

## 3.14 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

### 3.14.1 Affected Environment

Existing conditions with respect to public services and utilities for the Desert Claim project area are described in **Sections 3.14.1.1** through **3.14.1.7** below, with separate discussions for each major type of service or utility. Summary discussions of baseline service and utility conditions for the Wild Horse and Springwood Ranch sites are provided in **Sections 3.14.1.8** and **3.14.1.9**, respectively.

#### 3.14.1.1 Fire and Emergency Medical Services

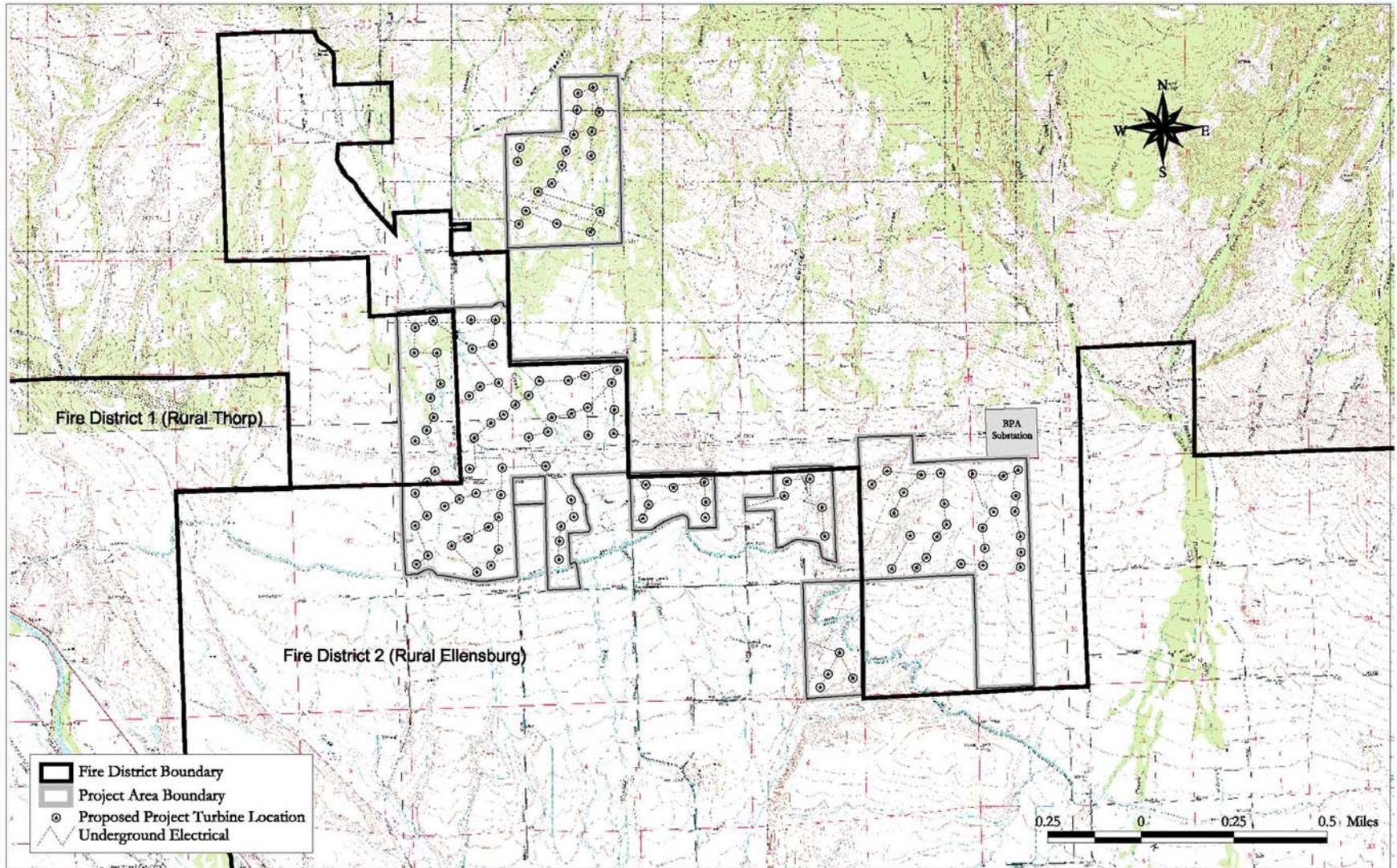
Approximately one-half of the project area receives fire suppression services from Kittitas County Fire District No. 2 (see **Figure 3.14-1**). This area is located in the west half of the site and generally includes the majority of the central and southwest area of the project site. Roughly 70 of the 120 wind turbines would be located within this area. The remaining half of the project area (containing approximately 50 wind turbine locations) is located on private land and is outside of the Fire District's service boundary. This area is currently not served by a fire management entity. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) provides wildland fire protection and suppression services to forest and range lands, primarily north of the project site.

