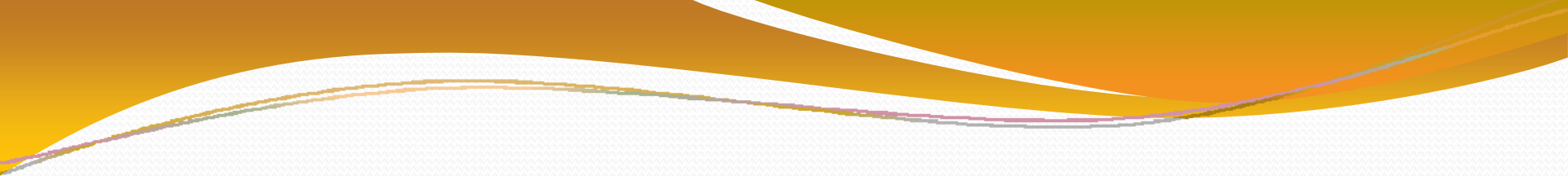


Wind Energy and the BLM

- 
- BLM manages 20.6 million acres of public lands with wind potential
 - Authorized 192 ROWs for wind energy production sites
 - Total installed capacity of 327 megawatts
 - No active wind farms on BLM lands in Oregon

Baker Resource Area

- 2 authorizations issued for testing & monitoring
 - 12,461.52 acres
 - 7 MET towers
- 5 testing & monitoring applications pending
 - 6,287.38 acres
 - 7 MET towers
- 2 applications for development pending
 - 3 megawatt project
 - Up to 500 megawatt project

Law and Policy

- Federal Land Policy & Management Act of 1976
 - To manage public lands in way that recognizes Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals & other resources
- Energy Policy Act of 2005
 - Encourages development of renewable energy sources on public lands
- Energy Independence & Security Act of 2007
 - To move the US towards greater energy independence, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels
- BLM Wind Energy Policy, 2008
 - Guidance on processing applications
- Secretary Order 3285 – March, 2009
 - Establishes the development of renewable energy as a priority for Department of Interior

General BLM Policies

- To the extent possible, projects shall be developed in a way that will not prevent other land uses
- BLM will not issue ROW for wind development in areas incompatible with specific resource values
 - Wilderness Areas
 - National Monuments
 - Wild and Scenic Rivers
 - Wilderness Study Areas
 - National Conservation Areas
 - National Historic and Scenic Trails
 - National Landscape Conservation Systems

Pre application

- Meet with BLM to discuss:
 - Studies needed
 - Potential issues
 - Examples: Visual resources, wildlife, cultural
 - Alternative locations
 - Financial obligations
 - Cost recovery fees, rental fees, bonding
- Coordinate with community leaders and other interested parties to avoid possible conflicts

Testing & monitoring applications

- Submit Application (SF 299)
- Plan of Development
 - Describes type & location of towers, access, maps etc.
- BLM Coordination when application is complete
 - Government-to-government consultation with Indian tribal governments
 - Consultation with U.S. Department of Defense
 - Consultation with USFWS as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
 - Consultation with the SHPO as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
 - Incorporate public involvement in all wind energy development projects

Testing & monitoring applications

continued

- Specific Instructions (IM-OR-2008-14)
 - No MET towers within 2 miles and direct site of sage grouse lek or seasonal concentration areas
- NEPA
 - Categorical Exclusion may be applicable
 - Does not address the wind development facilities

Testing & Monitoring Authorizations

- Site specific grant for testing and monitoring facilities, term limited to 3 years
 - New application required to continue monitoring after 3 year term
 - Rental Fee
 - Minimum \$100 per year for each MET tower
 - Bond Requirement
 - Minimum \$2000 per MET tower

Testing & Monitoring

Authorizations continued

- Project area grant for a larger site testing and monitoring area, term of 3 years
 - Precludes other wind energy applications during term
 - Renewed if separate ROW application & POD submitted for the wind development project
 - Rental Fee
 - \$1,000 per year **or** \$1 per acre per year, whichever is greater
 - Bond Requirement
 - Minimum \$2000 per MET tower

Development Applications

- Submit Application (SF 299)
- Plan of Development
 - Describes project from initial construction phase to termination and rehabilitation of public lands
- BLM Coordination when application is complete
 - Government-to-government consultation with Indian tribal governments
 - Consultation with U.S. Department of Defense
 - Consultation with USFWS as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
 - Consultation with the SHPO as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
 - Incorporate public involvement in all wind energy development projects

Development Applications continued

- Level of NEPA needed based on proposed action
 - Analysis broader than testing/monitoring applications
 - Addresses turbines, access roads, electrical transmission facilities, other support facilities
- Tier to BLM Wind Development Programmatic EIS
 - Completed June, 2005
 - Provides analysis of wind development in the West
 - Anticipated issues and concerns with wind projects
 - Established set of polices and BMPs for development
 - Site specific analysis still needed

Known Resource Concerns

- Wildlife
 - Federal (endangered, threatened, critical habitat)
 - Example: Wolf
 - Bureau sensitive
 - Example: Sage-grouse
 - Instruction Bulletin OR-2003-109 (Conservation of sage-grouse habitat)
 - Regulations set by USFWS for Endangered or Threatened species
 - Endangered Species Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - 2005 State Guidelines for the Conservation of Greater Sage-grouse
 - State Sensitive
 - Species of local importance
 - Example: Big-game species

Known Resource Concerns continued

- Botany
 - Sensitive Plants
- Cultural Resources
- Visual Resource Management
- Each application is evaluated for its potential affect on resource values

Development Authorizations

- Right-of-way grant with a term generally of 30 years
- Includes turbines, onsite access roads, electrical and other support facilities
- Offsite facilities may require separate authorization
 - Electrical transmission lines
 - Additional access roads
- Rental Fees
 - \$4,155 per megawatt of total anticipated installed capacity
 - Phased in over three years (25%, 50%, 100%)
 - Annual Rent = (Anticipated total installed capacity in kW) x (8760) x (30% capacity factor) x (5.27 % federal rate of return) x (\$0.03 average price per kilowatt hour)
- Bond Requirement
 - Minimum \$10,000/wind turbine

Baker Resource Management Plan

- Currently being revised
- Public input on land use allocation
- Draft EIS due early 2010
- Decision due 2012