



Aerial Firefighting & Wind Turbines Proposed Legislation in Washington State

Paul J. Krupin and Representative Stephanie Barnard

Horse Heaven Hill Wind and Solar Project

Horse Heaven
Wind Project



Overview Map
Turbine Layout Option 1
BENTON COUNTY, WA

Largest Proposed Wind/Solar
Project in Washington

25 miles

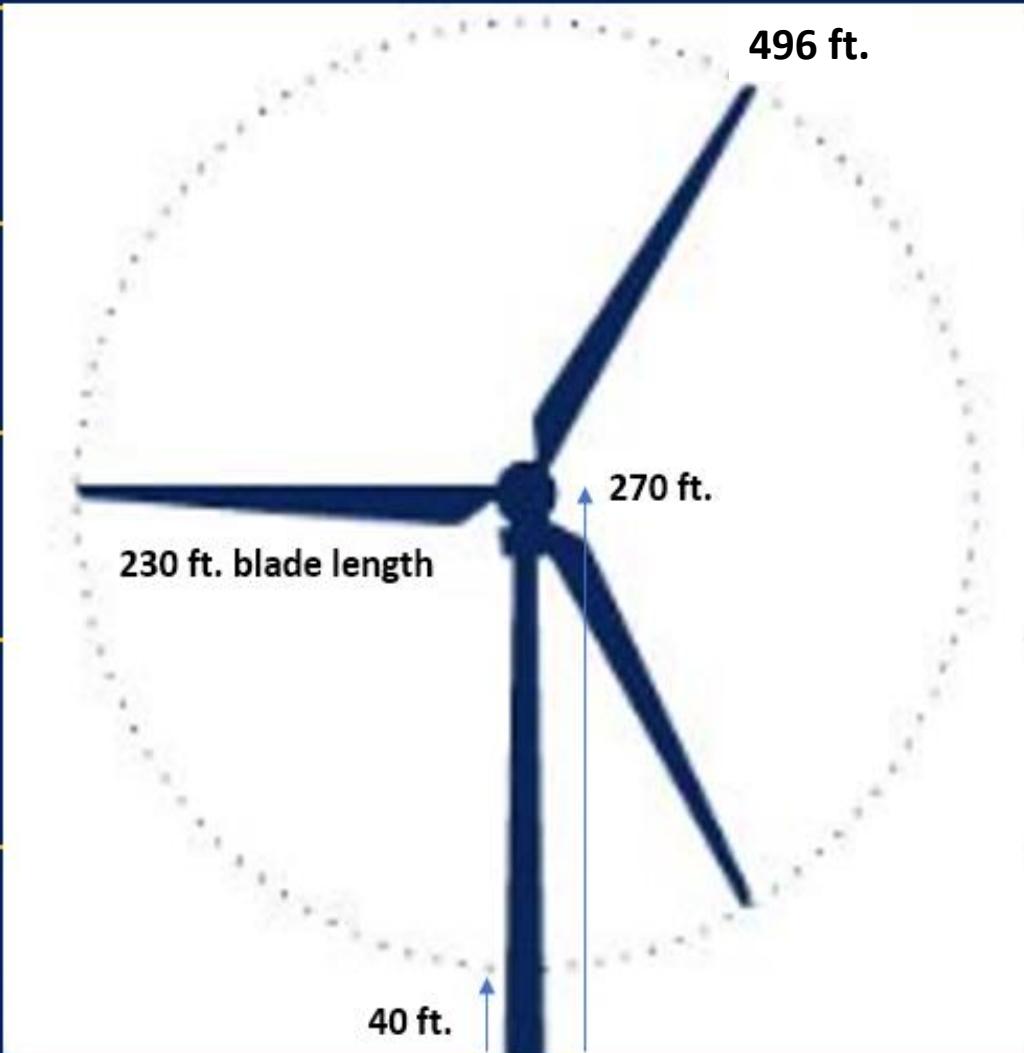
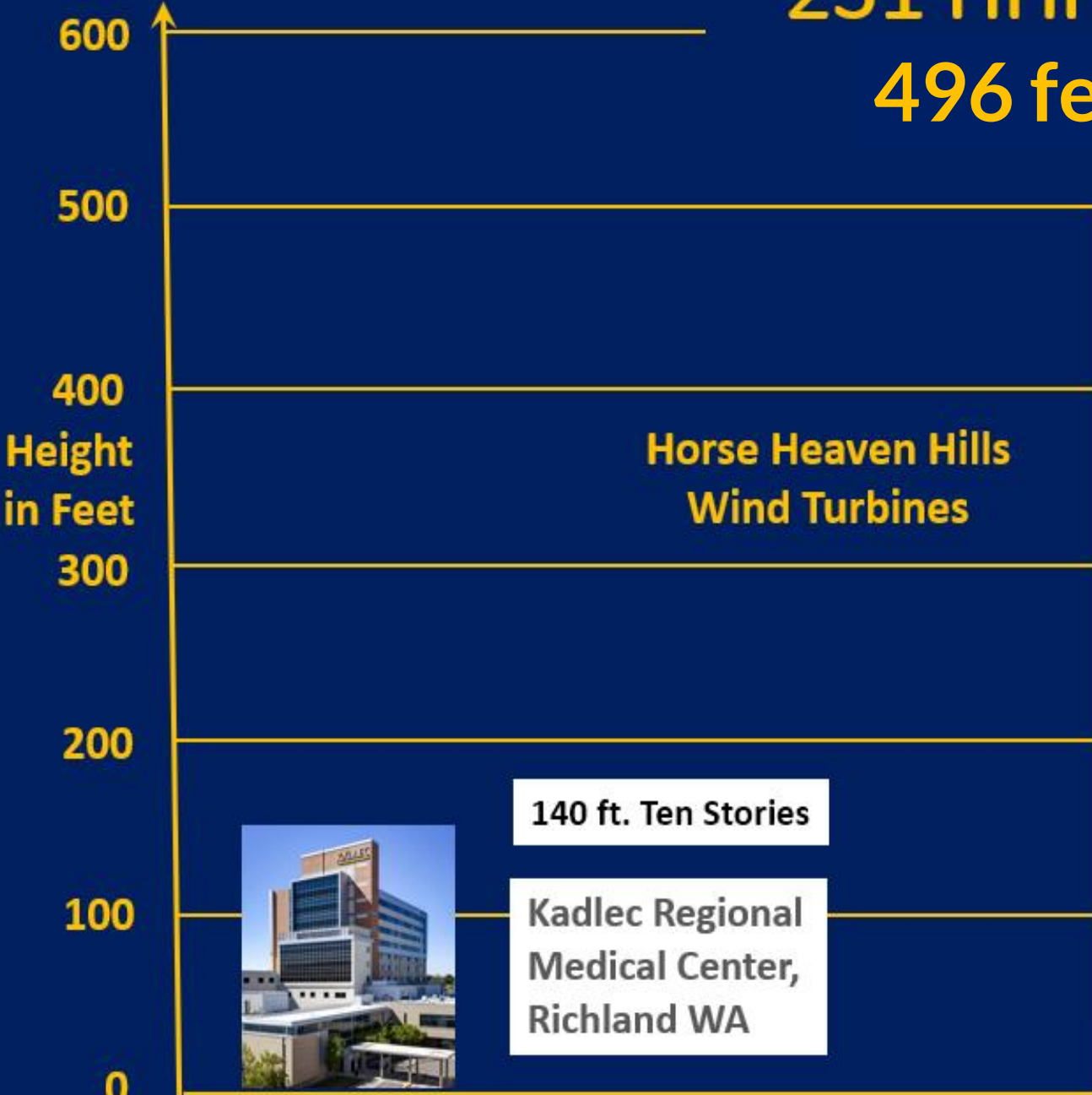
**25 miles west to east and
4 to 6 miles wide north to
south, goes from Benton
City all the way to Finley.**

