

Speaker #6  
Patty Kinney

My name is Patty Kinney. I live at 2362 Smithson Road, which is a quarter mile west of Howard Road. I have taken photographs over the years of the landscape as viewed from my property, and I have brought a few to share. These are not my just my views; people east, west, and south of me have very similar views of this landscape. I want to share these photos because I want you to understand the sense of place that we feel here, the rural character, as they say.

Each of these photos is typical of any given year, and I think they accurately portray the beauty we see in this landscape. Picture 1 is from early spring. Table Mountain and Lion Rock have just received a dusting of snow. In a couple of years, this view will be full of wind turbines obscuring these two popular landmarks from view. Picture 2 is from late spring when everything is greening up. But the pastels of spring will soon be painted with wide strokes of white turbines. Picture 3 is a typical summer evening. With the sun low in the sky, the curvature of the canyons in the hills is accentuated. The turbines will be much higher than the top of the hills, and that's what will command our attention, not the rolling, curvature of the hills. Picture 4 is late summer, early fall. Its rustic flavor is what we love about this place. The BPA towers are in all these pictures I have shown so far. They are hardly noticable, if at all. They blend in to their surroundings because they are not white, and also because they are not "taller" than the top of the hills.

Picture 5 is what it looks like when the hills are on fire. This is the Naneum Fire in 2014. In the middle ground, just to the right of the fire, you see two power poles. Picture 6 is a zoomed in photo of a plane dropping retardant in the background between those two poles. There is also another plane in the top corner, and not shown is a yellow plane that was also making drops. It is the day after the 2012 Taylor Bridge Fire. I don't think any of the planes would have been able to do that if turbines were in the area. Picture 7 was taken in April of 2009, and it replicates one of the viewpoints from the Final SEIS. It's two miles from the project, on Hayward Hill. I used a 50mm focal length. The BPA towers in the background are 170 feet tall. What would 492 foot tall turbines look like? Between that brown house with the green roof and Smithson Road to the north, there are about 26 other homes which would be looking at a white mass of turbines instead of noticing how blue the hills are. Picture 8 is typical of late winter, early spring.

From Smithson Road I have zoomed in to 130mm. The raptors are near the berm of the North Branch Canal. I see more and more bald eagles every year, it seems. They often perch in a tree on my property. If they are lucky, they will go away when the turbines come. Picture 9 was taken in January of this year from my back deck. You never know when the cattle drive will come down Smithson Road. Even though it's a slow-moving process, it's exciting to watch. It is the essence of this place.

I don't know how our message was lost on EFSEC in 2009. Page 18 of Order 843 states, "Affected nonparticipating homeowners did not express specific concerns about the effect of nearby turbines on view or aesthetics." That interpretation of what happened is completely inaccurate. I re-read the comments from the public hearing, which I attended, as well as the land use hearing, and many people spoke of the aesthetics of turbines near their homes. Perhaps words such as "monstrosity" or "industrial" were not interpreted as applying to visual impacts; perhaps, since the words "view" or "view shed" were not used so much or at all, our concerns were not considered specific enough for the EFSEC author of Order 843, but I read many articulate, informed comments that were very specific.

The next paragraph on page 18 of the Order 843 states, "Few commenters at the public hearings mentioned visual aspects of nearby turbines and the comments were not expert." Again, there were plenty of commenters who spoke of visual concerns; that's how I interpreted what I saw and read. The idea that the comments were not *expert* is anathema to this whole process of public hearings. Why even involve the public if our comments have no weight because they are not considered *expert*?

It seems that interpretation plays as important a role in this process as the rule of law. The conclusion on page 24 of Order No. 843, states, "One of the Council's principal duties is to ensure that the location of energy facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment." Another part of that law is that EFSEC: "Assure for all people of Washington safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings." In 2009 the council, in my mind, gave very little weight to this part of the law. Our voices, imploring that we love and want to protect not just our views, but also our rural character, were completely lost on the people who were on the council at the time.