Fire District No. 2 serves roughly 10,000 citizens and covers approximately 250 square miles northwest of Ellensburg. The District provides service from 9 stations. The stations closest to the project area include Central Headquarters (east of Ellensburg), Reecer Creek (approximately 2 miles south of the project area), and Fairview (southeast of project area on Fairview Road). Including the Fairview satellite station, four of the Fire District No. 2 stations are within approximately 8 miles of the perimeter of the project area. The location of each station is provided in **Table 3.14-1**. **Figure 3.14-2** shows the distribution of public service providers throughout Kittitas County, including fire, police, and medical services.

**Table 3.14-1**  
**Kittitas County Fire District No. 2 Station Locations**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Location</b>
Central Headquarters	2020 Vantage Highway
Badger Pocket	4481 Fourth Parallel Road
Broadview	2671 Tjossem Road
Fairview	6651 Brick Mill Road
Fairview (satellite station)	2380 Game Farm Road
Eastside	207 Main Street (Kittitas)
Reecer Creek	8800 Reecer Creek Road
Westside	5640 Cove Road
Westside (satellite)	51 Barnes Road

*Source:* Kittitas County Fire District No. 2, 2003.

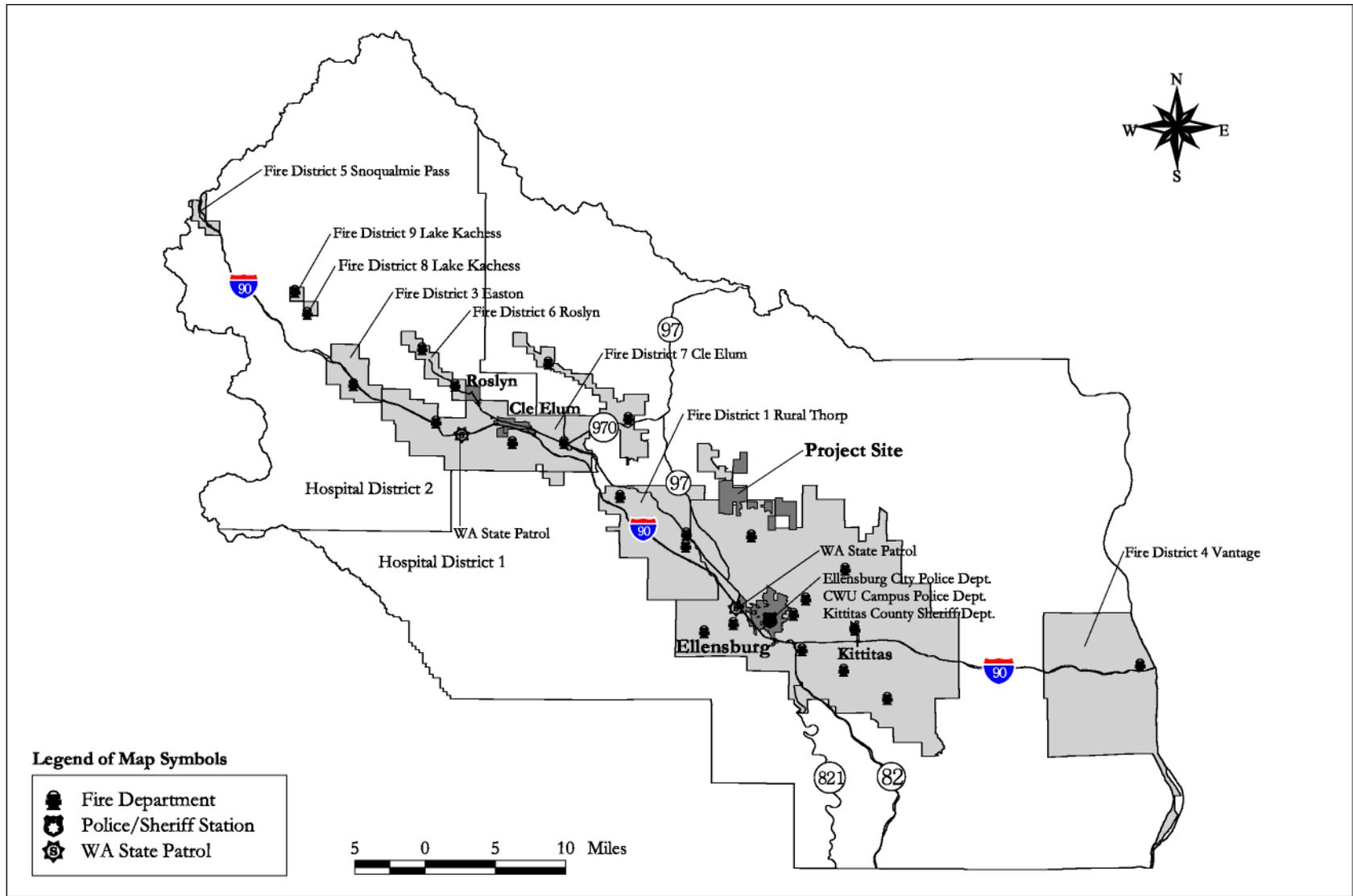


Source: Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc.



