WR - DEIS
Public Comment #168

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: William Savery [[redacted]@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 11:09 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.

William Savery
[redacted] SW Sherwood Place
Portlamd, OR 97201

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Ben Savery [[redacted]@provvista.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 11:30 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.

Ben Savery
[redacted] NE 14th
Portland, OR 97212

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: John Chaimanis [[redacted]@edisonmission.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 12:11 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must ALLOW 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 ACCEPT this project.

This proposal NOT 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 an actively forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would enhance the use of the land and result in direct and indirect positive impacts to our economy. Collisions with turbine blades are a minor concern compared to the impacts of fossil generation.

Siting Columbia River Gorge would not degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights may be slightly 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; however they are not within the scenic area itself. The project is a compliment to the ongoing sustainable foresting operations.

Furthermore, the useful life of turbines is expected to be 20 - 25 years. At which point a decommissioning and dismantling would effectively render their impact entirely unnoticeable.

We have a short time in to impact our dire global situation, and we must REPLACE other HARMFUL POLLUTING means of producing energy.

I support renewable energy, adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure. The rules governing the scenic area should not creep into managing surrounding areas.

John Chaimanis
na
na, CA 90803

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #171

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: eric shetterly [[redacted]@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 12:55 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Categories: Yellow Category

Gentlemen:

I want to take a few minutes to register my support for the subject project as proposed by SDS Lumber Company.

Although I occasionally drive-by the SDS mill in Bingen, I am not and have never been connected with SDS in any way whatsoever: not as an employee, contractor, supplier, by marriage, friendship or in any other fashion.

Neither do I stand to gain or profit in any way by SDS's development of the proposed wind energy project.

There can be no conceivable, legitimate reason for this project not to be given your support and authorization to move forward as soon as possible. I very much hope that final approval will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,
Kenneth E Shetterly
P.O. Box [redacted]
White Salmon, WA

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #172

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Ellynne Kutschera [[redacted]@pdx.edu]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 12:59 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: No Whistling Ridge, Governor Gregoire

Categories: Yellow Category

While I am a supporter of renewable energy, all the environmental choices we make need to be careful ones, considering all impacts. The Whistling Ridge Energy Project, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line is a mix of positive and negative impacts - the negative effects on wildlife and on the environmental well-being of the Gorge outweigh the benefits. I am aware that 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. I sincerely hope the decision-makers involved will listen to reason and choose alternatives, preserving what undisturbed areas we have left!

Thank you.

Ellynne Kutschera
[redacted] NE Wendy Lane
Gresham, OR
Gresham, OR 97030

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #173

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: pamela marley [[redacted]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 3:20 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Categories: Yellow Category

EFSEC:

I am writing to express my support of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project plans. I am a long-time resident of Skamania County and have watched as residents struggled through economic hard times for many, many years, whether related to timber, owls, or tourism. Other Gorge counties are benefiting from the Gorge's abundant wind supply and, as an opponent of nuclear power and also a salmon recovery advocate, I very much favor the clean energy wind farms provide. I have read that agriculture and wind farming are actually quite compatible land uses, and I also think that, with appropriate planning, a fully operational wind farm could serve as an educational tourist attraction as we move toward sustainable alternative energy sources. This particular project does not significantly impact the natural beauty or public enjoyment of this scenic wonderland as many other proposals have and offers Skamania County a long-overdue boost.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Pamela Marley

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Don McGuire [[redacted]@dcmcg.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 4:20 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire MUST APPROVE Whistling Ridge

Categories: Yellow Category

I am writing in support of the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project WILL NOT cause negative impacts to sensitive wildlife. As proposed, this project will not degrade the scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire APPROVE this project.
The project would cause minimal or NO disturbance to areas of forested habitat.
In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would help power the values of the Gorge. The turbines may even be visible from some viewing areas within the National Scenic Area. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and ENHANCE views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy and I am in favor of industrial wind energy development within, and adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Don McGuire
[redacted] S.E. Oak St.
White Salmon, WA 98672

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Richard Potter [redacted]@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 4:40 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.
The DEIS is complete, comprehensive and no further anaylsis is requried.
I support the Whistling Ridge Energy project because:
1. This project will create much needed green, renewable energy 2. Becasue this project is in my backyard. I have been an Underwood, Washington resident for over 15 years.
3. It will create much needed incremental tax revenue for the county and school districts.
I support renewable energy, and the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

Sincerely,

Richard Potter
PO Box [redacted]
Underwood, Wa 98651

Richard Potter
PO [redacted]
Underwood, WA 98651

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Vince Ready [redacted]@spiretech.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 8:40 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: FW: Whistling Ridge Wind Farm - Public Comment

Categories: Yellow Category

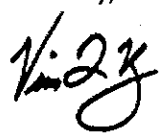
Dear WA EFSEC,

I am writing to express opposition to the proposal to site a large-scale wind farm on Saddleback Mountain in a location that is in the heart of the Columbia Gorge, and will be visible from several key viewing areas which are established in the Gorge National Scenic Act. This wind farm, if built, would not only have scenic impact, but also would potentially have adverse long-term impact on bird habitat and wildlife in the region. No other wind farm project to date has been sited in such a densely forested area in proximity to endangered species – including the Northern Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk.

I have not had an opportunity to carefully review this proposal, but due to the short public comment period, I want to go on record and express that my wife Jodi and I oppose this project and urge you to recommend denial to Governor Gregoire because Whistling Ridge is environmentally irresponsible and would harm the Columbia River Gorge.

Thank you for taking our input into consideration.

Sincerely,



Vince Ready

Vincent L. Ready
[redacted] Cascade Avenue
Hood River, OR 97031
(206) 780-[redacted] home
(206) 484-[redacted] cell

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Patrick Cummings [redacted]@ml.com]
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 9:32 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must ALLOW 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. Studies have shown that the proposed project would have no negative impact on wildlife and plant habitat and would not affect the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire approve this project.

I support renewable energy, and reducing our reliance on foreign oil, particularly given the current situation in the Gulf of Mexico. This project is an important step in the right direction for the state of Washington and for the Gorge's energy independence.

Patrick Cummings
[redacted] SW Iowa St
Portland, OR 97239

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Rick Ray [[redacted]@rickray.com]
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 9:55 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Please don't approve Whistling Ridge

Categories: Blue Category

This is my personal comment. I am a resident of the Columbia River Gorge NSA.

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.

Rick Ray
[redacted] NE Hurt Rd
Springdale, OR 97060

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #179

Cal Edwards
[redacted] Struck Rd
Lyle, WA 98635
Phone: 509 365-[redacted]

EFSEC

905 Plumb Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-3172
Email: efsec@commerce.wa.gov

I support the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. I believe America needs to move ahead with clean energy solutions which don't depend on oil.

I hope you will also support this project.

