

Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S.

[Learn More](#) [Take Action](#) [About Us](#) [Projects](#)  
[Resources](#) [Contact Us](#)



[Please Donate](#)

# Horse Heaven Wind Update

## What does it mean to you?

[Learn More](#)

*Community Action for  
Responsible Environmental  
Stewardship*

[Latest News  
and  
Milestones](#)

# **We are in a battle to save the Horse Heaven Hills from a huge wind turbine project.**

We are fighting to protect and save the ferruginous hawk, wildlife habitat, migration corridors, cultural sites, and natural skylines.

**Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S.** is the only public organization Intervenor in the EFSEC Adjudication.

Ferruginous Hawk  
Photography courtesy of Mr. Ivar Husa.



## Original Inhabitants



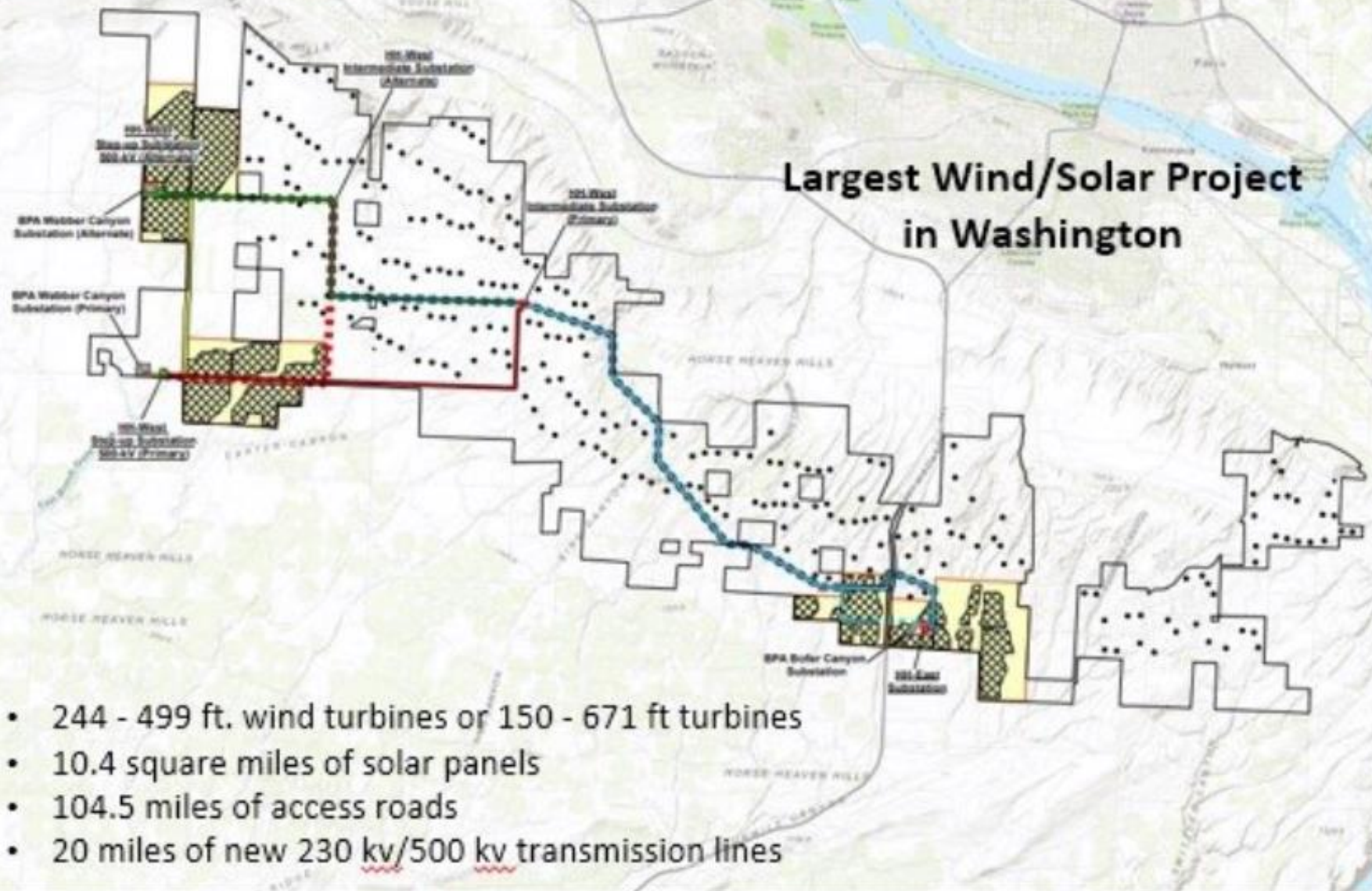
## New Neighbors

Horse Heaven  
Wind Farm



Figure 2.3-1  
Turbine Layout Option 1  
BENTON COUNTY, WA

**Largest Wind/Solar Project  
in Washington**



26 miles west to east  
and eight miles north to  
south, from Benton City  
all the way to Finley.