**Kittitas County  
Desert Claim Wind Power  
Project EIS**

**Figure 3.14-1  
Fire District No. 2 Service Area**



Source: Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc.



**Kittitas County  
Desert Claim Wind Power  
Project EIS**

**Figure 3.14-2  
Kittitas County  
Provider Service Areas**

Current staffing within District No. 2 consists of 1 full-time equivalent (FTE) firefighter and 90 volunteer firefighters, including 19 EMT-trained personnel, 5 first-responders and 2 paramedics. The full-time firefighter works on a 24-hour shift schedule. The headquarters station includes 6 resident firefighters. Two firefighters are on duty from 5pm to 8am, Monday through Friday. Weekends and holidays are scheduled for 24-hour shifts. The Fire Chief is scheduled from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. The District typically allocates 15 to 20 firefighters per station. Current staffing levels are considered appropriate for meeting fire service demand (personal communication, S. Baker, Chief, KCFD2, Ellensburg, WA, August 14, 2003).

The District's nine stations contain the following fire apparatuses: 3 water tenders (3,100 gallon capacity each); 11 pumpers (1,000 gallon capacity each); and 5 brush trucks (various capacities). The headquarters station houses the majority of the equipment, including 1 tender, 2 pumpers, and 5 brush trucks. Each of the other stations is equipped with a pumper; 2 of the stations have tenders. One pumper is housed at the Kittitas County Fire District No. 1 station (personal communication, S. Baker, Chief, KCFD2, Ellensburg, WA, August 14, 2003).

Capital facilities improvements are funded through property taxes only. The District does not receive revenues from other sources, resulting in constraints on its ability to hire paid firefighters, purchase equipment, and fund facilities. This funding enables the District to purchase one new fire engine every 3 years; the next engine is currently on order. The oldest trucks in the fleet were built in 1978. Facilities construction is ongoing—one new rural station was built 3 years ago; another, proposed for the west area of the District is pending County approval.

In the event of a fire emergency within the project area, Central Headquarters would provide first response. Response times would range from 15 to 20 minutes from Central Headquarters to the project area, but could be less (5 to 10 minutes), depending on the location of the fire and availability of volunteer firefighters. Other stations would provide backup support.

Mutual response agreements have been established with other County fire jurisdictions. In all, 12 fire districts serve the County and participate in the agreements. The nearest responding jurisdictions include Kittitas County Fire District No. 1 and City of Ellensburg Fire Department; these fire agencies surround District No. 2. In addition, The Kittitas County Emergency Communications Center (KITTCOM) provides radio communications and emergency dispatch services to participating emergency responders throughout the County, including law enforcement, fire districts, and ambulance services.

District No. 2 provides fire suppression services through contracts with several area landowners, including WDNR, Washington State Parks, the Bonneville Power Administration and the County landfill. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service provides wildland and brush fire suppression services County-wide through an agreement with the WDNR.

The Kittitas County Department of Building and Fire Safety, Office of the Deputy Fire Marshall is located in Ellensburg and is responsible for comprehensive fire prevention, fire inspection, and emergency management coordination services throughout the County. District No. 2 routinely coordinates with this office. Many of the districts have bimonthly or monthly training meetings.

In the event of a medical emergency, the Ellensburg Fire Department would provide emergency medical response (EMS) service to the project area. These services include primary advanced life support (ALS) ambulance service and emergency transportation, as well as emergency room and related medical services. There is currently no private ambulance service in the County. Fire District No. 2 maintains full-

time Basic Life Support (BLS) services and stations are equipped with emergency medical and extraction equipment. However, its three licensed BLS vehicles are not equipped to transport injured persons. Fire District No. 2 responds to auto accidents, providing backup support to medical and police personnel.

Hospital service is provided by the Kittitas Valley Community Hospital, located at 603 South Chestnut in Ellensburg. The hospital is equipped to serve up to Level Four trauma patients. Patients with severe injuries— such as head injuries, advanced burns, and trauma (greater than Level Four)—are transported to facilities supporting such injuries (i.e., Seattle’s Harborview Medical Center).