Placing turbines right in front of the Wenatchee Mountains, and right in the middle of a large number of homes, should be a last resort, not a first resort. Our representative, Mr. Ian Elliot's response to Order 843 stated in part, "... we have not adequately dealt with the visual effect of multiple turbines on relatively flat terrain as it pertains to local residences." I hope the council will deal with the visual impacts on nearby residences adequately this time around. And what I mean by "nearby" is not just those within 2500 feet, I mean within two to three miles of the project. These turbines are so huge, there will be visual impacts on anyone within a two to three mile radius of the project. The National Academy of Sciences concurs with this: "The most significant (visual) impacts are likely to occur within 3 miles of the project, with impacts possible from sensitive viewing areas up to 8 miles of the project." Impacts of Wind-energy Development on Humans, page 101. (DSEIS public comments, 2009.)

My name is Patty Kinney. I live at 2362 Smithson Road, a quarter mile west of Howard Road. I want to address the visual simulations and visual impacts, then other issues which I feel change the project enough to warrant a new SEIS.

Concerning 2018 **visual simulations**: all the simulations use an uncommonly wide angle of view of 124 degrees. While it is true that with peripheral vision the human eye has a 180 degree view, a wide angle of view is not what we really need to comprehend the size of turbines near our homes. When I saw the simulations from viewpoint 6 in the amendment, I didn't trust that it was accurate because I know the area, and it didn't look right to me. So I went to viewpoint 6, which is about a mile east of my house on Smithson Road. As soon as I got there, I discovered I was right. The white house is much closer in person. So I photographed the area, taking in the same view as the simulation. I took four photos with my Nikon D7200, which has an APS-C sensor, which is slightly smaller than a full frame sensor. Therefore, I used 44mm as my lens focal length rather than 50mm, which is what I would have used with a full frame sensor. Next, I sized the photos so that they had the same vertical measurement as the photo simulation I retrieved from the new project description, which is 6.25 inches. I lined my photos up and made one photo that I printed in two parts due to paper size limitations. This is a true rendering of what the scene looks like. The house is closer, the hills are larger, and therefore, the proposed turbines will also be closer and larger than they look in the simulation. I submit that the simulations do not adequately portray the impact these nearly 500 foot tall turbines will have on the people who live within two to three miles of the project. If a wind turbine is within a half mile, it will likely dominate a person's field of view, and peripheral vision will be just that: peripheral. I assume visual simulations start with photographs. According to the National Academy of Sciences, "Photographs should be taken with a 50-mm lens or digital equivalent that creates a **38.6 degree angle of view**, which most closely matches human visual perception." (Draft SEIS comments, Appendix D, p. 247.) There are a lot of people who live within a half-mile of one or more turbines. Could we see how big they would actually look? New simulations should be done.

The **number** of viewpoints is also inadequate. There should be more views from areas where there are the most people nearby who will see turbines. I believe a viewpoint should be added at Howard Road, perhaps a quarter mile west, like the view used in the 2009 Final SEIS. It should be looking north, not northeast, as that's where most of the turbines will be located. This will actually be the view of many people not shown on the maps of the project. The maps cut off at Smithson Road. This leaves out a significant number of people who will get a great view of turbines within a mile or two of their homes. Homes to the east and northeast are a mile away or farther, and they are shown on the maps, but homes to the south are not shown. There are 27 residences along Howard Road that are not shown, that's about a third of the residences who live in the area surrounding the wind farm.

There are numerous other issues that should trigger a new SEIS:

- There is a **new section of land** in the new SCA that was not in the previous SCA.
- Turbine size has changed. I submit my letter to the editor of the Ellensburg Daily Record.
- The attorney general (Draft SEIS comments) called for a **scale diagram** with points of reference to "allow the reader to easily comprehend" the turbines' sizes. This has never been done. Instead, a photograph (Figure 5) in the 2018 Project Description shows "a typical turbine in use." This is totally inadequate. The Final SEIS (2009) shows an approximate scale drawing comparing the turbines proposed in 2006 and 2009, along with a BPA tower. I feel the applicant should prepare the same for the types of turbines proposed in the current amendment.
- **Configuration of turbines:** local residences will view the turbines from closest to farthest, rather than a string of turbines along a ridge top. This will lead to visual disorder on relatively flat, but sloped terrain. Spacing is not consistent, creating visual clutter from front to back and side to side. It is inconsistent because of the number of wetlands in the area and the attempts to avoid crossing them. For example, there is one road that is about 1.75 miles long that services only two turbines in one configuration, or three in another. There could have been much shorter routes to these turbines but that would involve crossing wetlands. In any case, the visual overlapping of turbines will block out any view

of the Wenatchee Mountains, which includes Table Mountain and Lion Rock, a popular land formation.

