

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Resource Advisory Council  
Proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project Subcommittee Meeting  
August 25, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time  
Virtual Via Zoom**

**Proposed Lava Ridge Wind  
Project Subcommittee  
Members:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interest Represented/Affiliation</b>
<b>Present:</b>		
Leon Smith		Federal Grazing
Scott Nichols		Dispersed Recreation
Dan Sakura		Japanese-American Community
Roy Prescott		BLM livestock grazing permittee
Ted MacNeil		Magic Valley ATV Riders
George Lynch		Idaho Governor’s Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
Garret Visser		Idaho Wildlife Federation
Ben Crouch		Jerome County Commissioners
Wayne Schenk		Minidoka County Commissioners
Rebecca Wood		Lincoln County Commissioners
Shauna Robinson		Historic Preservation
Brenda Pace		Archaeological and Historic Interests
Jack Johnson		Twin Falls County Commissioner
<b>Absent:</b>		
Chad Colter		Tribal Interests

**BLM Staff:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Office</b>
Mike Courtney	District Manager	Twin Falls District Office
Codie Martin	Field Manager	Shoshone Field Office
Kasey Prestwich	Project Manager	Shoshone Field Office
Heather Tiel-Nelson	Public Affairs Officer	Twin Falls District Office
Jennifer Jones	Deputy State Director, Communications	Idaho State Office
Hannah Cain	Public Affairs Specialist	Idaho State Office

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**Meeting Minutes**

**Agenda Item:** Welcome

**Presenters:** Mike Courtney, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Twin Falls District and Designated Federal Official (DFO) for the BLM Idaho Resource Advisory Council Proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project Subcommittee (Subcommittee); Leon Smith, Chair, Subcommittee/Member, BLM Idaho Resource Advisory Council; Scott Nichols, Chair, BLM Idaho Resource Advisory Council/Vice-Chair, Subcommittee.

Mike Courtney welcomed participants to the third Subcommittee meeting. He introduced Heather Tiel-Nelson, Public Affairs Officer for the BLM Twin Falls District, who will serve as a key point of contact for the Subcommittee, and Nancy Haug, who will serve as facilitator for future Subcommittee meetings. Leon Smith welcomed participants and thanked them for attending the Subcommittee meeting. Scott Nichols was not able to join the meeting in time to provide welcome remarks due to a scheduling conflict.

**Agenda Item:** Agenda Review and Housekeeping; Approve July 7, 2022 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes; Ethics Refresher

**Presenters:** Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM Idaho State Office; David Dahle, Associate Ethics Counselor for the BLM, Department of the Interior.

Jones reviewed the agenda and explained that virtually all of the topics were requested by Subcommittee members after the July 7, 2022 Subcommittee meeting. Leon Smith provided an opportunity for Subcommittee members to ask questions, make comments, or identify needed corrections for the draft July 7, 2022 Subcommittee meeting minutes, which were sent to Subcommittee members ahead of the meeting and stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the draft minutes. Commissioner Wayne Schenk made a motion to approve the draft July 7, 2022 Subcommittee meeting minutes as written, Roy Prescott seconded the motion. Subcommittee members unanimously voted in favor of the motion.

Dahle reminded Subcommittee members of the key points of Ethics Training that was provided to them during an Administrative Meeting on April 26, 2022. This includes the obligation of Subcommittee members to coordinate with the DFO for the Subcommittee (Mike Courtney, BLM Twin Falls District Manager) and recuse themselves from any Subcommittee votes that have the potential to impact their direct financial interests. Dahle encouraged Subcommittee members to contact him with questions and for assistance at any time.