### **3.14.1.2 Police Service**

The Kittitas County Sheriff’s Department provides primary law enforcement services to the majority of the unincorporated areas of Kittitas County (2,400 square miles), including the project area. The cities of Cle Elum, Roslyn, Kittitas, and Ellensburg provide their own police services, independent of the County Sheriff’s Department. The Sheriff’s Department is headquartered in Ellensburg and is organized into the following divisions: Patrol Services, Major Crimes, Civil Warrant, Special Operations, Traffic Enforcement, U.S. Forest Service Patrol, Corrections Services, Narcotics Abatement, Administration, and Records. Services within these divisions generally include traffic control, drug enforcement, search and rescue, domestic calls, K-9 unit, SWAT team, marine patrol, evacuation and emergency disaster management (personal communication, G. Dana, Sheriff, KCSO, Ellensburg, WA, August 15, 2003).

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) also serves the area by providing traffic law enforcement, collision investigation, and motorist assistance along the state and interstate highways. In the general vicinity of the project area, these highways include SR-97, SR-970, SR-10, I-90, and I-82. The WSP detachment office is located in Ellensburg; the headquarter office is located in Wenatchee and provides service to a five-county area (referred to as District 6). In addition to highway patrol, the WSP provides drug enforcement, hazardous materials oversight, incident response, truck inspections, and aviation patrol (WSP, 2003). Hazardous materials response is also available through the Washington State Department of Ecology’s Yakima office and/or private contractors, depending on the severity of the incident (personal communication, G. Dana, Sheriff, KCSO, Ellensburg, WA, August 15, 2003).

The Sheriff’s Department serves as first responder to incidents occurring in the project vicinity. The Department currently employs 26 commissioned officers, 12 non-commissioned officers, 19 corrections officers, and 100 volunteers (mostly for search and rescue operations). One officer is assigned to the U.S. Forest Service land in order to patrol the area for potential unlawful activities (e.g., arson, property damage). A specific level of service standard does not exist, as the population served often fluctuates significantly between the weekdays to weekends. Recreational activities in the area generally draw visitors from outside of the County on weekends, increasing the area population (personal communication, G. Dana, Sheriff, KCSO, Ellensburg, WA, August 15, 2003).

The Department schedules overlapping shifts in order to allow for 24-hour, County-wide patrol coverage. Doing so enables the Department to provide service to the fluctuating population with the current officer count. Typically, there is a minimum of 3 to 4 officers on duty at any time; weekend staffing often consists of 6 officers. Response times to the project area are estimated at 20 minutes (personal communication, G. Dana, Sheriff, KCSO, Ellensburg, WA, August 15, 2003).

Mutual aid agreements have been established between the Sheriff’s Department, other law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and emergency medical personnel. In the event of an emergency requiring additional police support, units would be available from the following law enforcement authorities: WSP,

Roslyn Police Department, Cle Elum Police Department, and the Yakima County Sheriff's Office. Under existing practices, these agencies provide immediate support for one another (personal communication, G. Dana, Sheriff, KCSO, Ellensburg, WA, August 15, 2003).

The Sheriff's Department currently has limited capital facilities and personnel resources. Office headquarters are overcrowded. Development of a new jail (currently in the design phase) will enable the Department to modify the existing jail and provide additional office area. Officer resources are also constrained and additional staffing is not estimated for another 2 to 3 years. The current vehicle fleet is sufficient for providing service (personal communication, G. Dana, Sheriff, KCSO, Ellensburg, WA, August 15, 2003).

### **3.14.1.3 Schools**

Kittitas County contains a total of six school districts. Ellensburg School District 401 serves the general vicinity of the project area and has a K-12 enrollment of 2,833 students (EOI, 2003). Surrounding school districts include Kittitas School District 403 and Thorpe School District 400.

### **3.14.1.4 Water Supply, Stormwater, and Sewer**

Water supply, stormwater, and community sewer systems are not located in the project area. Residential and agricultural users in the project vicinity obtain water and sewer service through private wells and on-site sewage disposal systems.

The Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD), a local irrigation district, owns and operates the North Branch Canal, a gravity fed water supply facility that traverses the area south of the project area. The canal supplies water primarily for agricultural activities (i.e., irrigation, livestock watering) to areas south of the canal. Domestic wells provide irrigation to areas north of the canal.

### **3.14.1.5 Solid Waste**

Waste Management of Ellensburg is contracted to provide solid waste collection services throughout the County. Solid waste is disposed of through two transfer stations, located in the upper County (50-#5 Mine Road, Cle Elum) and the other in the lower County (1001, Industrial Way, Ellensburg). Kittitas County Solid Waste Division owns and operates both stations. The stations accept waste from commercial haulers and self-haulers. Hazardous wastes or mixed paper recycling are not generally accepted. However, Kittitas County accepts household hazardous wastes (such as paints, solvents, and pesticides) one day each year through a grant-funded program. Drop-boxes are provided for recycling of glass, aluminum, plastic and other paper products. Demolition waste is also accepted.

