

# Solar Energy Washington State

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# Lind Solar Project; Lind, WA



Jesse Tinsley/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW 2018

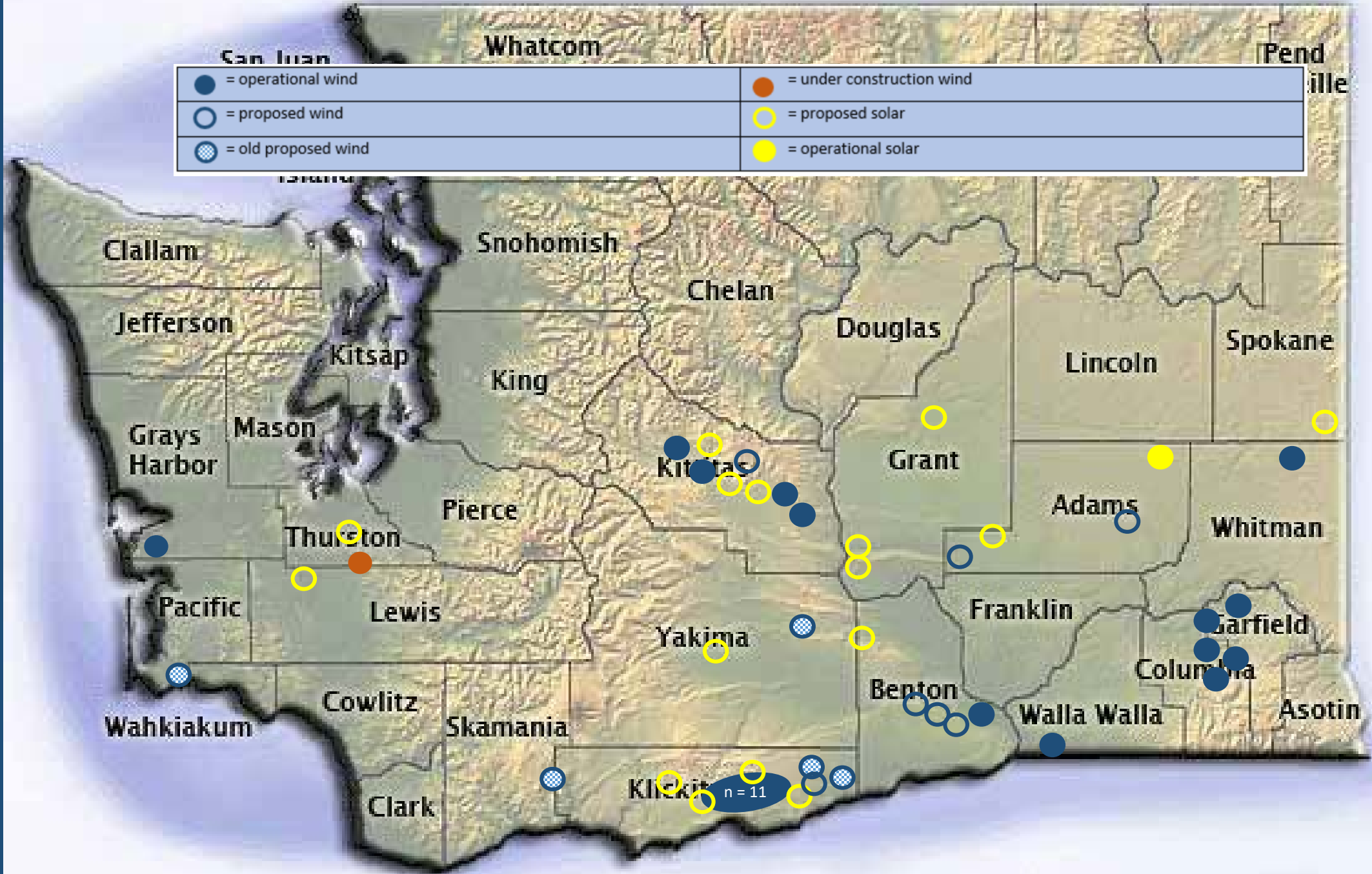
# How Much? (in a spread sheet)

	Wind	Solar
Operational	24	1
Proposed *	12	16
Under Construction	1	
Total	37	17

\* = project has completed some level of biological and permitting assessment

16 proposed solar projects total > 26,000 acres or about 40 square miles

● = operational wind	● = under construction wind
○ = proposed wind	○ = proposed solar
⊗ = old proposed wind	● = operational solar





