

# Comment 20220412-3KrKRHS

Comment #0011  
Badger Mountain Project  
Docket #210747

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**Attachments**

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To Whom it may Concern;

I am asking you, please, don't allow a solar farm to be built on Badger Mountain. It will cause potential hazards as well as tarnish the local community. Its beauty itself is a natural resource that deserves to be protected.

Firstly, it will be a visual hazard. Planes flying overhead may be blinded. There is a place near Pendleton, Oregon, which has a solar farm, and there have been complaints from pilots and motorists that panels can blind people at certain times of day. There are multiple people who live on Badger Mountain. What if someone gets in an accident? Will the solar farm owners pay for their accident damages? (And if you think humans hate it, think about how much birds will.)

Another possible hazard is wildfire danger. The solar farm poses a serious threat to people living on Badger Mountain. Imagine a day in July. One of the mirrors accidentally starts a small fire on a weed near the edge of the fence. That fire quickly spreads to nearby wheatfields, sagebrush, and then all over Badger Mountain. It doesn't help that it's a windy day. The fire races on, devouring everything in its path, racing towards the east, where the gully is and where people live. Will they have time to escape? Also imagine that most of the nearby fire crews are finishing up battling a brush fire somewhere else in the Wenatchee Valley. Do you think they will be able to help?

Vital to our community, Badger Mountain is a recreational place important to the people in the community who know about it. In the spring, farmers plant their crops. In the summer, flowers grow, balsamroot included. In the fall, hunters shoot deer and the wheat is fully grown. The farmers harvest the wheat, the crop they have toiled so hard for. After the harvest, they plant the winter wheat. It will sleep under the snow until spring, when it will emerge, green and fresh. While the seeds wait, it snows, covering the ground like a blanket of white, making it appear like a salt flat. Sledders come and sled down a path which will be included in the solar farm. In the spring, the seed springs up and it starts over again.

Did you know that the Wenatchee area was used for shooting scenes for a movie about the Korean War? I saw planes flying over Badger Mountain. Wouldn't tourism be a good thing? That itself might bring tourists into the Valley and increase jobs. Speaking of jobs, what will people do when the building of the solar farm is done? Will they leave? Will they be jobless? Are we going to have people come in from out of town, build the solar farm, and leave? We are already building apartments! How much more space will we have to use? Not only might Badger Mountain be defaced, but what if East Wenatchee and Wenatchee lose more natural space to apartments that will, in a few years, be empty? Also, we don't need any more energy. We produce so much energy we sell it to other towns. And the energy we sell is renewable. It comes from Rocky Reach Dam, or multiple dams. It's hydropower. It's water. Water is a natural resource that can't be wasted. It's the most renewable energy there is. You have water 365 days a year. Sunshine you don't have all the time. Even if its not raining, it still might be cloudy, foggy, or dark. Water works even when the sun isn't out. It's still running. At night.

Finally, people love coming here because in twenty minutes, they can be in a diverse range of natural environments, such as forests at Squilchuck State Park, down by a river at Lincoln Rock or Confluence State Parks, or in a wheatfield, like on Badger Mountain. But people from Wenatchee will be able to see the solar farm. Planes flying overhead will see it. Do you think tourists will want to walk up there right next to a solar plant? Significantly, people who live on Badger Mountain will see it. My family and I enjoy hiking up on a wheatfield road that would be part of the solar farm project. We have seen beautiful wildflowers along the side of the road. In the spring, you can see the new, green wheat growing. We can hear birds singing, calling back and forth. It's beautiful. America at its best. Do we really want to replace this with rows and rows of cold steel and glaring mirrors? And hard, brick buildings? And a chain-link fence? This solar farm should not be built; it will be an eyesore.

Think about it. Badger Mountain is as beautiful and as worthy to be preserved as any natural park. Sage grouse live there. Deer roam the fields. Coyotes hunt. Birds fly and sing their songs for anyone to hear. Would the sight and noise, however slight, of the solar plant frighten them away? Once we use up land, how long will it take before farmlands and sage steppe appear like they were again? That is why there should not be a solar plant on Badger Mountain. Badger Mountain is America at its best and most beautiful. The beauty is the natural resource.

#### Works Cited

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