Construction-related wastes are also accepted at the Ryegrass Construction and Demolition Site, located approximately 18 miles east of Ellensburg. No dirt, yard waste, or field grasses are allowed. Contractors and/or haulers with pre-existing accounts may use this facility. Wastes are transported from the transfer stations and the Ryegrass Construction and Demolition Site to the Greater Wenatchee Landfill in Douglas County, Washington.

Last year, the population of Kittitas County generated approximately 26,000 tons of waste (roughly 1,529 pounds per person). Sufficient capacity is estimated at both the Greater Wenatchee Landfill and the Ryegrass Site through 2013, at which time expansion of the facilities will likely occur.

### **3.14.1.6 Energy**

The project area and local surrounding vicinity are served by the Kittitas County PUD No. 1, which owns and operates the local electrical distribution system via a combination of overhead and underground electrical lines. Puget Sound Energy also provides electricity and natural gas service to the County.

### **3.14.1.7 Communications**

Ellensburg Telephone Company provides telephone service to the project area and vicinity.

### **3.14.1.8 Wild Horse Site (Alternative 1) Services and Utilities**

Baseline conditions with respect to public utilities and services for the Wild Horse site are similar to those described previously for the Desert Claim project area. The site is not located within the existing boundaries of any of the rural fire districts serving Kittitas County. The U.S. Forest Service and the Washington Department of Natural Resources provide wildland and brush fire suppression services on a county-wide basis and are the primary providers of fire services within the vicinity of the Wild Horse site. The Ellensburg Fire Department provides emergency medical service to the eastern part of the County, while the Kittitas Valley Community Hospital provides hospital service; see **Section 3.14.1.1** for discussion of service capabilities and resources.

The Kittitas County Sheriff's Department is the primary source of law enforcement services for the Wild Horse site and other unincorporated areas in the County; **Section 3.14.1.2** provides detailed discussion of law enforcement services and resources that is also applicable to the Alternative 1 site.

The Wild Horse site is within the service boundaries of the Kittitas School District 403. District 403 has a current enrollment reported at 516 students (Dwyer and Dwyer, 2003).

There are no public water supply, stormwater or sewer systems serving the Wild Horse site or adjacent areas. Residential and agricultural users in the project vicinity obtain water and sewer service from individual wells and on-site sewage disposal systems. Waste Management of Ellensburg provides contracted solid waste collection services to residents living near the Wild Horse site, and Kittitas County PUD provides electrical service. The Wild Horse site is within the service territory of the Ellensburg Telephone Company.

### **3.14.1.9 Springwood Ranch Site (Alternative 2) Services and Utilities**

The Springwood Ranch is located within the service territory of Kittitas County Fire District 1, which has facilities located in the unincorporated communities of Thorp and the Sunlight Waters development. Fire District 1 has an all-volunteer force that operates a total of five fire trucks. Fire District 2 in Ellensburg provides additional response capabilities for larger fires, under agreement between the two districts, while District 1 also participates in the County-wide mutual aid agreement. The U.S. Forest Service and WDNR provide County-wide wildland and brush/grass fire response service.

Kittitas Valley Community Hospital District 1, which is located in Ellensburg, provides hospital and emergency room service to the eastern section of the County (including the Springwood Ranch site), as well as hospital services County-wide.

Law enforcement service conditions for the Springwood Ranch area are essentially the same as described for the Desert Claim project area.

The Springwood Ranch site is located within the Thorp School District No. 400, which serves the central portion of Kittitas County between the District 404 and 401 (Ellensburg) service territories. District 400 serves grades K through 12 from facilities located in the unincorporated community of Thorp. Enrollment for 1997-1998 was reported at 189 students (Public Sector Information, Inc., 1998).

Utility systems and services (water supply, stormwater, sewer, solid waste, energy and communications) for the Springwood Ranch area are generally the same as described for the Desert Claim project area.

### **3.14.2 Impacts of the Proposed Action**

#### **3.14.2.1 Fire and Emergency Medical Services**

##### **Construction**

Calls for fire and emergency medical services to the project area could increase during construction. Site clearing, road building, and construction of the wind turbines and transmission system could significantly increase the risk of a medical emergency or accidental fire on a temporary basis. The number of vehicles, employees and heavy equipment active on the site would contribute to this potential. Activities that would increase the potential for fire include electrical installation, sparks from machinery and vehicle use. Any fires that might occur during project construction would be typical of those applicable to any major construction project, and would not involve unusual materials or fire-control circumstances. The most likely fire incident scenario would be a brush fire sparked by construction machinery or vehicle operation.