- 231 496 ft high turbines
- Over 60,000 acres
- Over 100 miles of dirt roads
- 20 miles of new transmission lines
- 18 acres of lithium-ion battery storage

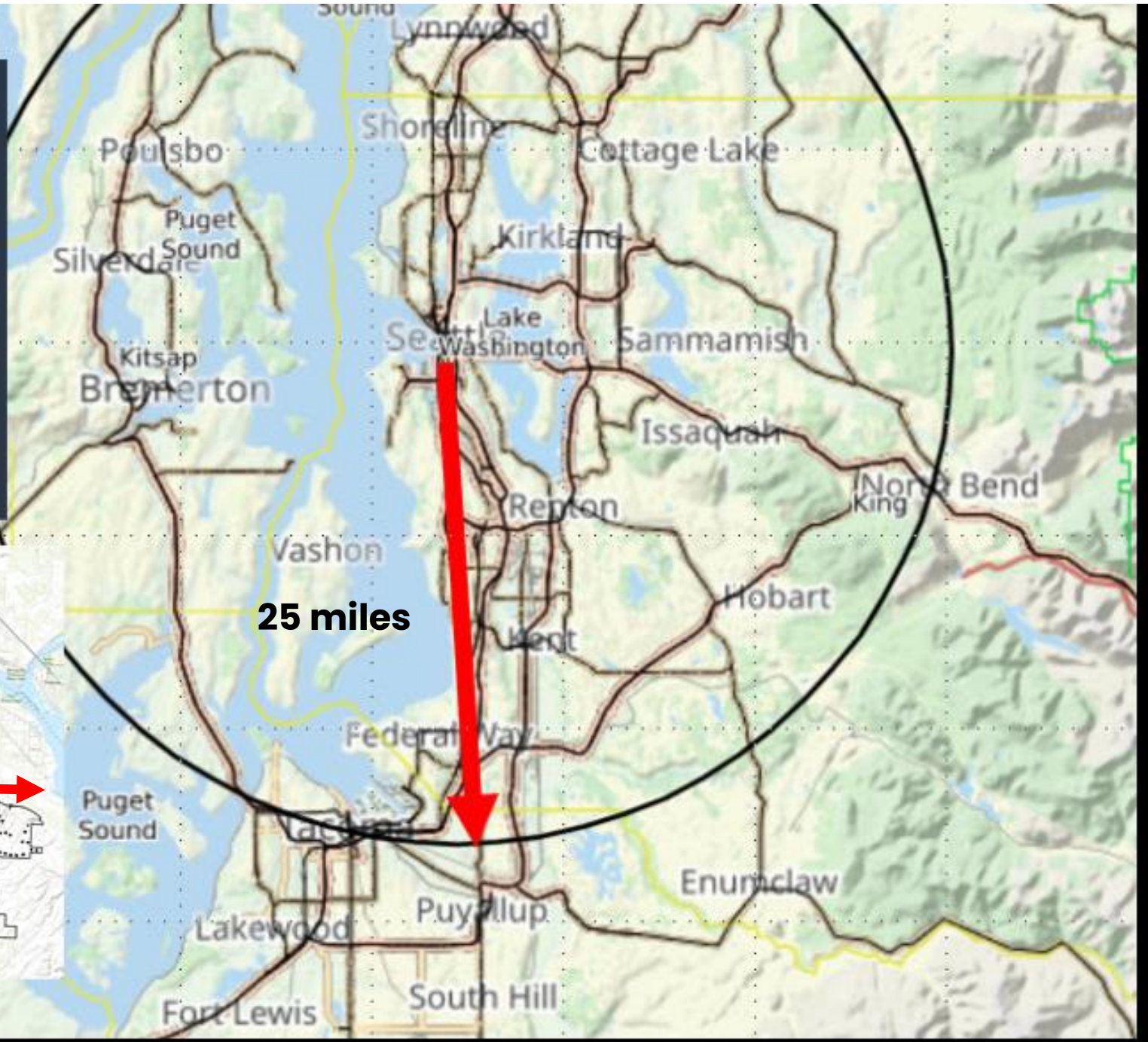
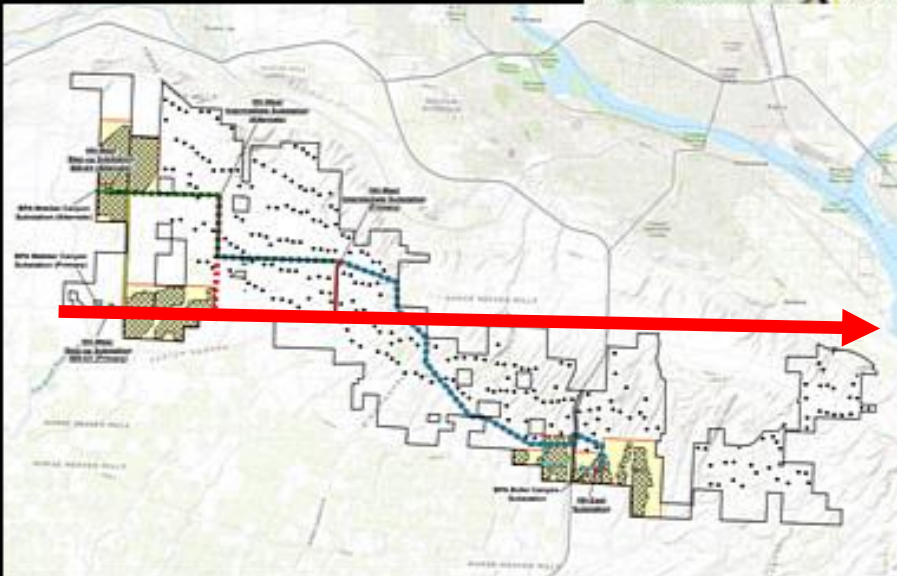
**Tri-Cities (Richland,
Kennewick & Pasco) is
the fourth largest
metropolitan area in
Washington state.**



