



Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project.

The purpose of this presentation is to:

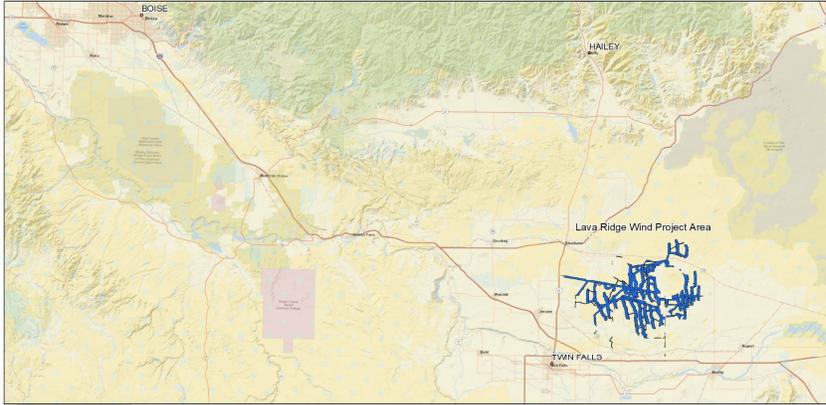
- Briefly describe some of the key elements of the proposed project,
- Describe the BLM's role in evaluating the project,
- Describe the Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, process and Provide information on how you may submit input on issues and concerns to be considered in the EIS.



U.S. Department of the Interior  
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# Project Overview

## Lava Ridge Wind Project Area



- Located in south-central Idaho
- Project components sited within corridors totaling 76,000 acres
- Federal = 73,000 acres
- State = 3,000 acres



Project Corridor  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Bureau of Reclamation  
 Military, Department of Defense  
 Forest Service  
 Fish and Wildlife Service  
 National Park Service  
 Private  
 State  
 State Fish and Game



1:700,000

0 10 20 40 Miles Date: 8/3/2021

Lava Ridge Public Scoping, August 2021

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Magic Valley Energy, LLC or MVE, is a subsidiary of LS Power and is the project applicant. MVE is seeking authorization to use public lands to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the Lava Ridge Wind Project within lands managed by the BLM's Shoshone Field Office.

The Lava Ridge Wind Project is a proposed commercial-scale wind energy project. It would be located in south-central Idaho, approximately 25 miles northeast of Twin Falls. The project area consists of a series of corridors located within Lincoln, Jerome, and Minidoka Counties. These corridors are approximately 1/2 mile wide and span about 76,000 acres. This includes 73,000 acres of public lands managed by the BLM and 3,000 acres of State Lands managed by the Idaho Department of Lands.



# Project Summary

## Project Elements

- Up to 400 wind turbines
- Up to seven new substations
- Buried and overhead 34.5 kilovolt (kV) collector lines, overhead 230 kV and 500 kV transmission lines
- ~ 381 miles of access roads
- A battery energy storage system
- Up to three operations and maintenance facilities
- Construction-related (temporary) staging yards

## System Interconnection

- Possible interconnection points at the Idaho Power Midpoint substation or an alternative location inside the right-of-way corridor for the not yet constructed Southwest Intertie Project – Northern Portion

## Timeframe

- Two-year construction timeframe
- MVE's goal is for operations to begin within 2024

As proposed, the Lava Ridge Wind Project would be the largest wind farm in the State of Idaho. The project would include up to 400 wind energy generating turbines, up to seven new substations, over 200 miles of project-related powerlines, about 381 miles of access roads, 47 miles of temporary crane paths, a battery energy storage system, up to three operations and maintenance facilities, five permanent met towers, and construction-related staging yards. MVE has identified a range of potential turbine sizes that would have a generating capacity of 2 to 6 megawatts per turbine and would have heights ranging from 460 to 740 feet tall. The project is anticipated to have a generation capacity of 1,000 megawatts or more.

The proposed infrastructure would encumber approximately 10,000-acres once fully constructed; however, only about 5,400 acres of the encumbrance footprint would be disturbed during construction activities and approximately two-thirds of the disturbed area would be reclaimed after construction activities are completed. Disturbed areas not reclaimed after construction activities will continue to be utilized for operation and maintenance activities.

