

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Jane Steadman [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 12:05 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Jane Steadman
[REDACTED] SE Tibbetts
Portland, OR 97202

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: David Griffith [redacted@graphy.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 12:44 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

David Griffith
[redacted] SE 160th Avenue [redacted]
Portland, OR 97236

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Susanna Askins [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 1:20 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Susanna Askins
[REDACTED] NE Russell Court
Portland, OR 97230

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Roger Brewer [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 1:25 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to concerning the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. The proposed project would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal would degrade the scenic value of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic area by placing turbines and blinking lights in places that would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point.

Yours truly,
Roger Brewer

Roger Brewer
[REDACTED] SW Downsview Ct
Portland, OR 97221

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Mary Anne Joyce [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 4:49 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Mary Anne Joyce
[REDACTED] SE 48
Portland, OR 97215

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Dan Sherwood [redacted@dansherwood.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 7:07 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Dan Sherwood
[redacted] SE 35th Ave.
Portland, OR 97214

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Pam Davee [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 8:22 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Pam Davee
[REDACTED] SW Montgomery St. [REDACTED]
Portland, OR 97201

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Laurie Meyer [REDACTED]@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 8:56 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Laurie Meyer
[REDACTED] NW Hoyt St. #207
Portland, OR 97209

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Barbara Manildi [redacted]@earthlink.net
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 11:10 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Barbara Manildi
[redacted] Red Cedar Way
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Robert Thinnes [REDACTED]@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 11:35 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Robert Thinnes
[REDACTED] NE 23rd Ave
Portland,, OR 97212

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Norma Friday [sgfriday@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 1:00 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Norma Friday
2611 SW Plum Ct
Portland, OR 97219

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Jessi Snow [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 1:19 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Jessi Snow
[REDACTED] SE 103 ave
Portland, OR 97266

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Joel Thorson [redacted]@easystreet.net]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 6:51 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Joel Thorson
[redacted] SW Harrison St. #26D
Portland, OR 97201

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: George Cummings [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 9:14 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

George Cummings
[REDACTED] NE 17th Avenue
Portland, OR 97212

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Rebecca Papke [REDACTED@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 10:02 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Rebecca Papke
[REDACTED] Lofty Loop SE
Salem, OR 97317

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Barbara Miller [REDACTED]@well.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 11:36 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Please deny the Whistling Ridge Energy Project!

I join with Friends of the Columbia Gorge and its many supporters to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I strongly support renewable energy, but I am opposed to wind energy development that would cause such significant negative impacts to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Barbara Miller
[REDACTED] NE 11th Ave.
Portland, OR 97212

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 10:49 AM
To: Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Cc: Talburt, Tammy (COM)
Subject: FW: Whistling Ridge Project

Please process this as a public comment for WR. Thanks.

From: lois shetterly [mailto: [REDACTED]@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 9:59 AM
To: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Subject: Whistling Ridge Project

Dear Mr. Posner: Just to let you know that I am a resident of rural Klickitat County (just out of White Salmon) and support this project. We need clean energy and well-paying jobs in our area, and this project will have minimal impact on views in The Gorge or on the surrounding environment.

Thank you,
Lois Shetterly
[REDACTED] Snowden Road
PO Box [REDACTED]
White Salmon, WA
[REDACTED]@msn.com

The New Busy is not the too busy. Combine all your e-mail accounts with Hotmail. [Get busy.](#)

RECEIVED



Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation JUN 14 2010
Established by the Treaty of June 9, 1855

Post Office Box 151
Toppenish Washington 98948

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #116

Stephen Posner
Compliance Manager, EFSEC
905 Plum Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

5/27/2010

Andrew M. Montano
Environmental Project Manager
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, Oregon 97293-4428

Dear Mr. Posner and Mr. Montano,

We have reviewed the recent Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) compiled for the Whistling Ridge Energy Facility. In doing so, we noted under section 3.10.2.2 no mention has been made of the finding of the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program study which resulted in the findings of Traditional Cultural Property within the proposed wind project lands. The DEIS states that:

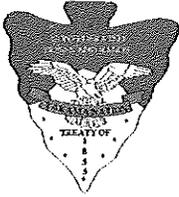
"A field investigation by Yakama Nation cultural resources specialists occurred in December 2009. The Yakama Nation's findings, currently in preparation, will supplement the information contained in this EIS."

However, the results of the field investigation were reported to SDS Lumber and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in December of 2009, shortly after the site visit was completed. We, therefore, are taking this opportunity to resubmit this report to the Energy Facility Siting Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). It is our directive that this report be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement as a portion of the consultation responsibilities held by BPA and EFSEC.

Sincerely,

Ruth Jim
Chairman, Yakama Nation Roads, Irrigation, and Lands Committee

Cc: Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program
Gretchen Kaehler, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Richard Till, Fiends of the Columbia Gorge



Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Established by the Treaty of June 9, 1855

Post Office Box 151
Toppenish Washington 98948

**THE YAKAMA NATION CULTURAL RESOURCE REVIEW AND CONSULTATION
FOR THE WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY PROJECT.**

Jessica Lally, M.S.

With contributions by

JoAnna Meninick and Johnson Meninick

December 2009

Introduction and Purpose

The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program (CRP) was established by way of Yakama Nation Tribal Resolution T-66-84, and charged with a duty to preserve, protect, and perpetuate cultural resources on behalf of the Fourteen Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. These duties are carried out under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA), the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 Section 106, the Governor's Executive Order 05-05, and the Washington State Environmental Protection Act of 1971. The Yakama Nation CRP conducts consultation on natural and cultural resources as required under Yakama Nation protocol and policies, as established by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Treaty of 1855 (12 Stat. 951), the Supreme Law of the Land recognized by the United States Congress and the Department of Justice.

The Yakama Nation CRP was contacted by Jason Spadaro of SDS Lumber/Whistling Ridge Energy LLC (Whistling Ridge) in November of 2009, and asked to provide commentary regarding the Whistling Ridge Energy Project in Skamania County, Washington. This participation was not only the result of correspondence with Whistling Ridge, but also correspondence through the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, which occurred earlier this

year. The Whistling Ridge Energy Project is located within the Ceded Lands of the Yakama Nation, the legal rights to which were established by the Treaty of 1855, between the Yakama Nation and the United States Government. The Treaty set forth that Yakama Nation shall retain the rights to resources upon these lands and, therefore, it is with the assistance and backing of the United States Federal Government that Yakama Nation claims authority to protect traditional resources.

Methodology

The Yakama Nation CRP conducted a field visit to the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project site on December 9, 2009. This trip included a meeting and site visit with Jason Spadaro of SDS Lumber/Whistling Ridge, Sarah McDaniel of URS Corporation, and Johnny Jackson. Members of the Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program present included: Yakama Nation Archaeologist, Jessica Lally, Yakama Nation Cultural Specialists, JoAnna Meninick and Mike Thompson, and Yakama Nation Cultural Technician, Randell Corpuz.

Both the Cultural Specialists and the Yakama Nation Archaeologist assigned to this project performed a site visit. It is an operating policy of the Yakama Nation CRP to have Cultural Specialists and Yakama Nation Archaeologists, both of whom have an inherent knowledge regarding the proper treatment and protection of Yakama Nation cultural resources, work in tandem on a given project. Working together in this manner, Yakama Nation CRP is able to identify culturally important sites that may or may not be archaeological in nature. By application of the expertise of each party, CRP staff can assure the proper treatment of sites as dictated by tribal polices and cultural values, as well as state and federal law.

The site visit to the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project included a tour of key project location and overlooks, including the substation location, Chemawa Hill, Cedar Swamp, Haran Farmstead, as well as various locations from which proposed turbine strings could be viewed. Photographs were taken of the locations.

Background research was conducted prior to the site visit and included a review of the Cultural Resources Inventory Report provided by URS Corporation, the Cultural Resources Assessment

provided by CH2M HILL, and the Whistling Ridge Amended Application for Site Certification submitted to EFSEC. Additionally, a literature review was conducted focusing on known archaeological and cultural information within the project area. The literature review was compiled by way of the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) site files located in the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) database, in addition to cultural and archaeological reports and documents housed at the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program.

Notes and photographs taken in the field were shared with tribal elders and excerpts of the information they shared was included in this report.

