

REGIONAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS with Development of the Radar Ridge Wind Project

Grays Harbor Public Utility District, Pacific County PUD, Mason PUD 3, Clallam County PUD and Energy Northwest are researching the development of the Radar Ridge Wind Project in Pacific County near Naselle, Washington.

Pacific County and the areas served by the PUDs are experiencing a depressed economy with high unemployment, negative growth, and businesses closing their doors. Pacific County has a population of 21,800 (2008 estimate) with a September 2009 unemployment rate at 10.7 percent (ESD).

Construction of the Radar Ridge Wind Project would provide a boost to Pacific County and surrounding communities. The project would allow for employment of local companies as sub-contractors and some individuals to work in different crafts during certain phases of the construction. Various material used in erecting the turbines, such as rock for roads and footings, concrete, rebar, and other items could be purchased in Pacific County. Local restaurants, hotels and other stores would support this temporary labor force. Direct and indirect construction benefits to Pacific County could reach \$10 million based on this size of project.* Local procurement by construction workers could bring in an additional \$3 million to businesses in the area.*

Pacific County would receive tax revenues during construction as well as throughout the operation of the Radar Ridge Wind Project. These annual receipts will be a large boost to a County that has just announced a layoff of 15 - 16 positions for 2010.

Once constructed, the Radar Ridge Wind Project will offer the following:

- Employment for up to nine individuals. Given current high unemployment rates, new family wage jobs are welcome. Benefits associated with these new families to the surrounding area include costs for housing, living expenses, education, and taxes provided by local businesses or agencies and could total up to \$17 million annually.*
- Educational opportunity for students and visitors interested in renewable resources and wind projects in particular.
- Supplemental income for businesses providing food and housing for construction workers supporting the project.
- A renewable resource as part of each participating utilities wholesale power portfolio to meet I-937 requirements, local green power sales, or future load growth.
- New revenue for businesses providing supplies for the continued operation of the project.

These examples provide different direct and indirect economic benefits that construction of the Radar Ridge Wind Project could bring to Pacific County and neighboring communities. Many of them could be quantified into an estimated number once more specifics of the project are known.

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**The numbers depicted in this paper are based on projections run through the IMPLAN model.*