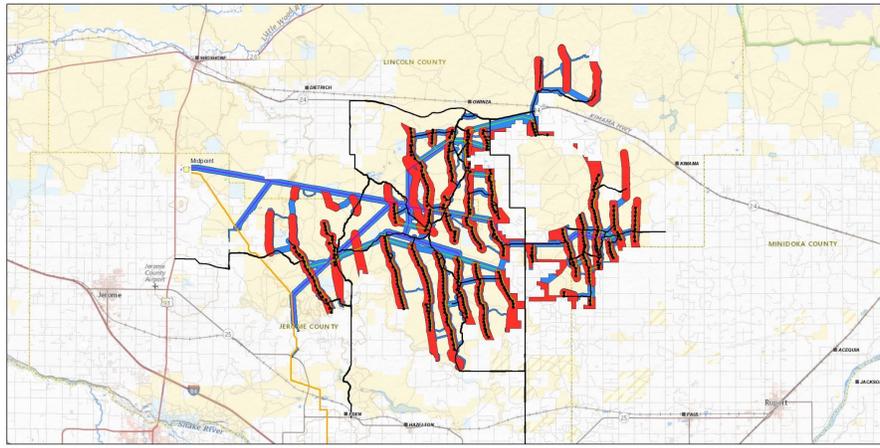
The project's 500 kilovolt transmission line may interconnect at the existing Idaho Power Midpoint substation approximately 7 miles south of Shoshone, or at an alternate location inside the right-of-way corridor for the not yet constructed, Southwest Intertie Project – Northern Segment, or SWIP-North. The Project's connection with Midpoint Substation or SWIP-North will facilitate transmission of electricity generated by the project to energy markets across the western United States.

MVE has proposed a two-year construction timeframe to help meet their goal for producing electricity by the end of 2024.



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# Proposed Project Layout



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Trevor Falls District, Idaho

- Turbines
- 35kV Power Line
- 230/500kV Power Line
- Roads
- SWSIP Line
- Access/Powerline Corridor
- Turbine Corridor
- Existing Substations
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service
- Private
- State
- State Fish and Game



LAND-USE: MAPPING SERVICE BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) AND THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS). THIS MAP IS A DIGITAL VECTOR MAP. THE DATA IS PROVIDED AS A SERVICE TO THE USER. THE BLM AND USGS MAKE NO WARRANTY, REPRESENTATION, OR GUARANTEE OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, REGARDING THE ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, OR SUITABILITY OF THE DATA FOR ANY PURPOSE. THE USER ASSUMES ALL LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE OR LOSS OF DATA OR INFORMATION, INCLUDING REASONABLE PROFITS, ARISING FROM THE USE OF THIS DATA. THE BLM AND USGS MAKE NO WARRANTY, REPRESENTATION, OR GUARANTEE OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, REGARDING THE ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, OR SUITABILITY OF THE DATA FOR ANY PURPOSE. THE USER ASSUMES ALL LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE OR LOSS OF DATA OR INFORMATION, INCLUDING REASONABLE PROFITS, ARISING FROM THE USE OF THIS DATA.



1:225,000



This map depicts key elements of the proposed project and its layout, including turbines, roads, and transmission lines. Corridors in which turbines would be located are depicted in red. The blue corridors would be limited to powerlines, access roads, and other supporting infrastructure. The red corridors that do not show turbines sited within them are potential alternate locations for turbines that cannot be constructed within the locations as shown. These alternate locations will be included in the BLM’s evaluation of MVE’s proposal.



# Purpose and Need

## Purpose

The purpose of the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project is to provide clean wind energy to meet increasing demands for electricity within the western United States.



## Need

Respond to the proponent's request for authorization to use federal lands for constructing, operating, maintaining, and decommissioning the Lava Ridge Wind Project.



