

Letter: Wind power is not necessarily cheap, green and clean

East Oregonian

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The Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley have been working with the Blue Mountain Alliance to put some controls and guidelines on the development of wind farms in Eastern Oregon.

We find there are two types of people in favor of wind farms: the uninformed and those that are going to get money or benefit from these projects.

When one becomes knowledgeable about wind farms, they find they are not clean, not green and certainly not cheap. Wind farms create serious noise pollution, destroy wildlife habitat, compromise the environment and reduce property values, all the while using our taxpayer dollars to do it. Once wind farms are online, they plug the grid with power that is neither needed nor sustainable while raising utility rates.

Recently, a man from College Place wrote a letter to the editor touting the fact that possibly the majority of the people of Umatilla County may be in favor of wind farms. One has to question if he has property to lease to the wind developer at taxpayer expense. Perhaps a vote should be taken as was done in Union County wherein the majority voted “no” to wind farms. The Blue Mountain Alliance has worked very hard to get appropriate setbacks for wind towers and their petition is supporting these crucial setbacks. We encourage the residents of Umatilla County to get educated to the facts and support the BMA, a grassroots organization looking out for all the citizens of the county.

If you want to learn the truth about wind power, go to our website www.fgrv.org or www.bluemountainalliance.org. You will find that folly of wind power is global and not just in our backyards.

Dennis Wilkinson

FGRV Chairman

La Grande