



## **Appendix K: Recreation Resource Report**

**For Programmatic Environmental Impact  
Statement on Utility-Scale Onshore Wind  
Energy Facilities in Washington State**

By

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For the

**Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program**

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Olympia, Washington

September 2024

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations List

BESS	battery energy storage system
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NPS	U.S. National Park Service
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

# Executive Summary

This resource report describes the recreation conditions in the study area. It also describes the regulatory context, outlines methods for assessing potential types of impacts from onshore wind energy facilities on recreation, presents current recreational conditions in the study area, and assesses the potential impacts and actions that could avoid or reduce impacts.

Recreational opportunities are vast throughout the onshore wind Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) study area. The study area encompasses lands that range from forested to desert, with various land uses, and have varying ownership. Several areas within the study area contain specifically designated recreational lands and activities. Recreational opportunities within the study area include, but are not limited to the following:

- Hiking
- Biking (road and mountain biking)
- Backcountry driving
- Hunting
- Horseback riding/stock use
- Bird and wildlife watching
- Camping
- Paragliding
- Hang gliding
- Dispersed target shooting
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming
- Rafting
- Kayaking
- Other paddle sports
- Fishing

Findings for recreational impacts described in this resource report are summarized below.

Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions that could avoid and reduce impacts, most construction, operations, and decommissioning activities would likely result in **less than significant impacts** on recreation.

**Potentially significant adverse impacts** would occur if:

- Operation of the facility results in the loss of recreation resources or crowding of alternative recreational opportunities
- Increased use of neighboring recreational opportunities throughout the operations phase were to result in overcrowding and overuse of those resources
- Operation of the facility results in segmentation of recreational facilities, such as severing trail connections, and recreationists no longer have access to the full activity

**No significant and unavoidable adverse impacts** related to recreation would occur.

# Crosswalk with Recreation Resource Report for Utility-Scale Solar Energy

Two PEISs are being released at the same time, one for utility-scale solar energy facilities and one for utility-scale onshore wind energy facilities. This crosswalk identifies the areas with substantial differences between the recreation resources reports for each PEIS.

Utility-Scale Solar Energy PEIS	Utility-Scale Onshore Wind Energy PEIS (this document)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No substantial differences</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No substantial differences</li></ul>

# 1 Introduction

This report describes recreation within the study area and assesses probable impacts associated with types of facilities (alternatives), including a No Action Alternative. Chapter 2 of the State Environmental Policy Act Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) provides a description of the types of facilities evaluated (alternatives).

This section provides an overview of the aspects of recreation evaluated in this report and lists relevant regulations that contribute to the evaluation of potential impacts.

## 1.1 Resource description

Recreation provides people with the opportunity to engage with and enjoy the natural environment. Washington has vast opportunities for recreation from mountainous to desert conditions that vary from season to season. Recreational opportunities in Washington include both land- and water-based activities. These opportunities include hiking, biking, backcountry driving, hunting, birdwatching, camping, paragliding, hang gliding, dispersed target shooting, backcountry winter sports (such as skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing), swimming, rafting, kayaking, other paddle sports, and fishing. These activities occur in areas designated for recreation, privately owned lands, and lands open for public use.

The study area for the onshore wind energy facilities overlaps with areas of the state that are valued for their recreational resources. If a wind energy facility is developed within areas used for recreation, it could displace or alter the quality of the recreation experience of these areas.

## 1.2 Regulatory context

Recreational resources within the onshore wind study area are protected by a variety of federal, state, and local plans, policies, and laws. Table 1 lists those that could apply depending on the jurisdictions in which a facility is proposed.

Table 1. Applicable laws, plans, and policies

Regulation, statute, guideline	Description
<b>Federal</b>	
Wilderness Act, 1964	<p>The Wilderness Act created the National Wilderness Preservation System and provides the highest level of conservation protection of federal lands. The purpose of the act is to manage wilderness areas to preserve and, where possible, to restore their wilderness character.</p> <p>Wilderness areas are defined as “outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive unconfined type of recreation.”</p>
National Wilderness Preservation System (43 <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> 19)	Designates more than 111 million acres of protected wilderness areas in the United States for enjoyment of the public.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1968 (16 <i>United States Code</i> 1271-1287)	<p>This act establishes a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System for the protection of rivers that have important scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, and other resources. The system protects the designated river and an adjacent corridor of land. Wild and scenic river corridors contain both private and public lands. Restrictions associated with the Wild and Scenic River Act apply only to federal lands and the federal government does not have the authority to regulate private lands.</p>
National Recreation Areas (Federal Executive Branch Policy March 26, 1963)	<p>A Federal Executive Branch Policy that establishes National Recreation Areas with the purpose “to fulfill adequately the steeply mounting outdoor recreation demands of the American people.” National Recreation Areas are established by acts of Congress. Private lands are not included in National Recreation Areas and are not bound by National Recreation Area rules.</p>
National Forest Management Act, 1976	<p>The National Forest Management Act requires every national forest or grassland managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to develop and maintain a Land Management Plan (also known as a Forest Plan).</p>
Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976	Establishes management guidelines on public lands to protect, develop, and enhance public lands.
Forest and Range Renewable Resource Planning Act of 1974	<p>A long-range planning policy to protect, enhance, and develop renewable resources on forest and rangelands managed by USFS.</p> <p>The Resource Planning Act requires a renewable resources assessment that reports on the status, trends, and projected future uses of the nation’s renewable resources on forest and rangelands to occur every 10 years. This assessment looks at the condition of various resources including outdoor recreation.</p>
Executive Order 12962, Recreational Fisheries	<p>Mandates federal agencies, to the extent permitted by law and where practical, to improve the “quantity, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased recreational fishing opportunities.”</p>