The purpose of the project is to provide clean wind energy to meet increasing demands for electricity within the western United States and to decrease the carbon footprint and impacts on climate change. In Executive Order 14008, President Biden emphasized the need for the United States to “deploy the full capacity of its agencies to combat the climate crisis” in an approach that focuses attention on “innovation, commercialization, and deployment of clean energy technologies and infrastructure.” The Department of the Interior has since prioritized “identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters.”

The BLM will evaluate the right of way application submitted by MVE in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the BLM's right of way regulations, and other applicable Federal laws and policies. The purpose of and need for the project will be used to formulate a reasonable range of alternatives to be considered and analyzed during the National Environmental Policy Act analysis process. The BLM will evaluate these alternatives through an EIS.



# NEPA and the EIS Process

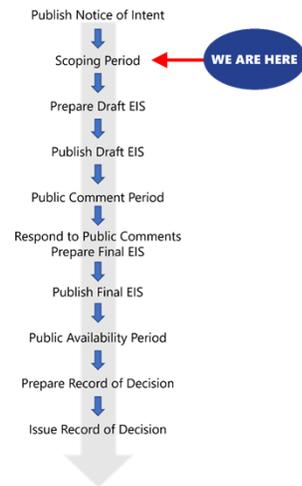
## What is an EIS?

An EIS is prepared to analyze and disclose effects of a proposed action on the environment, and to consider reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures.

## What is Scoping?

Scoping is an opportunity for the public to help agencies identify relevant issues and potential alternatives. Scoping occurs early in the NEPA process.

### National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement Process



The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, also known as NEPA, establishes the process for carrying out an evaluation of a project.

An EIS is prepared to analyze and disclose effects of a proposed action on the natural and human environment, and to consider reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures. The EIS will inform the BLM's decision on whether to approve, approve with modifications, or deny MVE's application to build the Lava Ridge Wind Project. This decision will be documented at the end of the analysis process in a Record of Decision.

The EIS analysis process includes steps to ensure coordination and collaboration between agencies and to provide the interested public with opportunities to provide input, identify issues, and offer solutions early in the NEPA process. The scoping period, which we are in now, is the first formal opportunity to gather that input. Information and perspectives shared during scoping will inform the analysis, alternatives development, and mitigation measures considered in the EIS.



## Preliminary Issues for Analysis



The BLM must analyze the full range of effects of the proposed project and reasonable alternatives. The EIS analysis will describe effects, as well as ways to “mitigate” those effects. An effect or “impact” is a change or consequence that results from an activity, such as the Lava Ridge Wind Project. Impacts can be positive, negative, or both.

The BLM has identified the following as preliminary issues for analysis and would appreciate public and agency input on these and other potential effects:

- **Socioeconomics** – Evaluating the economic and social impacts of the project on local communities or populations.
- **Land Use** – Determining the compatibility of the project with designated land uses on surrounding lands.
- **Transportation** – Assessing effects of project-related traffic on existing traffic patterns on major public roads.
- **Recreation** – Determining project effects on recreation uses.
- **Soils and Vegetation** – Evaluating long-term impacts to soils and the protection, maintenance, and restoration of vegetation resources.
- **Livestock Grazing** – Assessing project effects on livestock forage, active preference grazing permits, and livestock physiology.
- **Avian and Bat Species** – Determining project effects on populations and habitat of avian and bat species, including eagles and greater sage-grouse.
- **Other Species** – Evaluating project effects on big game habitat and populations, pollinators, and special-status species.
- **Wildfire Management** – Evaluating change in the potential for wildfire ignition and wildfire suppression capabilities, and the ability to meet fuels reduction and ecosystem restoration goals.
- **Treaty Rights** – Evaluating project effects on the Treaty and non-Treaty rights of Native American Tribes.
- **Cultural Resources and Historic Properties** – Assessing physical effects of project-related activity on cultural and tribal resources and visual and other nonphysical effects on historic properties in the viewshed.
- **Visual Resources** – Determining project impacts on the visual character and scenic quality experienced at key observation points in the landscape, including dark skies and shadow flicker.