Thank you
Cal Edwards

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Cal Edwards [redacted]@gorge.net]
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 11:08 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project
Attachments: whistling ridge.docx

Categories: Yellow Category

Asking for your support in the attachment.

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #180

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Holly Bard [[redacted]@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 11:12 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.

Holly Bard
[redacted] NW McIntosh Rd
Camas, WA 98607-9304

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #181

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Brian Barrett [[redacted]@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 12:17 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: RE: Whistling Ridge abomination

Importance: High

Categories: Yellow Category

I have lived in the Gorge for about 10 years and am a big fan of wind power in general. In fact, I LIKE the new array of wind generators out near Maryhill (outside the National Scenic Area). But the reality of the Whistling Ridge project in a residential and nationally protected area will be the following:

No change in electrical costs for average taxpayers*.
A paltry number of construction jobs, most of them temporary and many of those requiring imported specialized labor.
Death to thousands of various wild animals (birds and mammals--especially our best friends, BATS/mosquito mowers, which are abundant in the fecund Cascades).
Audible annoyance/deleterious health effects on humans and their domesticated animals.
A giant scar on the Gorge land/river-scape (this includes the National Scenic Area).
Huge profits (surplus electricity sold back to the electricity brokers for resale to CALIFORNIA/Seattle) for the Stevenson Empire.

The only long-term benefit here is decades of easy money for one entity: Stevenson Empire. Oops, almost forgot the other beneficiaries: electricity brokers who sell to California and Washington's big municipal users.

I am tired of 800# gorillas, such as the Stevensons, throwing their weight around so indiscriminantly around here to the detriment of average and below-average locals. Don't the Stevensons have enough wealth already? How much is enough for them? Somebody please make them stop!

***Talk is cheap. If the Stevensons truly cared about the local community, decades ago they would have spent serious money on a construction solution (such as an overpass for the Bingen lumber mill) to the audibly and psychologically disturbing train horn and noise which plagues Bingen and Hood River residents several times per day and night!

Just say "NO" to:

Death and malaise to thousands of beautiful and beneficial animals.
No economic benefits to the majority of local residents.
Greed of already extremely wealthy land owners and (literal) power brokers.

Sincerely,
Brian Barrett
Mosier, Oregon

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Victor Benveniste [[redacted]@vbenveniste.net]
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 4:41 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Project

Categories: Yellow Category

The choices are limited:
- Proceed with the project and other similar wind farms.
- Increase the energy production from oil, gas, nuclear, and coal and accept the ensuing environmental devastation.
- Do without the energy. One wonders how many of the NIMBY opponents are willing to forego cooling and heating their homes to avoid seeing the windmills in their distant view !

It seems that a mild esthetic impact (although I personally find windmills aesthetically pleasing) and the loss of some bird population is a far lesser evil than pollution of air and water. The loss of life and treasure associated with the various wars we engage in to protect the supplies of fossil fuels is an additional matter of concern.

Victor and Sharon Benveniste
[redacted]Keasey Ave..
Lyle, WA 98635

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #183

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: dcrow [redacted]@pacifier.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2010 9:05 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Underwood, WA.

Categories: Yellow Category

June 19, 2010

Sirs.

I am writing in opposition to the proposal by Whistling Ridge Energy LLC to construct up to 50 turbines along 2,000 foot-tall ridgeline on the boundary of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area near White Salmon Washington. Approximately 384 acres would be developed for the wind turbine foundations, connecting roadways and overhead and underground transmission lines. Each turbine would be more than 420 feet tall and equipped with blinking lights.

The proposed wind turbines would cover more than 1,000 acres of highly visible ridgelines and would be seen from several designated key viewing areas in the Gorge including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would also be highly visible from communities and cities such as Mill A, Underwood, Hood River, and White Salmon.

All wind developments should be sited east of the eastern boundary of the National Scenic Area (Maryhill and the Deschutes River) or in other areas not visible from the NSA. We need alternative energy sources, but here the cost in loss of other assets is too great!

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Crow
Mosier, Oregon
Gorge Commissioner 2000-2008

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #184

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Kenneth Conaway [[redacted]@kalama.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2010 9:54 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 will not cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and will not degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire approve this project.
This proposal is not likely to have any different or greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington. The project will not permanently disturb any areas of forested habitat and will not result in direct or indirect impacts to the multiple wildlife species. None of the listed or sensitive species including the northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, or elk will suffer detrimental effects from this project.

I support renewable energy, and I support industrial-scale wind energy development wherevever it can help us become energy self sufficient.

Kenneth Conaway
[redacted]Walker Road
Kelso, WA 98626

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #185

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Barbara King [[redacted]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2010 11:14 AM
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. The proposed project would substantially improve the economic conditions in these two counties without causing negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat or impacting the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire approve this project.

This proposal is unlikely to have any different and greater wildlife impact than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, perhaps even less because this project is proposed along an already cleared for utility access low ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Locating the turbines on this ridge line where there are already existing electrical towers would cause no additional impact to the scenic value of the Gorge than the already existing utility works, and therefore no significant additional energy development into the forested landscape.

I support renewable energy, and encourage EFSEC to recommend that Governor Gregoire approve this project.

Barbara King
Log Deck Road
Willard, WA 98605

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #186

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Doug Miley [[redacted]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2010 11:39 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy project

Categories: Yellow Category

I would like to express my support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Solar, wind, and bio-fuels are our energy future. We NEED to start thinking clean renewable energy instead of the old model of "polluting", "limited resource", "harmful to the environment" types of energy. I know the Gorge is a special place and needs to be preserved but I see wind energy doing just that. Windmills are far less harmful than the polluting coal-fired Boardman plant that spews dangerous pollutants into our air and water that ultimately affects the quality of life here in the Gorge.

Thanks you,
Douglas Miley
P.O. Box [redacted]
White Salmon, WA
98672

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Ann Frodel [[redacted]@gorge.net]
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2010 12:54 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Wind Farm

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

Please consider the scenic impact of the proposed turbines and that they would be highly visible from several viewing areas in the Columbia River Gorge. We own a Bed and Breakfast here in Hood River and our view would change from a lovely night time star light sky with low household lighting to hundreds of flashing pulsating lights day and night. One reason so many folks come here from all over the world is to enjoy the mountain, rivers and special views our area has to offer. The National Geographic continually recognizes Hood River and the Gorge as one of the most beautiful and special places to visit. Exert below, but wind turbines over 400 ft tall, blades 230 across and flashing lights 24/7 would completely be in direct contrast to the natural beauty that draws in 640,000 tourists a year to the Gorge.