Equivalent from:

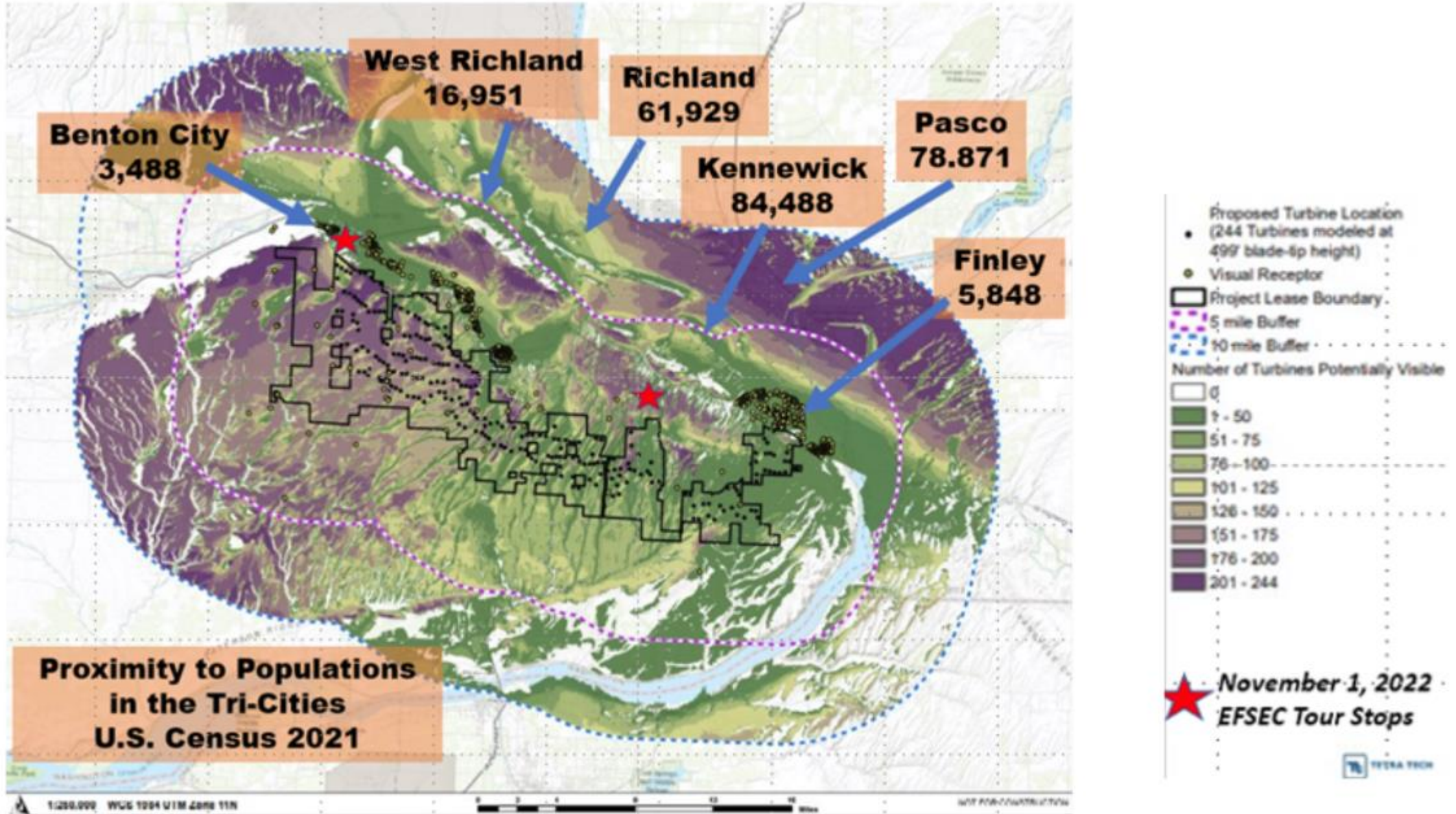
Bellevue Mall to the  
Outlet Mall in North Bend.

South Seattle to Tacoma.