- **Types and sizes of turbines:** in the Final SEIS (2009), Section 3.4.5 Mitigation Measures, four major mitigation measures are listed, and two of them are: “Evenly Spaced Turbine Array” and “Uniform Height and Type of Turbines and Towers.” That makes the current amendment significantly different from the previous one because those two mitigation measures have been <sup>eliminated</sup> deleted. The amended project does not have uniform spacing, and it uses two different types and sizes in its configurations.

- **Roads:** I believe that the road width (16 feet) is not realistic and that wider roads will be needed for maintenance vehicles and cranes. Therefore, both temporary and permanent impact to wetlands is underestimated. See the attorney general’s comments in the Draft SEIS comments, which also speaks to parking facilities installed next to each turbine for maintenance vehicles and cranes.

- **Wetlands:** The project description from 2009 states: “The Project has been designed to avoid temporary or permanent impacts to wetlands, including buffers, in the Project Area.” But that has changed in 2018 to “The revised Project configuration minimizes temporary and permanent impact to streams and wetlands and their buffers.” I believe this is a significant change. The applicant claims that temporary and permanent impacts will be less than two and a half acres combined, but again, I submit this is underestimated because the width of roads is understated.

- **Eagles and other raptors:** it is stated in the West report, page 15, that there will be few, if any eagles killed at Desert Claim based on statistics from KVVWP. But there are no eagles up there, and down here we have above average numbers of eagles. I understand a two year eagle survey is going on through this spring, but why did the applicant reduce the number of survey points from 6 to 5 in the second year?

- **Bats:** why hasn’t an updated bat survey been done? The proposed amendment is relying on a 2009 survey (West Report). The Final SEIS cites studies from 2005, (Johnson, on page 3-20) and *speculation* (their word) from the 2004 Final EIS. The 2009 survey should be used as a baseline to understand if the bat population has increased or decreased in the last 9 years. This would help in determining if the population is stable or has gone down for whatever reason. A lower population might indicate trouble, and

therefore any fatalities caused by wind turbines would have a greater impact on the population. All the experts believe we need to know more about bats and the impacts wind turbines could have on them. The applicant has had 9 years to find out more, but hasn't. Simply comparing it to KVWPP is not good enough. In the Draft SEIS comments, the attorney general stated that strike sensors should be installed in turbine rotors, as well as technology that repels bats from rotor swept areas. Were these mitigation measures ever adopted? If not, why not?

- **M&O building:** it is stated that it will be located one mile north of the intersection of Reecer Creek Road and Pheasant Lane, yet is shown on all the maps as directly north of Smithson Road at Howard Road. Also, the project description says that there will be two access point to the project, one off Reecer Creek Road, and one off Smithson Road. If the M&O building is off Reecer Creek Road, why is an entry needed at Smithson Road. This will increase traffic on Howard Road. In fact, the applicant's answer to the SEPA checklist #14 Transportation, item f, states: 20-30 trips per day for staff to/from the project site. This is the first time I have seen anything related to this number of trips per day. This is an adverse impact to the rural character of this area where vehicle traffic is extremely low.

- **Shadow flicker:** in the 2010 SCA, shutting down turbines for certain times of the day was listed as a mitigation option, and the mechanism was described in section 3.1.3 in the project description. It has been eliminated from the 2018 project description, and now it is listed as only a last resort in the 2018 SCA. It also increases the time frame from 5 business days to two weeks to notify EFSEC of any request from a resident to mitigate shadow flicker. I believe all this qualifies as a significant change to the agreement.

I believe that there are numerous changes to the SCA; therefore, a new SEIS should be done. I also would like EFSEC to re-examine the visual impacts to nearby residences, those within two to three miles of the project, something the previous council seemed to discount.

The last thing I have is this: Desert Claim has not demonstrated the **need** to site its wind farm in this location. EFSEC stated in its report to the governor recommending rejection of the Tesoro Savage Petroleum Terminal, page 59: "Tesoro Savage has the burden of demonstrating the need for the VEDT at the proposed location. As discussed in

Section VIII, even if one accepts the premise that there is a 'pressing need for energy facilities,' the Council must determine the appropriateness of the proposed location and operation of the proposed facility in light of the need for energy from that facility." Not once in Order 843 did EFSEC require Desert Claim to address the need for a wind farm in this particular location over all others.