Mount Hood
Oregon

From *National Geographic Traveler*
Written by Aaron Dalton

The European settlers and fortune-seekers who made their way West along the Oregon Trail in the mid-19th century faced a difficult choice when they arrived at the steep valley known today as the Columbia River Gorge—the only sea-level pass through the north-south Cascade mountain range. They could try to float their wagons and possessions down the river on rafts through dangerous rapids. Or they could attempt the overland route through the Cascade mountains on the Barlow Road, a dirt track so steep that it could only be traversed with great difficulty. Some intrepid Barlow Road travelers resorted to cutting down trees and lashing them to the backs of the wagons to slow their descent. The good news: The scenery in the Columbia River Gorge and the Cascade Range are just as spectacular today, but the roads have improved considerably.

Overview

Drivers can get an excellent sense of the history, beauty, and diverse charms of the Columbia River Gorge region by starting in Portland and tracing a roughly triangular route east alongside the Columbia River, south up the slopes of Mount Hood, and then back west following the Sandy River through a picturesque landscape of small villages.
http://traveler.nationalgeographic.com/print/drives/mount-hood

From Travel Oregon…..

http://www.traveloregon.com/Explore-Oregon/Portland-Metro/Trips-We-Love/Hood-River-Valley.aspx

Hood River Valley – Small town charm and big time flavor- great trip for scenery.

'Located a scenic sixty miles East of Portland, Hood River and the surrounding valley offer up the bounty of a century of fruit growing and the taste of a dynamic wine-growing region, producing a variety of wines."

The local economy depends on the tourist dollar and many tourists come to enjoy the view.

The wind turbines are also detrimental to the birds, big horn sheep and wild life and the endangered species in the area.

For these reasons we hope you do not allow, the Whistling Ridge Project as there are plenty of other locations suitable for winds farms in eastern Washington and Oregon.

Ann Frodel

Gorge View Bed and Breakfast

[redacted] Columbia St.

Hood River, OR 97031

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: David Peterson [[redacted]@earthlink.net]
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2010 2:06 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Cc: Soma Sexton
Subject: Whistling Ridge Wind Farm project on the Underwood Bluff

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Madam/Sir:

Let me be known that I am strongly opposed to the wind farm being proposed for the Underwood Bluff in Washington. It is directly across the Columbia River from where I reside and I feel it would seriously detract from the natural beauty of our Columbia River Gorge. This is not a suitable site for this project and represents a special interest not the greater good.

Best Regards,

David Peterson
Vineyardview Bed & Breakfast
[redacted] Post Canyon Drive
Hood River, OR 97031
phone: 541-386-[redacted]
web: www.vineyardviewbnb.com
email: [redacted]@earthlink.net

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #189

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: dcrow [[redacted]@pacifier.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2010 2:46 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Underwood, WA.

Categories: Yellow Category

June 19, 2010

Sirs.

I am writing in opposition to the proposal by Whistling Ridge Energy LLC to construct up to 50 turbines along 2,000 foot-tall ridgeline on the boundary of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area near White Salmon Washington. Approximately 384 acres would be developed for the wind turbine foundations, connecting roadways and overhead and underground transmission lines. Each turbine would be more than 420 feet tall and equipped with blinking lights.

The proposed wind turbines would cover more than 1,000 acres of highly visible ridgelines and would be seen from several designated key viewing areas in the Gorge including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would also be highly visible from communities and cities such as Mill A, Underwood, Hood River, and White Salmon.

All wind developments should be sited east of the eastern boundary of the National Scenic Area (Maryhill and the Deschutes River) or in other areas not visible from the NSA. We need alternative energy sources, but here the cost in loss of other assets is too great!

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Crow
Mosier, Oregon
Gorge Commissioner 2000-2008

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Kim Gilmer [[redacted]@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, June 20, 2010 3:04 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.

The Columbia River Gorge is the only federally designated scenic area in the U.S. While I'm in total support of renewable energy, placing wind turbines where they are visible within the scenic area is in my mind completely contrary to the purpose of designating this as a 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.
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.

Kim Gilmer
[redacted] C Street
Washougal, WA 98671

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: james trenter [redacted]@ins-lua.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 20, 2010 5:51 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. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire approve this project.
This proposal is likely to have greater impact than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington to create jobs to a state with an above average unemployment rate.
The project would provide industrial development and infrastructure into an area that needs jobs, devekopment, and green energy.

I support renewable energy and beleive this project will be a short-term and long-term economic boost to this area.
Sincerely

James Trenter

james trenter
[redacted]nw 140th street
vancouver, WA 98685

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #192

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: repar [[redacted]@saw.net]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2010 11:31 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Repar-Comments-Whistling Ridge
Attachments: Article_too much BPA elec_11June2010.doc; Article_birds_wind_08June2010.doc; Wind and gas plants_article_Feb2010.doc; Comments_1_DEIS_17June2010.doc

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear EFSEC,
Attached, please find my e-comments and attachments from the June 18th meeting in Stevenson. Thank you very much. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me./Mary

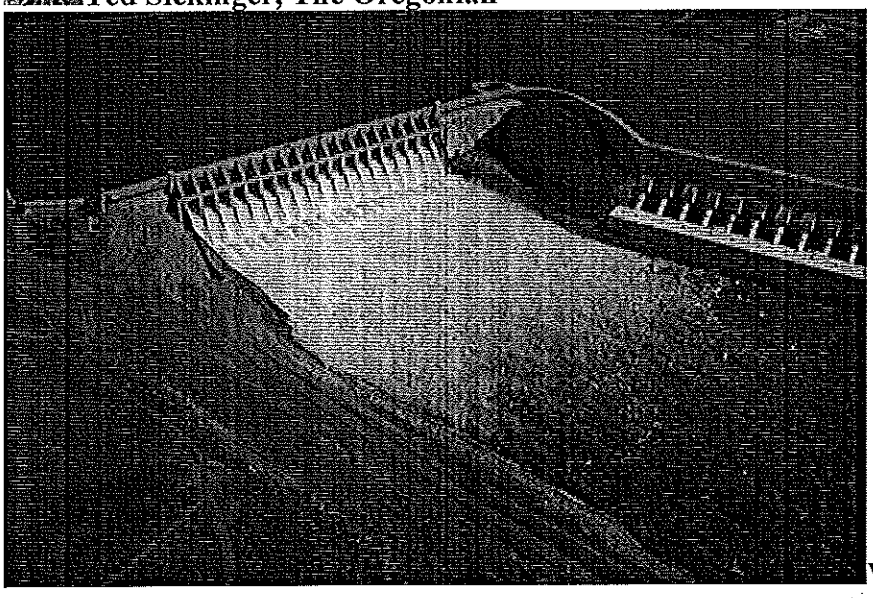
Mary J. Repar
[redacted] E. Loop Rd. [redacted]
Stevenson, WA 98648
Tel: 509.427.[redacted]
E-mail: repar@saw.net
"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away."

OregonLive.com
Everything Oregon

Swollen Columbia River churns so much electricity BPA is giving some away

Published: Friday, June 11, 2010, 7:32 PM **Updated: Saturday, June 12, 2010, 8:08 AM**

 **Ted Sickinger, The Oregonian**

 **View full size**Water shoots back up from the flow deflectors immediately below the spillway at Chief Joseph Dam in Washington. The deflectors help moderate oxygen levels to protect fish when river levels are unusually high.

