

Resolution #5
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

NEPA REGULATIONS OF WIND FARMS

Submitted by: Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, and Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Background: Several large wind farms have been proposed on public lands in Eastern Nevada; most of the energy generated would be transmitted out of state. One is located in Spring Valley in White Pine County near Great Basin National Park. Only a minimal Environmental Analysis was conducted for this project, despite its probable effect on birds and bats and its contribution to light pollution in the park. This project is underway.

A second project is proposed at the Wilson Creek Site in Lincoln County. Public meetings have been held in Las Vegas and Pioche, and scoping for an Environmental Impact Statement has recently been completed. This project would cover 35,000 acres of land and result in hundreds of wind turbines when completed. It has been opposed by Lincoln County on the grounds that it will impact some of the most beautiful land in the county and result in a decrease in tourism, as well as impacting traditional local activities.

The area is the best sage grouse habitat in the Lincoln County and home for elk, deer, and other fauna. It is also an important raptor migration flyway. Enlargement and improvement of the area's primitive roads would have to be done to transport wind turbines to the site, resulting in fragmentation of large animal habitat.

Other large wind farms projects (Resolution #29/2009) have been proposed on public lands in Eastern Nevada.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges that complete and thorough Environmental Impact Statements be prepared on all proposed wind energy projects on public lands, and that these EIS's take into consideration cumulative effects of such projects on wildlife habitat, tourism, and rural economies.

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