In the Final SEIS, section 1.4.4 Desert Claim lists reasons for not pursuing land in the overlay zone, but these reasons really don't hold up. First, they site that much of the land is in federal ownership or already leased to the Wild Horse and Vantage projects, but the overlay zone consists of 500 square miles. There is plenty of land to go around. Second, they say the land is in non-contiguous parcels: Desert Claim's first proposal was not contiguous, so that is a false argument. Third, they say that the wind resources are unsatisfactory, but Wild Horse and Vantage seem to be doing fine. Plus, today there are so many types of turbines, specifically designed for low wind, medium wind, and high wind, that are highly efficient, money can be made from wind just about anywhere. That's pretty much what the Vestas brochure says. Last, Desert Claim says it has no leases or property rights in the area. Since when does a company have to have pre-existing leases or property rights in an area to site a wind farm? I will add that the overlay zone does not have wetlands, there are no cattle operations that attract eagles and other raptors, there is no forest nearby that shelters bats, and there is not the number of residences that there are here that this proposed wind farm is surrounded by.

Does anyone remember the uproar over the Vantage wind farm in 2010? No, because they worked with the county in the overlay zone and the process worked. The *Ellensburg Daily Record* quoted Invenergy's director of development at the time, "The county staff and commissioners did a good job at presenting fair and reasonable conditions in the development agreement." The project manager at the time construction began was also quoted, "We're moving right along, right on schedule." Commissioner Alan Crankovich said the county put a thorough wind farm review process in place, "and it worked."

It is time to say this is not an appropriate place for a wind farm. Desert Claim has had over a decade to get it right in siting this wind farm in this area, and now that the



SCA is about to expire in 2020 they want EFSEC to hurry up and approve their latest amendment. It's time to say, "Not in this place."

The following letter appeared in the Ellensburg Daily Record on Wednesday, March 28, 2018:

Even though the latest proposal from Desert Claim is smaller, the fact that the turbines are larger cannot be underestimated. The proposed turbine capacity was not authorized in the original Site Certificate Agreement, so it will be up to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) whether to approve the larger turbines. It is up to us to make sure EFSEC understands our concerns about the impacts of this industrial energy project. There are a number of things that significantly change the project, here's just one:

