

# NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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## BLM Seeks Comments on central Oregon West Butte Wind Power Right-of-Way

Prineville, Ore. -- The BLM Prineville District is making available for review and comment, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the West Butte Wind Power Right-of-Way Project. Once the 45-day review and comment period is completed, a Final EIS will be completed to determine if the right-of-way application for the project is authorized, denied, or granted with conditions.

In the summer of 2009, West Butte Wind Power LLC submitted an application to improve, construct and operate an access roadway and transmission line across BLM managed public lands. The right-of-way requested is 3.9 miles long and would provide a permanent access road; a pole-mounted 115-kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission line; a 14.4-kV electrical utility line; and a fiber optic communication line. The right-of-way request is associated with a proposed wind farm development on private lands adjacent to the BLM near Prineville, Oregon.

The proposed project consists of up to 52 wind turbines providing a maximum of 104 megawatts of generating capacity. The wind farm would also require infrastructure to support the generation and transmission of power. Because access through BLM lands must be secured to construct and operate the project and since BLM provides the only reasonable access to the project area, the BLM is required to analyze the effects of the project in its entirety.

Public scoping to evaluate the right-of-way and proposed actions were initiated in the fall of 2009. Based on comments received, the BLM determined that an EIS is the appropriate level of analysis needed for the project.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on January 19, 2010. Comments received were considered in the development of the Draft EIS. A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS was published on April 2, 2010. The Draft EIS will be available for 45 days for public review and comment. The BLM will use the comments to prepare a Final EIS scheduled for completion in the summer of 2010. Additional information about this planning process is available online at:

[http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/wbw\\_power\\_row/](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/wbw_power_row/)

### About the BLM

The BLM manages more land – 253 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

BLM  
Prineville District Office