**Agenda Item:** Energy Markets

**Presenter:** Kris Raper, Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)

Jones explained that this agenda item was suggested by Subcommittee member George Lynch in response to questions and comments regarding where energy produced by the Lava Ridge Wind Project would be transported and consumed. Raper explained that WECC is responsible for reliability and security of the western interconnection, which includes 14 western states, part of Canada, and Baja, Mexico. She addressed concerns regarding electricity being produced in Idaho but sold out of state by outlining how

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electrons that generate power from a physics standpoint go to the path of least resistance so that power would likely go to homes or businesses located closest to generation facilities. However, because the grid is interconnected, it can be stated from a contractual standpoint that power generated in one state will be used to power homes and businesses in another state. Raper highlighted benefits to Idaho of having power generation facilities located in the State include jobs that the projects provide and additional connectivity within the grid so that there is less congestion. Raper explained that within the western interconnection currently there is significant concern about resource adequacy (being able to get energy to everyone when they need it) and transmission availability. She answered questions from Subcommittee members regarding where energy generated from other resources in Idaho, such as hydropower and geothermal, are used, and where power that Idaho uses is generated; use of California ratepayer funding to construct the final portion of the Southwest Intertie Project North transmission line; wind resources in Wyoming and New Mexico compared to wind resources in Idaho; distributed generation; location of wind turbines on public lands in other states; construction of nuclear power facilities; and resource adequacy projections.

**Agenda Item:** Wind Project Experience Panel

**Presenters:** Laurie Carson, County Commissioner, White Pine County, Nevada; Donna Bath, County Clerk (Retired), White Pine County, Nevada; Keith and Lois Broyles, KB Energy; Tammy Pearson, County Commissioner, Beaver County, Utah; Nolan Davis, Mayor, Milford Utah; and Mark Eisele, Rancher, Wyoming.

Jones explained that this agenda item was suggested by Subcommittee member Rebecca Wood who was interested in hearing from individuals who have had positive experiences with wind projects as previous Subcommittee meetings had been focused primarily on concerns regarding potential impacts of the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project. BLM staff requested Luke Papez, Magic Valley Energy to assist in identifying speakers.

Carson and Bath discussed their experiences working with LS Power and Pattern Energy on the Spring Valley Wind Project and the Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) South transmission line located near Ely, Nevada. Spring Valley has been operating since 2011 and generates 152 megawatts of electricity with 66 wind turbines. It is located less than 40 miles from Great Basin National Park, which has a dark skies designation. Carson stated that there have not been any issues in regard to lights on the turbines. Carson and Bath have found LS Power and Pattern Energy to be exceptional companies to work with due to their willingness to engage with stakeholders to identify and mitigate potential impacts; their financial support for community organizations and activities, such as contributions to Great Basin College to support workforce development; their efforts to hire employees locally as much as possible; and management of wind project operations. Bath stated that cattle grazing within the wind project area have not been disturbed by the lights on the turbines and seek the shade that the wind turbines provide during the summer.

Keith and Lois Broyles have had an operating wind project on their cattle ranch in Arlington, Wyoming since the mid-1990s, they also own a business (KB Energy) installing meteorological towers for wind project companies. They have worked with LS Power for about 12 years installing meteorological towers on several different projects and have found them to be outstanding professionals that show respect to landowners, communities, and the environment. Keith Broyles stated that their experience with having a wind project on their ranch has been positive and has provided many benefits with no impacts on their cattle operation. New

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roads that were constructed for the wind project have provided better access to areas that were previously hard to get to, have enabled a new watering system to be established, and serve as firebreaks while the turbines provide shade for cattle during the summer. Keith Broyles discussed issues that they had to work through so that cattle could stay in the area during initial construction and then repowering last year of the wind project, such as fencing excavated areas, trenches, and foundation holes and trash removal. He also described how PacificCorps, which owns the wind project on his cattle ranch, reclaimed land and turbine foundations and reseeded the area with native grasses after taking down 69 turbines and replacing them with 13 larger turbines last year.