Results

Archaeological Commentary: Yakama Nation CRP has reviewed both the CH2M HILL Cultural Resources Assessment and the Cultural Resources Inventory Report prepared by URS Corporation. While many problems were identified with the CH2M HILL survey, the more recent re-survey conducted by URS Consulting remedied shortcomings of the CH2M HILL report.

URS Consulting Identified the Haran Homestead and recommended it as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. URS further recommended avoidance of the site during construction of the wind project, or further testing, which would be required prior to disturbance of the site. The Yakama Nation CRP concurs with URS's conclusion that the Haran Homestead is a NRHP eligible site. We further recommend full avoidance of the site, rather than testing and removal of the site. This recommendation is in accordance with Yakama Nation operating policies, which dictate a preference for "protection-in-place" rather than disturbance.

Traditional Subsistence and Cultural Resources: Yakama Nation Cultural Specialists conducted a site visit on December 9, 2009, in an effort to identify cultural resources present on the proposed project site. The site has been subject to a significant amount of logging and clear-cutting. During the December site visit, large portions of clear-cut land were visible throughout the project area. This clear cutting practice has denuded the project area of much of the natural

vegetation and, therefore, traditional subsistence resources of the Yakama People. At one time, however, the project site would have been home to fruit bearing trees, strawberries, and resources used for the preservation of food (JoAnna Meninick, personal communication, December 9, 2009).

Information gathered from knowledgeable tribal elders corroborated this, and confirmed the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project site as a place once important to the seasonal-round of subsistence gathering (Johnson Meninick, personal communication, December 9, 2009; Scott & Kiona, August 24, 2007), which is defined as a movement over the land to make use of resources during specific seasons (Hunn, 1990). The specific land features and ridgelines of the project location, allowed for the ripening of traditional resources at different times and in different stages throughout the resources gathering season (Johnson Meninick, personal communication, December 9, 2009).

Traditional resources observed during the December site visit included various raptor species as well as an abundance of cedar, all of which have important, specific meanings and uses for the Yakama People. The specific significance of these resources has not been included in this report because it is culturally sensitive information.

Traditional Cultural Properties: Chemawa Hill, located within the project area as a proposed location of turbine string A1-A7, was identified as a Traditional Cultural Property of the Yakama Nation. Specific information regarding the cultural meaning and translation of the word “*Che-ma-wa*” has not been included in this report because it is sacred and sensitive in nature; however, as courtesy the following excerpts have been provided.

The specific meaning of the word “*Che-ma-wa*” is known by Yakama Nation elders as a highly respected spiritual or vision quest site. The hill is a sacred monumental site, once used as a vision quest site, a navigation point, and an offering site (Johnson Meninick, personal communication, December 17, 2009). Sacred sites such as these are important to the Yakama People of today, and perhaps tomorrow, as during these uncertain times people look toward

sacred monumental sites in order to pray for the future (Johnson Meninick, personal communication, December 28, 2009).

Traditional Cultural Properties are considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. They are further protected through the legal right established by the Treaty of 1855 (12 stat. 951) and AIRFA. Yakama Nation CRP opposes construction of wind turbines on Chemawa Hill, and recommends the proposed project be redesigned to exclude the landform from the project plans (see Figures 1-3 for overview and views from Chemawa Hill).

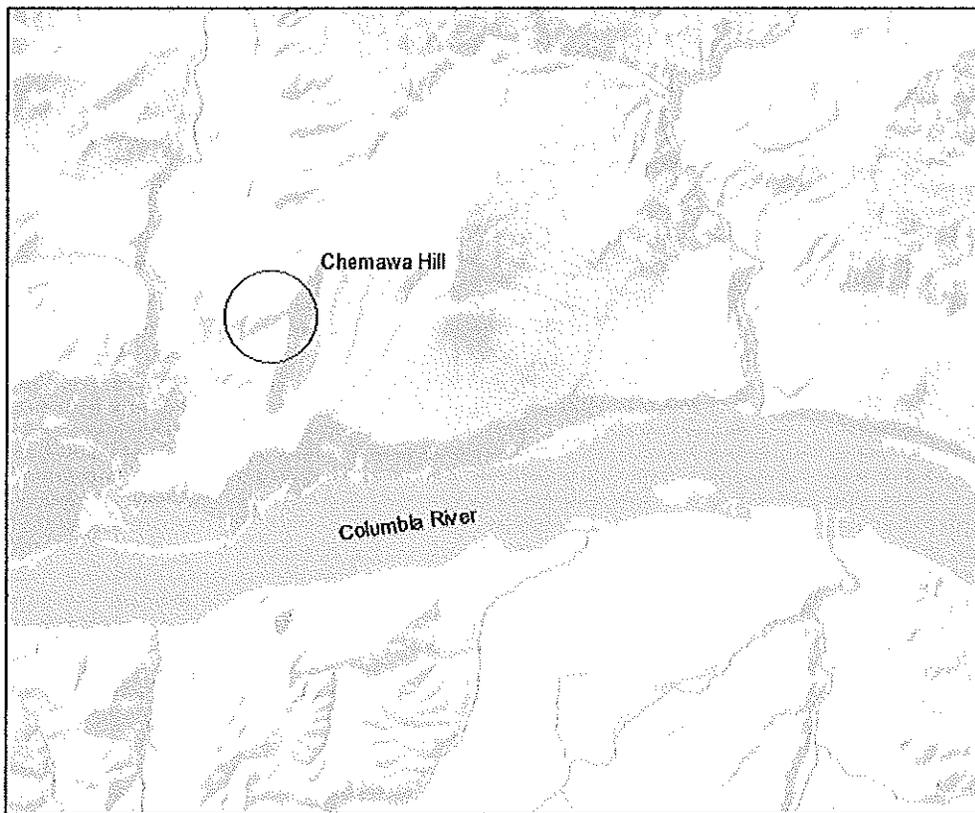


Figure 1. Location of Chemawa Hill. The shaded relief map clearly depicts the prominence of Chemawa on the surrounding landscape.



Figure 2. Approximate location of the substation with view of Chemawa Hill (indicated by red arrow) in the distance.

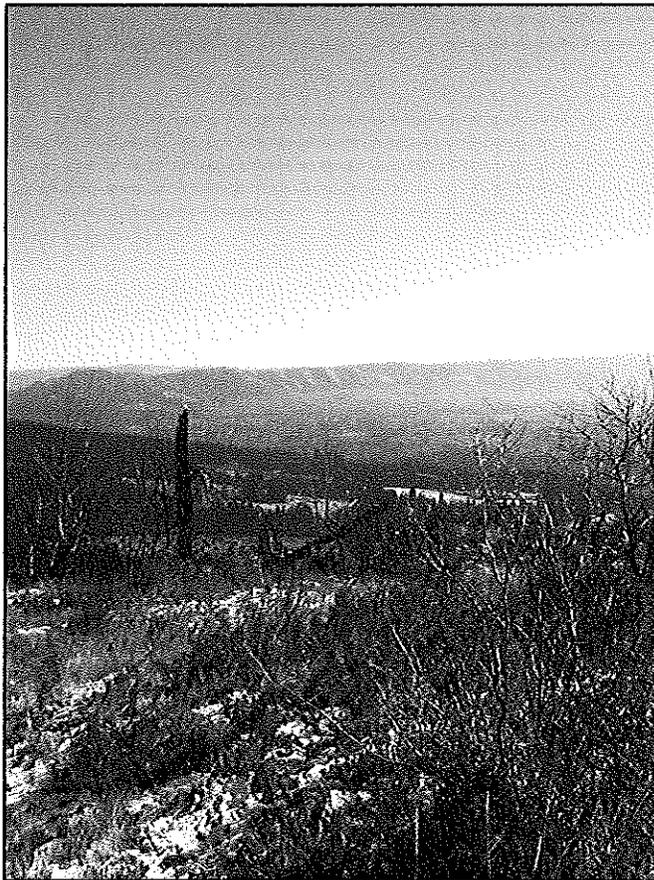


Figure 3. View to the south from the top of Chemawa Hill.



Figure 4. View to the north from the top of Chemawa Hill.

Conclusions

Yakama Nation CRP identified the Whistling Ridge Energy Project site as an area once utilized for traditional subsistence and ceremonial purposes. Many of these resources are no longer present as a result of past and continued logging of the project site; however, resources such as raptors and cedar trees are still in abundance. While much of the cedar is located in an area that will not be affected by the construction of the wind facility, raptors and other important bird species will be impacted, as has been documented through numerous environmental impact assessments throughout Washington State, and through the operation and management of other wind facilities.

