Wind Energy and the BLM
• BLM manages 20.6 million acres of public lands with wind potential
• Authorized 192 ROWs for wind energy production sites
• Total installed capacity of 327 megawatts
• No active wind farms on BLM lands in Oregon
Baker Resource Area

- 2 authorizations issued for testing & monitoring
  - 12,461.52 acres
  - 7 MET towers
- 5 testing & monitoring applications pending
  - 6,287.38 acres
  - 7 MET towers
- 2 applications for development pending
  - 3 megawatt project
  - Up to 500 megawatt project
Law and Policy

  - To manage public lands in way that recognizes Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals & other resources
- Energy Policy Act of 2005
  - Encourages development of renewable energy sources on public lands
  - To move the US towards greater energy independence, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels
  - Guidance on processing applications
- Secretary Order 3285 – March, 2009
  - Establishes the development of renewable energy as a priority for Department of Interior
General BLM Policies

- To the extent possible, projects shall be developed in a way that will not prevent other land uses.
- BLM will not issue ROW for wind development in areas incompatible with specific resource values:
  - Wilderness Areas
  - National Monuments
  - Wild and Scenic Rivers
  - Wilderness Study Areas
  - National Conservation Areas
  - National Historic and Scenic Trails
  - National Landscape Conservation Systems
Pre application

• Meet with BLM to discuss:
  • Studies needed
  • Potential issues
    • Examples: Visual resources, wildlife, cultural
  • Alternative locations
  • Financial obligations
    • Cost recovery fees, rental fees, bonding
• Coordinate with community leaders and other interested parties to avoid possible conflicts
Testing & monitoring applications

- Submit Application (SF 299)
- Plan of Development
  - Describes type & location of towers, access, maps etc.
- BLM Coordination when application is complete
  - Government-to-government consultation with Indian tribal governments
  - Consultation with U.S. Department of Defense
  - Consultation with USFWS as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
  - Consultation with the SHPO as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
  - Incorporate public involvement in all wind energy development projects
Testing & monitoring applications continued

- Specific Instructions (IM-OR-2008-14)
  - No MET towers within 2 miles and direct site of sage grouse lek or seasonal concentration areas
- NEPA
  - Categorical Exclusion may be applicable
  - Does not address the wind development facilities
Testing & Monitoring Authorizations

- Site specific grant for testing and monitoring facilities, term limited to 3 years
  - New application required to continue monitoring after 3 year term
- Rental Fee
  - Minimum $100 per year for each MET tower
- Bond Requirement
  - Minimum $2000 per MET tower
Testing & Monitoring Authorizations continued

- Project area grant for a larger site testing and monitoring area, term of 3 years
  - Precludes other wind energy applications during term
  - Renewed if separate ROW application & POD submitted for the wind development project
- Rental Fee
  - $1,000 per year or $1 per acre per year, whichever is greater
- Bond Requirement
  - Minimum $2000 per MET tower
Development Applications

- Submit Application (SF 299)
- Plan of Development
  - Describes project from initial construction phase to termination and rehabilitation of public lands
- BLM Coordination when application is complete
  - Government-to-government consultation with Indian tribal governments
  - Consultation with U.S. Department of Defense
  - Consultation with USFWS as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
  - Consultation with the SHPO as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
  - Incorporate public involvement in all wind energy development projects
Development Applications continued

- Level of NEPA needed based on proposed action
  - Analysis broader than testing/monitoring applications
  - Addresses turbines, access roads, electrical transmission facilities, other support facilities
- Tier to BLM Wind Development Programmatic EIS
  - Completed June, 2005
  - Provides analysis of wind development in the West
  - Anticipated issues and concerns with wind projects
  - Established set of polices and BMPs for development
    - Site specific analysis still needed
Known Resource Concerns

- **Wildlife**
  - Federal (endangered, threatened, critical habitat)
    - Example: Wolf
  - Bureau sensitive
    - Example: Sage-grouse
    - Instruction Bulletin OR-2003-109 (Conservation of sage-grouse habitat)
    - Regulations set by USFWS for Endangered or Threatened species
      - Endangered Species Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act
      - 2005 State Guidelines for the Conservation of Greater Sage-grouse

- **State Sensitive**

- **Species of local importance**
  - Example: Big-game species
Known Resource Concerns continued

- Botany
  - Sensitive Plants
- Cultural Resources
- Visual Resource Management
- Each application is evaluated for it’s potential affect on resource values
Development Authorizations

- Right-of-way grant with a term generally of 30 years
- Includes turbines, onsite access roads, electrical and other support facilities
- Offsite facilities may require separate authorization
  - Electrical transmission lines
  - Additional access roads
- Rental Fees
  - $4,155 per megawatt of total anticipated installed capacity
    - Phased in over three years (25%, 50%, 100%)
    - Annual Rent = (Anticipated total installed capacity in kW) x (8760) x (30% capacity factor) x (5.27 % federal rate of return) x ($0.03 average price per kilowatt hour)
- Bond Requirement
  - Minimum $10,000/wind turbine
Baker Resource Management Plan

- Currently being revised
- Public input on land use allocation
- Draft EIS due early 2010
- Decision due 2012