Tammy Pearson, Commissioner of Beaver County, Utah and Nolan David, Mayor of Milford, Utah discussed their experiences with a wind project that was constructed near Milford that consists of 165 wind turbines. Commissioner Pearson stated that the wind project has provided significant economic benefits for Beaver County, including 250 temporary jobs during the 2.5 year construction period; 27 permanent jobs; and revenue that permitted the construction of a new school and hospital in Milford. She noted that the wind project was constructed on private land interspersed with public land managed by the BLM. There has been no significant impact to livestock grazing within the project area and the turbines provide shade during the summer months for cattle as well as a large herd of antelope. Mayor Davis stated that the wind project has generated economic benefits for Milford by increasing sales tax revenue as well as providing some local businesses with long term supply contracts. He discussed that the wind project owners have been great partners who are willing to discuss and resolve any concerns that arise. Mayor Davis discussed his appreciation for the multiple use that is possible within wind projects, including livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and new roads that enhance access to camping and hunting areas.

Mark Eisele, a rancher from Wyoming, stated that he has had very positive experience with running a cattle operation in the midst of a wind project near Cheyenne for 13 years. He emphasized the importance of livestock grazing permittees to be involved in discussions regarding siting to discuss road construction, timing of livestock turnout, forage mitigation, water development, fencing, access, reclamation, and other issues. In his experience, owners of wind projects have been open to making changes. Mark described benefits of the wind project, including construction of roads that have been useful for wildfire and emergency response and that have improved access for hunters and eliminated the need for them to travel through more sensitive areas; revenue that has been generated and used to support the fire department, sheriff's department, emergency medical services, and schools; and lower prices for power for local ratepayers during peak loads. He stated that the wind turbines have not created any maladies, behavior changes, or loss of breedback or weight gain in his cattle. In addition, Mark has seen more numbers and diversity of wildlife and almost no bird kills.

Panelists responded to questions from Subcommittee members regarding the height of wind turbines and proximity of wind turbines to towns; impacts on aviation; decommissioning and reclamation of wind projects; impacts on sage-grouse and effectiveness of buffers; monitoring of bird and bat kills and other wildlife impacts; and impacts on water.

**Agenda Item:** BLM Land Use Planning

**Presenter:** Pam Murdock, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, BLM Idaho State Office

Jones explained that this topic was suggested by Subcommittee member Dan Sakura to discuss land use planning and the Monument Resource Management plan.

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Murdock discussed the status of BLM Idaho’s land use plans, the law and policy framework pertaining to BLM land use planning, the Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP), and the relationship between the Monument RMP and the proposed Lava Ridge wind project. The proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project is located within the Monument RMP area. The Monument RMP was signed in 1985 and has been amended six times since then for management of sage-grouse, designations of right-of-way corridors, analysis of geothermal leasing, designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and identification of parcels available for land tenure adjustments. Two additional amendments to the Monument RMP are currently in process. BLM has initiated an effort to evaluate all land use plans that are currently in effect in Idaho and prioritize them for revision as it isn’t feasible to revise them all at the same time due to the amount of time and funding that revision requires. Murdock outlined the laws governing BLM land use planning and the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Title I, Title II, and Title V) and the National Environmental Policy Act of (NEPA) of 1969. She discussed the BLM process to develop land use plans that provide the overall framework for managing BLM-administered lands and how BLM implements land use plans, particularly the requirement to conduct project specific NEPA analysis for every proposed activity on public lands. For each proposed activity, BLM must review the applicable land use plan to determine whether the project is allowed by (or is “in conformance with”) it and if any specific restrictions apply. The proposed Lava Ridge wind project is located within an area designated as a “moderate use” area in the Monument RMP which has no special limitations or restrictions on the type or intensity of resource use applied in the area. Valid uses will be allowed subject to environmental review and stipulations or special conditions to protect resources. The BLM Shoshone Field Office considered the direction in the Monument RMP as amended prior to initiating development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the proposed Lava Ridge wind project. They worked with Magic Valley Energy and other agencies to review and refine the proposed project to ensure conformance with the Monument RMP and the 2006 Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan. Murdock reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement development process for the proposed Lava Ridge wind project. She closed by stating that the Monument RMP has been amended and maintained to maintain current management direction and the Lava Ridge wind project conforms with the Monument RMP and is subsequently being analyzed in the EIS process.