Regulation, statute, guideline	Description
<i>Reclamation Manual</i> (Bureau of Reclamation 2024a)	Consists of policies, directives, and standards utilized by the Bureau of Reclamation. The policies, directives, and standards with the manual assign program responsibilities with the Bureau of Reclamation and serve to document how the bureau conducts business. The manual contains several directives and standards that relate to recreational activities on Reclamation Lands.
National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act	Provides the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with guidelines, directives, and the authority to improve the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Act defines wildlife compatible recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography.
<b>State</b>	
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan, 2023 (RCO 2023)	Provides a strategic direction for how local, regional, state, and federal agencies, Tribal governments, and private and non-profit partners can work together to make sure Washington residents' outdoor recreation and conservation needs are being met. This plan is updated with new data and findings every few years.
Washington State Shoreline Management Act, 1972	The Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58 Revised Code of Washington [RCW] and Chapter 173-18 Washington Administrative Code [WAC]) requires all counties and most cities and towns within the State of Washington to develop a shoreline master program to regulate the use of stream, rivers, and marine shorelines.
Washington Forest Practices Act (Chapter 76.09 RCW)	Forest practices in Washington are regulated by means of the Forest Practices Act. This includes all non-federal and non-Tribal lands within the state. The industry is governed by the Washington Forest Practices Board to protect the state's public resources, but also to maintain a viable timber industry. The Washington Department of Natural Resources enforces the rules that are adopted by the Board.
Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (DNR 2024a)	Covers lands that are subject to the Forest Practices Act with goals to protect and provide long-term conservation for several salmonid species and other aquatic- and riparian-dependent species and keep the timber harvest industry economically viable.
Title 220 WAC, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	Identifies WDFW's responsibility to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the state's fish and wildlife species.
RCW 77.04.012, Mandate of Department and Commission	Identifies WDFW's responsibility to conserve the wildlife and food fish, game fish, and shellfish resources in a manner that does not impair the resource.
<b>Local</b>	
Shoreline master programs	Shoreline master programs are local land use policies and regulations that guide use of Washington shorelines. They apply to both public and private uses for Washington's more than 28,000 miles of lake, stream, and marine shorelines. They protect natural resources for future generations, provide for public access to public waters and shores, and plan for water-dependent uses.

Regulation, statute, guideline	Description
Comprehensive plans	A local planning effort by cities and counties that provides a vision for the community and identifies steps needed to meet that vision.
Local county codes	Set of standards that regulate public and private activities as well and land development and construction within the state's counties.

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Study area

The study area consists of areas that are used for recreation (parks, formal and informal recreational opportunities, public lands, and public amenities, such as trails) that could be impacted by the installation of future proposed onshore wind energy facilities. This includes areas within the PEIS geographic scope of study (Figure 1) and areas that are directly adjacent to it. Recreational resources within the study area could be directly impacted by the construction, operation, or decommissioning of wind energy facilities.

The PEIS geographic scope of study includes various federal, state, and locally managed lands; however, national parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, and sanctuaries; state parks; and areas within cities and urban growth areas were excluded from the geographic scope of study for facilities considered in the PEIS. However, some of these areas adjacent to the PEIS geographic scope of study are considered in the recreation resource report study area if they contain recreational resources that may be impacted by facilities.