Winter's snow drought has given way to a temporary flood of late spring runoff, forcing regional managers of the electrical grid to give away power, dial back generation at thermal plants and rapidly fill reservoirs to maintain acceptable conditions for migrating fish.

Robust water flows in the region's rivers are typically a blessing, creating a bounty for electricity generation, irrigation, fish passage and recreation. Indeed, only a month ago, the **Bonneville Power Administration** was issuing dire warnings about summer water shortages.

Those shortages are likely to materialize regardless, as rain now won't substitute for snowmelt in July and August. But early June's onslaught of moisture has temporarily

pushed the Columbia River and its tributaries toward flood stage and taxed the hydro system's flexibility to manage competing interests.

The prevailing pineapple express has pushed precipitation levels to 700 percent of normal in some areas of the Snake River Basin and 170 to 200 percent of normal on the upper Willamette River, said Jim Barton, chief of water management in the Columbia Basin for the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**.

Too much rain means too much water over the dams' spillways, and the resulting turbulence leads to excess dissolved oxygen in the water. That's harmful to fish, so the big dam operators in the region -- the Corps and Bureau of Reclamation -- divert as much water as possible into reservoirs or through the dams turbines to generate electricity.

"All the reservoirs are filling or near full, so that makes it challenging," Barton said. "You can only store so much."

Then you generate.

"The more the dams can generate, the less they spill and the less issue with dissolved oxygen," Barton said.

When you create electricity, however, you need to use it, immediately, or risk an imbalance on the grid.

During the last few days, the 31 federally operated hydroelectric dams in the region have been running full tilt, generating an average of 13,000 megawatts of electricity. That's 144 percent of their normal spring generation -- the equivalent of adding four nuclear plants worth of electricity generation to the regional mix.

Complicating the picture is the region's growing fleet of wind turbines, which have been cranking out extra megawatts as the same storm cells dumping rain into the rivers have whipped wind speeds higher.

"You can only run the turbines as fast as you can find a home for the power," said Michael Milstein, a spokesman for the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets the power from the federal dams and one nuclear plant, and integrates the spikey output of the region's wind fleet onto the grid.

To accommodate the surge, the nuclear plant at Hanford has been dialed back to 25 percent of capacity, Milstein said. BPA has also warned wind farm operators that it won't be accepting much, if any, unscheduled power production.

Meanwhile, the agency has been enticing utilities to turn off their own power plants by giving away electricity for free, or near free, at several junctures since Wednesday.

"That's helpful to customers, as it flows through in lower power costs," said Steve

Corson, a spokesman for Portland General Electric.

While the weekend weather is expected to be dry, it takes several days for a slug of moisture to move through the system.

"We expect things to be returning to normal by Monday," Milstein said. "It certainly has been a test of the system."

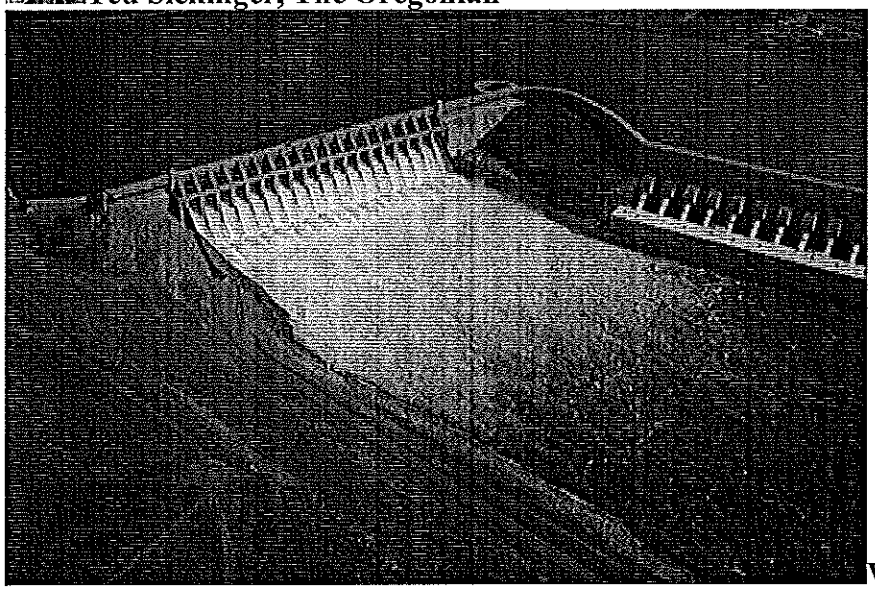
--Ted Sickinger

OregonLive.com
Everything Oregon

Swollen Columbia River churns so much electricity BPA is giving some away

Published: Friday, June 11, 2010, 7:32 PM Updated: Saturday, June 12, 2010, 8:08 AM


Ted Sickinger, The Oregonian


View full sizeWater shoots back up from the flow deflectors immediately below the spillway at Chief Joseph Dam in Washington. The deflectors help moderate oxygen levels to protect fish when river levels are unusually high.

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"We expect things to be returning to normal by Monday," Milstein said. "It certainly has been a test of the system."

--Ted Sickinger

Mary J. Repar
[redacted]**E. Loop Rd.,** [redacted]
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17 June 2010

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Re: Preliminary Comments and Questions on the Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Cumulative Impacts, Carrying Capacity, Economic Analyses, Energy Production

Dear EFSEC and BPA,

These are my preliminary comments and questions. I will be making further comments during the public comment period.

Let me be blunt: in reading the Cumulative Impact Analysis section in the DEIS, 3.14, p. 3-264, I was perturbed to find that there have not been any cumulative impact analyses done. There are statements made about cumulative impacts but no analyses. **The basic refrain appears to be that, in the past, bad environmental things happened in the project area, bad things will happen in the present because of the project, and this will lead to more bad things happening in the future!** This is not cumulative impact analysis.

The NEPA process must use critical analyses for Federal projects and this one qualifies because of BPA's interest. The **Council on Environmental Quality's Considering Cumulative Effects: Under the National Environmental Policy Act** Handbook gives pretty clear methods on analyzing cumulative effects. Table 5.3, p. 56, Primary and special methods for analyzing cumulative effects, gives seven primary methods and four special methods for analyzing cumulative effects. (I submit the Handbook into the record.) For example, what I did not see in the DEIS was a Trends Analysis, which is #6, in Table 5.3 of the CEQ Handbook—"Trends analysis assesses the status of a resource, ecosystem, and human community over time and usually results in a graphical projection of past or future conditions. **Changes in the occurrence or intensity of stressors over the same period can also be determined. Trends can help the analyst identify cumulative effects problems, establish appropriate**

environmental baselines, or project future cumulative effects. I saw no environmental baselines data in the DEIS. Where is it? Without baseline data, cumulative impacts/effects are very hard to quantify.