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## NHPA Section 106

**Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)** requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties that are included or may be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The BLM has begun the development of a Programmatic Agreement to guide the identification and treatment of such properties that may be adversely affected by the Lava Ridge Wind Project. The Section 106 process will run concurrently with the NEPA EIS analysis, with the aim to finalize a Programmatic Agreement at the same time as the Record of Decision under NEPA.



*Lava Ridge Public Scoping, August 2021*

**The BLM is seeking your input to help identify historic properties that may be affected by the Lava Ridge Wind Project.**

If you are interested in sharing information on these resources or have questions about the Section 106 process, please contact:

**Kelli Barnes, BLM Idaho State Office**

**Phone:** 208-373-3844

**Email:** kbarnes@blm.gov

You may also provide written comments regarding cultural resources and historic properties as part of the NEPA scoping comment process.

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**By Phone:** 208-373-3844

or By

**Email:** kbarnes@blm.gov

You may also provide written comments regarding cultural resources and historic properties as part of the NEPA scoping comment process. Further instruction on submitting comments is provided at the end of this presentation.



# Cooperating Agencies

## What is a Cooperating Agency?

The BLM is committed to engaging and involving our agency partners as cooperating agencies. Any federal, state, or local agency with jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to an environmental issue may, by agreement, be a cooperating agency.

## A Cooperating Agency Will:

- Contribute staff to participate on the EIS interdisciplinary team.
- Participate in the EIS process and be formally involved in scoping.
- Provide leadership, expertise, guidance, and review for the EIS analysis.
- Provide information related to the agency's role.
- Identify issues of concern regarding project impacts on the natural and human-made environment.
- Provide timely input on unresolved issues.

*Lava Ridge Public Scoping, August 2021*

## To Become a Cooperating Agency:

Respond in writing, describing your jurisdiction and special expertise, as well as the potential physical, natural, and socioeconomic issues or concerns that are of interest to your agency.

- An agreement (MOU) will be signed prior to your participation.
- Your participation may include those activities outlined in 40 CFR 1501.6(b).

### For more information on how to become a cooperating agency for the Lava Ridge Wind Project:

**Mail:** Kasey Prestwich, Project Manager  
BLM Shoshone Field Office, 400 West F Street,  
Shoshone, ID 83352

**Phone:** 208-732-7204

**Email:** [kprestwich@blm.gov](mailto:kprestwich@blm.gov)

**Website:** <https://go.usa.gov/XFKXg>

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Over the past year the BLM has entered into agreements with multiple federal, state, and local agencies to establish cooperating agency partnerships. The BLM is committed to engaging and involving our agency partners as cooperating agencies. Any additional federal, state, or local agency with jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to an environmental issue may, by agreement, be a cooperating agency.

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## Providing Comments

**Online:** <https://go.usa.gov/xFKxg>, and click on “Participate Now”

**Email:** BLM\_ID\_LavaRidge@blm.gov

**Mail to:** Kasey Prestwich, Project Manager, BLM Shoshone Field Office,  
400 West F Street, Shoshone ID 83352

We hope you will consider participating in this scoping effort for the Lava Ridge Wind Project. All interested parties and agencies are invited to submit written comments before the end of the scoping period.

You can do so in three ways:

**Online at the BLM’s project website at** <https://go.usa.gov/xFKxg>

**By sending an email to** BLM\_ID\_LavaRidge@blm.gov

**Or by mailing your comment to:** Kasey Prestwich, Project Manager, BLM Shoshone Field Office, 400 West F Street, Shoshone ID 83352



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## For More Information

Kasey Prestwich  
Lava Ridge Wind Project EIS Project Manager  
Phone: 208-732-7204  
E-mail: [kprestwich@blm.gov](mailto:kprestwich@blm.gov)  
Project website: <https://go.usa.gov/xFKxg>

Thank you for your attention. Further information about the project and public scoping meetings can be found on the BLM's project website at <https://go.usa.gov/xFKxg>. If you have specific questions and would like to speak with someone about the project, please contact Kasey Prestwich, Lava Ridge Wind Project EIS Project Manager by Phone: 208-732-7204 or by E-mail: [kprestwich@blm.gov](mailto:kprestwich@blm.gov)