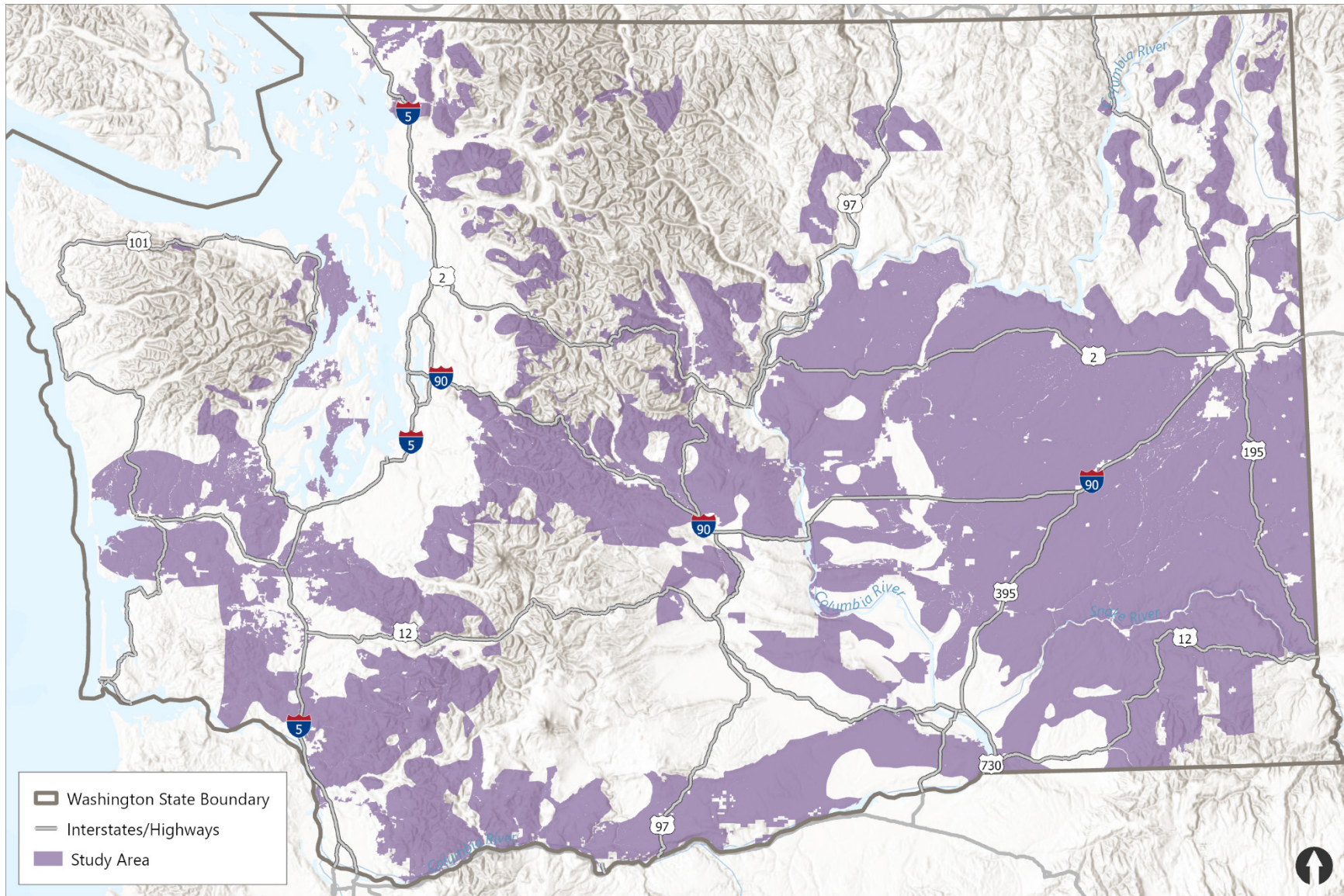


Figure 1. Onshore Wind Energy Facilities PEIS – geographic scope of study

## 2.2 Technical approach

Recreational opportunities within the study area were identified by reviewing agency websites, maps, and other information sources. Impacts on recreation were qualitatively assessed based on how construction, operation, and decommissioning of a proposed wind energy facility could impact recreational resources. Recreational opportunities within the study area were reviewed to consider possible temporary impacts from construction and decommissioning, such as noise, visibility, and traffic or access changes. Construction, operation, and decommissioning of the wind energy facilities were also analyzed to determine whether the facilities would result in loss, reduced quality, segmentation, or overcrowding of any recreation opportunities.

## 2.3 Impact assessment

The PEIS geographic scope of study overlaps and is adjacent to areas valued for their recreational opportunities. Impacts were identified by determining how the construction, operation, or decommissioning of wind energy facilities would influence recreational use of those opportunities. Impacts were considered significant if the installation of an onshore wind energy facility would result in a total loss of recreational opportunities with no opportunity for relocation. Impacts were also considered significant if a facility would be developed in an area that results in the segmentation of an existing recreational resource. Segmentation would occur if a wind energy facility were developed in the middle of a recreation facility or between previously connected recreation facilities. Loss of existing recreational opportunities or facilities could result in overuse and crowding of other recreational activities in the surrounding area, which was also considered to result in a significant impact.

## 3 Technical Analysis and Results

### 3.1 Overview

Recreation in the study area is vast, with various terrain and different opportunities based on season. Recreational activities within the study area range from trail activities to snow and water sports, as well as other unique activities, like target shooting or hang gliding. This section analyzes potential impacts on recreation that could occur with a wind energy facility under the types of facilities (alternatives) analyzed in the PEIS. This section also evaluates actions that could avoid, minimize, or reduce the identified impacts, and potential unavoidable significant adverse impacts.

