

49 farm line next to the project area

My name is Doug Paulson and I am concerned about the affect wind turbines have on wildlife, wildlife habitat, and public recreation areas. I also agree that it's a private property rights issue. One landowner should not be allowed to put something on his land that negatively affects someone else's property, economically by reducing property values, affecting the environment and possibly affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the non-participating land owner. It may also keep you from developing your own property.

US Fish & Wildlife has not completed their environmental assessment for the project. A grassland or wetland easement is a legal agreement, so ~~you're~~ ^{it is} breaking the law if you allow these contracts to be broken or one piece of land to be exchanged for another. So wind turbines should not be allowed to be put on any of the acres of land that have these easements. These lands are meant to be kept for nesting and wildlife habitat.

For birds and bats, the giant turning blades pose a direct threat. The blades sweep a vertical airspace of 1.5 - 2 acres at the tip, speeds of 150 - 200 miles per hour. Animals on the ground are affected by the destruction and fragmentation of habitat as well as the noise and vibration from the turbine. A wind turbine does not affect only one acre of land like the wind developers tell you. It will affect the wildlife in a large parcel of land.

This area is a migratory bird flyway. In the spring and fall, thousands of waterfowl use this area for foraging in the fields and resting on the water areas. Reid Lake is a waterfowl refuge and thousands of waterfowl use this area for a resting place where they are undisturbed. The water from Round Lake is also connected to Reid Lake, so it makes this place a huge waterfowl area. Eagles follow the waterfowl migrations so there are high concentrations of eagles during the migrations. In Geronimo's application it says there are no important eagle use areas or migration concentrations sites found in the Wind Farm project area. I disagree. There are a good number of eagles in these waterfowl concentration areas. It would be detrimental to allow wind turbines anywhere close to this huge waterfowl area and refuge. We have public lakes and lands for fishing, hunting, and recreation. Wind turbines should not be allowed to be put anywhere close to these areas. Usage of these areas will be affected immensely if wind turbines are allowed near these locations. In my areas, these are Bailey's Lake, Round Lake, and Reid Lake.

I believe studies paid for by Geronimo are biased studies. I would not trust any studies paid for by Geronimo. Only independent studies can be trusted to be honest and unbiased. I have done a lot of research and found studies that say the direct opposite of Geronimo's studies. Wind turbines disrupt the ecosystem. The people and the wildlife are the ones that will pay the price for the greedy wind developers.

Few studies have been done to determine the true effect of industrial wind turbines on birds and bats, and fewer studies still have been done independent of the wind company's control. The evidence is clear though that wind turbines present a threat to the lives of birds and bats. Bats have been observed to be curious about the large structures and are subject to collision. But most of the bat deaths are due to barotrauma. Their lungs burst due to the low air pressure behind the blades.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service and the South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks are concerned about the danger to birds. They have siting guidelines, which recommend that wind turbines should not be installed near wetlands, on mountain ridges, near shorelines or other locations known as concentration areas for wildlife or at sites subject to frequent fog or low-lying clouds during spring and fall migrations.

Songbirds mostly migrate at night and low enough to collide with blades of large turbines. The presence of large wind turbines may cause birds to avoid the site, thus losing a foraging resource and requiring extra energy to fly around the turbines. The cumulative effect of these facilities could have a serious toll on bird populations. The activities of prairie birds like pheasants, including mating and nesting are easily disturbed, even at a great distance by the construction and continuing operation of an industrial wind power facility, which can spread over hundreds, often thousands of acres.

Wind power is a unique threat to raptors (eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, and vultures) many of them already endangered and other large birds such as ducks, geese, swans, and cranes. The risk of collision not only threatens individual birds, but also augments existing threats to their populations. The cumulative effect of multiple facilities may threaten the viable breeding of several species already in decline.

I don't want wind developers to jeopardize people's health, safety, welfare, quality of life, the environment, wildlife, wildlife habitat, public hunting and fishing lands, other people's private property rights. All of these things are priceless. As far as I know, ^{Baseload} Wind energy ~~has not shut~~ ~~down~~ any other kind of energy plant.

Thank you for listening. That's because it can only supplement other energy sources not replace them. That's why it's not reducing any ^{carbon} emissions. ~~A lot~~ of the money ~~Geronimo~~ is talking about is tax payer money that ^{make} ~~into~~ these projects viable. I would like you to deny the permit