On-site personnel would act to extinguish or control any construction-related fires, within the limits of their equipment and training. Assistance from public fire service providers would be requested for all but very minor incidents. Because a portion of the project is located within the service territory for Kittitas County Fire District No. 2, fire emergency calls during construction presumably would be referred to District 2 for response. Firefighters and equipment would likely be dispatched from one or more of the four District 2 stations that are close to the project area (Central Headquarters, Fairview, Fairview satellite and Reecer Creek). All four stations are located within approximately 8 miles of the project area, and the Reecer Creek and Fairview stations are located within 5 miles and 2 miles, respectively, of portions of the project area. Based on their proximity, the first response to a call from the project area would likely originate from the Reecer Creek and/or Fairview stations. Response times from District 2 stations to locations within the project area would be typical of response times for most areas of Kittitas County that are served by rural fire districts.

Depending on the number of increased calls during the construction phase (if any), there could be an impact on the Fire District 2 service demand. Any such increase would be temporary, for the expected 9 to 12 month duration of project construction, and would not likely be of sufficient magnitude to result in a need for additional fire personnel or response capability.

As noted above, portions of the project area are not currently located within the service area of a fire protection district. In the event of a fire emergency, response times and/or service quality could be compromised if confusion occurred regarding fire jurisdiction areas. This situation could be avoided through a mutual-aid agreement or a contract with District 2 for specific service to the entire project site.

The Ellensburg Fire Department would presumably respond to any medical emergencies occurring at the site during the construction period, possibly with assistance from Fire District 2. Accident or illness victims would be transported to Kittitas Valley Community Hospital in Ellensburg as warranted, or to a higher-level trauma center if necessary. Project demands for emergency medical service during the construction period are not expected to be significant, and would be within the current service capability of the respective providers.

New and/or improved project access roads could facilitate access by emergency vehicles and improve response times in the local area. Access road construction would occur relatively early in the construction process (see **Section 2.2.3**), so that improved access to lands within the project area would exist for most of the construction period. As part of the modified project layout, the applicant is proposing to construct a project access road from the eastern terminus of Smithson Road to the eastern-most project area boundary. This road would be made available for emergency vehicle access after its construction and during ongoing operation of the project. This new project access road would greatly reduce emergency vehicle response time to the project area and the project area vicinity by providing a direct route between Smithson Road/Robins Road and Wilson Creek Road.

It is possible the applicant could elect to schedule project construction in multiple phases (such as 3 phases of 40 turbines each, for example). If phased construction occurred, each phase of construction activity would likely be up to about 9 months long and the total duration of construction activity could be more than 2 years (although there would likely be intervals of at least several months between phases). The effect of phased construction would be to extend the total duration of the temporary period of potential increased fire demand, but to reduce the level of on-site fire risk for any one phase. Construction-related fire service impacts would still be temporary, localized and low in magnitude, and overall project impacts during construction would remain insignificant in a phased-construction scenario.

## **Operation**

**Section 3.8, Health and Safety** discusses potential fire hazards associated with operation of the proposed wind power project. The following discussion addresses the public service aspects of responding to those hazards, as well as potential emergency medical needs.

During project operation, impacts to fire and emergency medical services would occur to a lesser extent than those described for the construction period. Once the wind power project is constructed, there would be significantly less activity at the site. Many fewer workers, much less machinery and substantially reduced traffic would be contributing factors to this lower level of risk and lesser impact on emergency services.

Certain possible incidents during operation could result in the need for fire protection services, including electromechanical failures, oil combustion (e.g., in a nacelle), and maintenance activities at the ground level near brush or grasses. As indicated in Sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.4, the project facilities would include various safety and control systems, and *enXco, Inc.*, has developed and implemented corporate-wide standard safety plans such as a fire safety program and an emergency tower rescue program that would be applied to this project. In addition, regular patrolling and monitoring of the project area would increase the likelihood that a fire or other emergency incident would be noticed and reported soon after occurrence, promoting a rapid response. These features of project operation would serve to reduce the risk of incidents and limit the consequences of incidents that might occur. The project access road system would also facilitate emergency response access throughout the project area and in the project vicinity.

As was indicated for the construction period, on-site operations personnel would act to extinguish or control any project-area fires, within the limits of their equipment and training, and would request assistance from Fire District No. 2 as needed. Fire District 2 has indicated that current fire department resources would be generally sufficient to provide fire suppression services to the portion of the project area that is currently beyond the District 2 service boundary, and that a fire protection service contract between Fire District No. 2 and Desert Claim would be required to ensure service (personal communication, Chief S. Baker, KCFD2, Ellensburg, WA, August 14, 2003). The long-term demands for fire service during project operation are not expected to place a significant burden on Fire District 2, and the costs of that service would be covered under the fire protection service contract.

Fire District No. 2 has noted that none of the rural fire districts in the local area have received specialized training for a fire that might occur in the nacelle of a wind turbine. The District also does not currently maintain rescue equipment effective for addressing a fire or rescue emergency at the height of a nacelle (over 200 feet above the ground).