### 3.2 Affected environment

The affected environment represents the current conditions. This section describes the variety of recreational opportunities available in the recreational resource report study area, which includes areas within and adjacent to the geographic scope of the PEIS. Recreational areas provide opportunities for people to enjoy and engage with the natural and built environment. The study area provides vast opportunities for recreation within various landscapes including mountains, desert, lakes, and rivers. Designated recreation areas within the geographic scope of the PEIS include local parks, national forest land managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and other lands open to public use, including lands managed by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Recreation areas directly adjacent to the geographic scope of the PEIS include similar types of areas, as well as wilderness areas, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, state parks, and national parks (Figures 2a and 2b). Additional designated recreational areas and trails are likely present within the study area, including those on public and private lands, but may not be included in currently available recreational databases or shown on maps.

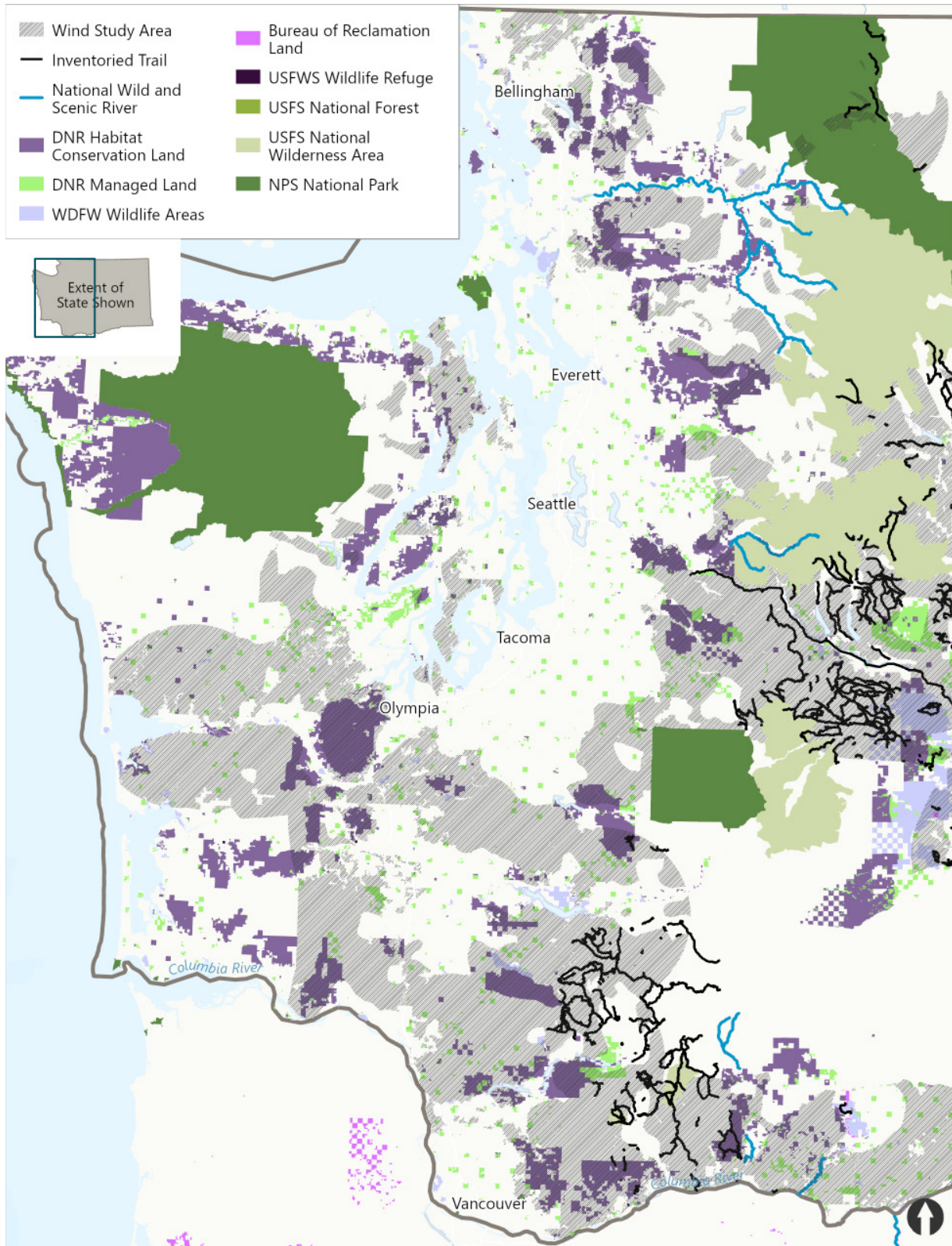


Figure 2a. Recreational resources – western Washington

Data sources: RCO 2024a; DNR 2024b, 2024c; USFWS 2024; BLM 2024; USFS 2024a, 2024b; NPS 2024; Bureau of Reclamation 2024b; National Wild and Scenic Rivers System 2024