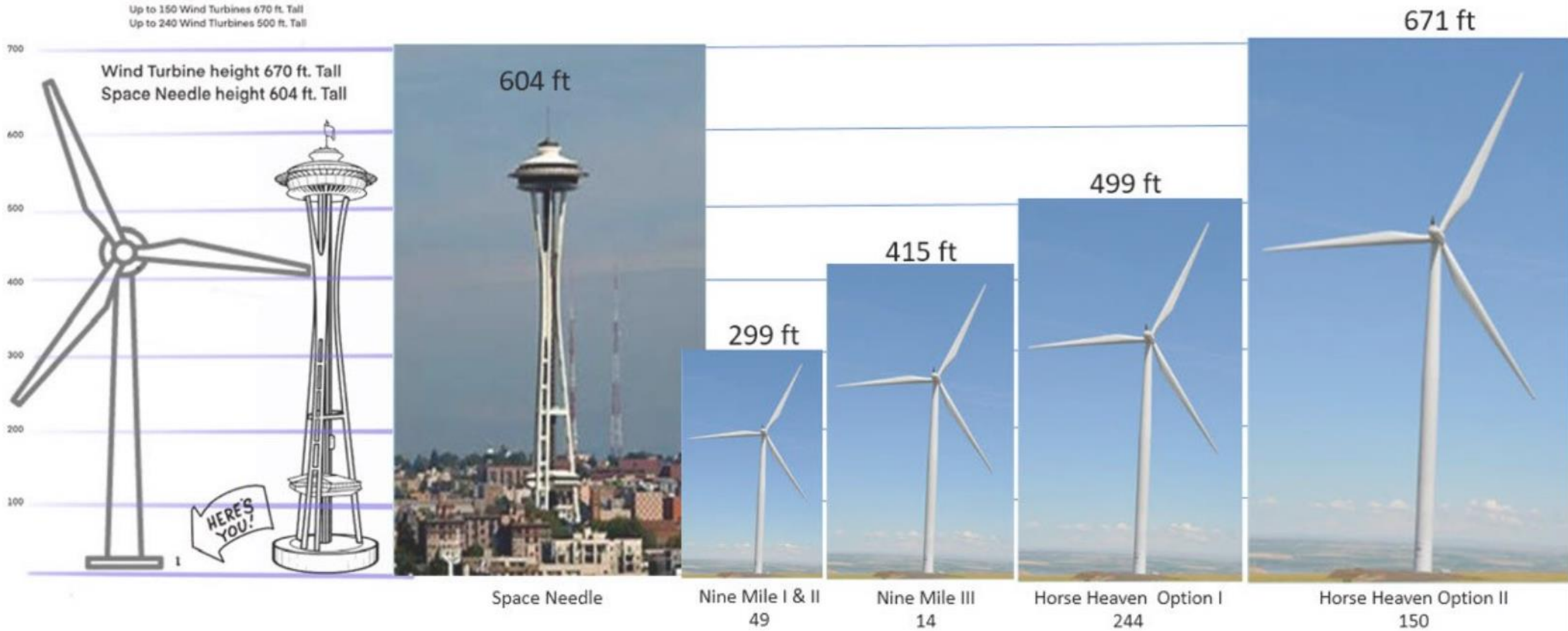
- 244 - 499 ft. wind turbines or 150 - 671 ft turbines
- 10.4 square miles of solar panels
- 104.5 miles of access roads
- 20 miles of new 230 kv/500 kv transmission lines