231 HHH Wind Turbines 496 feet high each



Seattle to Tacoma

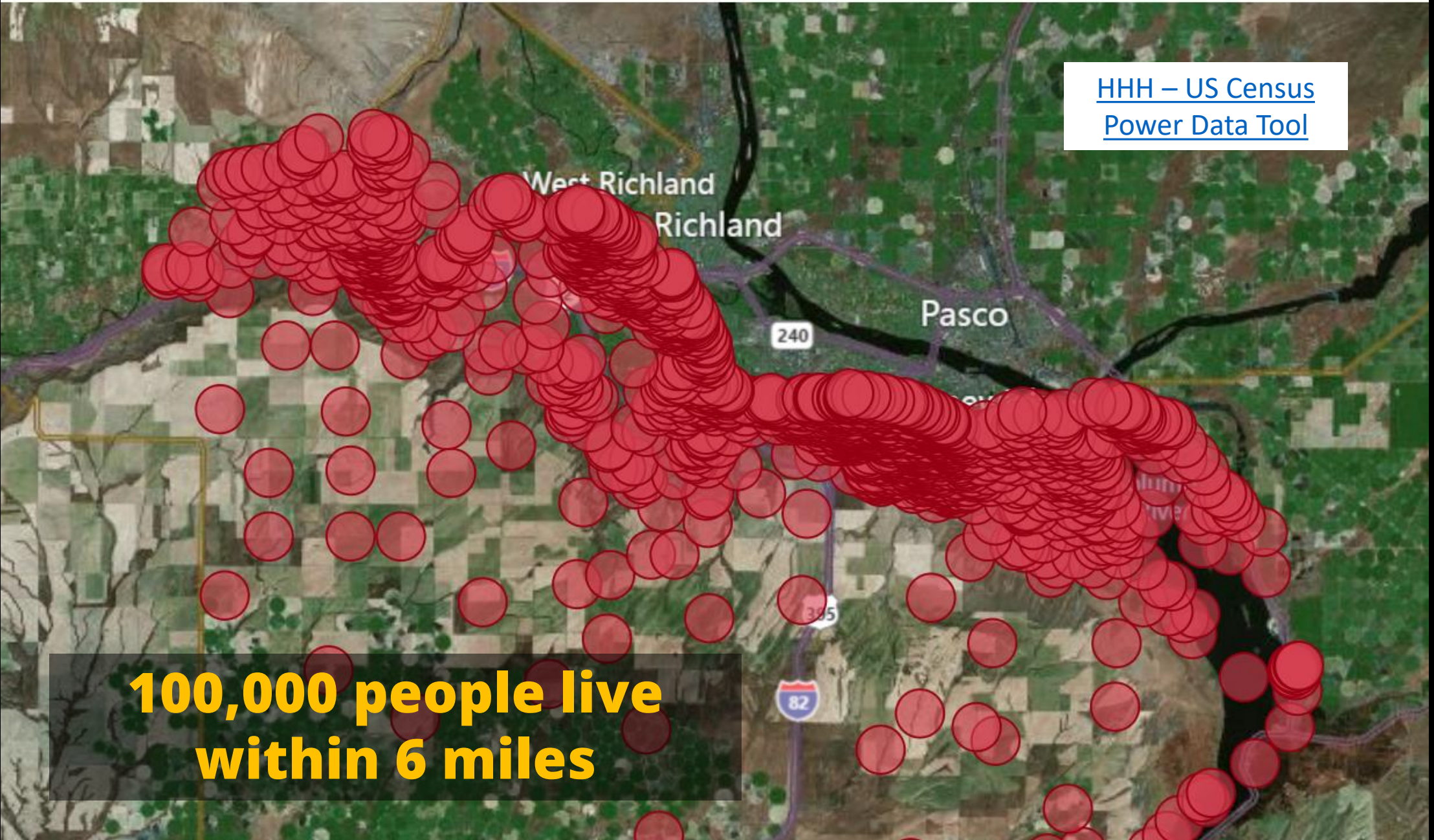


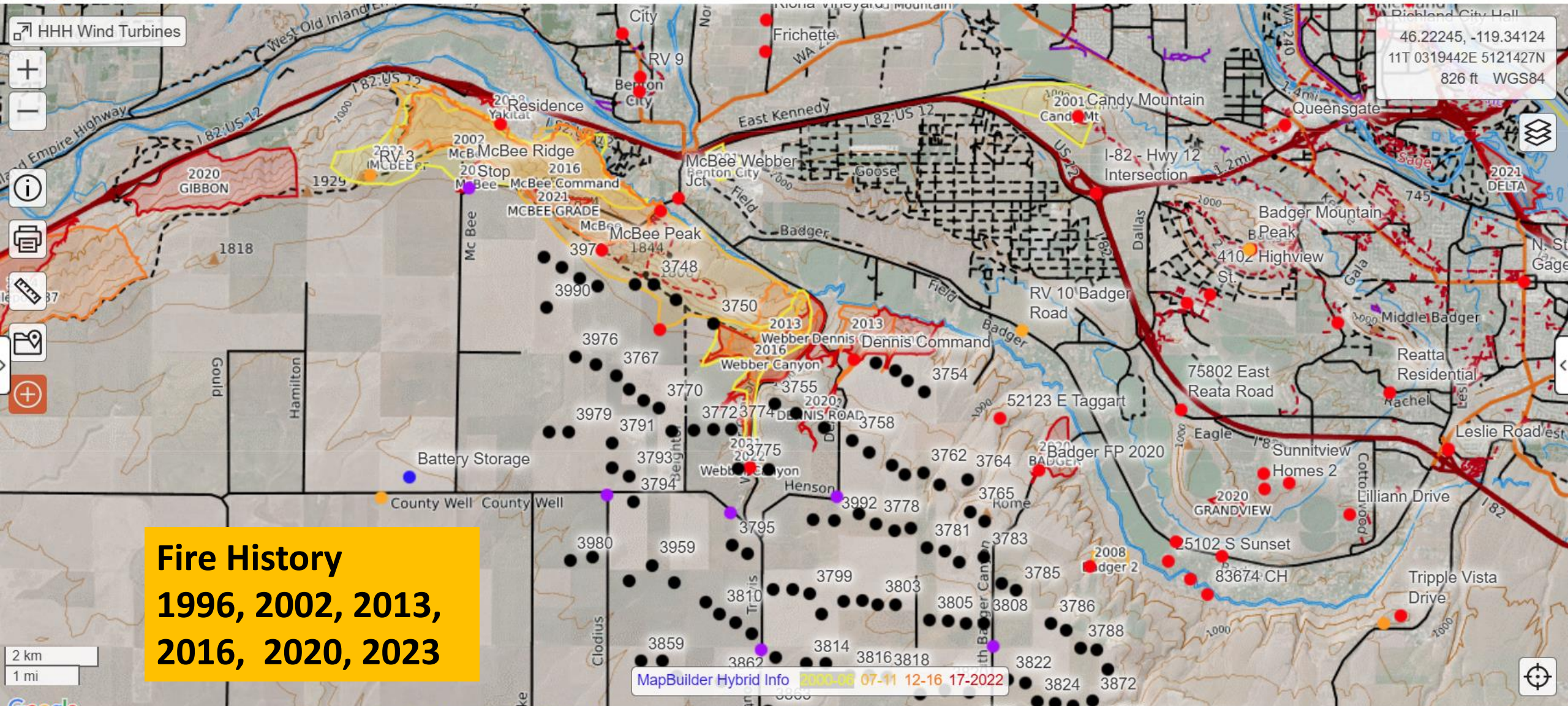
Aerial fire fighting experts indicate that the turbines are a 25 mile long “no-fly zone” that will seriously hinder the ability to protect the property and people adjacent to the project.