The Ellensburg Fire Department would presumably respond to medical emergencies occurring at the site during the operation period, possibly with assistance from Fire District 2. Accident or illness victims would be transported to Kittitas Valley Community Hospital in Ellensburg as warranted, or to a higher-level trauma center if necessary. Demands for emergency medical service during project operation are not expected to be significant and would be well within the current service capability of the respective providers.

### **3.13.2.2 Police Service**

#### **Construction**

Vandalism, theft and/or trespass could occur during construction. Construction traffic could result in an increase in need for police services from the Kittitas County Sheriff's Department, and possibly reduce the Department's ability to respond to incidents elsewhere. Project construction plans would include measures to maintain security of the site and the equipment and materials in use on the site. Based on the duration of the construction period, the planned security measures and the level of activity that would be occurring, the potential demand for law enforcement services is not likely to be sufficient to require additional personnel or have a significant adverse impact on the existing service providers.

#### **Operation**

During project operation impacts to police services would occur to a lesser extent than those described for the construction period. Once the wind power project is constructed, there would be significantly less activity at the site. Fewer vehicles and people would be contributing factors to this lesser impact. Vandalism and trespassing could contribute to increased calls for service to the project area, although project operation plans include provision of security to the site and regular patrolling. Access within the site would be improved as a result of the new and improved project access roads, although these would be posted and maintained as private roads with locked gates—with one road being used to provide improved emergency services access. All turbine towers would be locked and the project substation would be fenced and locked to prevent unauthorized entry. Based on the on-site security measures and the project location away from concentrated population or traffic, significant long-term impacts to law enforcement services would not occur.

### 3.14.2.3 Schools

#### Construction

No significant impacts on local schools are anticipated. Up to approximately 150 people would likely be employed at the project site at some time during the construction period (assuming the entire project were built in a single construction period); the peak work force at any given time would not likely exceed 80 to 100 workers. Based on expected labor market conditions, the project construction work force would likely result in a negligible increase to area school enrollment. Refer to **Section 3.15** for additional discussion of this topic. If the project were constructed in phases, the labor requirements for any given phase would likely be somewhat smaller than indicated above and the phases would not likely be consecutive. Therefore, phased construction would not result in greater impacts to school enrollment.

#### Operation

Based on the minimal size of the project operations work force, no long-term impacts to school services are anticipated.

### 3.14.2.4 Water Supply, Stormwater, and Sewer

Impacts to public water supply, stormwater, and sewer services are not anticipated, as none of these utilities are or would be available on-site. During construction, water would be discharged to unpaved roadways for the purpose of controlling fugitive dust. The specific source of this water has not been determined, although optional supply sources have been identified. See **Sections 2.2** and **3.3** regarding water use.

An on-site domestic well might be used to serve the operations and maintenance facility during operations. (Alternatively, the needed domestic water would be purchased from the host landowner.) Water use from such a well would be no more than 5,000 gallons per day and no permit for withdrawal or use of water would be required under the Washington Water Code. No significant impacts are anticipated from the addition of such a well.

Given the absence of sanitary and stormwater systems in the project area, no impacts to those systems are anticipated. Stormwater management during project construction would be accomplished through typical construction practices and the terms of the project construction stormwater permit. Sewage needs during project construction and operation would be served through self-contained systems.

### 3.14.2.5 Solid Waste, Energy, Communications

#### Construction

Electricity, refuse, and telephone service are the only utility services proposed for the project. These utilities are currently available at the site. Utility needs associated with the proposed project are anticipated to be minimal during construction; no significant or adverse impacts are likely to occur.

Impacts to solid waste facilities are not anticipated to be significant. Refuse could include construction waste, such as cable, metal, building materials, and materials used for packing and shipping wind turbine

components. Refuse would be collected and transported to one of the two transfer stations or the Ryegrass Construction and Demolition Site, depending on the quantity and hauler (contractor or a disposal service).

The project electrical and communication lines are anticipated to run both above and below ground. Where lines are run above ground and parallel with existing power lines, the potential for impacts on existing underground lines would be reduced. Power collection lines would run underground between the wind turbines to the substation and then into the electrical transmission system.

### **Operation**

Utility use associated with the proposed project (electricity, refuse, and telephone) is anticipated to be minimal during the operations phase; no significant or adverse impacts are likely to occur. Solid waste would be generated by general office and maintenance activities, although on-site activities are not expected to contribute a significant amount to the waste stream. The disposal of solid waste could be contracted with Waste Management or hauled off-site by employees of the project.

Tall structures, such as wind turbines, and facilities that involve electrical energy have the potential to create interference with communications signals. This issue is addressed in **Section 3.8.2**.