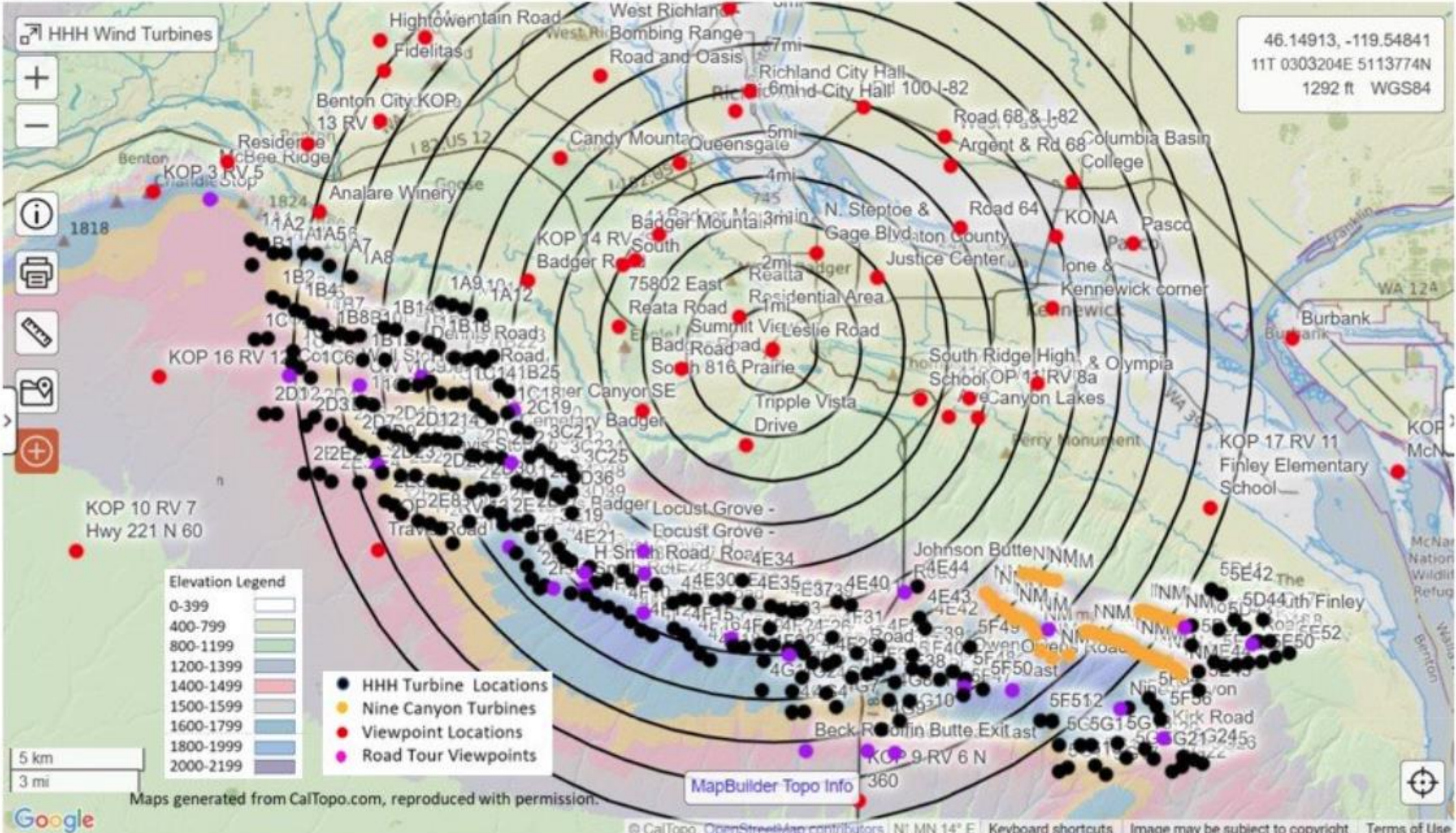
# ASC & EIS Poorly Done - Difficult to Use & Understand



# Space Needle Wind Turbine Height Comparison



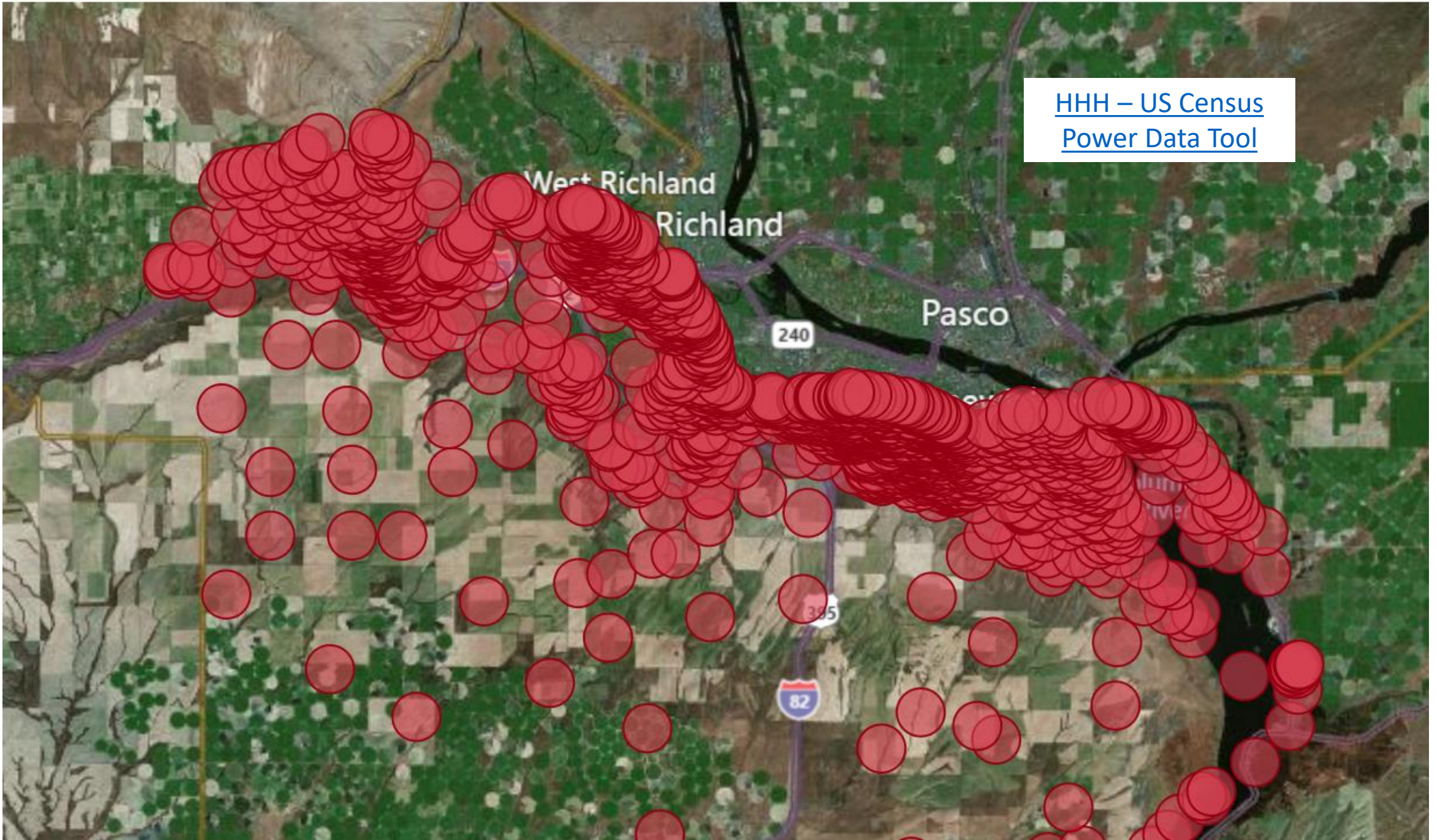
46.14913, -119.54841  
11T 0303204E 5113774N  
1292 ft WGS84



