



APPENDIX H

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Comments specific to the

**PROPOSED COTTEREL WIND POWER PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT AND CASSIA RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

June 24, 2005 through September 22, 2005

1.1 INTRODUCTION

On December 19, 2002, the BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the full project proposal in the Federal Register (Appendix A). The NOI identified the proposed Cotterel Wind Power Project (Proposed Project) area and location as well as BLM's intention to hold agency and public scoping meetings. The initial scoping period ran for 60 days and concluded on February 21, 2003. Three public scoping meetings were held in the towns of Albion on January 7, 2003; Burley on January 8, 2003; and Boise, Idaho on January 9, 2003.

All written and verbal comments received on the proposed project prior to the publication of the Draft EIS were considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS. On July 1, 2005 a Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Federal Register and the Draft EIS was made available to the public. The publishing of the NOA in the Federal Register marked the beginning of the 90-day public comment period on the Draft EIS. During the comment period, interested parties were invited to submit comments on the Draft EIS to the BLM. Public meetings were held to describe the content of the Draft EIS and to receive comments. Meetings were held on July 26, 2005 at the Burley High School, Burley, Idaho, July 27, 2005 at the Marsh Creek Event Center in Albion, Idaho, and July 28, 2005 at Boise High School, Boise Idaho.

Following the public comment period, the Draft EIS was revised to generate a Final EIS. The Final EIS incorporates revisions to the Draft EIS made in response to comments submitted during the 90-day public comment period and other minor modification to provide additional information or clarification where deemed applicable by the BLM. During the public comment period 72 written comments were received by the BLM via comments forums at the public meetings, mail, email, and facsimile. The appendix provides the comments that were submitted during the 90-day public comment period and responses to those comments where applicable.

1.2 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

The comments provided address numerous issues, some related to the adequacy of the DEIS however most comments were opinions concerning the Proposed Project or its impacts which do not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIS. The following list is some of the issues for which comments were submitted.

- Impacts on springs and wells
- Impacts on migratory birds, raptors, and bats
- Impacts on sage-grouse
- Expansion of noxious weeds
- Impacts to big game including deer and bighorn sheep winter range
- Impacts on other wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Increased roadway traffic
- Increased human activity
- Impacts on visual resources and aesthetics

- Impacts to the surrounding communities
- Impacts from noise
- Impacts on property values
- Alternatives considered

Each of the comment letters or forms received or comment forms received during the 90-day public comment period was assigned an identification number. These documents were reviewed and divided into individual comments, with each comment containing a single theme or concern. Individual comments and the responses to them were assigned corresponding numbers. Each numbered comment document is the submittal of a single individual or organization. The number consists of two parts. The first part is the number of the document and second is the number of the comment. Thus comment 3A refers to the first comment of comment letter #3. To aid the reader and commentors, comments have been reproduced in the Appendix together with corresponding responses on the same pages.

- CEQ regulations provide five possible methods for responding to comments:
- Make corrections.
- Modify the proposed action or alternatives.
- Develop and evaluate new alternatives.
- Supplement, improve, or modify analyses.
- Explain why no further response is necessary.

Every comment received a response; however, not every line of every letter was considered part of a comment. Section of the comment documents that did not directly address the Draft EIS were not considered comments and did not receive individual responses. For example, many of the comment letters contained introductory material that was not a comment regarding the Draft EIS. This section required no specific response and was not marked as comments. Comments that do not pertain to analysis within the scope of the Draft EIS or the adequacy of the Draft EIS under NEPA are typically identified as such and do not require response under NEPA. In some cases, the text of the Draft EIS has been modified in the Final EIS to address the concerns of the commenter. Where this was necessary, it is noted in the response to the comment.

Copies of the comments received on the Draft EIS and responses to those comments are provided on the following pages.