Another example, #5, Modeling, under Primary Methods, states "Modeling is a powerful technique for quantifying the cause-and-effect relationships leading to cumulative effects, can take the form of mathematical equations describing cumulative processes such as soil erosion, or may constitute an expert system that computes the effect of various project scenarios base on a program of logical decisions." The strengths of this method are: it "can give unequivocal results; addresses cause-effect relationships; quantification; can integrate time and space." Weaknesses are: "need a lot of data, can be expensive, intractable with many interactions." Where is the modeling of data for this project?

Just two examples, and there are many more, from the DEIS, I believe, show its inadequacy, especially in cumulative impacts analysis:

In 3.14.3.4, Vegetation and Wetlands, p. 3-272, the proponent states: "Past and present land development, timber harvest, and agricultural uses have resulted in a **cumulatively significant change** in the composition of vegetation and habitat types in the project vicinity. In general, land development and agricultural uses have resulted in conversion of forested areas to non-forested areas, and timber harvests have resulted in a mosaic of forest ages, with average stand age declining over time from relatively short stand rotations. Changes in stand structure and complexity, patch size, and species distribution also have occurred. Few large, old-growth conifers or late-successional stands exist **[my questions: how many, where are they located, is there a map, etc?]** in the general project vicinity. **Accordingly, past and present uses have resulted in cumulative habitat conversion and an ongoing pattern of habitat fragmentation. [my questions: how much fragmentation, what kind of fragmentation, affecting which species, etc.?]** Reasonably foreseeable future actions, such as ongoing land development and timber harvests, **would continue this trend.**" [my emphases] And, it goes on to say: "Project construction would take place in the context of the existing use of the project vicinity generally for commercial forestry, which includes regular cycles of clearcutting and reforestation. **Nonetheless, by removing trees and other vegetation in the wind project area for the life of the project, development of the Proposed Action would contribute incrementally, though in a relatively minor way, to these cumulative impacts.**" We go from a "cumulatively significant change" to "would contribute incrementally, though in a minor way" statement. This is not analysis. This is certainly not a cumulative impact analysis, wherein all the past, present, and future habitat fragmentation would have to be quantified, and then a cumulative impact analysis done on the project area. And then this project would also have to look at habitat fragmentation in the geographical areas surrounding the project in order to get a total picture of all the habitat fragmentation. Cumulative impacts are not done on a project by project basis with no additive analyses. Regional cumulative impacts matter.

In the same section, p.3-273, Wetlands, the DEIS states: "Incremental losses and degradation of wetlands over time have cumulatively depleted **[my questions: depleted how much, maps, species affected, etc.?]** wetland resources in the United States. In the project vicinity, wetlands likely were previously impacted by construction of a variety of activities, including development of roads and railroads, agricultural activities, and past timber harvests. **[my questions: what are the cumulative impacts on the wetlands from all this past and present activity? How will your project affect these cumulative impacts?]** Reasonably foreseeable future actions **may also affect** wetlands in the project vicinity, but it is expected that these future projects would be required to avoid, minimize, and compensate for any potential impacts to wetlands from filling or other activities as part of project Section 404 permitting requirements. Regardless, because **construction and operation of the proposed wind project would not impact wetlands, implementation of the Proposed Action would not contribute to cumulative impacts to wetlands.**" [my emphasis]

I'm sorry, we're supposed to take their word for it that their project would not impact wetlands??? Where is the cumulative impact analysis of the wetlands in the area? This is not good or sufficient analysis.

This is not cumulative impacts analysis. It is wishful thinking. And wishful thinking doesn't get the project okayed. I will be submitting further comments on the cumulative impacts at a later date.

We have not even touched upon **Carrying Capacity Analysis**, which should be applied to a wide range of resources to address cumulative effects. From the CEQ Cumulative Effects handbook: "Cumulative effects are a more complex problem for whole ecosystems, because ecosystems are subject to the widest possible range of direct and indirect effects. Analyzing the cumulative effects on ecosystems requires a better understanding of the interworkings of ecological systems and a more holistic perspective. Specifically, ecosystem analysis entails new indicators of ecological conditions including **landscape-scale measures**. [my emphasis] In addition to these two special methods, analyzing cumulative effects on human communities requires specific economic impact analysis and social impact analysis methods." Where are the special economic impact analyses and social impact analyses for this project? Cumulative economic impacts don't just mean the impacts to the local area. Cumulative economic impacts are and should be regional in nature and it is prudent to ask what the cumulative impacts of this wind farm will be on our region. Will the impacts be harmful or beneficial? No one can answer that because there is no in-depth analysis in the DEIS.

I also have some questions for BPA:

Questions for BPA:

1) Even if there are multiple wind farms integrated into your system, do you have to operate the grid as if there were NO wind farms connected to the grid, since wind can be unpredictable and inconsistent?

2) If there is no wind (or inconsistent wind) and the dams cannot let water through because of other issues (i.e., fish protections), do you have to have backup natural gas plants to produce the added electricity that the wind turbines would be providing? (I am assuming that if the wind farms provide X amount of energy to the grid, BPA will sell X amount of energy to make more money, and the people to whom this X amount of energy is sold would not be happy if they were not getting their X amount of energy, so if the wind is not blowing and the water is not flowing, the energy would have to come from somewhere, wouldn't it?)
3) Does BPA have any plans to build or partner in any natural gas plant projects?
4) How big would these natural gas plants have to be?
5) How is BPA going to back up the real and potential wind energy production from all of these wind farms?
6) Transmission lines:
    - Is BPA going to have to build more transmission lines?
    - Where would these lines have to be built, if they are needed?
    - What kind of lines would have to be built to accommodate all the increased wind energy production?

I would also like to submit the following articles into the record: "Swollen Columbia River churns so much electricity BPA is giving some away," by Ted Sickinger—BPA generating power 144 percent of normal Spring generation—so what to do with all this "extra" power, The Oregonian, June 11, 2010; and, "Birds vs. the wind farms," by Hal Bernton, The Olympian, June 08, 2010—"Based on that information, the wind-power turbines currently operating in Oregon and Washington kill more than 6500 birds and more than 3000 bats annually."; and, "Increased Costs are Blowin' in the Wind," by todd Wynn and Eric Low, Cascade Commentary, from Cascade Policy organization, February 17, 2010—"Wind energy on the Pacific Northwest's electricity grid has increased substantially. Often overlooked are the impacts of increasing wind generation on the reliability and affordability of electricity that very well might outweigh any of the promised environmental benefits."

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments. I will be making more comments on the entire DEIS at a future date.

/e-signature/Mary Repar

Published June 08, 2010

Birds vs. the wind farms

BY HAL BERNTON

SEATTLE - Biologist Orah Zamora spends her days walking around wind turbines in search of dead birds and bats. Most of her surveys turn up nothing, but every once in a while she finds a carcass that may have been felled by a whirring blade.