Elevation Legend

0-399	[Lightest Green]
400-799	[Light Green]
800-1199	[Medium Green]
1200-1399	[Dark Green]
1400-1499	[Light Blue]
1500-1599	[Medium Blue]
1600-1799	[Dark Blue]
1800-1999	[Purple]
2000-2199	[Darkest Purple]

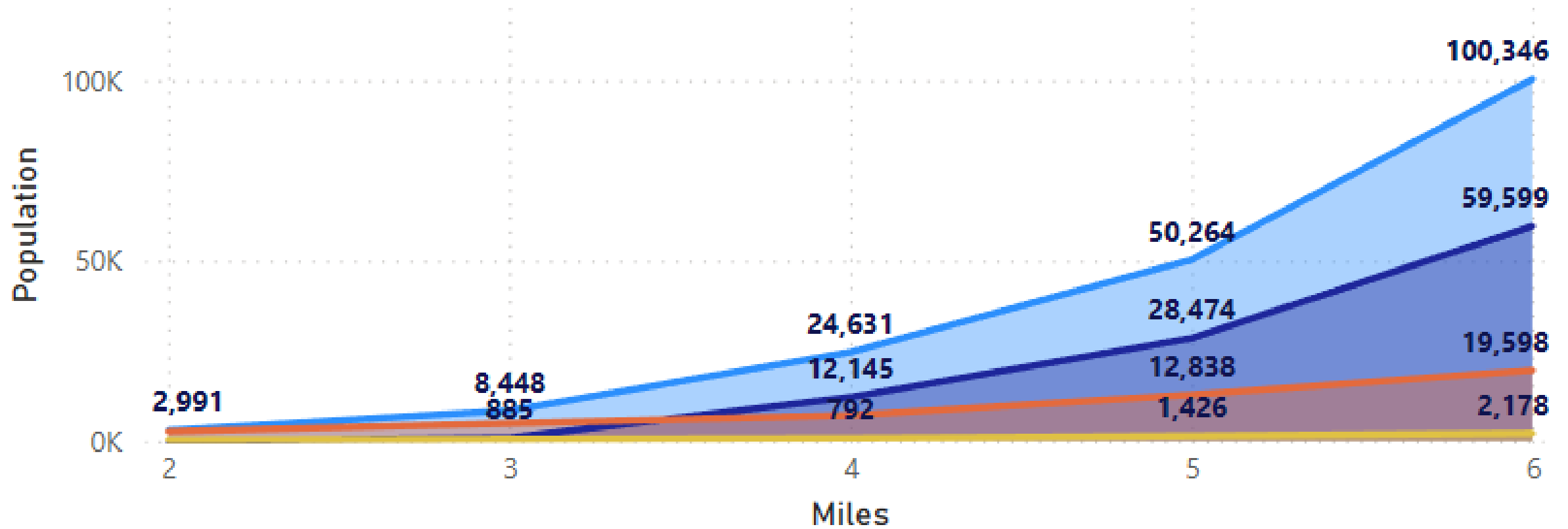
- HHH Turbine Locations
- Nine Canyon Turbines
- Viewpoint Locations
- Road Tour Viewpoints



[HHH – US Census Power Data Tool](#)



## Benton Wind Projects Impacts - 2020 Population 2 to 6 Miles. Compared to 9 Other Counties in (WA)



— Horse Heaven Population 
 — Existing Projects Benton 
 — Total All Other State Wind Projects 
 — Avg All Other State Wind Projects

[HHH – US Census](#)  
[Power Data Tool](#)

Can We Preserve The Natural View We Have Today? What Will Tri-Cities Look Like?