Murdock and Courtney responded to questions from Subcommittee members regarding review and refinement of Magic Valley Energy’s initial Lava Ridge Wind Project proposal; maintenance of and amendments to the Monument RMP; evaluation schedule for BLM Idaho’s land use plans, including the Monument RMP; visual resource inventories; how the Monument RMP interfaces with the 2006 Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan; and the relationship between the 2005 Wind Programmatic EIS and the Monument RMP.

**Agenda Item: Section 106 Consultation Update**

**Presenters:** Ashley Long, Renewable Energy Archaeologist, BLM Twin Falls District

Jones explained that this agenda item was requested by Subcommittee member Shauna Robinson. Long provided an overview of the Section 106 Consultation process and explained that BLM Idaho is working to ensure it is coordinated with the EIS development process for the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project. BLM Idaho initiated the Section 106 Consultation process for the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project in 2020 and has completed the first step, which includes determining that the proposed project has the potential to affect

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historic properties and initiating consultation with more than 25 consulting parties including Tribes; federal and state agencies; and non-governmental organizations. BLM Idaho is currently completing the second step, which entails identifying historic properties. BLM Idaho has worked with consulting parties to identify two Areas of Potential Effects (APEs), where the proposed project has the potential to adversely affect historic properties. One is a physical APE, which includes the wind turbine siting corridors, where historic properties may be affected by ground disturbance associated with construction, operation and maintenance, reclamation, and other activities; the other is a non-physical APE, which extends for 20 miles beyond the wind turbine siting corridors, where historic properties may be affected by visual, auditory, atmospheric and other disturbances. BLM Idaho is currently working with consulting parties to complete Cultural Resources Class 1 inventories of all known resources within the APEs. The first inventory was completed in 2021 for the physical APE, it identified 362 cultural resource sites, including 141 historic properties and 26 unevaluated properties (which are assessed as historic properties). An addendum is currently being developed for the non-physical APE, a preliminary draft has identified 5,097 cultural resource sites, including 576 historic properties and 416 unevaluated properties. BLM Idaho is also working with consulting parties to complete Key Observation Point (KOP) analysis, which provides digital simulations of how wind turbines would impact cultural resources and historic properties, at 16 locations.

The next steps in the Section 106 Consultation Process are to assess adverse effects of proposed projects on identified cultural resources and historic properties based on criteria outlined in regulations and resolve adverse effects through avoidance, minimization, or mitigation. After that, projects can proceed. In the case of the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project, it will not be possible to determine adverse effects to all historic properties within the two APEs prior to a BLM decision on the proposed project. Consequently, the BLM is in the process of working with consulting parties to develop a programmatic agreement (PA), a document that is commonly used for complex undertakings where there is a need to phase historic property identification and assessment. The BLM will work with consulting parties to develop a Historic Properties Management Plan that will include all avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures and Historic Property Treatment Plans that will outline specific avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures for individual historic properties.

Long responded to questions from Subcommittee members regarding the PA and KOPs.

**Agenda Item:** Potential Impacts of proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project on birds and bats

**Presenters:** Matt Stuber, Eagle Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program, Region 1; Cris Hein, Senior Project Leader, National Renewable Energy Laboratory; Dan Nolfi, Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Jones explained that this agenda item was requested by Subcommittee member Brenda Pace and other Subcommittee members as a follow-up to the presentation by Frank Edelmann with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game during the July 7, 2022 Subcommittee meeting.

