

## Take stand against wind turbines

I am a third-generation orchardist on family land acquired by my grandfather, farmed by my father and it is my hope that my son or daughter will continue successfully tilling and caring for the soils of this very special Walla Walla River drainage.

As a family we have searched mushrooms, hunted deer and elk, picnicked, snow mobiled and accessed many nooks and crannies of the North and South Forks, Linton Mountain, Government Mountain, as well as the smaller drainages of Cottonwood to Couse creeks. My family and many others have been able to enjoy limited access for general enjoyment of these Blue Mountains.

We enjoy not only utilizing the waters of the Walla Walla River for farming our fruit crops but we all look forward to that light tug as a rainbow takes the worm on the other end.

My family and I want to do the right thing when it comes to conservation but we know that reason must prevail when it comes to our every ideal, and as I continue to study the proposed wind towers and related roads and access points, and the long- and short-term effects I must say enough is enough.

If we, as the citizens of Umatilla County, do not stand united in opposition to the destruction of our Blue Mountains, our heritage is going to be passed into oblivion before our very eyes.

We have spent millions conserving water and creating new runs of salmon and steelhead, as well as taking strong steps to preserve the endangered bull trout, but those efforts and our tax dollars could be lost due to erosion and contamination runoff into our rivers.

The enjoyment of hunter and general outdoors enthusiast could be lost by all, as developers who have contractual rights to the land begin the process of limiting and closing off properties against trespass, as was recently found in Baker County by a property owner wanting to hunt his normal winter coyote for predator control and recreation.

The efforts to close off properties will also include winter access and the normal 4-by-4 traffic of late fall and early spring.

My house and many others on the river will have our view shredded by these 400-foot wind turbines. What about the

quiet of night and day that will be lost, and of course those red blinking lights — an example being vividly imprinted in our minds as we now drive I-84 to The Dalles?

I urge all of Umatilla County to step up and be heard or our Blue Mountain view and landscape will be lost forever.

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