Is this the future?





# Horse Heaven Hills Site Certification Process

Original ASC  
February 9, 2021

Updated ASC  
December 1, 2022

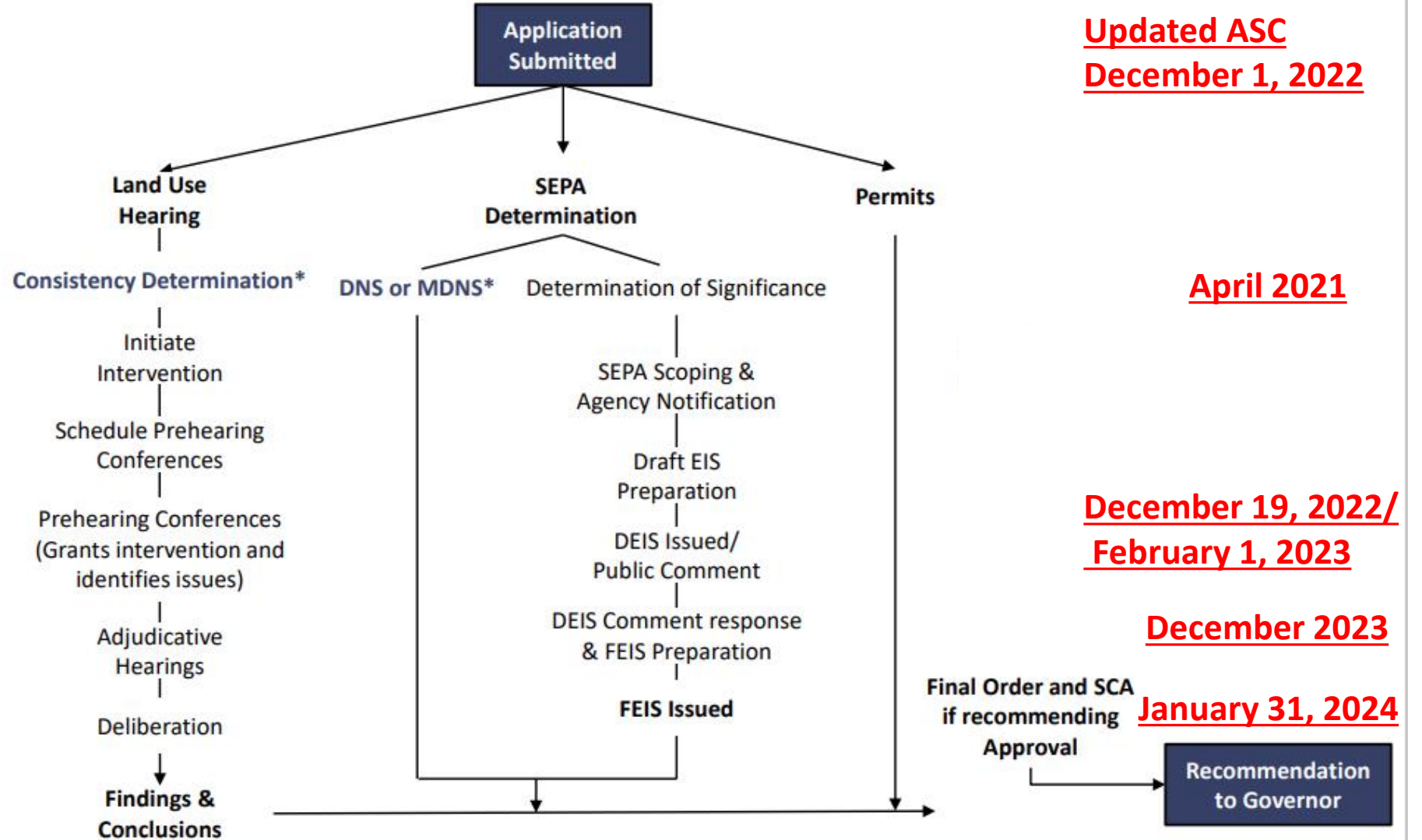
March 30, 2021

January 2023

April to July, 2023

August 2023

January 2024



April 2021

December 19, 2022/  
February 1, 2023

December 2023

January 31, 2024

# Key Events & Milestones

- Aug – Nov 2022 Road Tours & Briefings
- Dec 6, 2022 **ADLS Proposal to Rep April Connor and Rep Mark Klicker**
- Dec 19, 2022 2,000 page DEIS published -- Surprise Un-announced ASC Update
- Jan 2023 TCC hired attorney Rick Aramburu (EFSEC & Whistling Ridge)
- Feb 1, 2023 **DEIS Comments submitted to EFSEC - 2,430 public comments**
- Mar 10, 2023 TCC approved as an Intervenor in Adjudication
- Mar 28, 2023 **Kathleen Drew EFSEC Chair – denies live hearings in Tri-Cities**
- May 9, 2019 **ADLS Bill Signed by the Governor.**
- May 17, 2023 Herald Editorial Opinion
