



October 8, 2008

We are pleased to announce the completion and availability of Wind Energy Siting and Permitting Guidelines (Guidelines) for Oregon's Columbia Plateau Ecoregion, including areas within Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla counties.

Wind power provides significant environmental and economic benefits. However, the expansion of wind power development in Oregon does have the potential to impact certain wildlife and habitat resources. The Guidelines provide recommendations for siting, designing and permitting wind projects in a manner that supports both the conservation of important wildlife and habitat resources and the realization of the multiple environmental and economic benefits of wind energy. Consistent application of these Guidelines by wind project developers, permitting authorities, resource agencies, and interested stakeholders will be essential to successfully achieving this balance. While developed for specific application to Oregon's Columbia Plateau Ecoregion, the process and approach contained within the Guidelines can be adapted and applied to wind energy development projects in other regions of the state.

The Guidelines are the culmination of a unique collaboration between state and federal resource agencies, wind energy industry representatives, counties, environmental organizations, and consultants. This collaborative team worked for more than a year to compile and synthesize information regarding wind industry practices, agency recommendations, environmental concerns, and supportive science, and, ultimately, to develop the recommendations that form the foundation of the Guidelines. We applaud the willingness of these diverse groups to work together, and hope the collaboration will continue as future wind energy projects are developed in the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion and elsewhere in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paul Henson in blue ink.

Paul Henson, State Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Handwritten signature of Mike Grainey in blue ink.

Mike Grainey, Director
Oregon Department of Energy

Handwritten signature of Roy Elicker in blue ink.

Roy Elicker, Director
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife