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Q1. Name	Michael Ritter
Q2. Email address	michael.ritter@dfw.wa.gov
Q3. Are you part of an Agency or Organization?	Yes (please specify) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Q4. Share any comment	not answered
Q5. Upload your document (optional)	https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-us-california/b8984b2cb253419c9c8c8b90cb1f8af1d74a81c8/original/1760398990/777642beb8334ffd99fcef2155866258_Resolution%20357%20comments.pdf?1760398990
Q6. Upload a picture (optional)	not answered
Q7. Did you also share a video?	No
Q8. What is the title of your video?	not answered



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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October 13, 2025

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife supports Resolution 357 on the implementation of Spec-5 mitigation measures. Specifically, these mitigation measures are for State of Washington Endangered Ferruginous Hawk (FEHA) nesting territories within the lease area of the proposed Horse Heaven Wind and Solar Project in Benton County.

The June 2025 *Facilitator Report: Spec-5* (Kearns & West, Tetra Tech) accurately summarized the Pre-operational Technical Advisory Group (PTAG) regarding Spec-5, including agreement and disagreement of whether primary infrastructure should or should not be allowed between 0.6 and 2 miles of a FEHA nesting territory.

WDFW was one of the “many” who agreed that no primary infrastructure should be allowed within 2 miles of the “...5 nests, including a newly discovered occupied nest named [REDACTED], and around [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] nests (Figure 1). Many members of the PTAG observed that this portion of the Project Area had more of the habitat quality and attributes known to be suitable for ferruginous hawks, had relatively unchanged land use or human development patterns, and had some of the more recent documented ferruginous hawk activity.” WDFW also supported the PTAGs findings and *Facilitator Report* regarding the other FEHA nests where primary infrastructure could be allowed with the 0.6 to 2 miles or within any other setback for cultural or fire reasons.

Resolution 357 provides a reasonable solution based on science and an extensive collaborative process to support renewable energy development and natural resource conservation.

Sincerely,

Michael Ritter
Lead Planner Solar & Wind Energy Development