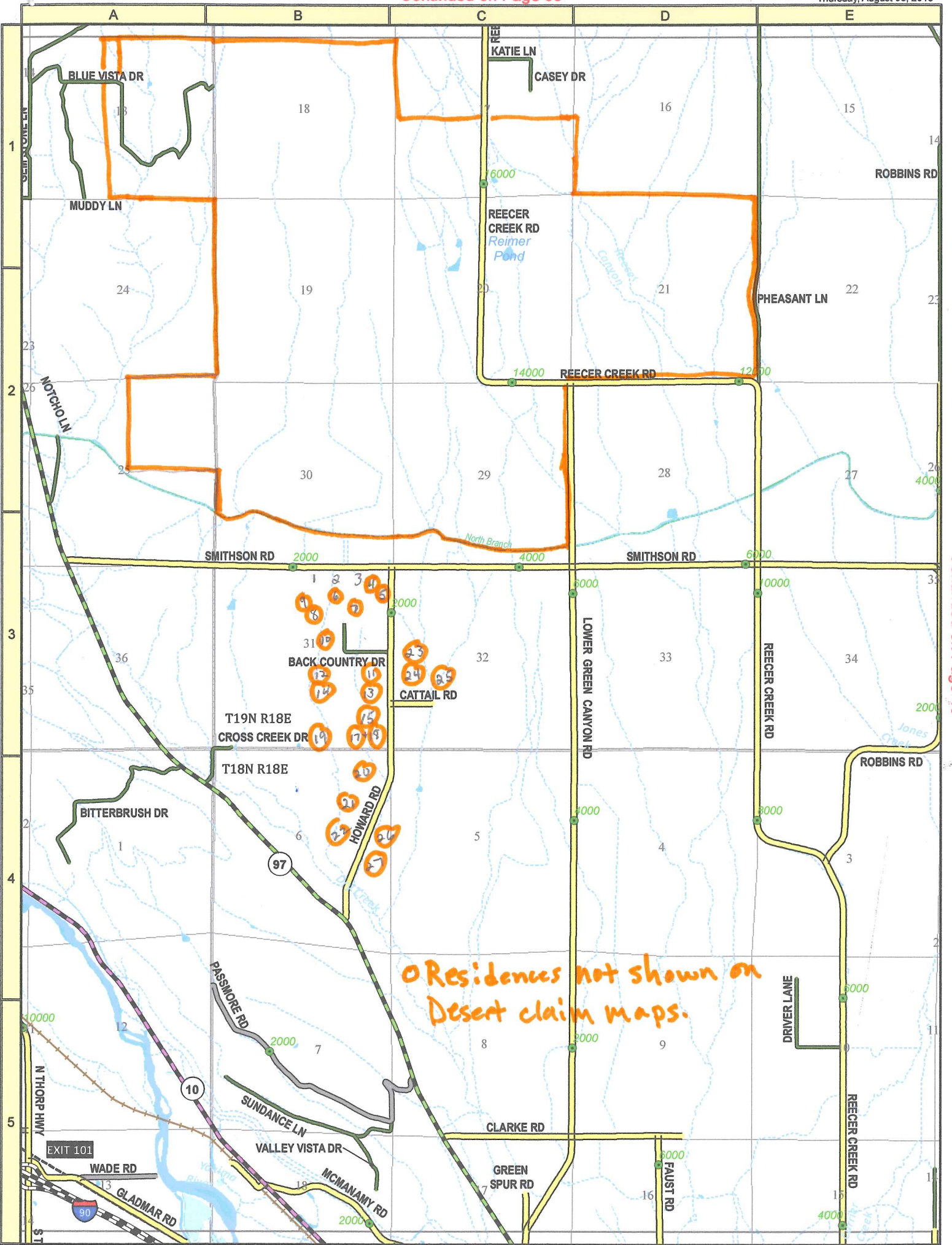
The number of turbines does not determine how many birds, including raptors, will be killed, rather it is the capacity, the megawatts generated, that determines bird mortality rates. The original project used turbines that had a 253 foot rotor diameter, and bird deaths were estimated at 140-220 passerines (songbirds) and 3-4 raptors a year. Then they proposed fewer turbines, but with rotor diameters of 304 feet. Combining new methods of counting birds and increased turbine capacity, the mortality estimates increased to 100-500 passerines and up to 27 raptors per year. See the Golder Report on the EFSEC web site, pages 29-30. The rotor diameters for the smallest turbines in the latest proposal are larger than the original turbines at 354 or 361 feet. The largest, also the majority, will be either 394 or 446 feet. What will that do to bird and bat mortality rates?

The Golder Report also states that if EFSEC interprets the increase in turbine size to be a new, significant adverse impact, a SEIS is required, see page 36. There are many other issues, but the key word is INTERPRET. This is not the same EFSEC that ignored the county commissioners and citizens in approving this wind farm. I have read their denial of the Tesoro project and compared that with the approval of Desert Claim in; it's night and day. I believe this EFSEC is more responsive to the impacts of large scale energy projects on people and the environment we deserve to live in. See WAC 463-47-110. We must make our voices heard. Go to the April 11 hearing and let them know we love our rural setting. I'm going to show them my view of the Wenatchee Mountains is more than what someone interpreted as "somewhat memorable," it is freaking beautiful! Put the wind farm (and solar panels!) in the overlay zone, it's that simple.

Patty Kinney

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- 2 Kinney / Breznikar
- 3 Herrera
- 4 Name unknown
- 5 Name unknown
- 6 Brock
- 7 Merritts old place
- 8 Brookes
- 9 Time
- 10 Neuroth's
- 11 Millers
- 12 Cook
- 13 Samuelson
- 14 Baryo
- 15 Kyllö
- 16 unknown
- 17 Krueger's old place
- 18 Bjorkman
- 19 Kyllö
- 20 Chance
- 21 Pashusta
- 22 Libenow
- 23 Name unknown
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- 25 Name unknown
- 26 Blanchard
- 27 Emery