Biological Assessment

Award (or project) title
Unique identifier (e.g. award number)

**Prepared for:
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Golden Field Office**

**Prepared by:**Organization (name)Individual (name, title)Individual, if applicable (name, title)Individual, if applicable (name, title)Individual, if applicable (name, title)

Date of report (final)

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# Executive Summary

The purpose of this biological assessment (BA) is to address the effects of the proposed project, project title, on Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species and critical habitats. The United States (U.S.) Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding (proposed action) to recipient name to complete the proposed project.

The purpose of the proposed project high-level summary of the purpose of the project. Proposed project activities would include high-level list of key activities. The proposed project activities would be performed location(s).

Proposed project activities would have the potential to impact Choose an item. in the action area due to effects from list all stressors analyzed in the BA. Analyses of the potential effects from these stressors support the following effect determinations:

Copy-paste the effects determination summary from the beginning of Section 6 (Conclusions), which should summarize determinations for species *and* habitats.

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# Acronyms

BA biological assessment

DOE Department of Energy, U.S.

EERE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Office of

ESA Endangered Species Act

FWS                Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.

NMFS National Marine Fisheries Service (a.k.a. NOAA Fisheries)

U.S. United States

# Background

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq*.), as amended (ESA) in section 7(a)(1) directs federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species and use their authorities in the furtherance of the purposes of the ESA by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered and threatened species so that listing is no longer necessary (50 CFR §402). Furthermore, ESA section 7(a)(2) directs federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or the United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) when their activities “may affect” a listed species or designated critical habitat.

The purpose of this biological assessment (BA) is to address the effects of the proposed project, project title, on ESA species and critical habitats. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding (proposed action) to recipient name to complete the proposed project.

## Proposed Project

Provide a brief summary of the project’s *background*, e.g. FOA, how the proposed project fits into a larger project (e.g. award), federal agencies involved (besides DOE).

## Consultation History

If applicable, provide a concise history of relevant consultations (in chronological order). If not applicable, do not delete this section but refer to the guidance document for recommended language.

# Project Description

Provide a brief, high-level introduction for this section. Refrain from explaining the purpose of the section, and focus more on what the reader is about to read in greater detail.

## Project Area

Describe the project area(s) in detail. Do not elaborate on specific details concerning listed species or critical habitats – that will be covered in a later section. Use subsections if needed. Refer to the guidance document for an explanation of “project” vs. “action” area.

## Action Area

Describe the action area in detail. Do not elaborate on specific details concerning listed species or critical habitats – that will be covered in a later section. Use subsections if needed. Refer to the guidance document for an explanation of “project” vs. “action” area.

## Project Activities

Describe the project activities **in detail**. Do not elaborate on how these actions would affect listed species or critical habitats – that will be covered in a later section. Use of subsections is strongly encouraged (use text style “Heading 3” for headers). Add and refer to appendices if desired. Note: this will likely be one of the longer parts of the BA.

## Conservation Measures

Describe conservation measures that would be enacted for this project, but do not get bogged down with specific species or stressor details. If this section is not applicable, do not delete this section but refer to the guidance document for recommended language. Add and refer to appendices if desired.

# Species & Habitats

Species and habitats of concern which have the potential to be affected by the proposed project are listed below. Describe when and how the species and habitat lists were generated, e.g. IPaC, contacting a regional office, EFH Mapper.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Common name | Scientific name | Status | Final Rule | CH in AA? |
| Enter name | *Genus species* | status | e.g. 35 FR 8491 | Yes/No |

Table 1: Potentially affected federally listed species and critical habitats. Statuses: EN = endangered, TH = threatened, CA = candidate. FR = final rule; CH = critical habitat, AA = action area.

## Listed Species

### Species A (enter common name)

**Briefly** describe the species – this should not be comprehensive or lengthy, but should briefly describe *relevant* details (i.e. related to project stressors). Do not describe species population status or potential project effects. Add additional species entries as needed (use “Heading 3” style for each header).

## Critical Habitats

**Briefly** describe critical habitat(s) which could be affected. If you are listing multiple critical habitats, use “Heading 3” text style for subsection headers. Do not describe status or project effects. If this section is not applicable, refer to the template guidance document for recommended language.

## Essential Fish Habitats

Delete this section only if not consulting with NMFS. If consulting with NMFS and it is not applicable, refer to the template guidance document for recommended language. Do not describe status or potential project effects. Depending how many EFHs may be in the action area, a table or appendix may be the most efficient approach to identify all EFHs.

## Other Species of Concern

This would include other federally protected species and/or state/local listed species. Use an appendix for details regarding these species, i.e. this section should be a brief overview/summary of the relevant appendix. Delete this section if it is not applicable. If it is applicable, refer to the template guidance document for recommended language.

# Environmental Baseline

Provide a brief, high-level introduction for this section. Refrain from explaining the purpose of the section, and focus more on what the reader is about to read in greater detail. This should not be longer than a few sentences.

## Past and Current Activities Within the Action Area

**Briefly** describe ongoing and past activities in the area (human and otherwise). You are “setting the scene” for the reader, so do not provide an analysis or compare to proposed project activities. Do not go into finer details unless such details are important for the purpose of this BA.

## Status of Listed Species

### Species name

**Briefly** describe species status. Add species as needed. Do not discuss potential project effects. Refer to the template guidance document for relevant topics to address.

## Status of Critical Habitats

**Briefly** describe habitat status. Add habitats as needed using “Heading 3” style for headers. This section can be deleted if it is not applicable for this BA. Do not describe potential project effects.

## Status of Essential Fish Habitats

**Briefly** describe habitat status. This section can be deleted if it is not applicable for this BA. Do not describe potential project effects.

# Effects of the Project

Provie a brief, high-level introduction for this section. Refrain from explaining the purpose of the section, and focus more on what the reader is about to read in greater detail.

## Stressor name

### Description

Briefly describe the stressor. Include the project source(s) and measurable characteristics (if applicable). Do not discuss potential effects on species or habitats in this subsection. Add additional stressors as needed (stressor heading: “Heading 2” style; description/potential effects: “Heading 3” style).

### Potential Effects

Describe the potential for exposure to and/or effect(s) the stressor could have on *all* species and habitats previously mentioned in the BA (with the exception of those that received a “NE” determination. Reference any previously mentioned conservation measures as needed.

End each “potential effects” subsection with a concise final statement summarizing stressor effects on species and habitats using consultation-specific language (e.g. “insignificant” vs. “discountable”). Refer to the guidance document for additional details. Make sure all species and habitats are clearly referenced.

# Conclusions

Briefly summarize the conclusion of the BA. Refer to the guidance document for example language. Copy-paste this summary to the end of Executive Summary section.

## Effect Determinations for Listed Species

|  |
| --- |
| Species |
| Common name | Scientific name | Jurisdiction | Determination |
| Enter name | *Genus species* | agency | select |

Table 2: summary of effect determinations for listed species considered for this biological assessment. FWS = Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S.), NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service. NE = no effect, NLAA = not likely to adversely affect, LAA = likely to adversely affect, BE = (wholly) beneficial effect.

## Effect Determinations for Habitats

|  |
| --- |
| Critical Habitats |
| Critical Habitat | Jurisdiction | Destruction or adverse modification? |
| Enter name | agency | Yes/No |

Table 3: summary of effect determinations for critical habitats considered for this biological assessment. FWS = Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S.), NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service.

# References

**There are no sources in the current document.**

# Appendix A:Title