- May 25, 2023 Motion to Recuse & May 30 Objections to Schedule Submitted
- June 8, 2023 Motions Denied
- June 8, 2023 Legislators Letter to EFSEC – June 13 Guest Opinion in the Herald
- June 12, 2023 **Testimony filed**

Grain Elevator  
Kennewick

Combine Hills Projects

Walmart  
Kennewick

Radio Tower on American Hill  
WA 397 & S Finley Rd

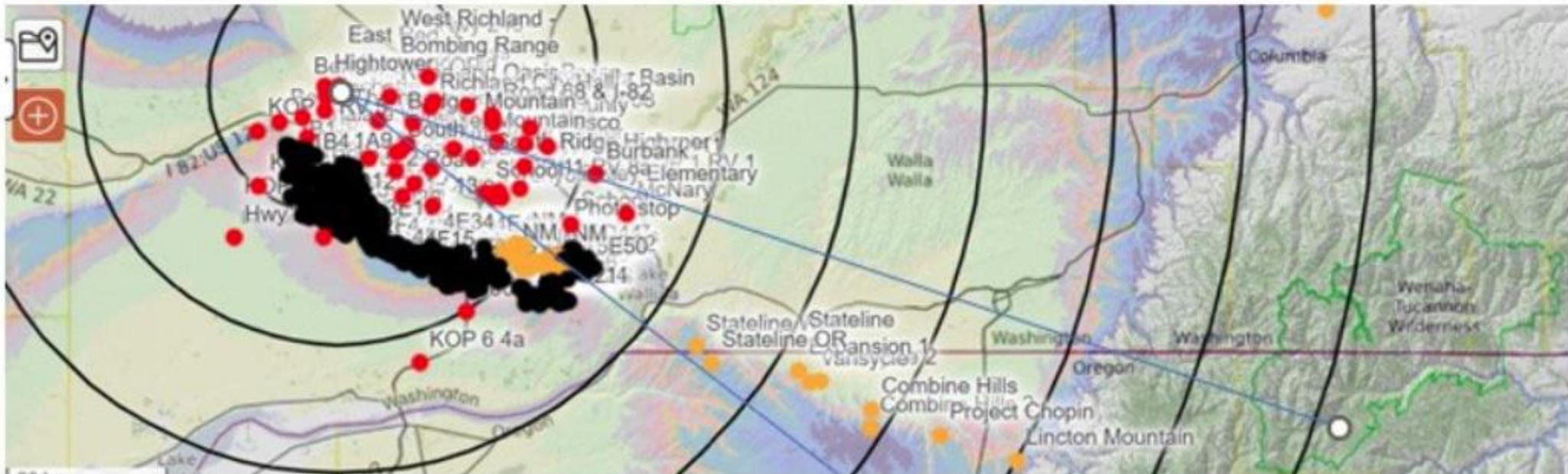
Thompson Hill  
Kennewick

Stateline Projects



West Richland in Shadow

*Photo courtesy of Elliott Aholo.*



# ADLS SHB 1173

- December 6, 2022 - TCC Proposal to Rep. April Connors & Rep. Mark Klicker
- January 6, 2023 – House Bill 1173 Pre-filed for introduction
- February 16, 2023 - Hearing in the House Environmental & Energy Committee.
- **February 27, 2023 - House passed HB 1173 on a vote of 94 to 1.**
- March 17, 2023 – Hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology
- **April 8, 2023 - Senate passed SHB 1173 on a vote of 84 to 1.**
- May 9, 2023 – Signed into Law by Governor Inslee.