Stuber explained that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Migratory Bird Program is a cooperating agency with the BLM on development of the EIS for the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project. Wind projects can impact migratory birds in a number of ways, including collisions with infrastructure, construction impacts on habitat, and collisions with vehicles during operations. The specific impacts vary by bird

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species and project. FWS has published Best Management Practices that are recommended to avoid and minimize impacts to migratory birds during construction, operation, repowering, and decommissioning of wind projects. Macro and micro siting of wind projects is the most important measure to minimize impacts to migratory birds. Avoiding habitat clearing activities during migratory bird breeding season, which for most species is in the spring and summer months, is also very important. Several migratory bird species that have been identified by the State of Idaho as species of greatest conservation need could potentially occur within or near the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project site. These include Columbian sharp tailed grouse, American white pelicans, long billed curlews, ravens and several species of hawks and owls. The vulnerability of migratory bird species to potential impacts of wind projects depends on site specific factors and how birds are using the landscape, they aren't necessarily at risk just because they're present in the project area. Bald and golden eagles are known to be present within and near the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project area. Both of these species are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Magic Valley Energy has applied for an eagle take permit from FWS. FWS will make a decision on their application after the BLM makes a decision on the proposed project.

Hein presented data from a 2020 American Wind Wildlife Institute (now the Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute) report regarding bat mortality resulting from interactions with wind projects nationally and in the Pacific region, which includes Idaho. In the Pacific region, hoary and silver haired bats account for most fatalities. These are the species that would be expected to be found within or near the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project area. Nationally, most bat fatalities at wind projects occur from mid-July through October, with very few in the winter and spring. In the Pacific region, there are higher numbers of silver haired bat fatalities in the spring compared to other regions. This data indicates that efforts to minimize impacts of wind projects on bat mortality should be focused on a 2 – 3 month period during the year. In the Pacific region, bat mortality is relatively low compared to other regions but it varies by project and there are examples where it is high at specific sites.

Strategies to prevent bat mortality at wind projects include blanket curtailment, i.e. prevent turbines from spinning during low wind speed conditions that relate to risk; sensor based curtailment, i.e. prevent turbines from spinning when bats are detected (e.g., from acoustic detectors); and placement of ultrasonic (acoustic) deterrents on turbines dissuade bats from approaching.

Hein discussed bird mortality at wind projects as well. These findings were from a separate 2020 report from the American Wind Wildlife Institute. The Pacific region has lower overall bird mortality compared to other regions, however raptor mortality is higher than in other regions. In addition, diurnal raptors and owls account for a higher percentage of bird fatalities in the Pacific region than in other parts of the U.S. Bird fatalities at wind projects peak in the spring and fall but fatalities occur in the winter too. This requires year round minimization strategies, with avoidance being the preferred approach, followed by minimization and mitigation. Efforts are underway to develop better understanding of how raptors use the landscape and develop tools to inform siting decisions and monitoring locations. The primary strategy to reduce eagle mortality currently being deployed is a variety of "detect and respond" systems (e.g., detect and curtail or detect and deter).

Nolfi clarified that although bat mortality rates in the Pacific region per megawatt are among the lowest in

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the U.S., wind projects in southern and eastern Idaho have experienced very high bat fatality numbers. In Idaho, hoary bats and silver haired bats account for the majority of bat species impacted at wind facilities. Both are listed by the State of Idaho as species of greatest conservation needs, primarily due to impacts of wind energy projects. Big Brown bats and Little brown bats are also present at wind project sites in Idaho. The FWS is currently considering Little Brown bats for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Presenters responded to Subcommittee member questions regarding impacts to bats that live year round on the desert; availability of studies on possible non disturbance buffers that might help protect hibernating and maternity populations in lava tubes; impacts of ultrasonic bat deterrence technologies on bat habitat; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service eagle take permit application review process; relationship between turbine size and location to bird and bat mortality rates; availability of models of eagle or raptor flight behavior across Idaho; and whether data on birds and bats will be shared.

