

## Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District  
1103 North Fancher Road  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

### A. Background

*BLM Office: Wenatchee Field Office*

*Lease/Serial/Case File No.: WAOR 65414*

*NEPA Log Number: OR134-08-CX-039*

*Proposed Action Title: NW Wind Partners Wind Testing and Monitoring Area Right-of-Way*

*Location of Proposed Action:*

	Acres
T.11N., R.21E., Willamette Meridian, Yakima, County, Washington	
Section 2:    Unnumbered Lots 1-4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	638.26
Section 12:  All	640
T.11N., R.22E., Willamette Meridian, Yakima County, Washington	
Section 6:    Lots 1-7, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$	644.77
Section 8:    All	640
Section 12:   All	640
Section 14:   All	640
T.11N., R.23E., Willamette Meridian, Yakima County, Washington	
Section 4:    Lots 1-4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$	479.96
Section 6:    Lots 1-7, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	451.80
T.12N., R.23E., Willamette Meridian, Yakima County, Washington	
Section 28:   N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	480
Section 32:   W $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$	480
Section 34:   All	640
T.12N., R.24E., Willamette Meridian, Yakima County, Washington	
Section 6:    Lots 3-7, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	282.02

The above described lands comprise 6,656.81 acres, more or less.

*Description of Proposed Action:* To issue a short term (3 year) right-of-way for a wind testing and monitoring area for 6,656.81 acres of public land in the Rattlesnake Hills to NW Wind Partners. The right-of-way, if issued, would in effect, "reserve" the subject lands for a three year

period, preventing competing applications from other wind energy firms. During the three year period, the applicant would conduct testing on adjacent private lands and determine if a wind energy project is feasible. The applicant has not proposed placement of any wind energy testing towers (meteorological towers), or any other actions that would cause disturbance to the public lands. If NW Wind Partners later decides to pursue a wind development project for any of the subject lands, they would need to file a separate application with BLM.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

*Option 1 (conforms with LUP):* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): The proposed action is subject to the Spokane District Resource Management Plan (1985) and Record of Decision (1987), and the 1992 RMP amendment and Record of Decision (ROD). Issuance of rights-of-way grants is listed under the heading "Administrative Actions" on page 5 (unnumbered) of the 1992 ROD. On December 15, 2005, the BLM signed the Record of Decision for the "Final Programmatic EIS on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Adminstered Lands in the Western United States." This action effectively amended the Spokane RMP to allow consideration of wind energy projects on public lands in Spokane District.

OR

*(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP)* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):

**C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9E. (19)

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply, as shown in the following table:

<b>CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:			
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



# EXHIBIT A (WAOR 65414)

Northwest Wind Partners, LLC

## Wind Energy Testing and Monitoring Area

### Rattlesnake Hills Yakima & Benton Counties

- Legend:**
- Wind Testing and Monitoring Area
  - Right-of-Way
  - BLM
  - Yakima Training Center (U.S. Army)
  - DNR