Chemawa Hill was identified as a Yakama Nation TCP, and therefore, Yakama Nation recommends that placement of wind turbines be designed in such a manner that avoidance of the site be achieved. Should full avoidance of the site be impossible, buffered zones should be established to protect those features which lend to the integrity of monumental site. We further recommend full avoidance of the Haran Homestead. These recommendations are in accordance with Yakama Nation operating policies, which dictate a preference for “protection-in-place” rather than disturbance.

References:

Hunn, E. S. (1990). *Nch'i-Wana "The Big River": Mid-Columbia Indian and Their Land*. University of Washington Press.

JoAnna Meninick (December 9, 2009). Personal communication.

Johnson Meninick (December 9, 2009). Personal communication.

Johnson Meninick (December 17, 2009). Personal communication.

Johnson Meninick (December 28, 2009). Personal communication.

Scott, S. & Kiona, G. (August 24, 2007). *Broughton Lumber Cultural Survey*. Unpublished report. Available through Washington State Department of Archaeology, on file Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program.

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 1:47 PM
To: Talburt, Tammy (COM); Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Subject: FW: Whistling Ridge EIS Comment

Tammy and Kayce,

Attached is a public comment on the WR EIS. I expect that we will start receiving more of these soon, not to mention those we will get at the public meetings. I want to make sure we are ready to go with numbering and saving these in an appropriate manner. Let's talk about this after Sonia's party. Thanks.

From: Chris Carvalho [mailto:████████@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 1:40 PM
To: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Subject: Whistling Ridge EIS Comment

Dear Mr. Posner:

I have a comment on the impact of the Whistling Ridge wind project; it includes photos and is online at http://www.lensjoy.com/Blog/windmills_are_coming.htm. I am the author of the online article.

Nestor Peak is a key viewing area used by hikers, mountain bikers, ATV enthusiasts, and horseback riders. If this project is built, the view of Mt. Hood from this peak will be permanently spoiled. In addition, the onslaught of wind turbines will continue to encircle the Columbia Gorge and destroy once-pristine views of the ridges and horizon that were one of the primary reasons the National Scenic Area was created. Please deny the project application. It is not suited for the proposed location.

Sincerely,

Chris Carvalho
████████ SW Farmington Road PMB ██████
Aloha, OR 97007

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: joanna bagatta [REDACTED]@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 1:27 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Purple Category, Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

joanna bagatta
[REDACTED]casse ct
mahopac, NY 10541

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: emile combe [REDACTED@worldaccessnet.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 3:18 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

emile combe
[REDACTED] NE 5th St
Vancouver, WA 98684

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Jean Wyman [REDACTED]@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 3:26 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Jean Wyman
[REDACTED] Ne 75th
Portland, OR 97213

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Al Kapuler [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 3:53 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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Wife and I just drove thru the Gorge on Hwy 84 from near Arlington to Portland and it is a magnificent journey, with incredible hills, basalt beauty and remarkable water. Let us keep this gift for our children, and for everyone who comes to visit.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Al Kapuler
[REDACTED] SE Thompson St
Corvallis, OR 97333

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Nate Jackson [REDACTED@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 4:03 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Comments on Whistling Ridge proposal

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project could cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

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I support renewable energy, but not at the cost of our natural and scenic treasures.

Nate Jackson
[REDACTED] SW 108th Ave.
Tigard, OR 97224

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Jeffrey Block [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 5:47 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Jeffrey Block
[REDACTED] SW Sherman ST
[REDACTED]
PORTLAND, OR 97201

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: DAVID SIMMONS [REDACTED]@gorge.net]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 10:47 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: WHISTING RIDGE wind farm

Categories: Yellow Category

As resident of White Salmon for 60 years I can see NO harm of any kind from this project. I have been all over this area many times and it is a perfect location for a wind farm. BPA main line runs through this property so no additional big lines needed. I fully support this project. SDS always goes a good job on all their projects. Please give them a big go ahead.

THANK YOU

DAVID SIMMONS

BOX [REDACTED]

WHITE SALMON, WA 98672

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Laurie Todd ([REDACTED]@mindspring.com)
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 8:39 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Laurie Todd
[REDACTED] SE Stephens St.
Portland, OR 97214

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Jo Ellen Legg [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 9:58 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Jo Ellen Legg
[REDACTED] SE Logus Rd.
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Toby McElravey [REDACTED]@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 10:14 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Toby McElravey
[REDACTED] Nw 138th Ave.
portland, OR 97229

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: scott hulbert [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 11:03 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

scott hulbert
[REDACTED] Nw lincoln st
white salmon, WA 98672

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Tom Wehrley [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 7:01 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Tom Wehrley
[REDACTED] NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97211

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: lesdew [REDACTED]@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 7:33 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Cc: lesdew@embarqmail.com
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Categories: Yellow Category

As residents of the area that will be able to see some of the turbines of this proposed project, we are in favor of it. We can't continue the practice of saying "Yes, we need it but not here". This will not get us where we need to be down the road. SDS is a good and responsible Company that cares. It is their land, they have the right to this project and will do it in an responsible manner.

Les and Dee Dewey
[REDACTED] Hwy 141
White Salmon, WA 98672

ps-It is funny that some of the people who are against this project were the same ones that were cutting hiking trails on SDS property in this same general area-having no real respect for someone else's land.

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Eric Greene [REDACTED]@joslynhouse.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 8:21 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: whistling ridge - SDS 75 megawatt wind farm

Categories: Yellow Category

dear sirs

As a small local business located in Bingen, WA - not far from the proposed location - we would like to offer our support for the approval of this project. The turbines are located outside the gorge scenic area, are environmentally acceptable and will provide needed energy for the region.

SDS should be complemented for its concern to safeguard the local economy and the environment

I believe people who are taking the 'not in my backyard' position are both selfish and short-sighted

--

Eric Greene
[REDACTED]@joslynhouse.com

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Larry Gohl [redacted@adventurecruises.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 8:44 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Categories: Yellow Category

To EFSEC Members,

Two observations.

1. Wind turbines and transmission lines are incompatible with forests. Maintenance requires roads, clear cutting and ongoing brush removal.
2. Solar is an alternative, abundant, clean, renewable source of energy that does not require large transmission lines.

One question.

Do we need local forests or money from sales of electricity to California for survival?

One comment.

It is not the highest use of our forested environment in the Cascade mountain range to dedicate land to energy production if that means it will never have the potential again to produce a forest.

Larry Gohl
[redacted] Snowden Road
White Salmon, WA 98672

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Cochran, Steve [REDACTED]@scsd.k12.wa.us]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 10:22 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Categories: Yellow Category

I fully support the Whistling Ridge energy project in Skamania county. We need to have the economic boost to help fund our schools and road department.

Steve Cochran

P.O. Box [REDACTED]

Carson, WA

98610

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Steven B. Wheeler [redacted@arrisi.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 10:43 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Steven B. Wheeler
[redacted] NE Broadway
Portland, OR 97213

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: David Feinauer [REDACTED]@rowainc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 11:18 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

I was raised in Hood River and spent my youth enjoying the White Salmon, Carson, Cascade Locks and Stevenson area natural beauty. I have been traveling and hiking the Gorge all of my life. Other states have sacrificed priceless treasures for expediency. Notably Hetch Hetchy valley to provide water for San Francisco. While the percentage of power/water supplied by this source has been reduced over the years, it is almost impossible to undue the dam and the infrastructure because of the entrenched interests in the system. The same will be true when it is understood that this power conveyance is not needed in the future. Until the country puts a sincere effort into energy conservation, which it has not done, I am opposed to sacrificing an irreplaceable treasure for expediency.

David Feinauer
[REDACTED] SW 108th Avenue
Beaverton, OR 97005

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Adriane Ceglie [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 11:42 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Adriane Ceglie
[REDACTED] SE 57th Ave
Portland, OR 97220

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Linda Morningstar [REDACTED]@gorge.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 11:43 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: The Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Categories: Yellow Category

I was born and raised in Skamania County, Washington and my husband and I have lived in the Columbia River Gorge most of our adult lives. We love this area and can think of no place that we would rather live.

