

Conservation in Eastern Oregon



Panelists:

- Cathy Macdonald, The Nature Conservancy
- Brent Fenty, Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA)
- Bob Sallinger, Audubon Society of Portland
- Bruce Taylor, Defenders of Wildlife

**Symposium on Renewable Energy
& Eastern Oregon Landscape Conservation
November 9, 2010
Riverhouse Conference Center, Bend Oregon**

Conservation Goal

Viable fish and wildlife populations and resilient ecosystems

How to get there:

- Connected system of lands managed primarily for biodiversity
- Surrounded by lands managed primarily for other goals located and designed to avoid and minimize impacts to biodiversity
- Adaptive science-based management

Oregon – How much is enough?

State	State Acreage	Wilderness Acreage	% Protected as Wilderness
California	99,823,000	14,986,424	15%
Washington	42,612,000	4,423,676	10%
Idaho	52,961,000	4,522,779	9%
Oregon	61,441,000	2,473,207	4%

Key Points

- Fish and wildlife conservation and reducing our carbon footprint both urgent
- Work collaboratively
 - Develop conservation and energy plans
 - Improve siting process
 - Advance policies to achieve joint goals



Renewable Energy in Oregon: A Vision for Responsible Development & Transmission

Few environmental issues are more pressing than that of global climate change, which is already dramatically altering the ecosystems on which we rely for food, water, wildlife and many other natural resources. This crisis makes clear the need to conserve and restore ecosystems, which serve as an important buffer against the negative effects of global warming and create resiliency for the planet and its inhabitants. Ultimately, though, solving the climate crisis will require major reductions in global carbon emissions, which in turn will require that we dramatically change the way we use and produce energy.

To achieve this goal, we will need innovation in energy conservation, efficiency and storage, the swift deployment of distributed forms of renewable energy such as rooftop solar panels, and the conversion of our transportation systems to less-polluting alternatives. Even with all these advancements in conservation and distributed generation, we will still require the siting of a large number of utility-scale renewable energy projects and associated transmission, both in Oregon and throughout the Northwest (some 4500 MW, according to experts).

This transition presents both challenges and opportunities. Poorly sited wind projects, for example, can harm birds, bats, scenic vistas and even ecosystem integrity. But a new energy economy can also bring high-paying jobs and revenue to struggling rural communities.

To date, roughly 1700 megawatts of renewable energy has been developed in Oregon without opposition from the conservation community. As development is increasing, though, environmental and social conflicts are also increasing. Conservation groups and renewable energy advocates must find a way to harmonize our mutual goal of slowing and ultimately reversing the damage to earth's ecosystems caused by our carbon-based energy system. Because we need large-scale renewable energy development to meet our broader goal, there is an immediate need to forge alliances with renewable energy advocates and establish common principles to reach shared objectives.

In order to be able to evaluate and support individual projects, we as conservationists require a better understanding of how large projects fit into an overall energy plan. We also need to be able to evaluate projects based on clear and empirical criteria from site plans and environmental studies. From there, we will have the ability to judge potential impacts and options for mitigation. We can then support those projects that have a net-benefit and reach the dual goals of mitigating and adapting to climate change.

This approach will require developers to be transparent and forthcoming about potential projects and will require conservationists to embrace a new paradigm where in some cases we will be actively supporting certain development projects. This challenges all of us to focus on our common ground and the very real positive benefits that renewable energy projects can provide if developed responsibly. Conservationists will need to make a concerted effort to understand the realities of project economics and the challenges of permitting projects. Likewise, developers will need to agree to best practices and accept the fact that certain areas should be avoided in the short-term while more information is developed on potential project impacts, and that other areas may need to be avoided permanently.

At a minimum, the undersigned conservation organizations are committed to: (1) working with the renewable energy development community as allies and partners, and receiving the same in return; (2) developing a combined state energy and land use plan; (3) working with the renewable development community to establish binding standards at a statewide level, modeled on the Columbia Plateau Guidelines; and (4) agreeing on additional policy ideas that can be jointly pursued with the renewable development community, both at the state and at the federal level (i.e., with the Oregon delegation).

We believe these assurances indicate our commitment to the cause of a clean energy economy and we look forward to working with the renewable energy development community on a shared agenda.

October 2010

Audubon Society of Portland, Central Oregon LandWatch, Defenders of Wildlife, Hells Canyon Preservation Council, Natural Resources Defense Council, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon Sierra Club, Oregon Wild, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, Western Environmental Law Center

Oregon Desert Wind Report (May, 2009)

Oregon's High Desert and Wind Energy Opportunities and Strategies for Responsible Development

