

This memorandum documents the results of surveys conducted by DEA personnel in spring 2008 looking for active leks being used by greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) in the vicinity of Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Wild Horse Wind Power Facility (WHWPF) outside of Ellensburg, Washington. The Expansion Area is located immediately north of the existing WHWPF on approximately 1,280 acres within Sections 8, 9 and 17 of Township 18N, Range 21 East. The site is located approximately 13 miles east of Ellensburg near the headwaters of Skookumchuck Creek. These surveys were voluntarily conducted by PSE due to the discovery of an active sage grouse nest on the existing WHWPF during 2007.

Methods

A total of six vehicle-based surveys were conducted by a DEA biologist in the expansion area between March and April 2008. Table 1 below lists the survey dates and conditions during each survey. The surveyor stopped at approximately ¼ mile intervals along existing roads on the site, got out of the car, and looked and listened for evidence of sage grouse leks, including vocalizations and visual observations of adult birds. The entire expansion area was covered by visual and auditory observation.

Results

No sage grouse leks were found during the surveys in the expansion area. Similarly, lek surveys conducted simultaneously by PSE biologists on the existing WHWPF did not encounter leks. Given that sage grouse are nesting on the WHWPF, it is likely that a lek exists somewhere north of I-90, but this lek could be in the lower elevation areas away from the facility that are dominated by big sagebrush.

Table 1. Survey Dates, Times, and Conditions

Survey Date	Surveyor	Time Begin	Time End	Wind Speed Begin (mph)	Wind Speed End (mph)	Temp Begin (°F)	Temp End (°F)	Comments/Observations
March 26, 2008	G. Rand	6:15 am	10:15 am	30	30			150 elk in 3 herds
April 3, 2008	G. Rand	6:00 am	9:15 am	5	10	28	37	Horned larks, loggerhead shrike, red-tailed hawk, northern harrier, 10 deer, 3 elk
April 9, 2008	G. Rand	5:33 am	9:15 am	10	15	25	25	Great horned owl, mountain bluebirds, northern flicker, juncos, spotted towhee, kestrel nest, Clark's nutcracker, 1 bull elk
April 17, 2008	G. Rand	5:32 am	8:25 am	15	25	35	35	Vesper sparrow, kestrel, robin, mountain bluebird, northern flicker, Clark's nutcracker, 25+ deer; 180+ elk
April 24, 2008	G. Rand	5:21 am	8:20 am	25	25	30	30	Horned lark, red-tailed hawk nest, Townsend's chipmunk, kestrel, 9 elk
April 28, 2008	G. Rand	5:06 am	9:00 am	<5	10	45	45	Horned lark, Brewer's sparrow, Gray partridge, California quail, kestrel, vesper sparrow, white-crowned sparrows, sage thrasher, 17 deer, 100+ elk