

## Supporting the Development of Wind Resources in the Pacific Northwest

The Bonneville Power Administration has made a commitment to the Pacific Northwest to support the development of renewable energy resources in the region – in particular, wind. Developers have discovered a hotbed of potential wind generation sites east of the Cascade mountain range along the Columbia River and elsewhere. Some wind farms have already been established but updated energy outlooks and environmental policies as well as federal tax incentives have driven an exponential increase in the projected need for transmission access for wind-based generation. By the end of 2005 alone, the amount of wind-powered generation connected to the BPA transmission grid could more than triple. In order to meet demand, BPA will have to accomplish both the completion of interconnection studies for projects that are likely to be completed in time for operation in 2005 as well as offer long-term firm transmission agreements for most projects.

### **Wind Gains Regional and National Momentum**

The recent passing of the production tax credit for wind developments supports a major push across the nation and in the Northwest for looking at wind to diversify energy portfolios. For the Northwest, wind is a good fit to balance the hydro-dependent resources and a number of major utilities across the region have actively sought wind as an increasing portion of their generation portfolios.



The Transmission Business Line plays an important role in providing and maintaining the infrastructure to deliver power from new and existing wind farms to meet regional load. TBL is taking on a number of issues to facilitate and support the growth and development of wind as a dependable Northwest power resource.

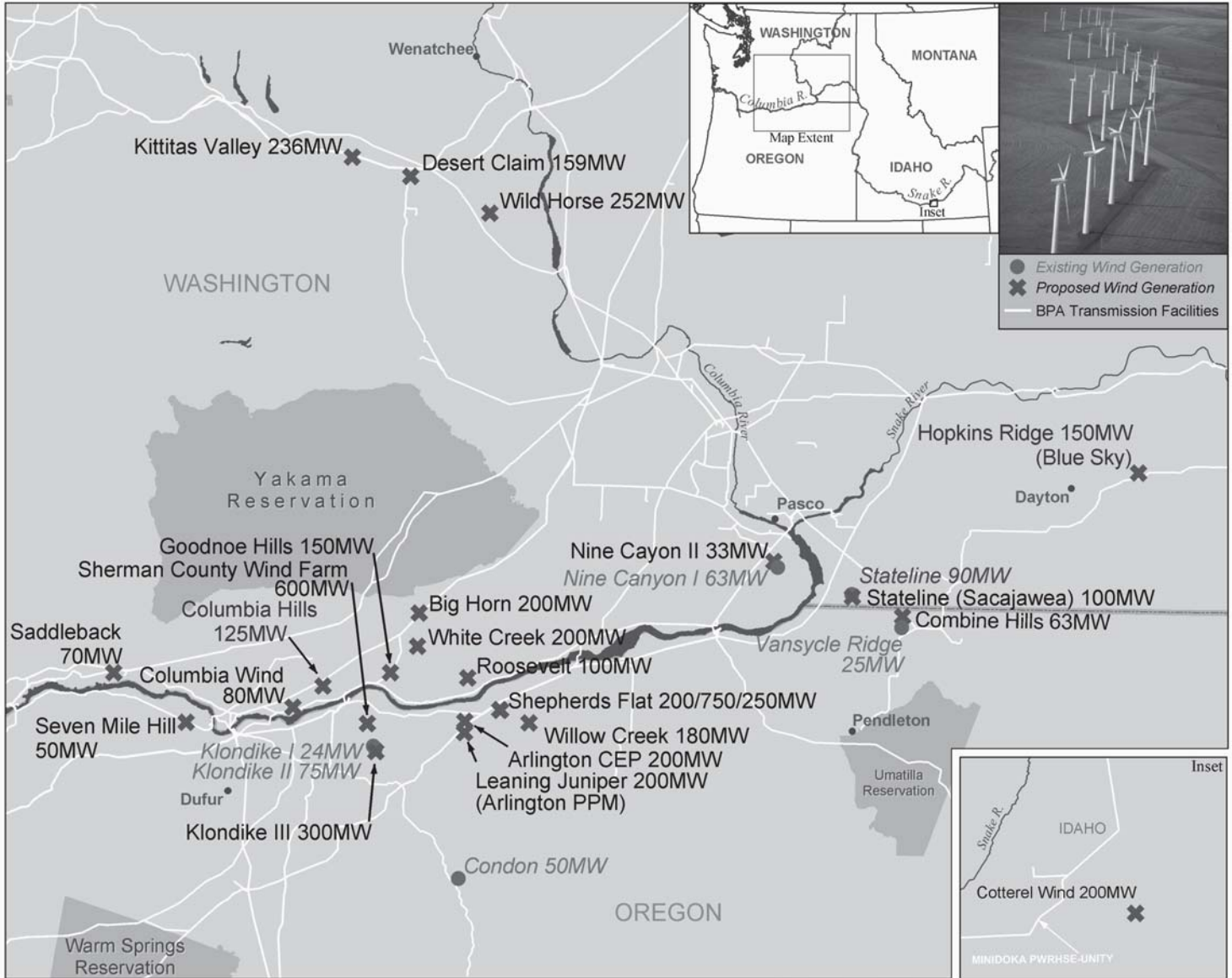
### **Actions to Support Wind**

TBL has sought innovative ways to engage the region in its efforts to support wind. In 2001, TBL conducted a special rate case to exempt wind generation from third tier generation scheduling imbalance penalty charges. Also, as part of the 2002 transmission rate case settlement, TBL created a work group within its Business Practices Technical Forum to focus on many of the issues related to ancillary service and scheduling wind.

Moving forward, TBL is working with public interest groups and customers to assess the feasibility of developing new products such as a conditional firm product that could allow optimum use of the transmission grid. New products seek to optimize use of the system as well as determine how



# Wind project sites: Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington



different generation resources can best utilize the system. Current efforts such as the McNary-John Day open season provide opportunities to identify and cooperatively work toward solutions to eliminate transmission bottlenecks.

As a further indication of the agency's support of wind, the Power Business Line has created a wind integration product and a storage and shaping product that utilizes the flexibility of the hydro system to better enable integration of new wind resources. More information is available at <http://www.bpa.gov/power/pgc/wind/wind.shtml>.

## For More Information

For more information on the TBL's support for wind resources development in the Pacific Northwest or the status of wind projects requesting interconnection, visit the TBL Web site at <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/> or call toll free 1-888-276-7790. You may also submit inquiries to [tblfeedback@bpa.gov](mailto:tblfeedback@bpa.gov).