



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

April 28, 2025

EFSEC

Attn: Draft PEIS

P.O. Box 43172

Olympia, WA 98503-3172

RE: WDFW Comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Transmission Lines

Dear EFSEC Project Manager,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for high-voltage transmission facilities in Washington State. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), specifically Region 3 in south-central Washington, offers up the following comments to enhance the existing comments regarding protection of shrubsteppe habitat and wildlife connectivity, particularly those in the Columbia Basin.

1. Page 3-331 under Avoid-8-Important Habitat it lists Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI) but only greater sage-grouse core and corridor areas to avoid. Xeric and mesic cores and corridors are designed to protect and restore other priority species beyond sage-grouse. Please add WSRRI xeric and mesic core and corridors to the avoidance list.
2. Page 3-331 under Avoid-9-Movement Corridors, only lists corridors listed under Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group. Washington State is producing the Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan to be completed in June 2025. The plan will have connectivity priority maps and locations. Please add this to the list of resources that should be used to avoid impacts in these priority areas. [Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

If you have further questions on these comments or need additional clarification, please contact me at 509-607-3578 or Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Scott Downes".

Scott Downes

Regional Land Use Lead