**Agenda Item:** Potential impacts of proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project on water rights, Snake River Aquifer

**Presenter:** Corey Skinner, Southern Region Manager, Idaho Department of Water Resources

Jones explained that this agenda item was requested by several Subcommittee members prior to the July 7, 2022 Subcommittee meeting but Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) staff were not available to present at that time, so it was carried forward to the current meeting.

Skinner emphasized that to date the IDWR has discussed the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project with LS Power, Magic Valley Energy, BLM, and other parties but has not received any formal proposals (i.e. applications, water rights filings) related to it. At this time, the IDWR's understanding is that a large amount of water would be needed during construction, that water needs would be minimal during operations, and that drilling of approximately six new wells is anticipated. The area where the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project would be located has been subject to the Eastern Snake River Plain Moratorium since the early 1990s. The moratorium prohibits the issuance of new consumptive water rights unless they are mitigated by giving up another consumptive use water right. The moratorium has an exemption for water rights for domestic use, which could be applied to the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project if certain requirements are met. Other possible water development options include a new water right filing(s), transfer application(s), water supply bank lease(s)/rental(s) or some combination of these options. New water right filing(s) and transfer application(s) are subject to public notice and protest. The proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project is located within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). The IDWR uses a tool to analyze impacts on the Snake River of changes to water rights within the ESPA. The IDWR also uses a tool developed by the University of Idaho to analyze changes from water used for irrigation to water used for other purposes.

Skinner responded to Subcommittee member questions regarding the potential impacts of blasting during construction of the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project on the aquifer; potential impacts of drilling additional wells on existing wells; and the total amount of water that could be used if six new wells were drilled.

**Agenda Item:** Visual Simulations of proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project



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**Presenter:** Kasey Prestwich, Project Manager, BLM Shoshone Field Office

Prestwich explained that the purpose of the simulations is to help all interested parties understand what the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project could possibly look like on the landscape as potential impacts on visual resources and scenic quality have been identified as significant concerns. The visual simulations are being incorporated in the Draft EIS. The BLM has identified the analysis area for visual impacts to be 30 miles in all directions from the outer edges of where wind turbines would be located under different alternatives. The visual simulations show what the proposed project could look like from 15 key observation points under the five different alternatives that will be presented and analyzed in the Draft EIS based on both 3 and 6 megawatt turbine size (note that these key observation points are different from the key observation points that will be used to assess impacts on cultural resource sites and historic sites discussed by Ashley Long). Prestwich demonstrated several visual simulations showing how different sized wind turbines would look from different key observation points under different alternatives.

Prestwich responded to questions from Subcommittee members regarding wind turbine height and key observation point locations.

**Agenda Item:** Proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project Decommissioning Plan/Questions & Answers

**Presenter:** Luke Papez, Magic Valley Energy

Papez explained that Magic Valley Energy has provided a proposed decommissioning plan for analysis by the BLM in the Environmental Impact Statement the agency is developing. The company's plans include descriptions of the removal of project infrastructure and the reclamation of the project area at the end of the project's projected lifespan of 25-30 years. Per BLM regulation, Magic Valley Energy will be required to post a bond to cover decommissioning and final reclamation activities. Papez outlined the steps of the proposed decommissioning process, including site prep for cranes, above ground component removal, foundation removal, below ground component removal, road & access path removal, and reclamation and restoration. He emphasized that Magic Valley Energy is not requesting to bury turbine components on BLM-managed public land. Magic Valley Energy will prioritize the re-use, recycling, or scrap value of decommissioned project components over direct disposal in approved landfill facilities. Much of the metal project components have re-use or scrap value. New industrial technologies that recycle turbine blades are currently gaining traction in the marketplace and are expected to increase in reutilization over the lifespan of the project. Steel, which represents about 70% of the turbine mass, is 100% recyclable and among the world's most recycled materials. Research from a number of organizations is leading to advanced recycling technologies and private industry is also developing recycling processes to break down blades and refabricate them into other useful products. If recycling methods become uneconomic by the end of the project lifespan, Magic Valley Energy would seek appropriate industrial disposal sites or landfill locations that are permitted to accept the project components. Wind turbine blades are made from inert materials (primarily fiberglass) that do not leach hazardous waste into the surrounding soil or groundwater. Some landfill facilities welcome decommissioned turbine blades due to the inert nature of their components and as a revenue generating waste stream. Wind turbine blades account for a very small percentage of U.S. waste going to landfills nationally. Numerous opportunities exist to partner with communities on solutions for non-recyclable waste streams. New industries are already accepting blades for recycled products, with major growth expected over coming years.