[HHH – US Census
Power Data Tool](#)

**100,000 people live
within 6 miles**





46.22245, -119.34124
 11T 0319442E 5121427N
 826 ft WGS84

Fire History
 1996, 2002, 2013,
 2016, 2020, 2023

MapBuilder Hybrid Info 1996-08 2002-08 07-11 12-16 17-2022

2 km
 1 mi

HHH Wind Turbines



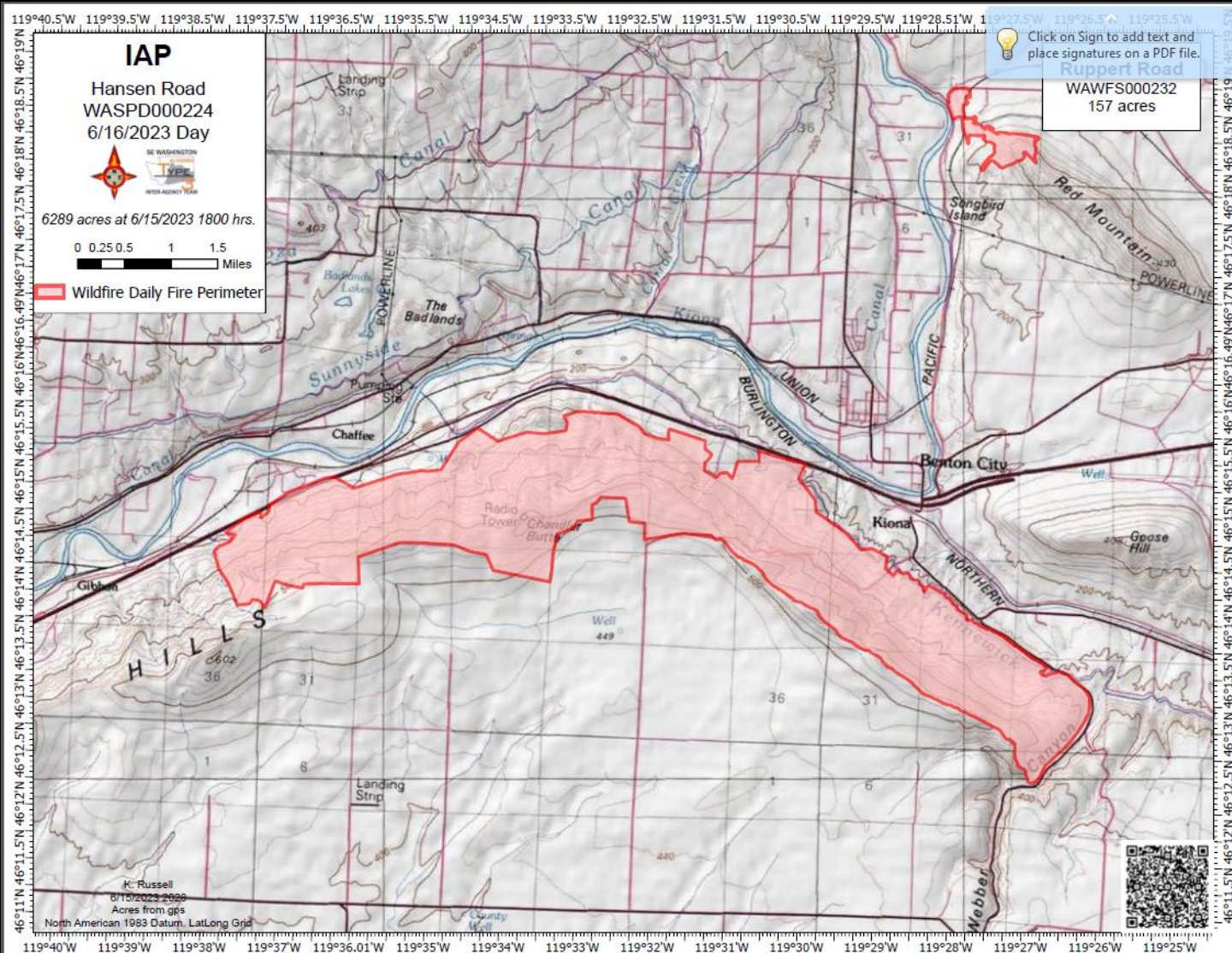
46.23764, -119.58294
11T 0300858E 5123695N
1669 ft WGS84