DRAFT EIS COMMENTORS

Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
6/21/05	1	Byron Schmidt Chief, Airspace Management Mountain Home AFB, ID Com 208-828-4722 byron.schmidt@mountainhome.af.mil	A	email		1
6/23/05	2	Michael Christensen 182 N Meridian Rupert, ID 83350 Home - 208-436-6857 Bus - 208-436-6213	P	Letter		2
6/23/05	3	Robert Christensen 609 19th Street Rupert, ID 83350 Home - 208-436-1394 Bus - 208-436-6213	P	Letter		3
6/23/05	4	Louise Christensen 182 N. Meridian Rupert, ID 83350 Home - 208-436-6857 Bus - 208-436-6213	P	Letter		2
6/27/05	5	Bruce Newcomb , Speaker of the House of Representatives, State of Idaho Robert L. Geddes , President Pro Tem, Idaho State Senate Room 309 - Statehouse PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0038 208-332-1111 Fax 208-334-2491	A	Letter		2
7/1/05	6	Don and Donna Hanford Twin Falls, Idaho dondonna@cableone.net	P	email		2

DRAFT EIS COMMENTORS

Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
7/13/05	7	B. Sachau 15 Elm Street Florham Park, NJ 07932 Bk1492@aol.com	P	email		1
7/19/05	8	Tammy Lien PO Box 514 Albion, ID 83311 tlien@atcnet.net	P	email		1
7/21/05	9	Lee Kreutzer Cultural Resources Specialist USDI National Park Service National Trails System 324 South State Street, Suite 200 Box 30 Salt Lake City, UT 84111	A	Letter		2
7/24/05	10	Mike/Jen March 208-734-6334 mjmarch@cableone.net	P	email		1
7/26/05	11	Nick Rokich Box 126 Burley, ID 83318	P	Burley Public Meeting Comment Form		1
7/27/05	12	Bruce Bristol 7795 Highway 77 Albion, ID 83311	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	N	1
7/27/05	13	Jay L. Black 2652 Elba Almo Highway Box 103 Almo, ID 83312	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	N	1
7/27/05	14	Kurt Catmull Box 131, 120 N. St. Albion, ID 83311	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	N	1

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Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
7/27/05	15		P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	Y	1
7/27/05	16		P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	Y	1
7/27/05	17		P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	Y	1
7/27/05	18	William Loughmiller 1577 E. 1740 S. Malta, ID 83342 agpro@atcnet.net	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form		1
7/27/05	19	Colleen Loughmiller 1577 E. 1740 S. Malta, ID 83342	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	N	1
7/27/05	20	Dean Richins 260 W. Market Albion, ID 83311	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	N	1
7/27/05	21		P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	Y	1

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Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
7/27/05	22	Cheryl Murphy 336 Harper Ave. Albion, ID 83311	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	N	1
7/27/05	23	Stan Lloyd 2270 S - Elba Almo Highway Elba, ID 83342	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	N	1
7/27/05	24	Keith Amende Box 157 Albion, ID 83311	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	N	1
7/27/05	25		P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	Y	1
7/27/05	26	Jack Benner PO Box 54. 1100 E 950 S Albion, ID 83311 Buck@atcnet.net	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	N	2
7/27/05	27	Robert Murphy 336 Harper Avenue Albion, ID 83311 murphy@atcnet.net	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form	N	2
7/27/05	28	Curtis & Michelle Richins 284 West Market Albion, ID 83311	P	Albion Public Meeting Comment Form		2

DRAFT EIS COMMENTORS

Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
7/28/05	29		P	Boise Public Meeting Comment Form	Y	1
7/28/05	30	Jill and Thaddeus Weigel 2901 Tartan Place Boise, ID 83702 jcweigel@att.net	P	Boise Public Meeting Comment Form	N	1
7/29/05	31	Ken Sanders 1337 Holly Drive Twin Falls, ID 83301	P	Letter		1
7/29/05	32	Jon Fillmore Box 151 Albion, ID 83311	P	Letter		2
8/2/05	33	James F. Devine Senior Advisor for Science Applications USDI, US Geological Survey Mail Stop 423 2800, IDI-33676 (ID220) Reston, VA 20192	A	Letter		2
8/2/05	34	Kenneth Clausen 4326 Nystrom Way Boise, ID 83713	P	Letter		1
8/16/05	35	Arlene Smyer 1300 E. 1030 S. Albion, ID 83311 kasmeyer@atcnet.net	P	Mailed in on a Public Meeting Comment Form	N	2
8/16/05	36	Debbie Matsen 20 N. 950 E. Declo, ID 83323	P	Mailed in on a Public Meeting Comment Form	N	1