### **3.14.3 Impacts of the Alternatives**

#### **3.14.3.1 Alternative 1: Wild Horse Site**

The impacts of Alternative 1 on public services and utilities would be similar to those described in **Section 3.14.2** for the proposed action. Calls for fire and emergency medical service to the Wild Horse project area could increase during construction. Potential needs for fire service during construction and operation would likely result in the execution of a service contract with a rural fire district (either Fire District 2, based in Ellensburg, or Fire District 4 in Vantage), as Zilkha Renewable Energy has planned for the Wild Horse proposal (personal communication, C. Taylor, Zilkha Renewable Energy, Portland, Oregon, September 18, 2003).

Project-related demands for police, education, solid waste, energy and communications services would be limited or minimal, and no significant adverse impacts on existing service systems would be expected for Alternative 1. Needs for water supply, stormwater management and sewer service would be addressed internally through project construction and operation plans, and would not result in impacts on existing delivery systems for those utility services.

#### **3.14.3.2 Alternative 2: Springwood Ranch Site**

The impacts of Alternative 2 on public services and utilities would be very similar to those described in for the proposed action and Alternative 1. Potential service demands during construction might be somewhat less for Alternative 2 because this alternative involves fewer turbines and a smaller project footprint, although the duration of construction and the number of construction workers would be nearly the same. Potential needs for fire service during construction and operation would likely result in the execution of a service contract with Fire District 1, based in Thorp.

Project-related demands for police, education, solid waste, energy and communications services would be limited or minimal, and no significant adverse impacts on existing service systems would be expected for Alternative 2. Needs for water supply, stormwater management and sewer service would be addressed

internally through project construction and operation plans, and would not result in impacts on existing delivery systems for those utility services.

### **3.14.3.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed project would not be built, and the level of public services and utilities in the project vicinity would not likely change significantly in the foreseeable future. No new impacts to public services and utilities are anticipated under this alternative.

### **3.14.4 Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts for all elements of the environment are addressed in **Chapter 4**.

### **3.14.5 Mitigation Measures**

Available mitigation measures to address potential public services and utility impacts of the project are summarized below, by service category.

#### **3.14.5.1 Fire Protection**

In order to provide fire service coverage to the entire project area, the developer would contract with Kittitas County Fire District No. 2 or another jurisdiction to provide service to the area not currently served by a fire service entity. The Kittitas County Fire Marshal has indicated that this service contract should be executed prior to the start of construction. Water supplies for firefighting would be established at designated locations within the project area, the planning for which would occur in conjunction with Fire District No. 2.

During construction of the project, power equipment would be equipped with safety features that would reduce the potential for fire hazards, including spark arrestors and/or approved mufflers, fire extinguishers and shovels. Equipment shutdowns would be required during periods of general industrial fire precautions in the local area, and limitations regarding “hot” work with electrical equipment and facilities would be observed. In order to prevent fires caused by catalytic converters on vehicles, designated parking areas would be created for workers’ vehicles. These areas would be free of combustibles. Designated worker smoking areas would also be established to reduce the potential for fire. In addition, development of a worker-oriented fire prevention program would provide additional knowledge of wildfire prevention and control practices to workers.

Any secured areas (i.e., buildings or gates) should require provision of a “knox box,” a fire service access box containing master keys, which would facilitate access to the site by fire and emergency medical crews. In addition, the developer would provide fire, emergency medical, police agencies, and KITTCOM with emergency response information relating to:

- the design of the project, including the detailed maps of project access roads, on-site facilities, and wind turbines, and an addressing plan;
- emergency contact information; and
- procedures for rescue operations should an incident occur inside a turbine or nacelle (including available on-site emergency rescue equipment).

The Kittitas County Fire Marshal has also suggested that the applicant prepare a long-term plan to provide for fire risk reduction on the project site, to be approved by the Fire Marshal and the affected fire departments.

The applicant should execute an agreement with the Ellensburg Fire Department addressing training and equipment related to potential high-angle rescue needs at the project site, unless those needs are provided internally through project resources.

During both construction and operation of the project, refuse containers would be located in areas that would reduce the potential for on-site debris. With the exception of natural vegetation, no burning of debris would be allowed without written permits from issuing agencies (WDNR and WDOE). All flammable liquids would be stored according to 1997 Uniform Fire Code and inspected by the responsible agency.

### **3.14.5.2 Law Enforcement**

The applicant would employ methods for on-site security (including private security patrols). This would meet the applicant's needs for operational security at the site, and would also reduce the potential for calls to local law enforcement services.

### **3.14.5.3 Other Services and Utilities**

Mitigation measures for schools, water supply, sewer and stormwater, solid waste, energy and communications services are not necessary, given the insignificant impacts identified for these services and utilities.

### **3.13.6 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

Construction and operation of the Desert Claim project would result in negligible impacts for most types of public services and facilities. Some concerns with respect to the need for fire protection services were identified, as were mitigation measures that would resolve these concerns. Therefore, with mitigation, no significant unavoidable adverse impacts to public services and utilities would be expected.