231 496 ft high turbines
Valley Floor is 600 feet ASL
Ridgeline is 1600 to 1800 feet ASL

**USGS
Topographic
Map**

2 km
1 mi

Fire Fighting Map & Guidance from Benton County Fire



Minimum Drop Heights for Airtankers and Water Scoopers

- SEAT/Amphibious SEAT = 60' (optimum 90') above the vegetation
- LAT = 150' above the vegetation
- VLAT = 200' above the vegetation
- Water Scooper (CL 215/415) = 150' above the vegetation

ATGS = Air Tactical Group Supervisor

ASM/LP = Aerial Supervision Module/Lead Plane

Type 3 Airtanker = 800-1,799 gallons (S-2T, SEAT)

Type 2 Airtanker = 1,800-2,999 gallons
(Convair 580, Q-400)

Type 1 or Large Airtanker (LAT) = 3,000-5,000 gallons
(BAe-146, RJ85, MD87, C-130)

VLAT = Very Large Airtanker = >8,000 gallons (DC10, 747)

June 16, 2023

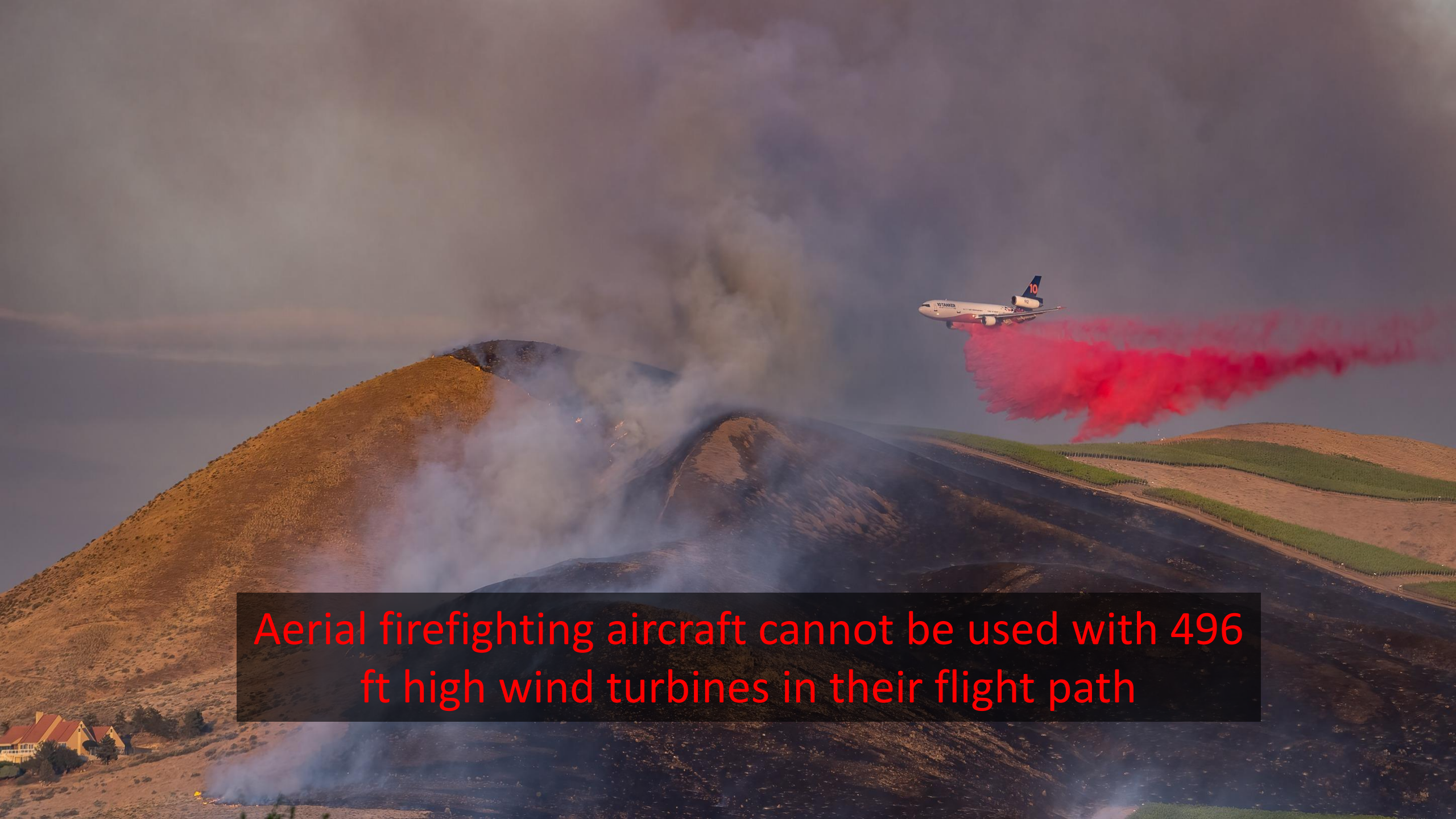
Aerial Firefighting

DC-10 dropping
retardant on
McBee Hill

YouTube
Video Link:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/-WqpTVpWUOI?feature=share>





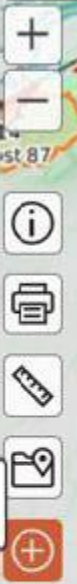
Aerial firefighting aircraft cannot be used with 496 ft high wind turbines in their flight path



Legislative Proposal

Protect the aerial firefighting suppression requirements needed to protect people and property in known high risk locations.