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Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
8/16/05	37		P	Mailed in on a Public Meeting Comment Form	Y	1
8/21/05	38	Katie Fite Western Watersheds Project (WWP) PO Box 2863 Boise, ID 83701 kfite@juno.com	SI	email		1
8/23/05	39	Kevin A. Larson 1852 W. 16th Burley, ID 83318 208-678-8432	P	Letter		1
8/25/05	40	Katie Fite Biodiversity Director Western Watersheds Project (WWP) PO Box 2863 Boise, ID 83701 kfite@juno.com	SI	Letter		40
8/26/05	41	Jim Powers General Manager Raft River Rural Electric Coop., Inc. Raft River Division 250 N. Main, PO Box 617 Malta, ID 83342 208-645-2211 Fax 208-645-2300	SI	Letter		1
8/28/05	42	Johnny C. Marilyn McGill PO Box 43 Rupert, ID 83350	P	Letter		2
8/31/05	43	Donald L. Rose Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist - KEC-4 Department of Energy Bonneville Power Administration PO Box 3621 Portland, OR 97208-3621 503-230-3796	A	Letter		2

DRAFT EIS COMMENTORS

Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
9/13/05	44	Ryan Newman	P	Letter		7
9/13/05	45	Rick Redman, General Manager ATC C ommunications 225 West North Street PO Box 98 Albion, ID 83311 208-673-5335 208-673-6200 atc@albiontel.com rich@atcnet.net	SI	Mailed in on a Public Meeting Comment Form with letter attached	N	5
9/15/05	46	James A. Mosher, Executive Director North American Grouse Partnership PO Box 408 Williamsport, MD 21795 Office/Fax 301-223-1533 www.grousepartners.org	SI	Letter		6
9/15/05	47	North American Grouse Partnership PO Box 408 Williamsport, MD 21795 Office/Fax 301-223-1533 www.grousepartners.org	SI	Letter		4
9/16/05	48	Kelly B. Adams, Chairperson Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council (RAC)	A	Letter		2
9/16/05	49	Kelly Adams PO Box A Burley, ID 83318	P	Letter		2
9/19/05	50	David J. Ryzak 617 E. 18th Way Burley, ID 83318	P	Letter		1
9/19/05	51	John Robison Conservation Associate Idaho Conservation League PO Box 844 Boise, ID 83701 208-345-6933 Fax - 208-344-0344	SI	Letter		10

DRAFT EIS COMMENTORS

Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
9/19/05	52	J. Kent Marlor, PhD, President Idaho Wildlife Federation PO Box 6426 Boise, ID 83707 208-342-7055 Fax 208-342-2366 www.idahowildlife.org IWF@idahowildlife.org	SI	Letter		5
9/20/05	53	Jeff Cook Outdoor Recreation Analyst Comprehensive Planning, Research and Review Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation PO Box 83720 5657 Warm Springs Avenue Boise, ID 83720-0065 208-344-4199 Fax 208-334-3741 www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov	A	Letter		2
9/20/05	54	George and Gwen Montgomery 937 S. 900 E. Albion, ID 83311 208-673-6644	P	Letter		3
9/20/05	55	Tom Geary 964 S 950 E Albion, ID 83311	P	Mailed in on a Public Meeting Comment Form		2
9/21/05	56	Ken Crane Range Program Manager State of Idaho Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Industries 2270 Old Penitentiary Road PO Box 7249 Boise, ID 83707 208-332-8540	A	Letter		4

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Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
9/21/05	57	Mark and Debora Grigg PO Box 7 Albion, ID 83311	P	Faxed Letter		1
9/21/05	58	Jeff Chatburn 850 S. 1275 E. Albion, ID 83311	P	Mailed in on a Public Meeting Comment Form		2
9/21/05	59	Jamie Lynn Chatburn 850 S. 1275 E. Albion, ID 83311	P	Mailed in on a Public Meeting Comment Form		2
9/21/05	60	Tammy Chatburn 850 S. 1275 E. Albion, ID 83311	P	Mailed in on a Public Meeting Comment Form		2
9/21/05	61	Odeen and Darla Redman 1077 So. Hwy 77 Albion, ID 83311 208-673-5353 odeen@atcnet.net	P	Mailed in on a Public Meeting Comment Form with letter attached.		3
9/22/05	62	David Parrish Magic Valley Regional Supervisor Idaho Fish and Game Magic Valley Region 319 South 417 East Jerome, ID 83338 208-324-4359 Fax 208-324-1160 http://www.state.id.us/fishgame	A	Hand Delivered Letter		12