We are not always thrilled with the constant winds we receive at our house but can not change the fact that we live in a very windy location. It seems foolish not to harness this abundant energy and use it to our advantage. We ABSOLUTELY SUPPORT the Whistling Ridge Energy Project and applaud SDS Lumber for trying to bring clean energy to Skamania County.

Gary and Linda Morningstar
PO Box [REDACTED]
Carson, Washington 98610

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Lyle Anderson [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 11:47 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Lyle Anderson
[REDACTED] Pebble Pl.
Bellingham, WA 98226

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: J & C Peyrollaz [redacted@cablespeed.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 12:16 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Categories: Yellow Category

P.O. Box [redacted]
Carson, WA 98610
June 15, 2010

EFSEC
905 Plum Street SE
Olympia, WA 98604-3172

To those conducting public hearings on The Whistling Ridge Energy Project:

We are part of that silent majority who do not like to attend meetings where people argue and make us feel intimidated. We feel that our voice does need to be heard on this matter, it is very important to us.

We support the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Not only does it give a alternative source of clean energy, but it also will provide new jobs and tax revenues to our county which has been devistated with so many land set asides and regulations that our children have to leave the area in order to find jobs.

Wind energy is a clean, quiet source which uses the natural winds of the Gorge. In our opinion, the people who are causing the obstacles in implementing this natural resource are the same people who have opposed most everything else that is proposed in the Gorge. They have personal agendas which are not for the good of the community but for their selfish interests.

Wind Energy is a Good thing for the Gorge, a Good thing for the economy of the Gorge and a good, clean alternative that all the environmentalists have been insisting on. Lets move forward and let a Good thing happen.

Sincerely,

John Peyrollaz

Cloida Peyrollaz

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: james thompson [REDACTED]@spiritone.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 12:51 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

james thompson
[REDACTED] w thurman
portland, OR 97210

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: John C Morris Jr [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 2:22 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

John C Morris Jr
[REDACTED] SW Burlingame Ave
Portland, OR 97239

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: D Garner [REDACTED]@gorge.net
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 7:27 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I finally saw a picture of what this development was going to look like throughout the central Columbia River Gorge area.

I am shocked to think that we are going to spoil the wonderful vistas and view of the Columbia River Scenic area by more wind mills. Just look to the Eastern gorge.....once out of the scenic area you are bombarded with literally thousands of wind mills. Why now, should we start placing these within view of the prime area in the Columbia River Gorge??

Once these are built, they will forever be a backdrop to this pristine area. Why, are the turbines 400' tall? This is nearly double the size of other installations. Could more and smaller turbines be used that would not be so visible? These issues are not merely cost/benefit decisions - they will impact the natural beauty of the Columbia River Gorge Scenic area for lifetimes to come. The decision should not be made lightly and should be scrutinized from every perspective.

Ask the developers WHY, five times.
Why did you decide this was the best spot?
Why are other spots not as desirable?
Why are the turbines so tall?
Why are they placed so that the majority of the central gorge will be seeing them?
Why is your profit more important than the sacred beauty of the Columbia River Gorge?

We all know that huge subsidies are paying for these developments. Why can't they be placed where the majority of tax payers are benefited and not impacted negatively?

Sincerely,

Don Garner
White Salmon, WA 98672

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: James Nielson [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 8:38 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I support clean energy sources, but let's not unnecessarily sacrifice natural landscapes in the process. I've seen what this looks like. These windmills can be seen day and night, for miles around. That's the view from my grandmother's back porch in Haines Oregon now. Once dark night skies are now polluted by flashing red lights. So please, let's proceed with forethought. That said, I endorse this message from Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Thanks, James Nielson Portland OR

FWD:

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

James Nielson
[REDACTED] SE Belmont St
Portland, OR 97215

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Christine Kreps [REDACTED]@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 9:47 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must support Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would be just what the environment needs. Wind energy is totally supported by me! EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire support this project.

I support renewable energy, wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Christine Kreps
P.O. Box 1 [REDACTED]
White Salmon, WA 98672

From: Paulette and Ron Tatum ([REDACTED]@peoplepc.com)
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 9:47 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Paulette and Ron Tatum
[REDACTED] SW Blanton
Aloha, OR 97007-1340

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Jack West [REDACTED]@teleport.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 10:17 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Jack West
[REDACTED] SE Licyntra Lane
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Tom Partin [REDACTED]@amforest.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:18 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Cc: 'Jason Spadaro'
Subject: Whistling Ridge Support

Categories: Yellow Category

I strongly endorse the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project. The Project has gone through the EIS process and found no significant impacts to wildlife, the scenic value of the Columbia Gorge Corridor or to other resources. The Northwest is in desperate need of other power sources and we can't be reliant on hydro-power in the decades to come. I am appalled that many of the groups who are opposed to this project are the same people calling for removal of dams on the Snake River. Where will we get our power in the future. Many of our AFRC members have located cogeneration power plants on their sites as efforts to supplement needed clean power here in the Northwest and we strongly support this effort by SDS Lumber to provide more green energy. Please help bring some common sense to the process and support the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project.

Tom Partin
President
American Forest Resource Council
503-222-[REDACTED]
503-222-[REDACTED] - fax
[REDACTED]@amforest.org

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: wp farrell [redacted]@gorge.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:01 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Categories: Yellow Category

We are writing because we will be out of area for the meetings in Underwood and Stevenson. We are against the proposed Whistling Ridge Project for these following reasons:

The proposed site of these 400+ feet wind turbines is very close to the well populated communities of Underwood, Willard, and Mill A. We have read the concerns and complaints of the people of Bend, OR where a wind farm is already established. They are alarming and serious. People in this area have lived for generations with agriculture and forest production. Tourism and wineries have grown and flourished in the Gorge Scenic area in the past 25 years. The change of having a forest (even with logging) for a neighbor to having the zoning change to Industrial use will have a devastating affect on the whole community. While the winds here can be strong, they are unpredictable and unreliable. We're sure that the temptation of federal dollars for "green energy" is tempting to the state and county – but the few dollars that will trickle down to Skamania County are small when compared to the problems that will most likely arise. The jobs produced will be temporary construction jobs – the maintenance jobs to follow will be few. No tax money will come to Skamania County schools. Wind power is undergoing much research and development. To jump on the band wagon with the existing technology of HUGE turbines in populated areas is a mistake. In the future, we're sure there will be sleeker, smaller, more efficient turbines that will be more "user friendly" to local populations.

On a recent drive through the mid section of our country (Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming) we saw ONE wind farm the whole way – and it looked smaller than the ones already existing in eastern Oregon and Washington. The Norwest has done its part – we're given up our rivers to power production – we've given up land for thousands of wind turbines in the eastern parts of our states. The power produced by Whistling Ridge will be controlled by a power company located in Europe and the power will be exported to other parts of the country. We'll be left with the headaches and the hundreds of acres denuded to make space for these wind behemoths. Fire dangers will increase in this forest area. We demand that a hard, long look be given the decision to sanction this project. SAY NO!!! Pat & Linda Farrell

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Dean Stevenson [REDACTED@lifelinefirstaid.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:55 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must approve Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I disagree with the slanted view of the Friends of the Gorge regarding the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. This project has been studied for seven years and found to pose no wildlife impact and it is located entirely OUTSIDE the Gorge Scenic Area.

I respectfully disagree with Friends of the Gorge's position and ask that you approve Whistling Ridge.

Dean Stevenson
[REDACTED] NW 124th Place
portland, OR 97229

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: David McClain [REDACTED]@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 8:09 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would not have negative impacts to the environment. The project is located on commercial timberland that have been subject to decades of intensive harvesting operations under a sustain yield forestry program regulated by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. I have reviewed the wildlife baseline studies and I have visited the site. There are no significant . sensitive wildlife and plant habitat areas associated with this project area. The ecology of this area is typical of a highly altered timber management property. Timber management operations will continue in this area for decades to come which is also evidence that the area is not currently or will it every evolve to a significant ecological resource area. It is a timber management area for industrial forest practices. Siting a wind farm in this area is an intelligent and appropriate compatible land use which will diversity the economic value of these timber lands and help to preserve these lands for timber production for decades to come. There is no evidence that the installation and operations of the proposed facility will have any significant impacts on sensitive or special status animal or plant species. The data and analysis by qualified third parties indicates that no significant impact will occur.