HHH Wind Turbines



46.05954, -118.87552
T 0354931E 5102373N
343 ft WGS84

Amend existing State permitting procedures for the siting of utility scale wind turbines

USGS Contours with four mile airspace protection setback

5 km
3 mi

MapBuilder Topo Info 20° 30° 40° 55° 60° 70-11 12-16 17-2022

HHH Wind Turbines



Milepost 87



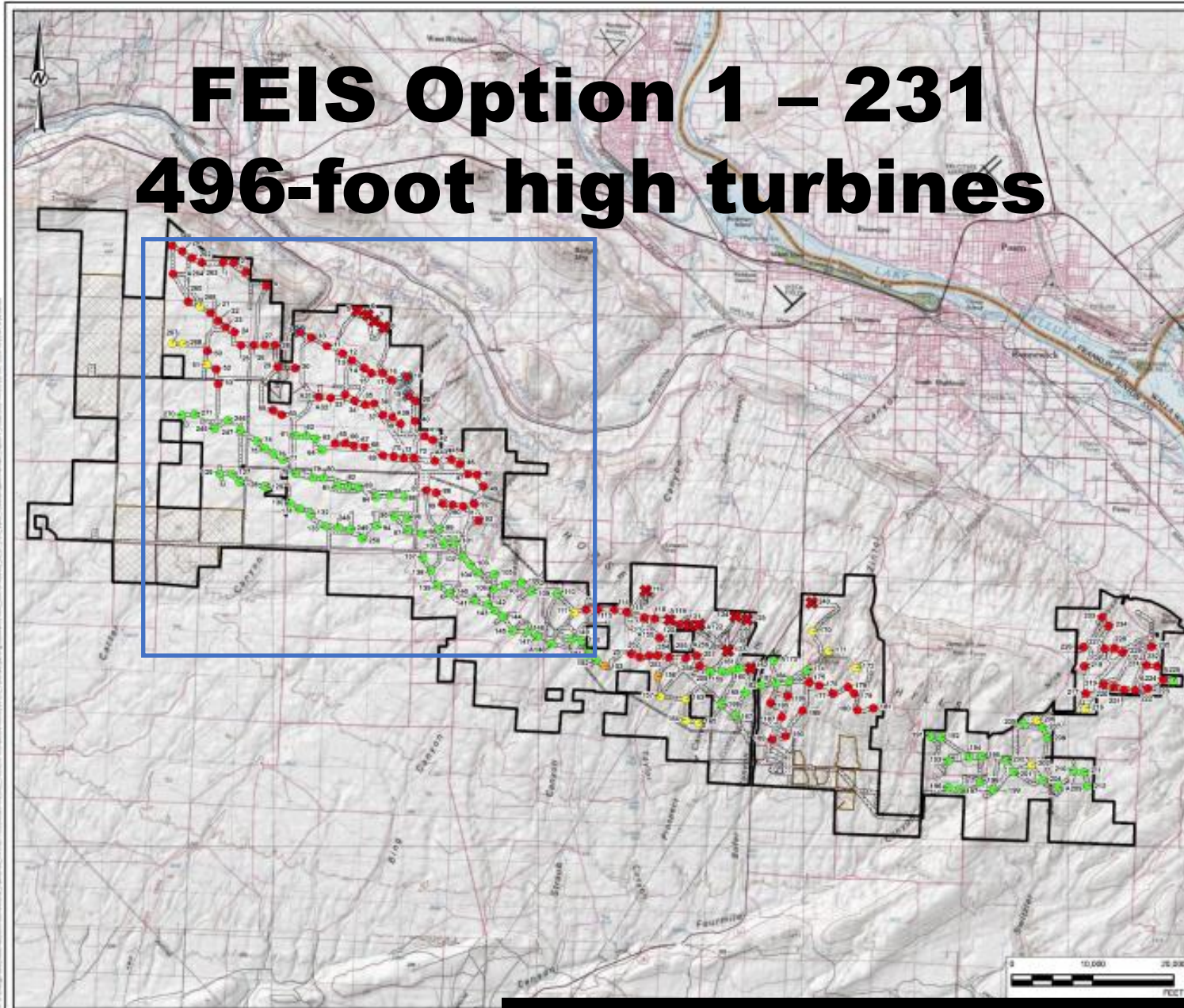
Applicant makes demonstration and cognizant responsible agencies & fire officials approve location and height specifications.

USGS Contours with two mile airspace protection setback

5 km
3 mi

MapBuilder Topo Info USFS NPS BLM/BOR FWS Local State Tribal DOD/DOE 07-11 12-16 17-2022

FEIS Option 1 – 231 496-foot high turbines



LEGEND

Turbine Location - Layout Option 1

- Class 0 Impact
- Class 1 Impact
- Class 2 Impact
- Class 3 Impact
- ✦ Turbine Moved to New Location
- ✖ Turbine Removed
- ▭ Project Lease Boundary
- ▭ Solar Siting Area
- ▭ Micrositing Corridor

IMPACT CLASS DEFINITIONS:

- CLASS 0 = LOWEST IMPACT
- CLASS 1 = IMPACTS ONE RESOURCE
- CLASS 2 = IMPACTS TWO RESOURCES
- CLASS 3 = HIGHEST IMPACT

Final HHH EIS identifies **“high impact areas with more than one high-magnitude impact”**. (Note: includes wildlife, cultural, and visual but not aerial firefighting.)