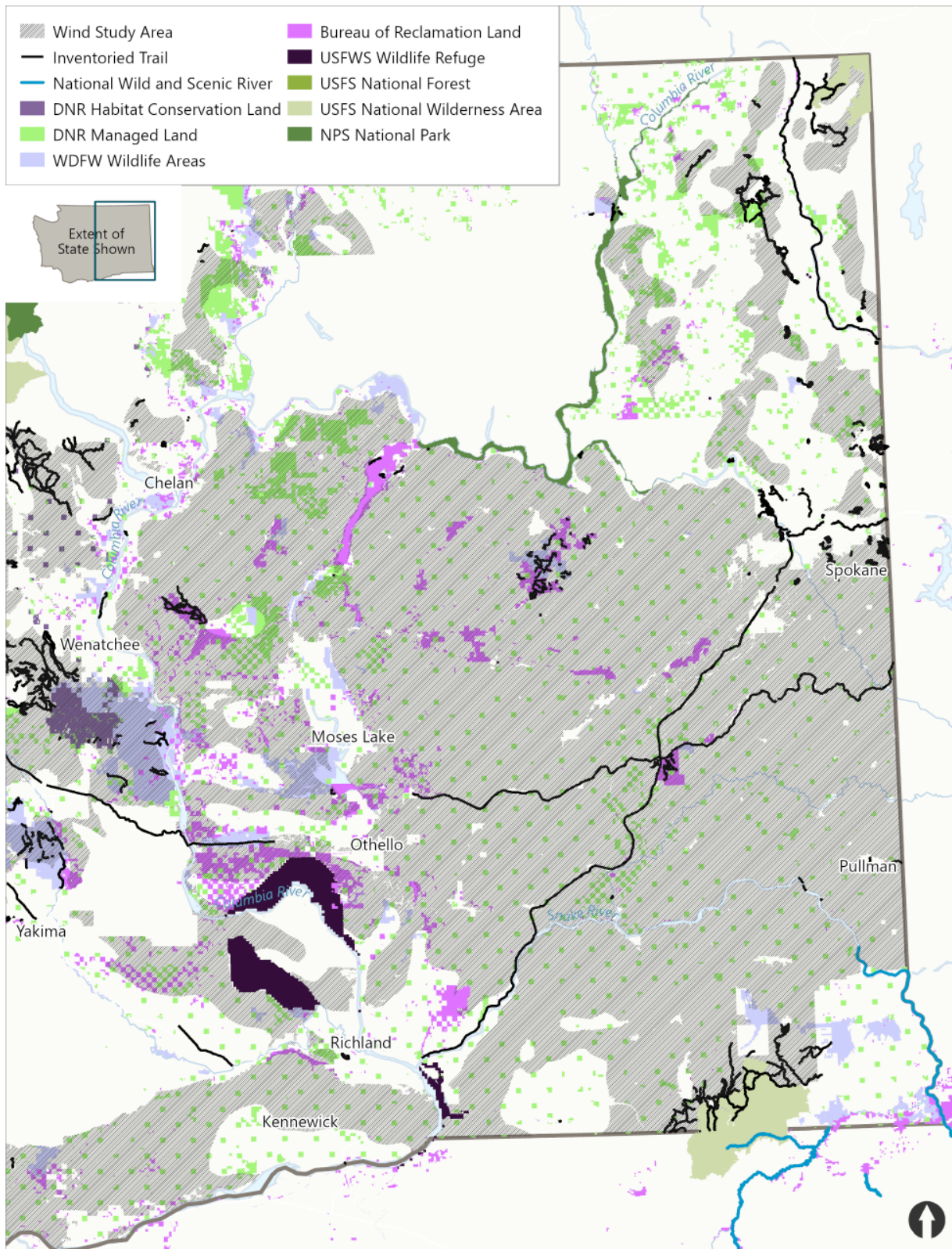


Figure 2b. Recreational resources – eastern Washington

Data sources: RCO 2024a; DNR 2024b, 2024c; USFWS 2024; BLM 2024; USFS 2024a, 2024b; NPS 2024; Bureau of Reclamation 2024b; National Wild and Scenic Rivers System 2024



Many of the recreational opportunities within the study area are used by both residents of the surrounding areas and visitors; these opportunities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Hiking
- Biking (road and mountain biking)
- Backcountry driving
- Hunting
- Horseback riding/stock use
- Bird and wildlife watching
- Camping
- Paragliding
- Hang gliding
- Dispersed target shooting
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming
- Rafting
- Kayaking
- Other paddle sports
- Fishing

Recreational activities vary with terrain, season, and land use. Activities during the summer months typically include more hiking, biking, camping, and water activities, while the winter typically includes more snow-based activities, such as skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing. Hunting and fishing seasons vary throughout the year by the species of animal (WDFW 2024a, 2024b). Tribal hunting, fishing, gathering, recreation, and other activities also occur throughout the state at various times during the year; see the *Tribal Rights, Interests, and Resources Report* (Anchor QEA 2024a). To protect the natural environment and prevent overcrowding, some recreational activities require permits or licenses issued from the managing agency, such as USFS, WDFW, DNR, or the landowner.

