



November 19, 2009

Letters, Oregon

Protect beauty of valley

Recently, The Observer reported that a site application has been filed for a new wind farm to be located 10 miles southeast of La Grande, in the mountainous area between I-84 and Union, behind the Hot Lake area. In the article, Horizon Wind Energy attempted to address the concerns that area residents have had. However, no attempt was made to address the effect this project will have on the scenic, natural beauty of the Grande Ronde Valley.

I'm not opposed to wind farms, but as they become more prevalent, we need to consider the effect they are having on the natural beauty of our rural areas. I personally moved here because I was drawn to the beauty of the area and the great hiking trails and wilderness areas. It would not have been such an appealing location if the mountains were covered with wind turbines and blinking red lights.

It doesn't bother me to see wind farms in barren areas, but when they start taking over the pristine, forested mountains, my blood starts to pump a little. This project will have a significant impact on the scenery of our valley. One hundred eighty-two wind turbines are not going to fit into that area without being very visible. Residents of Union will be especially impacted as the mountains just to the west of town will be sprouting wind turbines and blinking lights.

The tourism industry is also likely to suffer as a result of this project. We should be focusing on preserving the natural beauty of our valley and developing the historical heritage and recreational opportunities that abound here. The time is now to establish boundaries as to where these wind farms can be located. Let's unite to oppose this project and protect the unspoiled beauty of our valley.

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Union

The Observer

www.lagrandeobserver.com ^[1]

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URLs in this post:

[1] www.lagrandeobserver.com: **<http://www.lagrandeobserver.com/Opinion/Letters/Letters-and-Comments-for-November-12-2009>**

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