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Prohibit wind power development in Shasta County, eastern Cascades

The existing wind power system on the Cascade slopes, east of Redding in Shasta County, barely met the environmental and permitting needs for that kind of project and did not meet the intent of both CEQA and NEPA, when it came to public review and input. Similarly, the assessment to the impacts of biological resources was inadequate. These systems are perpetual death for a host of species that migrate, with a focus on birds and bats, and also fragment habitat due to the need to reduce fire risk in and around the wind turbines. To further extend these kinds of impacts to the south of there would exacerbate, exponentially, unacceptable levels of impact to wildlife, including ones protected by state and federal law (e.g. bald eagles, other raptors), migratory waterfowl, and neotropical migratory birds, which are afforded protection under the federal Migratory Bird Act. In addition, the impacts to bat species cannot be ignored; many of the bat species, which are CRUCIAL for pollination of both natural habitats but also agricultural plants, are in serious decline, both locally and nationally. The watershed affected, Cow Creek, is home to a federally listed fish species, Central Valley steelhead, whose habitat extends up into the area of the project. While certain tributaries have natural barriers lower down the slope, it is critical that the habitat ABOVE those areas is also managed for these species, which depend on cold water. Further impacts to the landscape, either in the form of chronic erosion, sun exposure to the slope (where vegetation will not be allowed to grow), and the area's spring network (this area is known for having multiple springs), will create a adverse affect to this and other species that depend on cold water and suitable spawning habitat. The existing solar project is also largely within the Cow Creek watershed; the proposed network would essentially affect most, if not all, the rest of the upper areas of this watershed. It would also negatively affect migratory species (small mammals, deer, etc.) that require cover when migrating up and downslope. When added to the existing impacts caused by primarily private timber harvest, which has already fragmented the landscape, the additional impacts caused by this project on habitat, dispersal, etc. are unacceptable and deleterious. Note that for any project, looking at existing conditions is required, and if the landscape is already impaired, it is essentially against the various environmental laws to allow the project to be implemented, depending on the habitat and species potentially affected. Finally, I live here, you don't, you don't have to see, every day, blinking lights and windmills every time you look to the east, which otherwise would be a beautiful view. The aesthetic impacts on our community are unacceptable. Again, imagine if you lived here and something like this was proposed...