Although recreational trails are found throughout the state, most designated trails near the study area are located on federally managed land within the Cascade Mountain Range in the central portion of the state (RCO 2024b). This area contains multiple designated wilderness areas and national forests areas, as well as WDFW- and DNR-managed lands (Figures 2a and 2b).

Recreational opportunities are also present on private lands. Landowners engage in recreational activities on their own property and can provide access to the public at their discretion. WDFW works with private landowners in the state to provide hunting access and other recreational opportunities to the public through the Private Lands Program (WDFW 2024c).

Informal recreation on public lands also occurs throughout the study area. Informal recreation refers to activities that take place on public lands without a formal designation. Public lands are multi-use areas and can contain leases for other uses besides recreation, including grazing stock, mining energy development, and logging (RCO 2024b; DNR 2023). Informal recreational activities include, but are not limited to, dispersed camping at non-designated sites, wildlife viewing, backcountry driving, off-trail hiking, shooting, and hunting.

Agritourism is another form of recreation potentially offered within the study area. Agritourism includes recreational activities that take place on a farm or ranch and are offered to the general public. Activities associated with agritourism include, but are not limited to, farming and

education programs, u-pick fruits and vegetables, farm tours, and petting zoos, as well as various seasonal events and festivals.

Water-based recreation is prevalent throughout the state in coastal areas like the Puget Sound and Pacific Coast, rivers, reservoirs, and lakes, all of which are located within the study area. Similar to the recreational activities described above, opportunities for water-based recreation are available in designated areas, on private property, and on public lands. Wild and scenic rivers are protected rivers valued for their unique characteristics, which often include their recreational opportunities. The onshore wind study area includes parts of multiple wild and scenic designated rivers including the following:

- Middle Fork Snoqualmie River
- Skagit River
- Suk River
- White Salmon River
- Klickitat River

Outdoor recreation has become increasingly popular in recent years. The Washington State Recreation Conservation Office reports that between 2017 and 2023, 20 different outdoor recreation activities in Washington have seen a double-digit increase in participation rates (RCO 2023). Interest and participation in recreation activities will likely continue to increase in the future with population growth. Based on counts for trail-based recreation at 519 trails, parks, and recreation facilities, ECONorthwest reports that day use is the highest on the western side of the state, with King and Pierce counties having the highest number of annual day use trips within the state. King County had an estimated 48.5 million annual day use visitors and Pierce County had an estimated count of 17 million annual day use visitors. Annual day trips were lowest in counties on the state's eastern side, with most counties in this area having fewer than 3.5 million annual day users reported. Spokane County had the highest annual day-use rate of the eastern Washington counties, with 11.6 million users. Because these data do not capture information for all trails in Washington it was supplemented with information from the 2017 Outdoor Recreation Survey (ECONorthwest 2019). Changes in land use could alter some recreational opportunities in the future; however, the study area is expected to continue to provide a diverse array of recreational opportunities.

### **3.3 Potentially required permits**

There would be no specific permit requirements for utility-scale onshore wind facilities that pertain to recreation.

## 3.4 Small to medium utility-scale facilities of 10 MW to 250 MW (Alternative 1)

### 3.4.1 Impacts from construction

Potential short-term construction and site characterization impacts on areas on or adjacent to onshore wind facility sites could include increased noise, dust and (and reduced visibility), traffic, and temporary changes in access, as follows:

- **Noise, dust, and visibility:** Recreationists within sight and sound of the construction area for a facility could experience disruption or impairment of their recreational experience because of noise and dust. The magnitude of the impact would be related to the distance from the facility construction area and local conditions; however, these impacts would not result in a loss of recreation resource (i.e., a resource that is no longer able to be used for recreation). For more discussion on the visual and noise impacts of facility construction see the *Aesthetics/Visual Quality Resource Report* (ESA 2024a) and the *Noise and Vibration Resource Report* (ESA 2024b).
- **Traffic:** Traffic delays could occur near areas under construction and along routes used for transporting wind facility components, such as turbine blades. Impacts to traffic could create longer travel times for recreationists to reach their activity. For more discussion on potential impacts on traffic from construction, see the *Transportation Resource Report* (ESA 2024c).
- **Temporary changes in access:** Construction of perimeter fencing at facilities could limit access to any recreation sites that are within facility construction areas. Some site characterization actions, such as borings or installation of meteorological towers, could also lead to restricted access. Access to recreational sites adjacent to onshore wind energy facility construction could be restricted or limited during the construction period; however, it is not expected that access to adjacent recreation would be eliminated.

Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions that could avoid and reduce impacts, most construction activities would likely result in **less than significant impacts** on recreation.

If construction of a facility results in the loss of recreation resources or crowding of alternative recreational opportunities, there would be **potentially significant adverse impacts**.

