**Horse Heaven Wind Project EFSEC Review**

**Data Request No. 1 – Habitat Field Survey**

**May 27, 2021**

| Data Request 1 Item ID | ASC Section | Item | Question or Information request. | Applicant Response |
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| **Hab-1** | Section 3.4.1.1  Appendix K | The Badger Canyon Site Characterization Study (West, 2018) indicated 7.59 acres of riverine habitat (riparian) and 0.49 acres of wetland habitat (emergent wetland in the SE of the project area). West recommended these areas be field confirmed as part of the application field studies. The riparian areas are likely to have deciduous trees, but this habitat type is not discussed in any of the later reports. No deciduous tree habitat types are identified in the Tetra Tech Botany and Habitat Survey Report (2020).  Background: The deciduous tree group was selected on the SEPA checklist; however, none of the habitat subtypes match that group. | Confirm whether deciduous trees occur within the Project Lease Boundary.  Clarify the habitat subtype that corresponds to deciduous tree group selected in the SEPA checklist. |  |
| **Hab-2** | 3.3.1.1  Appendix I  Appendix L | The Badger Canyon Site Characterization Study (West, 2018) indicated 7.59 acres of riverine habitat (riparian) and 0.49 acres of wetland habitat (emergent wetland in the SE of the project area). West recommended these areas be field confirmed as part of the application field studies. In addition, the Four Mile Site Characterization Report indicates there are 279.43 acres of riparian habitat (which may be outside the proposed footprint of the application due to footprint change).  Background: Portions of the solar siting area along Sellards Road not previously surveyed for wetlands were identified for survey in 2021.  Appendix I Wetlands and Other Waters Delineation Report study area includes only the turbines, solar siting areas, and micrositing corridor.This information request will inform the impact discussion. | Confirm whether there are any wetlands or riparian areas located in the portions of the Project Site not yet surveyed.  Confirm wetlands present in the vicinity that may be impacted (downgradient water flow) by construction. |  |
| **Hab-3** | Section 3.4  Appendix K | Unsurveyed areas and ground-truthing of habitats. | Conduct additional special status plant surveys within the unsurveyed areas and provide updated data. Provide updated mapping for the ground-truthing of the turbine footprints, associated corridors, and the solar panel facility footprints. |  |
| **Hab-4** | Section 3.4  Appendix K | Native plants. | Provide relative cover, density, distribution, and health and vigor information for native plants. This applies to past surveys as well as the 2021 habitat survey. |  |
| **Hab-5** | Section 3.4.1.1 | The number of threatened and endangered species with potential to occur at or around the site is limited to vascular plants. | Identify all threatened and endangered species with potential to occur at or around the site including non-vascular plants. This applies to past surveys as well as the 2021 habitat survey. |  |
| **Hab-6** | Section 3.4.1.1  Section 3.4.1.3  Appendix K | The 2018 site characterization report by West, Inc. in Appendix K indicates woven-spore lichen (*Texosporium sancti-jacobi*) as occurring within 5 miles of the Project. | Conduct surveys for non-vascular special status plants, which do not appear to be included in the 2020 Tetra Tech surveys. Include the woven-spore lichen in Section 3.4.1.1. (Currently Section 3.4.1.1 is restricted to discussions on vascular plants). |  |
| **Hab-7** | Section 3.4.1.1 | Invasive species and revegetation.  Background: This information request will inform discussion on revegetation efforts, including noxious weed and non-native invasive species. | Collect field data on non-native invasive species. |  |
| **Hab-8** | Section 3.4.2 | Shrub-steppe and dwarf shrub-steppe habitat.  Background: This information request will inform the shrubsteppe and dwarf shrubsteppe impact discussion in a broader context of the surrounding area (i.e., in areas adjacent to the Project site, do other shrubsteppe ecosystems occur or does the loss constitute some of the last remaining areas around the Project). | Verify the shrubsteppe ecosystems in the field. Add any areas that were not included in the earlier habitat surveys. |  |
| **Hab-9** | Section 3.4.2 | Plant species at risk (vascular and non-vascular) in the remaining unsurveyed areas.  Background: This information request will inform the impact discussion of at risk plant species within the plant population. | Complete surveys for plant species at risk (vascular and non-vascular) in the remaining unsurveyed areas. |  |
