



ecology and environment, inc.
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October 31, 2006

Mr. David Steeb
Desert Claim Wind Power LLC
P.O. Box 4
Woodinville, WA 98072

**RE: Impact Analysis to Wetlands and Streams
Desert Claim Wind Power Project, Ellensburg, Washington**

Dear Mr. Steeb,

Ecology and Environment (E & E) have reviewed the Desert Claim Wind Power (Desert Claim) project layout maps to determine the potential impacts the turbine foundations, access roads, power collection system, and substation/maintenance building may have on wetlands, streams, and their respective buffers. A map prepared by E & E showing the project layout and project area water features is attached. E & E reviewed the portions of the proposed project that are in sections 4, 9, 16 – 18, 20 – 22, 27, and 29, in Township 19 North, Range 18 East. Field studies were performed by E & E during the County FEIS process while the recently added WDNR land was surveyed this past summer. Based on E & E's field work, Desert Claim Wind Power has carefully micro-sited the proposed locations of the project infrastructure to avoid any impacts to wetlands, streams, and their respective buffers. Our analysis shows there are no impacts to those areas.

The surrounding region is comprised predominately of upland environment and can be described as open country with shrub-steppe-covered rolling hills and flats. Typically, the dry environment of eastern Washington limits wetland areas to the immediate vicinity of perennial streams, seeps, and springs.

Within the project area, a total of 67 wetlands were identified. Of these wetlands, 2 were classified as Category IV according to the classification defined in the Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance (KCCAO). Category IV wetlands are: i) hydrologically isolated wetlands that are less than or equal to one acre in size, have only one wetland class, and are dominated (greater than 80 percent areal cover) by a single non-native plant species; or ii) hydrologically isolated wetlands that are less than or equal to two acres in size, have only one wetland class, and greater than 90 percent areal cover of non-native plant species. According to the KCCAO, Category IV wetlands have a buffer width of 25 feet.

Of the 67 wetlands, 65 were classified as Category III wetlands. These wetlands are those that do not satisfy categories I, II, or IV criteria, and have a habitat value rating of 21 points or less.

According to the KCCAO, these wetlands have a buffer of 80 feet. There are no permanent or temporary impacts to any wetlands or wetland buffers within the project area from the project infrastructure.

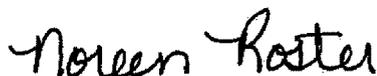
Also identified within the project area were 19 streams. Of these streams, 7 were classified as Type 3 streams (segments of natural waters which are not classified as Type 1 or 2 and have a moderate to slight fish, wildlife, or human use). The remaining 12 streams were classified as Type 4 (segments of natural waters within Kittitas County which are not classified as Type 1, 2, or 3 waters, and have a channel width of two feet or more between the ordinary high water marks) and Type 5 (segments of natural water within Kittitas County which are not classified as Type 1, 2, 3, or 4 waters, and have a channel width of two feet between the ordinary high water marks, including streams with or without well-defined channels). Type 4 and 5 streams are not truly waters, but are waterways which are intermittent in nature and may be dry beds at any time of the year. According to the KCCAO, the buffer width for Type 3 streams is 50 feet, and 15 feet for Type 4 and 5 streams.

There are no permanent or temporary impacts to streams or stream buffers within the project area. To avoid these impacts, Desert Claim proposes to permanently bridge project access roads across the three stream crossings and their associated buffers. Additionally, project access roads will span over irrigation ditches within the project area.

In locations where the power collection system intersects streams or irrigation ditches, Desert Claim proposes to either bore under or cross over, via on a bridge or by power poles, to avoid impacts to streams and their buffers.

E & E performed field studies and prepared the attached map. Based on our analysis of the Desert Claim Project as configured, we conclude that there will be no impact to wetlands or streams.

Sincerely,
ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, INC.



Noreen Roster, Senior Biologist
E & E Portland

Attachment

CC: Desert Claim Project File

- Legend**
- ⊗ Proposed Turbine Location
 - Regional Transmission Lines
 - County Road
 - Proposed Project Area Roads
 - Proposed Irrigation Ditch Crossing
 - Proposed Stream Bridge Crossing
 - Revised Project Area
 - Proposed Switchyard and O&M
 - ▭ Section Lines
 - Irrigation Ditch
 - Category 3 Stream
 - Category 4 Stream
 - Category 5 Stream
 - Wetlands
 - Buried next to Project Road
 - Potential Directional Drilling
 - Cross-Country buried with boring if needed for stream crossings.



Desert Claim Wind Power

Kittitas County, Washington

DESERT CLAIM WIND POWER

Kittitas County, Washington

**PROJECT AREA WITH
STREAMS, IRRIGATION
and
WETLANDS**

Date: 10/31/2006	GIS Analyst: avh
Map Source Information: USGS Topographic Map, 1:24,000 scale.	