### 3.4.2 Impacts from operation

Some facilities may allow continued or new recreation on some of their facility site, whereas others may restrict recreational access for safety and security reasons. A facility may be sited in an area used and valued for its recreational opportunities and result in the loss of those recreational opportunities (for example, due to perimeter fencing that may exclude access or wind turbines or generation-tie transmission lines that may preclude activities like paragliding, hang gliding, mountain biking, hunting, or hiking).

Elimination of recreational opportunities may also result in higher uses of neighboring recreation opportunities or segmentation of existing recreational areas (such as trails).

Recreationists near a facility during operations could experience changes that could degrade the recreational experience, including changes in the noise and visual environment from the wind turbines. For more discussion of these impacts, refer to the *Aesthetics/Visual Quality Resource Report* and the *Noise and Resource Report*.

Operations of onshore wind energy facilities could also result in impacts to vegetation and wildlife species (such as birds) and changes in wildlife habitat areas. These changes could have an impact on hunting and wildlife viewing because they are dependent on where wildlife is located. However, these impacts would not result in the elimination of hunting and wildlife viewing, and these opportunities may still be available nearby. For more information related to the impacts on wildlife and habitats, see the *Biological Resources Report* (Anchor QEA 2024b).

If operation of the facility results in the loss of recreation resources or crowding of alternative recreational opportunities, it would be a **potentially significant adverse impact**. If increased use of neighboring recreational opportunities throughout the operations phase were to result in overcrowding and overuse of those resources, such conditions would be **potentially significant adverse impacts**. Segmentation of recreational facilities, such as severing trail connections, could also result in **potentially significant adverse impacts** if recreationists no longer have access to the full activity.

### 3.4.3 Impacts from decommissioning

Impacts from decommissioning and potential wind repowering would be similar to the temporary impacts described for construction.

Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions that could avoid and reduce impacts, most decommissioning activities would likely result in **less than significant impacts** on recreation.

If decommissioning of the facility results in the loss of recreation resources or crowding of alternative recreational opportunities, there would be **potentially significant adverse impacts**. If a facility is repowered, it could increase the length of time that access to recreational opportunities are lost resulting in impacts that are similar to those discussed under operation. Repowering could result in continued **potentially significant adverse impacts** if recreation facilities remain unavailable.

### 3.4.4 Actions to avoid and reduce impacts

#### 3.4.4.1 Siting and design considerations

The following list identifies potential siting and design considerations that could be taken by the facility proponent to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts on recreational resources:

- Consider local, state, and federal recreation areas and current uses when siting a facility.

- Avoid siting facilities in areas valued for recreational opportunities or areas of unique recreation resources and areas that would create segmentation of existing recreation or cause overuse of neighboring recreational activities. This includes both informal recreational areas and recreation in designated local, state, and federal recreational areas.

#### **3.4.4.2 Permits, plans, and best management practices**

The construction of an onshore wind energy facility would include an evaluation by land managers to assess potential recreational impacts, which may be completed as part of the lease approval process. This process would determine whether a mitigation plan would be required. The purpose of a mitigation plan is to reduce impacts on recreational users from construction and operation. Facility developers may develop a site-specific recreation mitigation plan to identify and implement potential mitigation measures. A recreation mitigation plan would require coordination among the facility developer and the land management agency or landowner.

Best management practices (BMPs) could be implemented to control noise, dust, and impacts to wildlife that could also reduce impacts on recreation. These include following the local noise ordinance and using dust control measures, such as covering bare soil with mulch, using a water truck to keep any haul roads damp, requiring vehicles leaving a construction site to be sprayed, lowering travel speeds, and restricting earth-moving tasks to low-wind days. For other BMPs, refer to the *Aesthetics/Visual Quality Resource Report*, *Noise and Vibration Resource Report*, and *Biological Resources Report*.

Additionally, BMPs could include notifying recreationists of construction activities, which would likely include posting signage at and around any impacted sites, online postings, and press releases. These alerts should include a description of the project, expected hours of construction, and potential changes including impacts on the recreational experience.

#### **3.4.4.3 Additional mitigation measures**

Additional mitigation measures to reduce impacts on recreation include the following:

- Add opportunities for recreational activities. Onshore wind energy facilities could be designed with biking or hiking trails, wildlife viewing areas, or be opened to hunting during portions of the year.
- Avoid segmentation of recreational areas or creating vast areas that are inaccessible to the public.
- Engage with statewide and local interest groups (for example, trail associations and environmental advocacy groups) dedicated to conserving natural resources and recreation regarding potential development of a mitigation plan.

### **3.4.5 Unavoidable significant adverse impacts**

Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions to avoid and mitigate significant impacts, small to medium utility-scale onshore wind facilities would have **no**

**significant and unavoidable adverse impacts** on recreation resources from construction, operation, or decommissioning.