"It's like a crime scene, and you try to figure out what happened. Sometimes, it's really obvious because you see a slice mark," Zamora says.

Zamora's monitoring at the Windy Flats project near Goldendale is part of a larger series of surveys to assess how the wind-power boom is impacting birds that must now share air space with the towering turbines.

The surveys, which are financed by the wind industry, indicate that wind power is a relatively minor hazard to birds. But some scientists say it is still too soon to discount the risks posed by the rush to develop Northwest wind power. They are particularly concerned with the plight of hawks, eagles and other raptors, which are large, longlived birds at the top of the food chain.

One survey at Big Horn Wind Farm in Klickitat County estimated that more than 30 raptors were killed during an initial year of operations – more than seven times the number forecast in a pre-construction study. The dead raptors included kestrels , red-tailed hawks, shorteared owls and a ferruginous hawk, which Washington state lists as a threatened species.

"It's just too early to say what this all means," said K. Shawn Smallwood, a California ecologist who has published numerous scientific articles on wind farms and raptor deaths. "The science is just not there yet."

There also is uncertainty about how raptors react to wind-power development, which often carves up foraging grounds with miles of new roads. Some say more studies are needed to determine if some species shy away from these areas or eventually abandon nests near the wind farms.

"Some of these projects are going up in undeveloped areas that were kind of havens for these species," said James Watson, a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist who has spent 40 years studying raptors. "These turbines are occupying some of the flight space that is their bread and butter."

Zamora works for West Inc., an ecological field-study company that has become a major contractor for the wind-power industry. The company's surveys of turbine operations,

which typically last a year or more, do miss some dead birds that get quickly picked apart by ravens, vultures or coyotes. Statisticians try to account for such removals in coming up with the final survey estimates that have been released for about a dozen Northwest wind farms.

Based on that information, the wind-power turbines currently operating in Oregon and Washington kill more than 6,500 birds and more than 3,000 bats annually.

In an era of climate change and a massive oil spill off the coast of Louisiana, windpower advocates say these deaths are an acceptable trade-off for development of a renewable energy source.

They note that house cats and other man-made hazards cause tens of millions of bird deaths each year.

Bird mortality "at wind farms, compared to other human-related causes of bird mortality, is biologically and statistically insignificant," wrote Mike Sagrillo, a consultant who writes for American Wind Energy Association.

In recent years, some of the biggest Northwest concerns about raptors and windpower development have been in the plateau country of Klickitat County, whose farm fields and grazing lands offer a buffet of chukars, rabbits and other prey to birds that nest in the nearby Columbia River Gorge.

Wind-power developers, after consultations with state biologists, have agreed to relocate some turbines away from canyon edges frequented by raptors, and avoid installing them in some areas used by raptors or near their nets.

"We take the questions and concerns of wildlife impacts very seriously," said Jan Johnson, a spokeswoman for Iberdrola Renewables.

http://www.cascadepolicy.org/2010/02/17/increased-costs-are-blowin%E2%80%99-in-the-wind/

February 17, 2010

Increased Costs Are Blowin' in the Wind

Filed under:

- Carbon Cartel Education Project
- Climate Change
- Commentaries
- Environment

— Todd Wynn

by Todd Wynn and Eric Lowe

Increased Costs Are Blowin' in the Wind

Summary: Wind energy on the Pacific Northwest's electricity grid has increased substantially. Often overlooked are the impacts of increasing wind generation on the reliability and affordability of electricity that very well might outweigh any of the promised environmental benefits.

Download the .pdf here, or click through the break to read the commentary.

Wind energy on the Pacific Northwest's electricity grid has increased substantially over the years, and this is leading to a number of problems. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the Pacific Northwest's federal power marketing authority, is charged with integrating the large influx of wind power into the electricity grid. In 1998, the BPA's wind generation was roughly 25 megawatts (MW). Today, it totals 2,780 MW; and, with the Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standards passed in 2007, over 6,000 MW of wind power is expected to be on-line by 2013. Often overlooked are the impacts of increasing wind generation on the reliability and affordability of electricity that very well might outweigh any of the promised environmental benefits.

The negative aspects of wind power are quite apparent. Obviously, wind is unpredictable and inconsistent, which creates a significant problem for BPA and electric utilities. To prevent brownouts or overloads on the grid, BPA must schedule energy production in advance.

However, the ability to predict when and how hard the wind will blow is extremely limited (usually a two- or three-day window) and often inaccurate.

Because wind power is so unpredictable, every megawatt must be backed up by an equal amount of reliable energy sources in reserve to replace the energy lost when the wind dies down. This means BPA must have a "balancing" reserve equal to or greater than the wind power capacity utilized at any given time. In the Pacific Northwest the backup source traditionally has been federally owned hydroelectric dams, which are shut on and off to respond to fluctuations in wind energy.

According to BPA, the ability of the federal hydro system to serve as a balancing reserve maxes out between 3,000 and 3,500 MW of installed wind generation. **This means that BPA can only back up roughly half of the projected increase in wind power.** In the near future, BPA will be forced to consider other options to establish a satisfactory reserve for integrating the large influx of unreliable energy.

Some efforts to rectify the integration problem include evaluating the feasibility of dynamic scheduling, which means breaking down the periods of time wind generation is scheduled (e.g. from hour-to-hour to 30-minute increments). Additionally, BPA is analyzing better ways to forecast wind speed and is researching storage technologies (such as compressed air or flywheel technology). Such advances are generally far-off, or would fail to address the problem completely. **Therefore, BPA eventually will be forced either to buy additional dispatchable generation capacity from third-party suppliers or to build additional back up capacity.** This leads to additional costs for BPA, the utilities which purchase power from BPA, and ultimately Oregon ratepayers.

Where this additional backup energy comes from is a critical question. PGE has begun the permitting process for a natural-gas fired plant in North-Central Oregon, and plans for a second natural gas plant in 2015 are underway. These plants will become even more necessary as the ability to use hydroelectric dams as backup is strained and wind generation capacity keeps expanding due to legislative mandates.

Building new natural gas facilities to serve as a backup for additional wind sources has several related problems. **First, natural gas is subject to price volatility, similar to buying gasoline at the pump. Uncertainty in production and delivery lead to significant fluctuations in natural gas costs. Further, natural gas facilities produce greenhouse gas emissions, which at least partly negates the purpose of the renewable energy mandates.** Thus, not only are electricity rates increasing because of additional wind generation, but the subsequent increase of natural gas reliance further exacerbates the problem by introducing volatility.