The Whistling Ridge Wind Farm is also outside of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The Congressional intent of the Gorge Scenic Act was to allow for ongoing economic activity in areas adjacent to the Scenic Area regardless of the affect that these adjacent areas may have on the view from the scenic area. In other words, there was to be no buffer zones to the buffer zone already established by the Gorge Scenic Area boundary. Also I believe that the construction of the Whistling Ridge Wind Farm would not degrade the scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. As a point of law, EFSEC does not have the authorization to establish new exclusion zones such as buffers to the Gorge Scenic Area without additional authorization from either the legislature or the US Congress. Visual Impact on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area should be an issue of consideration in any Environmental Impact Statement review, but the determination of significance of any impact is not capricious or arbitrary, it must be based on the rules that are in place today. Development outside of and adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is allowed under the law and as such visual impacts to the National Scenic Area are allowed because the proposed facility is not located within the Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy. I also supported and participated in the creation of Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area which is national scenic treasure. The creation of the Scenic Area involved a significant public involvement process that carefully consider the location of the boundary of the Scenic Area. The potential for wind energy development in the Columbia River Gorge area was a consideration when those of us who put pen to paper and drew the boundary participated in the creation of the Scenic Area. This boundary was established to buffer the significant resources of the Scenic Area and the legislation that created the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area clearly consider potential affects from development outside of the boundary and determined that such

development would not be subject to the Scenic Act. It is not EFSEC's role to substitute its judgment for that of the US Congress on this issue.

EFSEC must recommend that Governor Gregoire approve this project.

Sincerely,

David W. McClain

David McClain
[REDACTED] SW 176th Ave
Beaverton, OR 97007

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: dean johnson [redacted@gjfc.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 8:28 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire allow this project. This proposal is on a ridgeline because that is where it is WINDY. The project would disturb a small area of SOMEONE'S PRIVATE PROPERTY.

I support renewable energy.

dean johnson
[redacted] 33rd street court east
Lake Tapps, WA 98391

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Candace Bolen [redacted@willamette.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 8:39 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

I submit this letter in hopes that you will consider the impact on the beauty and health on this National Scenic Area. Renewable energy should support our environments positively.

Candace Bolen
P.O. Box [redacted]
Salem, OR 97305

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Donna Enz [REDACTED]@hughes.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 8:57 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Categories: Yellow Category

We are asking that you don't make the Whistling Ridge Energy Project in Skamania County WA a testing ground for impacts on coniferous forests. The potential for devastating impacts to this area are real. This is not an appropriate site for a large scale wind project.

The 426 foot turbines will be seen in the center of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area during the day and also at night because of the red blinking lights on the top of the turbines.

SDS has *understated* the visual affect on their maps which are meant to appeal to the public for support.

Land values in the surrounding area will decrease because of the visual pollution of 426 foot wind turbines and the noise, which studies have shown is a potential health hazard.

We ask you to please reject this SDS project.

Dan and Donna Enz
Gorge residents

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Steve Bloom [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 9:18 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must allow Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I am writing to support the wind project at Whistling Ridge.

This is an industrial forested area and has been subject to harvesting for decades and will continue in that capacity.

It is not sensitive habitat and it will not become sensitive habitat--it is industrial timber lands. There are no sensitive species and no sensitive habitat in or adjacent to the lands in question, so the impact of the wind farm will be insignificant.

The NIMBYs are concerned with the project being "near" the Columbia Scenic Gorge area. But, it isn't within the Gorge Area. And, thus, isn't subject by attack by the Friends of the Gorge on that account. With the mess in the Gulf and President Obama's speech last night, we have to support non-fossil clean renewable sustainable energy like the Whistling Ridge wind project.

Steve Bloom

Steve Bloom
[REDACTED] SW Rose Lane
PORTLAND,, OR 97201

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Erin Moore [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 9:24 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Erin Moore
[REDACTED] 9th St.
Astoria, OR 97103

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Candice Guth [REDACTED]@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 9:44 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Candice Guth
[REDACTED] SE 34th Ave
Portland, OR 97214

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Victor Roberge [REDACTED]@gorge.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 10:07 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: sds wind turbines/opposed

Categories: Yellow Category

i am completely opposed to any wind turbines that can be seen from the scenic gorge area. i am specifically opposed to the sds wind farms proposed. they harm wild life and destroy property values in surrounding areas, but they would also harm the scenic beauty of our area and along with that tourism that we depend on for our livings. please do not allow this company to destroy more of the gorge than it already has. victor roberge, 1600 jeanette rd, hood river or. 97031

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: John and Polly w [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 10:59 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

John and Polly w
POB [REDACTED]
Hood River, OR 97031

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Marlene Woodward [redacted]@gorge.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 11:34 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: whistling redige project

Categories: Yellow Category.

EFSEC
Washington State

We are writing in opposition to the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project. We live in Husum, Washington which is in the impact area of the project. We oppose the project for a number of reasons:

- Visual impact – Not only will it be an eyesore for residents of this area, it will also negatively impact tourism.
- Noise – The noise impact will be detrimental to the rural environment
- Impact on raptors - The wind turbines will negatively impact raptor habitat – some of which are listed as endangered species

We oppose the industrialization of rural areas especially an area that is designated as a national scenic area.

From an economic perspective, the wind farm is supposed to generate power for 20,000 homes. This seems like very few homes for the cost, environmental impact, and degradation of a rural landscape. What would the cost be of conservation efforts to save the equivalent amount of energy? We would assume that it would cost far less to save an equivalent amount of power by practicing state of the art energy conservation measures than by generating new energy using wind turbines. Let's look at the real costs of wind power!

We are residents of the Columbia Gorge and we oppose this project.

Marlene and Thomas Woodward
Husum, Washington 98623

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Paul Metzger [REDACTED]@q.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 11:42 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Paul Metzger
[REDACTED] SW Evelyn St
Portland, OR 97219

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Thomas Stevenson [REDACTED]@gorge.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 12:40 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire should support Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause NO significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would not degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire support this project.

This proposal is not likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, even though this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Whistling Ridge has been studied for seven years and found to pose no wildlife impacts.

Whistling Ridge is located outside the National Scenic Area and should not be subject to NSA concerns. Few if any turbines will be visible and this area of the Columbia River Gorge should be available to produce clean renewable energy.

I support renewable energy and I support the Whistling Ridge development adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

I SUPPORT WHISTLING RIDGE AND WIND ENERGY IN THE GORGE.

Thomas Stevenson
[REDACTED] E MARINA WAY
Hood River, OR 97031

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: sherry meier [redacted@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 4:51 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Please do not allow this project to move forward. It is of utmost importance to preserve this area as wildlands.

sherry meier
[redacted] Post Canyon Dr.
Hood River, OR 97031

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Charles Hinman [REDACTED]@gorge.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 5:19 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must approve Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. I support the proposed project because it will provide alternative energy so necessary should we hope to one day not have to rely on fossil fuels for our power. The EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire approve this project.

Some other reasons that I support this proposal are that it will provide a broader tax base for the community benefitting all property owners and even benefitting those who rent their residences. Additionally, by lowering property taxes for individuals it would make special levies for schools, park districts and libraries more palatable to residents who otherwise might feel overtaxed.

Also, this project will provide jobs to many locals who have taken classes at Columbia Gorge Community College specific to the wind energy field in hopes that they could remain in the area and find a family wage job.

I was happy to learn that the US Department of Fish and Wildlife has found that there would be no significant impact on wildlife as a result of this project.

The turbines and the handfull of lights from this development would be visible from the deck of my home which faces due west but these lights are minimal compared to the lights from downtown Hood River and the Heights of Hood River that are also in my viewscape. In other words OKIMBY.....
OK in my backyard

I support renewable energy and I support this wind energy development.

Sincerely,

Charles Hinman
White Salmon, WA

Charles Hinman
PO Box [REDACTED]
White Salmon, WA 98672

June 16, 2010

BPA
Public Affairs Office – DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, Oregon 97293-4428

EFSEC
905 Plum Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to comment on the Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Please include my comments in the public record, and include my name on the mailing list for all future notices and decisions.