Prepared by:
Oregon Natural Desert Association

Map 6

Federal and State Special Designations



Land Ma
National
Wildern
Steens C

Map 13

Greater Sage Grouse Breeding Sites



Greater Sage Gro
Sage Step
Sage Grou
Sage Grou

Map 1

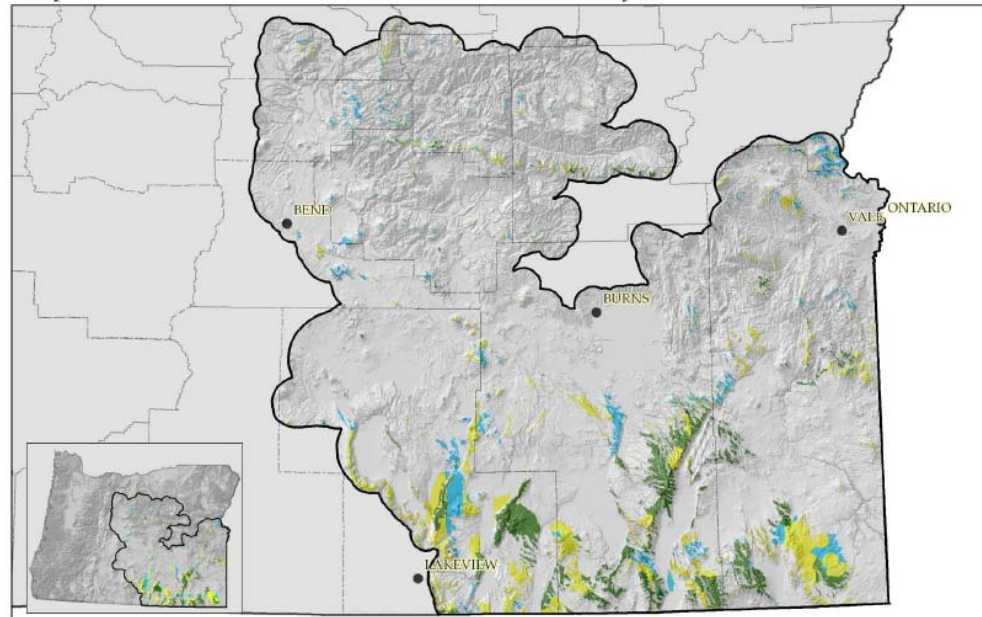
Environmental and Social Conflict Analysis



Exclusion
Lo
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Map 1

Wind Power Resource Analysis



Exclusion and Conflict Areas

- Low to Moderate Conflict Potential with Wind Resources (467,000 acres)
- High Conflict Potential with Wind Resources (927,000 acres)
- Exclusion Zones with Wind Resources (691,000 acres)



Data Sources:

ONDA performed a spatial analysis from multiple sources (see maps 5 - 17) to determine areas with fair to superb wind potential related to conflict zones.



Columbia Plateau Voluntary Guidelines

Participants:

Audubon Society of Portland
Eugene Water & Electric Board
Horizon Wind Energy
Iberdrola Renewables
Klickitat County
Lane County Audubon
Morrow County
Oregon Dept of Energy
Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Portland General Electric
Renewable Northwest Project
Sherman County
Stoel Rives, LLP
The Nature Conservancy
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Wash Dept of Fish & Wildlife

Oregon Columbia Plateau Ecoregion Wind Energy

Siting and Permitting Guidelines

September 29, 2008

In the fall of 2007, representatives from the wind energy industry, counties, environmental organizations, consultants and state and federal resource agencies (the Taskforce) convened to collaboratively develop wind energy siting and permitting guidelines for the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion¹ (Guidelines). For almost a year the Taskforce compiled and synthesized current industry practices, agency recommendations, environmental concerns, and supportive science. These Guidelines apply to the five counties where the majority of Oregon's wind energy development is ongoing.

The Taskforce believes these Guidelines represent a successful balance between environmental protection and future development of renewable wind energy resources in the Oregon Columbia Plateau Ecoregion. The intention of the Taskforce is that wind project developers, resource agencies, permitting authorities and other stakeholders consistently apply these Guidelines. The success of these Guidelines requires training and understanding by relevant agencies, counties, and other stakeholders.

The Taskforce recognized that while the expansion of wind power resources has the potential to significantly impact wildlife and habitat, it also provides significant environmental and economic benefits. Maximizing the Ecoregion's wind energy generation potential will be an important factor in achieving Oregon's renewable energy and climate change targets. These guidelines seek to support future wind energy development, thereby achieving multiple environmentally beneficial goals, while providing careful guidance towards protection and conservation of important biological resources.

As wind energy development expands to other areas within Oregon outside the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion, the Taskforce hopes to amend these Guidelines to provide regionally specific guidance. Until separate regional guidelines can be developed, the Taskforce recommends using these Guidelines as a roadmap during each step of a potential wind project's development, construction, and operation.

These Guidelines do not expand or alter any of the existing laws, regulations, or other authorities under which local, state and federal agencies and permitting authorities operate. However, to fulfill the intent of these Guidelines, modifications to wind project developer and permitting authority practices and procedures may be necessary. It is expected that wind project developers and relevant permitting authorities will use all their means to implement these Guidelines, in a unified, consistent fashion.

¹ As defined in the ODFW wildlife conservation strategy. See Appendix for a map of the Ecoregion.

Energy by Design Impact Mitigation

Biodiversity
impact

Negative
impact

Reduce impact

Avoid → Mitigate

The m

Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment

Development by design: blending
landscape-level planning with the
mitigation hierarchy

75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2009 Regular Session

Senate Bill 513

Sponsored by Senator DEVLIN; Senator ATKINSON, Representatives GARRETT, GILLIAM

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Establishes policy regarding ecosystem services. Makes legislative findings regarding ecosystem services. Encourages state agencies to take certain actions related to ecosystem services and ecosystem services markets.

Requires Sustainability Board to convene ecosystem working group. Sunsets working group on date of convening of next regular biennial legislative session.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Sustainability Board for purpose of ecosystem working group.

Thank you