In 2009, BPA requested the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) to allow an electricity rate increase to reflect the costs of integrating wind. BPA proposed an increase of $2.79 per kilowatt-month, and the OPUC set the final rate increase at $1.29. According to BPA, the associated costs of the $1.29 rate increase broke down as follows: $0.05 for regulatory expenses, $0.26 for load following (e.g. wind forecasting) and $0.98 to correct imbalances (e.g. balancing reserves such as natural gas or hydro).The previous rate of $0.68 per kilowatt-month did not reflect the costs associated with imbalances in wind production. The new rate represents a

doubling of wind integration costs, and this rate will continue to increase as more wind energy is added to the grid. These additional costs are eventually passed on to Oregon ratepayers.

It does not seem wise to promote and force Oregonians to purchase an energy source that has so many associated costs. At best, wind power simply replaces a clean, reliable and affordable source of energy: hydroelectricity. At worst, it invites increased price volatility, increased rates, and the prospect of more greenhouse gas-emitting facilities. **Ultimately, increasing wind generation leads to financial burdens on businesses and individuals across the state that ought to be considered further.** Legislators should not attempt to choose "winners" in emerging energy technologies, nor should they force costly energy sources upon ratepayers. Instead, utilities should allow ratepayers to pay the full cost of renewable energy voluntarily and to expand renewable energy according to ratepayer demand.

Todd Wynn is Climate Change and Energy Policy Analyst at Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon's free market public policy research organization. Eric Lowe is a research associate at Cascade Policy Institute.

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #193

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: John Bryan [redacted]@gorge.net]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2010 4:24 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Wind Farm

Categories: Yellow Category

Gentlemen:

I am a renewable energy enthusiast yet I feel I need to speak out about this project. In eastern Oregon there are prolific wind generators located in some key areas of strong wind. All that I have seen so far, are located in grassland areas with virtually no trees nearby. This locating factor reduces the possibility of damage to wildlife because most of the wildlife is lower flying, if at all, having little habitat from 100 feet up. However, to locate 50 wind generators in the middle of a forested area really exposes a great deal of habitat to almost 6000 feet of turbulent rotors, which they will not survive. Please do not allow the dollar signs and the green speak to move us one step forward yet 3 steps back. This is a good project but quite simply, the wrong place. Jobs and financial support into the community are always good reasons for these projects to be justified, However as we have learned with the casino issues, not always the primary issues to consider.

Thank you,

John Bryan
Hood River, OR
Sent from my iPhone
[redacted]@gorge.net
Sent from my iPhone
[redacted]@gorge.net

Whistling Ridge Energy Project
Public Comment 6/16/2010

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS for Whistling Ridge. After reading though this document, I was struck by the generic and generally outdated content. I understand the need to plagiarize other EIS's to lessen preparation efforts; however, it does worry me that this project is not being looked at for the uniqueness of this site, and the natural and scenic resources. Besides that general comment, some specifics are:

1) Under "affected environment", "surface water", there is no mention of the unnamed stream west (and down slope) of the A1-A7 turbine group. This stream initiates as a spring and flows year round, and eventually empties into the Columbia River. In addition, it flows through World Stewardship Nature Preserve Land (soon to be purchased by Columbia Land Trust). Please add this consideration to your study.
2) Under "groundwater", the same unnamed stream mentioned above has been overlooked since it does originate at groundwater. Please add this to your study.
3) There was very little discussion on the flashing red lights. My understanding is that these are fairly bright and regular flashes, which besides being disturbing to local residents could also trigger health issues. Please add this consideration to your study.
4) There is no reference to Dr. Pierpont's studies on the health effects of wind turbine sounds, and a response to this new science by the applicant. It is not sufficient to say "not a problem", when current scientific studies indicate the need for larger setbacks to avoid these issues. All of the "noise" documentation is generally positive, educational, and/or based on county defined noise ordinances, all of which do not comprehend continuous operation of noise producing machinery. It is also interesting to me the shear amount of documentation in the DEIS on noise, causing me to believe that this can be a problem and really needs more than an academic dissertation on sound. The most recent science should be considered in the study.
5) The study did not use the noise levels defined by the manufacturer of the proposed towers and the generating station, which are larger and noisier than those discussed. It is unacceptable and reckless to conclude the noise would be within EFSEC limits, if this group does not assess the actual towers and the generator facility to be used. Please update your report for the maximum anticipated noise levels, cumulative effects of multiple towers coupled with power generation/transfer and their impact to the surrounding community.
6) Regarding land use and the National Scenic Area. We all understand that regulations, boundaries, etc. do not preclude development of this type of project, however can you honestly say that the lawmakers and NSA visionaries understood (many, many years ago) that 400+ tall manmade, noisy, intrusive, structures would be created and erected. Can you honestly and with good conscience, ignore the basic intent of the National Scenic Act: "Preserve our nation's natural scenic resources", by siting loopholes, ordinance weakness, and the limits of our written language. Remember, this is permanent (30+years) and a resource that can never, never be reclaimed to its current grandeur. Please try to justify this project (as a whole or in parts) given this basic concept of natural scenic area preservation. If you knowingly and willingly ignore preservation of a scenic area, you will spoil our treasure just as oil is spoiling Florida beaches now. Please consider a reconfiguration of the project, at a minimum to eliminate the most visible turbines, specifically the "A1-A7" array.
7) More recent studies on bat and raptor deaths caused by wind turbines indicate a significantly higher number than expected. Klickitas County has recently begun a new study because many more deaths were occurring than promised by the boiler plate information in their EIS. Please update your study to consider recent results.

8) There does not seem to be mention or analysis of that land being designated as "Deer and Elk Winter Range"? I was unable to get a map from WDFW in this short time, but I do know that the land immediately south of the project is designated winter range preserve. If this project is or is not in the preserve, what would be the impacts to elk and deer movement, how will they react to the "strings" of turbines, operational noise, construction, etc? If you believe that this wildlife will simply "go around", what is the impact and how will the applicant mitigate the impact to the surrounding communities now in the path of ranging wildlife? What would be the impact to the surrounding communities when the predators (e.g. cougars) follow the new path, and how will we be protected?
9) Regarding impacts to property values: it is inappropriate to merely list/itemize the results of studies, without considering the details. For example, if these studies did not have any homes as close to the projects as this will be, those studies are not applicable. If the studies did not have homes and property of comparable value (i.e. shacks verses million dollar homes), then the studies are not applicable. If these areas did not have property of comparable value, then the studies are not applicable. If the areas understudy do not have comparable "visual" appeal (i.e. in the scenic area), then the studies are not applicable. I expect, due to the locations of the referenced studies, that they are generally not comparable to this situation. Your DEIS needs to be updated with property value studies that represent this project and this neighborhood, for undeveloped land, developed land, and land with homes.
10) Regarding "future developments", the "Middle Mountain Wind Project" should be updated to indicate that the Hood River County Commissioners have determined the project to be not feasible due to local discontent and the results of an independent study concluding the project would be financially unacceptable, contrary to the financial payback reported by their applicant. You might also consider adding the decision regarding the Seven Mile project; impacts to the local community and the scenic area also could not be justified.