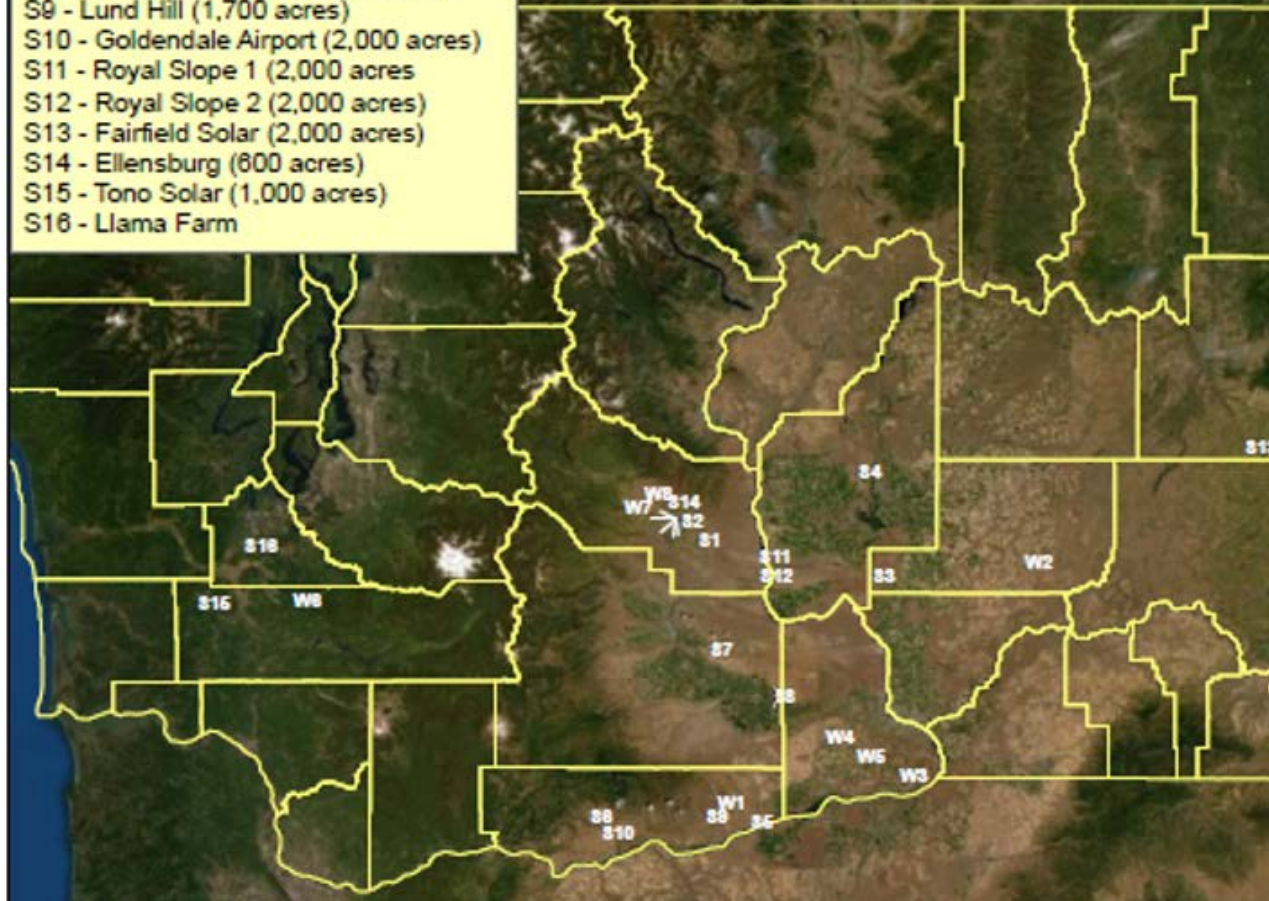
# Proposed Wind and Solar Projects\*

## Solar Projects

- S1 - Schneblee Coulee (700 acres)
- S2 - Columbia (5 sites @ 40 acres each)
- S3 - Othello (800 acres)
- S4 - Quincy (720 acres)
- S5 - Six Prong (2,000 acres)
- S6 - Golden (8,735 acres)
- S7 - Goose Prairie (519 acres)
- S8 - County Line (800-1,000 acres)
- S9 - Lund Hill (1,700 acres)
- S10 - Goldendale Airport (2,000 acres)
- S11 - Royal Slope 1 (2,000 acres)
- S12 - Royal Slope 2 (2,000 acres)
- S13 - Fairfield Solar (2,000 acres)
- S14 - Ellensburg (800 acres)
- S15 - Tono Solar (1,000 acres)
- S16 - Llama Farm

## Wind Projects

- W1 - Crider Valley (31,000 acres)
- W2 - Rattlesnake Flat (23,000 acres)
- W3 - 4 mile
- W4 - Badger Canyon
- W5 - Horse Heaven
- W6 - Skookumchuck (20,000 acres; under construction)
- W8 - Ellensburg



Wind – landscape remains open and connected and working and available for access (hunting).



Wind Projects: left; Wild Horse, Ellensburg (Mechling 2009) and right; Lower Snake, Palouse (©Christopher Kimball)

Solar – fenced in, fragmented, loss of connectivity, closed, loss of access, changes in functions and values from shading and fencing.





# IMPACTS

## Permanent Impacts

Roads  
O & M bldg.  
Inverters  
Substation  
Posts

## Permanent Impacts

Shrub lands  
converted to altered  
grasslands

## Fencing

Impacts to  
animal  
movement  
and loss of  
connectivity  
with  
surrounding  
landscape  
and  
fire risk.

## Other

Mowing in Spring can  
impact grassland  
nesting bird species.

Mowing will affect  
other wildlife year-  
round, escape and  
foraging habitat, and  
ground cover and  
food seed sources.

Mowing is a repeated  
and frequent  
disturbance that will  
affect wildlife

## Temporary Impacts

Trenching for under  
ground collector lines

## Shading

Changes in  
heating/cooling  
and moisture  
loss/retention  
leading to:

## Shading

Changes in  
grassland  
plant species  
and changes  
in ecological  
functions and  
values

## Other

Clearing and grading for  
site preparation

## Other

Dust and snow  
maintenance

## Other

Behavior impacts  
to wildlife (sage  
grouse)



# Connections, Collaboration, and Challenges

1. Governor's Office
2. Industry
3. Local government
4. DNR
5. EFSEC



## What are we doing...

- Actively engaged across programs and field to NRB.
- WA Audubon and their “least conflict” multi-stake holder process for solar siting.
- Regular internal meetings for active solar project impact assessment.
- Short-term and Long-term personnel and document needs to address solar development.
- Provide proactive technical assistance to local government to enable/empower them to assume a greater role in implementation of their GMA responsibilities.
- Shrub-steppe working group.

Discussion?