The maps were provided to EFSEC and its Council members with information that could be used in the identification of specific turbines that have multiple impacts and could require additional mitigation including the removal or relocation within the Micrositing Corridor.

Figure 2-5: Turbine Layout Option 1 - Areas of High Impact

Impact of Legislative Proposal

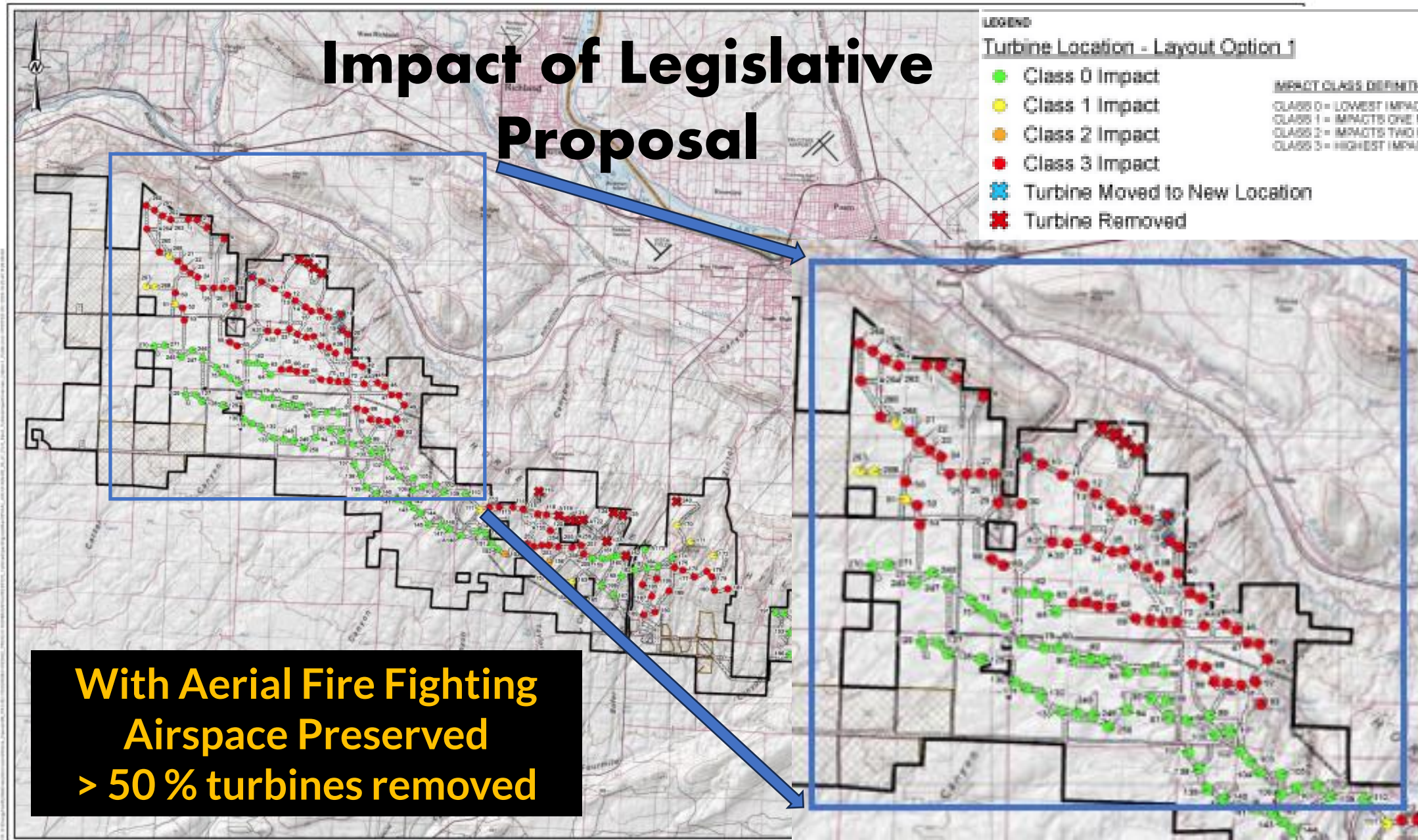
LEGEND

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**With Aerial Fire Fighting
Airspace Preserved
> 50% turbines removed**

Figure 2-5: Turbine Layout Option 1 - Areas of High Impact



Projects Under EFSEC Jurisdiction

Application Under Review:

Horse Heaven Wind Project (Wind)

Badger Mountain (Solar)

High Top and Ostrea (Solar)

Wautoma (Solar)

Hop Hill (Solar)

Carriger (Solar)



Permitted but construction not started:

Whistling Ridge Energy Project (Wind)

Desert Claim Wind Power Project (Wind)

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Stay Tuned!

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