| **Hab-10** | Section 3.4.3 | The habitat mapping is a combination of 2020 habitat classification field work, 2018 habitat mapping, and aerial imagery/government data sources. | Update the habitat mapping based on results of additional surveys in the proposed mitigation sections. |  |
| **Hab-11** | Appendix K  Section 3.4.1.3 | Wildlife Baseline data | Conduct surveys to provide additional information on the occurrence of Special Status Wildlife within the Site and buffer area, specifically small mammals, herptiles, and bird species not adequately addressed through the aerial and point count survey method. Include data on presence, distribution, and habitat availability within the project lease boundary and buffer area. |  |
| **Hab-12** | Appendix K  Section 3.4.1.3 | Wildlife Baseline data | Conduct colony surveys for Townsend’s ground squirrel to cover the full Lease Area. Alternatively, share with EFSEC before the last survey window why colony surveys and habitat surveys for Townsend’s ground squirrel, which were conducted in 2018 within a portion of the Project, were not extended over the full Lease Area. Provide clarification on methods applied and discuss in the context of the wider project area*.* |  |
| **Hab-13** | Section 3.4.1.3 | Wildlife Baseline data | Conduct surveys and map habitat suitability for Special Status herptiles.  Alternatively, share with EFSEC before the last survey window why no species-specific studies were conducted for special status reptiles. |  |
| **Hab-14** | Section 3.4.1.3 | Wildlife Baseline data | Conduct surveys and map habitat for Special status species.  Alternatively,share with EFSEC before the last survey window why no species-specific studies were conducted for burrowing owls, or loggerhead shrike, which have potential or have been recorded within the Project area. |  |
| **Hab-15** | Section 3.4.1.3 | Wildlife Baseline data | Provide information on the presence of jackrabbit and jackrabbit habitat.  Alternatively, share with EFSEC before the last survey window why species specific studies for jackrabbit were not conducted. |  |
| **Hab-16** | Section 3.4.1.2.  Section 3.4.1.3 | Buffer  Background: The project footprint in the 2017 and 2017-2018 studies is smaller than the proposed footprint in the Application and does not include the western edge of the footprint. The aerial surveys for raptors buffered the 2017 footprint by 2 miles for most raptors, and buffered 10 miles for eagles in 2018. As such, these survey areas covered most of the project footprint. | Conduct aerial raptor surveys on the western edge of the proposed project footprint.  Explain how information was collected beyond the project footprint described in the application (i.e. 2 miles for raptors, and 10 miles for eagles). |  |
| **Hab-17** | Section 3.4.3 | The habitat mapping is a combination of 2020 habitat classification field work, 2018 habitat mapping, and aerial imagery/government data sources. | Update the habitat mapping based on the results of additional surveys conducted in 2021. Include the ground truthing level of effort. |  |
| **Hab-18** | Section 3.4.3  Appendix L | Section 2.20 Table 2.20-1 Planned Environmental Studies indicate habitat and rare plant surveys for solar areas of interest only.  Solar facilities and micrositing corridors not surveyed were proposed to be surveyed pre-construction, but only the solar facilities were listed in mitigation. Appendix L indicates mitigation for additional rare plant surveys at all unsurveyed areas of the micrositing corridor and the solar siting area. | Update the rare plant survey mitigation to include additional surveys conducted in 2021. |  |
| **Hab-19** | Appendix L | Habitat function assessment. | What were the scientifically based methods and surveys used to assess habitat function in the impacted areas (e.g. Washington Natural Heritage Program Upland Environmental Integrity Assessment). |  |
| **Hab-20** | Section 3.4  Appendix K | Wildlife Baseline data | What is the presence and habitat use of non-aerial species including small mammals, herptiles, and invertebrates? |  |
| **Hab-21** | Section 3.4.1.2  Section 3.4.1.3 | Wildlife Baseline data | What is the potential for the project site to support bat hibernacula or potential for hibernacula to be disturbed during construction and operation? |  |
| **Hab-22** | Section 3.4.1.2  Section 3.4.1.3 | Wildlife Baseline data | What are the anthropogenic features (i.e. dugouts) that could be used by wildlife (i.e. amphibians)? |  |