I have lived in the area of this proposed project for 18 years and have followed wind energy developments closely for most of that time, both here in the Columbia Gorge and nationally. I serve as an environmental representative on the technical advisory committees of three wind power projects in the area. I have participated in field visits to wind projects all over the West. I have a degree in biology and have read a great deal of the scientific literature pertaining to wildlife-turbine interactions. As someone who is well informed about both wind power and ecology, I have a number of concerns regarding the DEIS prepared for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

1. The evaluation of cumulative impacts is inadequate.

Under SEPA, EFSEC is required to consider whether multiple incremental impacts when considered together may cumulatively result in a significant adverse impact. WAC 197-11-792(2)(c)(iii). Unfortunately, the cumulative impacts analysis done for the Whistling Ridge DEIS only considered the impacts of 10 existing wind projects and three proposed wind projects. In fact, there are at least a dozen major wind projects constructed or proposed in Klickitat County alone, and more than 40 major wind projects constructed or proposed along the Columbia River east of Whistling Ridge.

The pace and scale of wind turbine construction in this region has been unprecedented. Only five years ago, an EIS prepared by Klickitat County (which lies immediately to the north and east of the Whistling Ridge site) predicted the construction of four major wind projects, with a total installed capacity of 1,000 megawatts, over a 20-year period. In actuality, 10 major wind projects with a total installed capacity of more than 1,100 megawatts have already been constructed in Klickitat County, and permits are pending for another 500 megawatts. In other words, Klickitat County has seen twice as much wind development in five years as was predicted for 20 years.

Besides the many projects in Klickitat County, the BPA's interconnection queue shows approximately 35 additional projects in other nearby counties that are either permitted or awaiting permits. Other projects are proposed but not yet shown in the BPA queue. From Whistling Ridge to Walla Walla, wind developers are erecting (or proposing to erect) strings of turbines that stretch for more than 100 miles along the ridges on both sides of the Columbia River.¹

In Klickitat County, almost every inch of ridge-top land above the Columbia from Dallesport eastward is already under lease to wind developers.² Additional projects are proposed but not yet shown on this map because permit applications have not been filed.

The environmental impacts analysis for Whistling Ridge must consider the regional impacts of more than 40 major projects within the Columbia Plateau ecoregion. The scale and sprawl of this wind development has significant cumulative impacts on wildlife, habitat, scenic values and other natural resources.

The notion that projects in eastern Klickitat County are "too far away...to result in cumulative impacts" is mistaken. Many birds and bats travel long distances during migration, foraging, and other components of their life cycle. Also, genetic exchanges between individuals of any given species are essential for maintaining population viability.

More important, the notion that projects are too far away to have cumulative impacts is mistaken because significant adverse impacts typically occur at the population level, rather than at the level of individual animals affected by a particular wind project. While different wind projects may affect different individuals, the cumulative effect of combined mortalities at many contiguous sites can be population-level impacts—and perhaps even local extinctions over time.

The DEIS erred in relying on a cumulative impacts analysis published in 2007 for the Mid-Atlantic Highlands. Not only is the Mid-Atlantic region completely different from the Whistling Ridge site in habitat and species composition, but the 2007 study was published before the pace of wind development began to rapidly accelerate. It is inappropriate to base any cumulative impacts analysis for Whistling Ridge on a study done under very different circumstances and in a very different place.

It is also inappropriate to dismiss the cumulative impacts of wind turbines on wildlife because of other man-made effects such as mortalities from buildings and cats. These mortalities don't necessarily affect the same species as wind turbines do: For example, cats do not kill golden eagles, and skyscrapers do not kill species that make their homes

¹ **Current and Proposed Wind Project Interconnections to BPA Transmission Facilities**, Bonneville Power Administration, last updated May 10, 2010, http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/documents/BPA_wind_map_2010.pdf

² **Klickitat County Wind Projects**, Klickitat County, last updated June 7, 2010, <http://klickitatcounty.org/Planning/default.asp?fCategoryIDSelected=1258566697>

in remote rural areas. More important, these man-made impacts do not justify placing additional pressures on sensitive bird and bat populations from new man-made structures in more remote areas where wind projects may be the leading source of avian and bat fatalities. They merely illustrate the importance of minimizing any additional mortalities caused by wind projects. Two wrongs do not make a right.

The DEIS provides no evidence to substantiate the applicant's assertion that the proposed Whistling Ridge wind project will not cause mortality to birds and bats in sufficient quantities to affect population viability. The analysis does not include any reasonable estimates of current population levels of sensitive species, nor of the threshold population levels required to maintain viability.

2. The WEST report prepared for the Klickitat County Planning Department is not applicable to the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project, and cannot be relied on to evaluate cumulative impacts.

The report prepared by Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST) purports to be a cumulative impacts analysis for Klickitat County.³ Unfortunately, this report sheds little light on the cumulative impacts of wind power development on wildlife in Klickitat County, and it is even less relevant to a project proposed for Skamania County.

As the WEST report's title suggests, the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion is located in eastern Washington and Oregon, which have completely different plant and animal communities than the western Washington site proposed for the Whistling Ridge wind project. All of the projects evaluated in the WEST report are located in arid and un-forested lands, whereas Whistling Ridge is located in a coniferous forest that receives much more precipitation and has a much different plant and animal population. Impacts of wind projects on birds and bats are extremely site-specific, and because of that the WEST study has little applicability to the Whistling Ridge proposal. It is no more applicable than studies from the Altamont Pass Wind Resources Area in California, where significant population-level impacts on birds have been documented; or from the forested Mountaineer wind project in Appalachia, where significant population-level impacts on bats have been documented.

The WEST report contains fatality monitoring data from 12 projects around the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion. Only *one* of those projects, Big Horn, is actually located in Klickitat County—and the results from Big Horn show much higher raptor fatality rates than anywhere else in the Pacific Northwest. In other words, the WEST report underestimates the impacts of wind projects in Klickitat County by merging the Big Horn data with results from less lethal projects elsewhere in the region.

³ **Avian, Bat and Habitat Cumulative Impacts Associated with Wind Energy Development in the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion of Eastern Washington and Oregon**, Prepared for Klickitat County Planning Department by Gregory D. Johnson and Wallace P. Erickson, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc., February 2010

The WEST report also looked at 24 projects in the Pacific Northwest for which pre-construction estimates of avian use are available. Here too, the results from Klickitat County show a much higher likelihood of avian impacts than elsewhere in the region. Of the 24 projects evaluated in the report, the seven projects located in Klickitat County had much higher estimated use by both raptors and by birds of all types. For example, the highest raptor use estimated anywhere in our region is at the Linden Ranch in Klickitat County. Raptor use there is estimated to be 2.5 times the average for the Columbia Plateau ecoregion.

In other words, the WEST report does *not* give an accurate picture of cumulative impacts from expanding wind power here in Klickitat County, much less any indications of cumulative impacts to be expected in Skamania County. To the contrary, the WEST report uses data from projects in other parts of Oregon and eastern Washington to underestimate how many birds—especially raptors—are likely to be killed here.

The WEST report has another fundamental flaw. To arrive at a prediction of cumulative fatalities, the report's authors averaged existing fatalities in the region and then compared those averages with estimates of regional population size based on breeding bird surveys provided by the Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan. However, the Partners in Flight estimates include relatively large standard errors, and are not accurate enough to serve as reliable population indicators. The estimates used in the WEST report were designed for detecting long-term population trends but not for estimating population size.

As Dr. K. Shawn Smallwood, an ecologist who is one of the nation's leading experts on the interactions between wildlife and wind turbines, points out in a review of the WEST report, the estimates from Partners in Flight are "unsuitable for the use that Johnson and Erickson made of them."⁴ Other researchers have pointed out this flaw but WEST continues to rely on these unsuitable estimates.

Smallwood further writes: "No studies or monitoring programs have been designed or implemented in the US to document wind energy-related population declines of any bird species. Most fatality monitoring programs have been much too brief to document declines, lasting one or two years. All monitoring programs have been too crude to document declines, and the majority of post-construction studies have not been designed to estimate population size of any bird species. Therefore, Johnson and Erickson's statement about wind energy impacts was misleading."