I know that you are tired, and a bit numb to the comments so far and yet to come, but I request that you review each as if you lived here. As if you come to the Gorge to enjoy the natural scenery, as if it was in your back yard. Remember, this project is in everyone's back yard, it is a National Scenic Area.

Thank you

Mike Eastwick
[redacted]Peach Lane
Underwood, WA 98651

Testimony of Todd Myers
Executive Director, WindWorks! Northwest
EFSEC/BPA Draft EIS Hearing
Whistling Ridge Energy Project
Underwood, Washington
June 16, 2010

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council. My name is Todd Myers and I serve as the Executive Director of WindWorks! Northwest, a wind power advocacy group with over 300 supporters. Our address is P.O. Box [redacted] in Ellensburg, Washington.

I have two comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I will first address the discussion of project alternatives under 2.3.2. Second, I will touch on the Draft EIS' discussion of visual impacts in 3.9.3.

The Draft EIS is correct in its assessment of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project as an "'integrated whole,' as a single power plant, not pieces of a whole, where some turbines may be eliminated." The project, at 75 megawatts, is the smallest project proposed or operating in Washington State. No exception.

The economic viability of the project hinges on SDS being able to complete the project as designed – at 75 megawatts.

Those who suggest that they can support the project if "only" seven turbines are removed are, in effect, telling you that the project should not proceed. It reminds me of the used car dealer who claims that he's offering you a great deal while acknowledging that the auto lacks a small item: a transmission.

In the interest of fair evaluation, the proposed project before you must be considered as an "integrated whole." Given the economies of scale and utility demand for renewable power, this project, if it is to proceed at all, cannot be downsized.

The Draft EIS offers a thorough and commendable discussion of visual impacts. One area where the document falls short is in assessing the value of the visual amenities that Whistling Ridge *currently* provides to the Gorge area.

The project opponents assert that SDS, by building a windfarm on its property will spoil the value of their property. This concern should can only be fully analyzed if both sides of the coin are examined.

It would be helpful to this discussion if the Draft EIS estimated the financial value of the visual amenity that SDS currently provides – a value, that members of SOSA and the Agri-Tourism Association now enjoy for free. We can only imagine how the authors of the EIS would calculate the value of this free amenity that is so dear to SDS' neighbors.

Would any of them pay to keep things as they are? And, since when does a neighbors' property rights extend to everything he or she can see from their boundaries? Since when was the Scenic Act written to control what can be seen from within the boundaries of the Scenic Area?

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council, I commend you and BPA for commissioning an excellent environmental document, which provides a rock solid foundation on which to inform your ultimate action on the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project.

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #196

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
COMMENT FORM
Whistling Ridge Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Public Hearing and Comment Opportunity

Name: Shelley Bates

Address: [redacted] Cherry Hill Rd, White Salmon WA 98672
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [redacted] 2gorge.net

[X] **Add me to the Mailing list/Email list**

Please write any comments you have with respect to the

Leave this sheet in the Comment Box today, or mail it to:
EFSEC, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172.
Comment letters must be postmarked by Monday, July 19, 2010.

I oppose the construction of an industrial installation of wind turbines on Underwood mountain, Whistling Ridge.

As a small business owner I am concerned with the negative impact on our tourism-based business, White Salmon Boatworks. Many people come to our town for the natural beauty. The installation will be harmful to the visual ambiance of our region. This project is too large.

Shelley S Bates

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

For more information about EFSEC's review of these project changes, please contact:
Stephen Posner, Compliance Manager, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172,
call (360) 956-2063, or e-mail efsec@cted.wa.gov.

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #197

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
COMMENT FORM
Whistling Ridge Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Public Hearing and Comment Opportunity

Name: DON HOGARTY

Address: [redacted] CREST VIEW LN UNDERWOOD 98651
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: _____

☐ **Add me to the Mailing list/Email list**

Please write any comments you have with respect to the

Leave this sheet in the Comment Box today, or mail it to:
EFSEC, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172.
Comment letters must be postmarked by Monday, July 19, 2010.

I'VE SPENT SEVERAL WINTERS IN DESERT HOT SPRINGS / PALM SPRINGS AREA AND NOT ONCE HAVE I SEEN ANY BIRD KILL FROM THE WIND TURBINE WIND FARMS.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

For more information about EFSEC's review of these project changes, please contact:
Stephen Posner, Compliance Manager, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172,
call (360) 956-2063, or e-mail efsec@cted.wa.gov.

Points to Consider
Wind Farm Start-up

June 16, 2010

I previously worked for a company that did wind farm start-up and have the following information for residents to consider:.

TRANSPORATION: Trucks transporting wind mills and turbines are regulated and permitted by the State DOT. Segments of each turbine is considered and 'oversized load' in both length and width. They can only be transported during certain times of the day, and require a pilot car in the front as well as the back of the transported section. One of the major concerns you will have to consider is the logistical barriers of the actual transport to the generator site. The turning radius of these oversized loads is in excess of standard tractor-trailers. Narrow and/or winding road will prohibit navigation of these over-sized loads.

ROADS: It is my belief that current roads may be inadequate due to actual road bed construction which was designed to accommodate residential vehicular traffic (need fortified road beds, wider surface areas, and gradual road curves to accommodate the over sized loads).

The actual weight of each over sized truck load could be more than double the normal weight of a tractor trailer.

CONSTRUCTION: To construct 50 wind turbines you will have to accommodate several hundred oversized trucks, cranes, transformers and substations, etc.

The actual construction of each wind turbine requires a concrete foundation which would ultimately require hundreds of cement truck deliveries on a 24-hour basis, 7 days per week. Once construction commences you can not stop the pouring process.

EIS: It was mentioned that new or improved roads would not be required to the generating site.

It is my understanding that the initial draft EIS referenced road construction needs while the new EIS eliminated that segment all together - because it was deemed insignificant. To that I would like to suggest the following:

- That you provide the community with an honest assessment of the impact that transportation of machinery and equipment will have on the community such as traffic noise, traffic flow interruption and generation of dirt/dust.
- Staging of trucks and other equipment if there is an interruption in access to the construction site. Is there an alternate route in the project plan or is it just a single access road to the site?

Dave Querry
3321 Skye Road
Washougal, WA 98671

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #199

16 June 2010

Dear EF SEC Underwood, Wa,

My name is Helen Paulus and I live permanently full time in Underwood. I have lived here 28 years. I am writing this letter to you to tell you of my support of the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy project. I have no business or personal connections to anyone connected to this project. I have no financial loss or gain from this project. But I do use Electricity and I support any alternative Energy productions. Even our President last night said we must become less dependent on current technology. I believe this project is a benifit to the county. Incidentally I live 1½ miles distant from the proposed project.

Thank you

Dr Helen Paulus
[redacted] Cook - Underwood Rd
Underwood, Wa
98651