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Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
9/22/05	63	Christine B. Reichgott, Manager NEPA Review Unit USEPA, Region 10 Attn: ETPA-088 1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101 Mr. Theogene Mbabaliye 206-553-6322 mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov	A	Letter		4
9/22/05	64	Ina DiGrazia Albion, ID	P	Faxed Letter		2
9/22/05	65	Margo Saunders, MD Earl L. Warthen - "PLC" PO Box 145 Albion, ID 83311	P	Mailed in on a Public Meeting Comment Form with a letter to the editor attached.		3
9/23/05	66	Roald Doskeland President Windland, Inc. 10480 Garverdale Court, Ste 804A Boise, ID 83704 208-377-7777 Fax 208-375-2894	Applicant	Letter		28
9/26/05	67	Jeff Foss, Field Supervisor USDI, Fish & Wildlife Service Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368 Boise, ID 83709 208-378-5243 http://idahoES.fws.gov	A	Letter		17
9/22/05	68	Linda and Gary Leach 1096 E 1000 S Albion ID 83311 208-673-6254	P	Letter	N	1

DRAFT EIS COMMENTORS

Date Received	Letter #	Commentor	Commentor Type*	Method of Comment	Withhold Name?	# of Pages
No Date	69	Jim Wahlgren 1225 E 1040 S Albion ID 83311 wahlgren@atcnet.net	P	Letter	N	2
No Date	70	Lois Darlene Wahlgren 1225 E 1040 S Albion, ID 83311	P	Letter	N	1
9/21/05	71	Jeff & Carey Leach Albion, ID 83311 208.673.6233	P	Letter	N	3
No Date	72	Kent L. Christopher	P	Letter	N	3

COMMENTS**Letter #1**

"Schmidt Byron L Civ 366
OSS/OSRS"
<Byron.Schmidt@mountainhome.af.mil>
06/21/2005 08:06 AM

To <id_cotterelwind@blm.gov>
cc "Kautzmann Duey J Lt Col 366 OSS/OSO"
<duey.kautzmann@mountainhome.af.mil>
bcc
Subject DEIS

Mr. Barker,

A [My name is Byron Schmidt, and I am the Chief, Airspace Management at Mountain Home AFB. I was made aware of the Federal Register notification of the Draft EIS (DEIS) for Cassia County and I made a sincere attempt to look at the DEIS at <http://www.id.blm.gov/planning/cotterel>. Unfortunately, the site was not available, so I thought I would let you know, if you don't already. Having said that, my office would like to form a cooperative working relationship with the BLM on any proposals to erect wind generating equipment on BLM land. There may, or may not be factors related to our airspace use that I would, at the very least, like to front to the contractors before any construction is contemplated in whatever location. I anticipate a good discussion of the issues with the proponents involved. I have already closed the loop with Mr. Tom Noll at Idaho Power on this as well, and a consortium of players involved in discussion of the issues would be beneficial to all in this early stage of wind power development in Idaho. I thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to additional contact with your office. Take care.

Byron Schmidt
Chief, Airspace Management
Mountain Home AFB, ID
Com. 208-828-4722
byron.schmidt@mountainhome.af.mil

RESPONSES

- A. BLM is and will continue working with Mountain Home AFB on the Cotterel Wind Power Project and other proposed wind power projects on BLM managed lands.

COMMENTS

Letter #2



THIS FAX IS FROM
Christensen Machine Inc.
301 Centennial Dr.
Heyburn, Id. 83336
Phone (208)436-6213, (208)436-6515
Tel/Fax(208)436-6857

Date: 6/23/2005

Time: 2:02 PM

Please deliver this fax to:

Name: Wendy Reynolds or Scott Barker

Company: Burley Field Office

Fax Number: (208) 677-6699

Message From: Louise

Number of pages 2 including cover sheet.

Message: Letter of support for Windland, Inc. wind project

Thank You,
Michael Christensen

RESPONSES

COMMENTS

Letter #2 (continued)

June 23, 2005

Scott Barker, or Wendy Reynolds,

A [As a Mini-Cassia area citizen, and a business owner I would like to go on record as being in favor of the development of the wind project on Cotterell mountain. I am also in favor of the EIS alternative that would allow Windland to build as they have proposed.

I believe that the development of wind power in our area will be of great economic stimulus for the local economies.

Thank you for your consideration,



Michael Christensen
182 N Meridian
Rupert, ID 83350

208-436-6857 home

208-436-6213 bus.

RESPONSES

A. Thank you for your comment. We appreciate your involvement in the NEPA process and the time which you contributed. Your comment was considered in preparation of the final environmental impact statement. Because your comments do not address the adequacy of the Draft EIS further response is not provided.