

To Whom This May Concern,

I believe that the Humboldt Wind Energy Project should be completed. The proposed project would consist of 60 wind turbines that could generate up to 155MW of energy. The project site is 20 miles south of Eureka and represents an approximately 2,218 acre study area where the WTG's and infrastructure would be placed.

The U. S. and other industrialized countries have been becoming increasingly reliant on fossil fuel imports. With the current global energy policies, the International Energy Agency predicts that global demand for oil will increase by 41% by 2030 (*The Economics of Wind Energy*, 2009). With the high reliance on oil, it is uncertain whether the major oil companies would be willing and able to meet the global demand. Fossil fuels not only contribute to the global carbon emissions but they are also depleting and may put people at risk of losing energy altogether.

I am particularly concerned with the potential impact of the proposed project on the Northern Spotted Owl. Though there is no loss of designated critical habitat for the NSO, there is a huge loss in functional NSO habitat. The projects EIR estimates the loss of habitat would be 33,214 ac, of which, 7,832 ac of functional habitat would be lost along with roosting, nesting and foraging habitat. This project may have a relatively significant impact on the NSO if mitigation isn't implemented. I could not find much data on the NSO habitat loss thresholds in the EIR or in related journals, so I suggest including more data and mitigating the potential impact on Northern Spotted Owls.

Thank you.

Bibliography:

*The Economics of Wind Energy*. (2009). EWEA.

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