3. The DEIS underestimates the impacts of wind projects on long-lived raptor species.

Research on wildlife-turbine interactions in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere has focused almost exclusively on estimating mortality rates. Although studies dealing with

⁴ Review of Cumulative Impacts Analysis of Wind Energy Expansion on the Columbia Plateau, K. Shawn Smallwood, May 18, 2010.

impacts on rare and endangered species are scarce, there is growing evidence that wind projects increase the extinction probability of long-lived species through incremental increases in mortality rates. In other words, while wind turbines may kill a relatively small number of individual birds during any given year, for rare and endangered species this increase can quickly add up to population extinction. A recently published study found that even though wind projects may cause only slight reductions in the survival of birds living in an area associated with wind turbines, those reductions can strongly impact the population viability of long-lived species—and can greatly reduce the time to extinction for those species.⁵

That is the situation we are currently seeing in Klickitat County with species such as ferruginous hawks. Wind projects have already killed at least three ferruginous hawks locally, and there are very few of these animals remaining. There have been no studies in Skamania County, Klickitat County, or anywhere else in the Pacific Northwest to determine the long-term impact of wind projects. Such studies are necessary in order to determine the cumulative impacts of continued industrial wind energy development at the scale now being proposed for Klickitat County.

As mentioned above, wind projects pose a threat to long-lived raptors that are already rare or endangered. There are ways to mitigate this problem, as pointed out in the scientific study cited above: “Unlike other non-natural causes of mortality difficult to eradicate or control, wind-farm fatalities can be lowered by powering down or removing risky turbines and/or farms, and by placing them outside areas critical for endangered birds.”

The applicant has provided insufficient evidence to determine that the project will not have any impact on species viability. Currently, the Whistling Ridge proposal includes no provisions for temporary or permanent shutdowns of problem turbines, nor does it place turbines at a reasonable distance from important bird areas such as Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Areas. These provisions must be included to ensure that long-lived raptors and other species of concern are not driven to extinction locally.

In response to unavoidable impacts to wildlife, the applicant proposes “mitigations” including raptor nest surveys, post-construction monitoring studies, and the formation of a Technical Advisory Committee to oversee these activities. None of these actions qualify as mitigation measures. Mitigations are measures that remedy a problem. The applicant is merely proposing to study the problem, not to remedy it.

Mitigation cannot be left to a Technical Advisory Committee that is organized and overseen by the developer. I have served on several Technical Advisory Committees, and

⁵ **Large Scale Risk-Assessment of Wind-Farms on Population Viability of a Globally Endangered Long-Lived Raptor Species.** Martina Carrete, José A. Sánchez-Zapata, José R. Benítez, Manuel Lobón, and José A. Donázar in *Biological Conservation* 142:2954-2961, 2009.

while such committees may recommend mitigation measures they are not typically empowered to require implementation of any of these measures.

4. Pre-construction estimates of avian and bat fatalities have not proved reliable.

Although no scientists have done a thorough comparison of pre-construction and post-construction mortality estimates, there is plenty of anecdotal evidence that post-construction mortalities often greatly exceed pre-construction estimates made using the same methodology as has been employed for the Whistling Ridge wind project.

For example, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared prior to adoption of the Energy Overlay Zone in Klickitat County grossly underestimated the level of wildlife fatalities likely to result from wind development. At all of the wind projects in Klickitat County where monitoring has been completed or is under way, reports prepared by wildlife consultants show that fatalities of raptors and bats are far in excess of what was anticipated by the EIS. Whistling Ridge is using the same consultants and methodology as Klickitat County for its pre-construction fatality estimates.

At Big Horn, the first large wind project built in Klickitat County, the developer's wildlife consultants did a full year of monitoring at 100 percent of the turbines, which makes this one of the most comprehensively monitored wind projects anywhere in the United States. The results of that monitoring study show that raptor fatalities are at least eight times higher than what the developer, PPM/Iberdrola, projected.⁶

An independent study of Big Horn's monitoring results written by Dr. Smallwood concluded that raptor fatalities are up to 16 times higher than predicted prior to construction.⁷ Big Horn also kills twice as many bats as anticipated, according to fatality monitoring reports. Monitoring studies at other wind projects in Klickitat County are not yet completed, but the preliminary results from those projects suggest even higher fatality rates.

The above-cited independent scientific analysis based on the results from Big Horn (the only project in Klickitat County where fatality monitoring has been completed) reported a conservative estimate of 243 raptor fatalities annually in Klickitat County. That estimate of 243 raptor fatalities is for a level of development that does not exceed 1,000 megawatts. At its current rate of wind development, Klickitat County is likely to reach a level of 2,000 megawatts or more within the next year or so. For raptors in Klickitat County, these numbers are rapidly approaching population-level impacts. "There is probably no other human source of mortality that comes close to these levels," writes Dr. Smallwood.

⁶ **Big Horn Wind Power Project Wildlife Fatality Monitoring Study 2006-2007.**

Prepared for PPM Energy and Big Horn Wind Project Technical Advisory Committee by Northwest Wildlife Consultants, Inc., 2008.

⁷ **Avian and Bat Mortality at the Big Horn Wind Energy Project, Klickitat County, Washington.** K. Shawn Smallwood, 2008.

5. The DEIS underestimates potential impacts on northern spotted owls and other avian species.

The proposed project falls within critical habitat for the northern spotted owl, a species that is not only endangered but has continued to decline since the adoption of the Washington Department of Natural Resources' Habitat Conservation Plan for the species. This species has continued to decline on federal lands, which makes the state's HCP more important than ever. There are only an estimated 500 northern spotted owl pairs remaining in all of Washington state.

Even as the state's Habitat Conservation Plan is failing miserably, the applicant is proposing to undermine that plan by allowing commercial-scale energy development within a Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area. A commercial wind energy project is *not* appropriate for habitat that is designated as a nesting, roosting and foraging area for a federally endangered species.

In materials distributed to the public prior to the mid-June 2010 hearings, SDS Lumber writes: "After years of timber harvest, there's no suitable habitat for the bird." It is ironic that the applicant is pointing the finger at its own destructive timber practices to justify further risk to northern spotted owls.

Regardless of whether spotted owls are currently nesting on or near this property, as they did in recent history, this area is designated as prime potential habitat for the species. The fact that Washington's Habitat Conservation Plan for spotted owls is not increasing the numbers of reproductive pairs makes it all the more important to restore this species' habitat—not to damage it even further.

The Environmental Impact Statement commissioned by Klickitat County for its Energy Overlay Zone stated (on page 2-15 of the Final EIS) that "forested areas host higher concentrations of owl and other sensitive species habitats."⁸ The EIS recommended that areas with high concentrations of forested habitats be excluded from the Energy Overlay Zone because of their "higher potential for use by sensitive species and avian species likely to be impacted by wind turbines." This sensitive forested habitat is exactly what is being proposed for development at Whistling Ridge.

Spotted owls are not the only species likely to be significantly impacted by the proposal. Klickitat County's Energy Overlay EIS also found high use of forested habitats by other raptors. The SDS map for the proposed project shows ridge-top locations for turbines, and these are typically the worst possible locations from an avian perspective—i.e., likely to result in the highest number of bird collisions.

6. The DEIS fails to assess compliance with state and federal laws protecting bald eagles, golden eagles, migratory birds, and endangered species.

⁸ Klickitat County Energy Overlay Final Environmental Impact Statement, September 2004.

There are reports of bald eagles and bald eagle nests at the proposed wind site. Yet there is no evidence that the proposed project will be in compliance with the state's Bald Eagle Protection Act, RCW chapter 77.12, and regulations associated with this act.

Nor is there any evidence that the proposed project will be in compliance with the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 USC § 668-668(d). This act prohibits any person, association, partnership or corporation from taking a bald or golden eagle at any time or by any manner without a permit. A permit may be issued only if the take would be compatible with the preservation of the species.

There is no evidence in the DEIS that the proposed project will be in compliance with the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), 16 USC §§ 703-712. The MBTA requires that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service take enforcement against "any person, association, partnership or corporation" that "by any means or in any manner" pursues, hunts, takes, captures, kills, or attempts to take, capture or kill a migratory bird or any part, nest or eggs of any migratory bird. Under the MBTA, a corporation may take or kill a migratory bird only if the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service determines that the take or kill is compatible with migratory bird treaties. This determination must include an evaluation of the bird's species abundance and distribution, as well as its migratory and breeding habits. The killing of a single migratory bird is sufficient to create criminal liability, and does not need to be intentional.

There is no evidence in the DEIS that the proposed project will be in compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, 16 USC §§ 1531-1544. Under the ESA, "take" is defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct." Section 9 of the ESA prohibits any actions that would "take" an endangered species, as well as actions that would cause an act constituting a "take." The Ninth Circuit has held that "a habitat modification which significantly impairs the breeding and sheltering of a protected species amounts to 'harm' under the ESA.