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Papez responded to questions from Subcommittee members regarding potential impacts of the proposed decommissioning plan; wind turbine foundation sizes; bond amount; repowering; tax credits; Federal Aviation Administration evaluation of the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project; potential impacts on radio communications and emergency operations; and purchase of power that would be generated by the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project. Papez also addressed questions that have been raised in previous Subcommittee meetings regarding production tax credits, proposed agreements with highway districts for use of roadways, and potential impacts of the proposed project on livestock grazing permittees.

**Agenda Item: Public Comment Period**

Eight members of the public provided comments to the Subcommittee: Shawna McKay; John Robison, Idaho Conservation League; Diane Honda; Diana Nielson; Clarke Kido; John Ochi; Kevin Emmerich, Basin and Range Watch; and Mike Tellford.

Some members of the public who provided comments expressed support for renewable energy and for wind projects that were sited appropriately. Virtually all members of the public who provided comments expressed concerns about the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project. These included the lack of ability to compare wind projects discussed by speakers on the Wind Project Experience Panel to the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project due to its proposed location on public land, its size, and turbine heights; the age of the Monument Resource Management Plan; the lack of a comprehensive approach to renewable energy development on public lands in southern Idaho; potential impacts on the Minidoka National Historic Site; lack of specifics in information that is currently available that make it difficult to determine viability of the proposed project; potential impacts of the proposed project on dark skies, wildlife, and the Snake River aquifer; potential release of the Draft EIS in the fall which would make it difficult for the public to review and comment due to the holidays; exporting of power generated by the proposed project to other states; potential construction of hundreds of miles of roads within the proposed project area; potential impacts on crop dusting; and potential impacts on visual resources and scenic quality.

**Agenda Item: Next Steps**

**Presenters:** Mike Courtney, Leon Smith, Scott Nichols

Courtney thanked members of the public for observing the Subcommittee meeting and providing thoughtful comments, presenters for excellent presentations, and Subcommittee members for questions, comments, and engagement. The next Subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 22 and will include opportunities for Subcommittee members to discuss the information that they have gathered to date. He explained that the Subcommittee meeting schedule will need to be revised as Magic Valley Energy is in the process of revising their Plan of Development and that is delaying release of the Draft EIS. The BLM envisions two additional Subcommittee meetings after the Draft EIS is released to review and discuss the document as well as a full Idaho Resource Advisory Council (RAC) meeting to discuss recommendations. Courtney identified several themes that are common to wind, solar, and battery projects that are being proposed on public lands in southern Idaho that it would be helpful for the BLM to have input on, including approaches to resolve water issues, public outreach, and ways to minimize impacts to the public and people who make their living on public lands during construction of renewable energy projects.

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Subcommittee members identified several additional topics for future meetings, including discussion of comprehensive and programmatic approaches to renewable energy development in southern Idaho and the products that the Subcommittee will produce. Subcommittee Chair Leon Smith requested each Subcommittee member to write a few sentences summarizing the information that they have gathered as it pertains to the communities and interests that they represent. He envisions using that information to put together a document that reflects the perspective of the Subcommittee that will be submitted to the RAC to inform their recommendations to the BLM.

**Agenda Item:** Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time.