## 3.5 Large utility-scale facilities of 251 MW to 1,500 MW (Alternative 2)

### 3.5.1 Impacts from construction, operation, and decommissioning

Impacts from construction, operation, and decommissioning of large utility-scale wind energy facilities would be the same as those discussed for small to medium facilities in Section 3.4. The scale of wind energy facilities would be larger, potentially increasing the risk for significant adverse impacts if recreation opportunities are lost. The larger facility would also have increased potential for impacts to nearby recreational opportunities. This could result in greater changes to the visual and noise environments and changes to wildlife migration as discussed for small to medium facilities.

Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions that could avoid and reduce impacts, most construction, operation, and decommissioning activities would likely result in **less than significant impacts** on recreation.

If construction, operations, or decommissioning of the facility results in the loss of recreation resources, segmentation without full access to an activity, or crowding of alternative recreational opportunities, there would be **potentially significant adverse impacts**.

### 3.5.2 Actions to avoid and reduce impacts

Available means of reducing recreational impacts for large facilities are the same as those identified in Section 3.3.4 for small to medium facilities.

### 3.5.3 Unavoidable significant adverse impacts

Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions to avoid and mitigate significant impacts, large utility-scale onshore wind facilities would have **no significant and unavoidable adverse impacts** on recreation resources from construction, operation, or decommissioning.

## 3.6 Wind energy facility and co-located battery energy storage system (Alternative 3)

### 3.6.1 Impacts from construction, operation, and decommissioning

Impacts from construction, operation, and decommissioning of wind energy facilities co-located with a battery energy storage system (BESS) would be the same as those discussed for facilities without a BESS. The construction and decommissioning activities for facilities with a co-located BESS would be the same as those for facilities without a BESS. For this analysis, it is assumed the BESS would be located within the onshore wind energy facility site footprint and would

require a small additional area of development, but would not contribute other recreational impacts than described for facilities without a BESS.

Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions that could avoid and reduce impacts, most construction, operations, and decommissioning activities would likely result in **less than significant impacts** on recreation.

If construction, operations, or decommissioning of the facility results in the loss of recreation resources, segmentation without full access to an activity, or crowding of alternative recreational opportunities, there would be **potentially significant adverse impacts**.

### 3.6.2 Actions to avoid and reduce impacts

Available means of reducing recreational impacts of facilities with co-located BESSs are the same as those identified in Section 3.4.4, with the addition of:

- Site the BESS away from any recreational uses to further avoid and minimize potential noise or visual impacts.

### 3.6.3 Unavoidable significant adverse impacts

Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions to avoid and mitigate significant impacts, utility-scale onshore wind facilities with a co-located BESS would have **no significant and unavoidable adverse impacts** on recreation resources from construction, operation, or decommissioning.

## 3.7 Onshore wind energy facility combined with agricultural land use (Alternative 4)

### 3.7.1 Impacts from construction, operation, and decommissioning

Recreational opportunities are generally less prevalent in agricultural landscapes because they often do not provide features like trails to support recreation, there are established land uses for livestock or crops, and many of these areas are located on private property. However, privately owned lands can still be used for recreation by the property owner, or the public may have opportunities to participate in recreation opportunities, like hunting, if a landowner participates in WDFW's Private Land Program, as described in Section 3.2. Agricultural activities located on lands that are multi-use could also support recreational activities.

Impacts from construction, operation, and decommissioning of onshore wind energy facilities co-located with agricultural land uses would largely be the same as those discussed in Sections 3.4 and 3.5.

Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions that could avoid and reduce impacts, most construction, operations, and decommissioning activities would likely result in **less than significant impacts** on recreation.

If construction, operations, or decommissioning of the facility results in the loss of recreation resources, segmentation without full access to an activity, or crowding of alternative recreational opportunities, there would be **potentially significant adverse impacts**.

### **3.7.2 Actions to avoid and reduce impacts**

Available means of reducing recreational impacts facilities combined with agricultural land use are the same as those identified in Section 3.4.4, including avoiding developing a wind facility in an area with agritourism or other recreation opportunities.

#### **3.7.2.1 Additional mitigation measures**

Actions for reducing the recreational impacts of facilities combined with agricultural land use would be the same as those for facilities without co-located agricultural use. An additional mitigation measure to address potentially significant impacts for lost recreational uses could include:

- Offering agritourism activities where an onshore wind energy facility and agriculture use are co-located

### **3.7.3 Unavoidable significant adverse impacts**

Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions to avoid and mitigate significant impacts, utility-scale onshore wind facilities with agricultural use would have **no significant and unavoidable adverse impacts** on recreation resources from construction, operation, or decommissioning.

## **3.8 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, the city, county, and state agencies would continue to conduct environmental review and permitting for utility-scale onshore wind facilities. The potential impacts from facilities developed under the No Action Alternative would be similar to the impacts for the types of facilities described above for construction, operations, and decommissioning, depending on facility size and design, and would range from **less than significant impact** to **potentially significant adverse impact**.



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