It seems quite possible that the proposed Whistling Ridge wind project may kill a bald eagle, a migratory bird, or an endangered species. The DEIS must evaluate the likelihood of each of these possibilities, and whether Incidental Take Permits are required from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. A recent court ruling in West Virginia has made it clear that such permits are required under federal law when a wind project is likely to kill any individual animals protected by the Endangered Species Act.

7. The DEIS erred in its analysis of the regional need for new sources of renewable energy.

The DEIS cites the Draft Sixth Northwest Power Plan released in September 2009 by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. What the DEIS fails to quantify is that this 20-year energy plan for our region concluded that, although population and energy demands will continue to grow in the Pacific Northwest, we can meet 80 percent of expected future energy demands through conservation efforts and improved energy

efficiency. Conservation efforts not only have less environmental impact than building new energy sources, they are also considerably less expensive.

Only about 20 percent of future needs must come from new sources of energy, according to the Council. And shown above, with 40 wind projects already constructed or proposed for this region, there are plenty of new sources to meet these needs. There is no demonstrated need for Whistling Ridge.

The dirty little secret of wind power in the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion is that most of the electricity being generated here by wind turbines is not needed or used in the Pacific Northwest. Instead it is sold to utilities in California. There is *regional* need for new power sources; there is simply a *California* demand for electricity generated in Washington and Oregon.

On page 3-91 of the DEIS, the applicant claims that the Klickitat County Energy Overlay Zone Final EIS “recently evaluated the projected energy demand in Klickitat County, Washington, the county immediately adjacent to Skamania County.” (In fact, this evaluation is already more than six years old). The DEIS then mentions the EIS projection that “four wind power projects with total generating capacity of 1,000 MW” will be developed in Klickitat County by 2024.

In fact, Klickitat County has already approved more than a dozen projects, with a total generating capacity of almost 2,000 megawatts. Rather than suggesting that more energy is needed regionally, this rapid development of wind power in Klickitat County indicates that more than enough wind power is already under development to meet the region’s energy needs.

8. The DEIS fails to estimate the direct and cumulative impacts of this project on the Northwest power grid.

The breathtaking pace of wind development along the Columbia River has created serious challenges for BPA and the regional energy grid. There are limits to the amount of wind power that can be integrated into the grid, and we are already at or near these limits. BPA has expressed concerns about how it can integrate more than 6,000 megawatts of wind power into the grid, yet the DEIS fails to analyze these constraints and how they will be affected by the construction of yet another wind project.

Adding more wind power capacity to the grid requires not only new transmission lines but also new storage capability, because wind is an intermittent power source. Typically wind projects operate at only about 30 percent of their total generating capacity, which means that 70 percent of the time a backup power source must be available.

The DEIS has failed to analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed backup power source for Whistling Ridge. For example, if hydropower will be the backup, the DEIS must consider the indirect impacts of this project on fish, irrigation, navigation and other drawdown impacts.

If backup power will be provided by a natural-gas-fired power plant, the impacts of that power plant should be considered along with the impacts of the wind project. Williams is proposing a new gas line for the Whistling Ridge area, and the substation and transmission inter-tie lines proposed for the Whistling Ridge area could signal the advent of additional power plants in the area. These must be evaluated along with impacts of the infrastructure currently being proposed.

A recent study in Colorado found that wind power's supposed carbon emissions benefits are not being realized, because of the requirement for conventionally-generated backup power.⁹ Because all coal-fired power plants and some natural-gas-fired power plants produce greater emissions when they act as backup systems for wind power, thanks to inefficiencies associated with cycling on and off, the benefits of wind power in reducing carbon emissions are reduced.

Contrary to what the DEIS states, there is no evidence that the Whistling Ridge project will have a beneficial impact on air quality in the Columbia Gorge vicinity. No fossil-fuel-fired projects will be taken offline as a result. In fact, backup power from fossil-fuel-fired projects may be required for those times when the wind is not blowing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Dawn Stover
[REDACTED] Snowden Rd.
White Salmon, WA 98672
[REDACTED]@hughes.net

⁹ **How Less Became More...Wind, Power and Unintended Consequences in the Colorado Energy Market**, Prepared by Bentek Energy LLC for the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States, April 16, 2010.

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Dawn Stover [REDACTED]@hughes.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 5:52 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Comments on Whistling Ridge wind project DEIS
Attachments: BPA&EFSEC.doc; ATT4820280.htm; BPA_wind_map_2010.pdf; ATT4820281.htm; Countywindprojects6-7-10.pdf; ATT4820282.htm; WEST cumulative impacts 2010.pdf; ATT4820283.htm; Review of WEST Cum Impacts Analysis_051810.doc; ATT4820284.htm; wind farm impacts on vultures.pdf; ATT4820285.htm; Big Horn Wildlife Monitoring Study Final Report 061008_final.doc; ATT4820286.htm; Big Horn mortality_Smallwood.pdf; ATT4820287.htm; BENTEKStudy_How_Less_Became_More.pdf; ATT4820288.htm

Categories: Yellow Category

Please see attached.

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: BOBBY DUNCAN [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:22 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Opinion on Whistling Ridge Wind Farm.
Categories: Yellow Category

To BPA Public Affairs
Office,

June 16, 2010

I, Robert P. Duncan and my wife Jacqueline B. Duncan are in favor of the wind farm in Skamania county. We have traveled the mountains of Italy, Spain, and California and found no ill effects of the view or the esoteric feeling of the mountains. Besides the jobs and revenue that it will generate, the project improves fire access roads in the farm areas making it safer and easier for our firemen in case of a major fire. It also decreases the carbon footprint that a coal fired plant would use to produce 75 MW of power which our growing population state needs.

We are sorry we cannot attend and let our voices be heard.

Thank You
R.P. Duncan and J.B. Duncan
[REDACTED] Frances Ln. (PO Box [REDACTED])
Carson, WA 98610
509-427-[REDACTED]

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Rogers, Lee [REDACTED]@pepperdine.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 9:52 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Categories: Yellow Category

I am a resident of the community of Mill A in Skamania County, Washington - having moved to this community in 1976 and lived here since then (except for 5 years while teaching at Pepperdine University in California -- now retired from teaching). My home is located just west of the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

I appreciate what Broughton Lumber Company and its parent SDS Lumber Company have done for many of our communities here in Skamania County over many years, and I consider the Whistling Ridge Energy Project to be yet another way that SDS will be of great benefit to the citizens in our area -- furnishing much-needed jobs and boosting our local economy, and also beneficial to our entire country in their effort to help provide more electricity for all of us.

Wind-generators are an excellent method of energy production and will do much to help our country decrease our dependence on foreign oil. They are clean, efficient, and are even better than "renewable" since they do not consume anything (no wood, coal, etc.) I strongly support the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, and I encourage EFSEC and BPA to approve it.

Sincerely,

Lee Rogers

[REDACTED] Cook-Underwood Rd

Cook, WA 98605

Phone: 509-538-[REDACTED] (home) or 360-624-[REDACTED] (cell)

email: [REDACTED]@pepperdine.edu

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Liz Kingslien [REDACTED]@lizbiz.biz]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 8:10 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: SDS Whistling Ridge Wind Power Project

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Council Members,

I am a native Oregonian and my father was a native Oregonian logger and logging road builder. I now live in Lyle, WA in the Columbia Gorge. Although I am supportive of alternate energy, I am more supportive of keeping the gorge as pristine as possible. When I saw the before and after photos that SDS had in their brochure I couldn't believe they thought these photos would incline people toward their position. It is obvious to me that the wind towers would be eyesores.

We recently went to Yellowstone Park. As we drove through I thanked the people of vision who created and preserved the park's naturalness.

We must do the same for what's left of the natural beauty of the gorge.

My husband is a consultant in the lumber industry and we understand the difficulties the industry is having at this time. But the economic success of the few cannot be the only impetus to allow this project.

There is only one Columbia Gorge, we cannot allow its beauty to be compromised.

I am unable to attend either of the meetings, but I would like to register my opposition to this project.

Thank you,
Liz Kingslien
PO Box 849
Lyle, WA 98635
Ph: 312-246-[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@lizbiz.biz