**Safe Skies Can Be Dark Skies**



**The Future of Tri-Cities Is In Our Hands  
How Can We Succeed?**

*copyright John Clement Photography*



Whistling Ridge Energy Project  
50 turbines – 75 MW - 115 acres  
Columbia River Gorge near Underwood, WA

**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION NO. 2009-01  
of  
Whistling Ridge Energy Project, LLC  
for  
WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY PROJECT

**COUNCIL ORDER No. 869**

**Whistling Ridge Order No. 24**

**Order and Report to the Governor  
Recommending Approval of Site  
Certification in Part, on Condition**

October 2011

# **Legal Strategy – Stay in the Game and Fight to the End**

## **1. We are following the example set by Whistling Ridge.**

- The judge removed turbines from the project because of the visual impact on people.
- We hired the same attorney and the same visual expert.
- Added a national wind project siting expert and the Benton PUD General Manager.
- And we now get to bring in more witness testimony on firefighting.

## **2. As in Whistling Ridge, if enough turbines are eliminated from consideration, the project may never be built.**

## **3. The issues are wildlife & cultural (Yakama Nation), visual and economics, and firefighting. (TCC and BC).**

## **4. We are the only public intervenor.**

- No one else has standing to sue except Benton County and the Yakama Nation and TCC.

## **5. We can file suit to the Washington Supreme Court after the Governor makes his decision.**

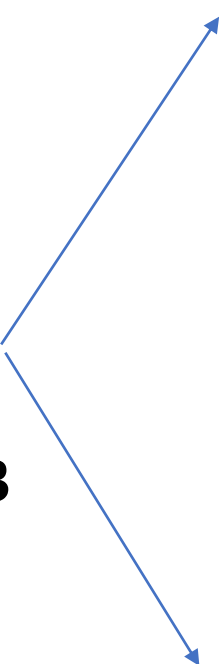
**Bottom line: We fight till the end. If we stop, they win everything.**

# The ALJ's Hurdle – TCC's Ability to Speak for the Community at Large

In Judge Torem's Preliminary Hearing Order # 2 Order states:

“Any party wishing to present witness(es) on “Local Concerns, Attitudes and Opinions” should **justify the witness' significance as a representative of the local area and ability to speak for the community-at-large** and understand they will be subject to cross-examination. This category is not public comment that will be heard per RCW 80.50.090(4).”

**What We  
Achieved &  
Submitted as  
Testimony  
On June 12, 2023**



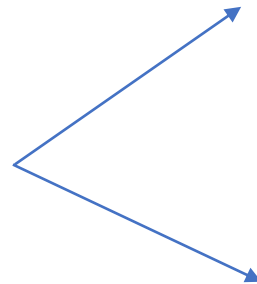
- Tri-City Herald Editorial Board Opinion May 17, 2023
- Tri-City Herald article on Gov Inslee signing the ADLS Bill May 10, 2023
- Tri-City Herald article on Wind Turbines – ADLS Bill March 15, 2023
- Tri-City Herald article on HHH Wind Turbine Project January 17, 2023
- Visit Tri-Cities Washington letter
- Richland City Council Resolution No. 2023-76
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce letter
- Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society Letter
- Tri-City Board of Realtors Letter

# A Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> St

June 3, 2023 email sent to 1,600 supporters

- resulted in 30 people submitting signed testimony on
- June 12, 2023.

- 125 + Public Comments Supporting Tri-Cities CARES Posted to the EFSEC Home Page on June 13, 2023



**State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council**

Enter your search terms

Home Energy Facilities Council Information About EFSEC Document Search

State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

The State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC or Council) provides a "one-stop" siting process for major energy facilities in the State of Washington. EFSEC coordinates evaluation and licensing steps for siting certain energy facilities in Washington. EFSEC specifies the conditions of construction and operation. If approved, a Site Certification Agreement is issued in lieu of any other individual state or local agency permits. EFSEC also manages an environmental and safety oversight program of facility and site operations.

**EFSEC Recent Activity (last 90 days)**

- June 21, 2023 - EFSEC general documents  
June 21, 2023 Council Meeting Agenda
- June 21, 2023 - EFSEC general documents  
June 21, 2023 Council Meeting Packet
- June 13, 2023 - Horse Heaven Wind Farm  
General comments 0473 - 0523
- June 13, 2023 - Horse Heaven Wind Farm  
General comments 0524 - 0574
- June 13, 2023 - Horse Heaven Wind Farm  
General comments 0575 - 0625
- June 13, 2023 - Horse Heaven Wind Farm  
General comments 0626 - 0676
- June 13, 2023 - Horse Heaven Wind Farm  
General comments 0677 - 0718
- June 12, 2023 - Carriger Solar  
0035

[view all recent documents](#)

**Location**

621 Woodland Square Loop SE  
PO Box 43172  
Olympia, WA 98503-3172

Phone: 360-664-1345  
Email: [efsec@efsec.wa.gov](mailto:efsec@efsec.wa.gov)  
Business Hours: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Monday - Friday except Holidays

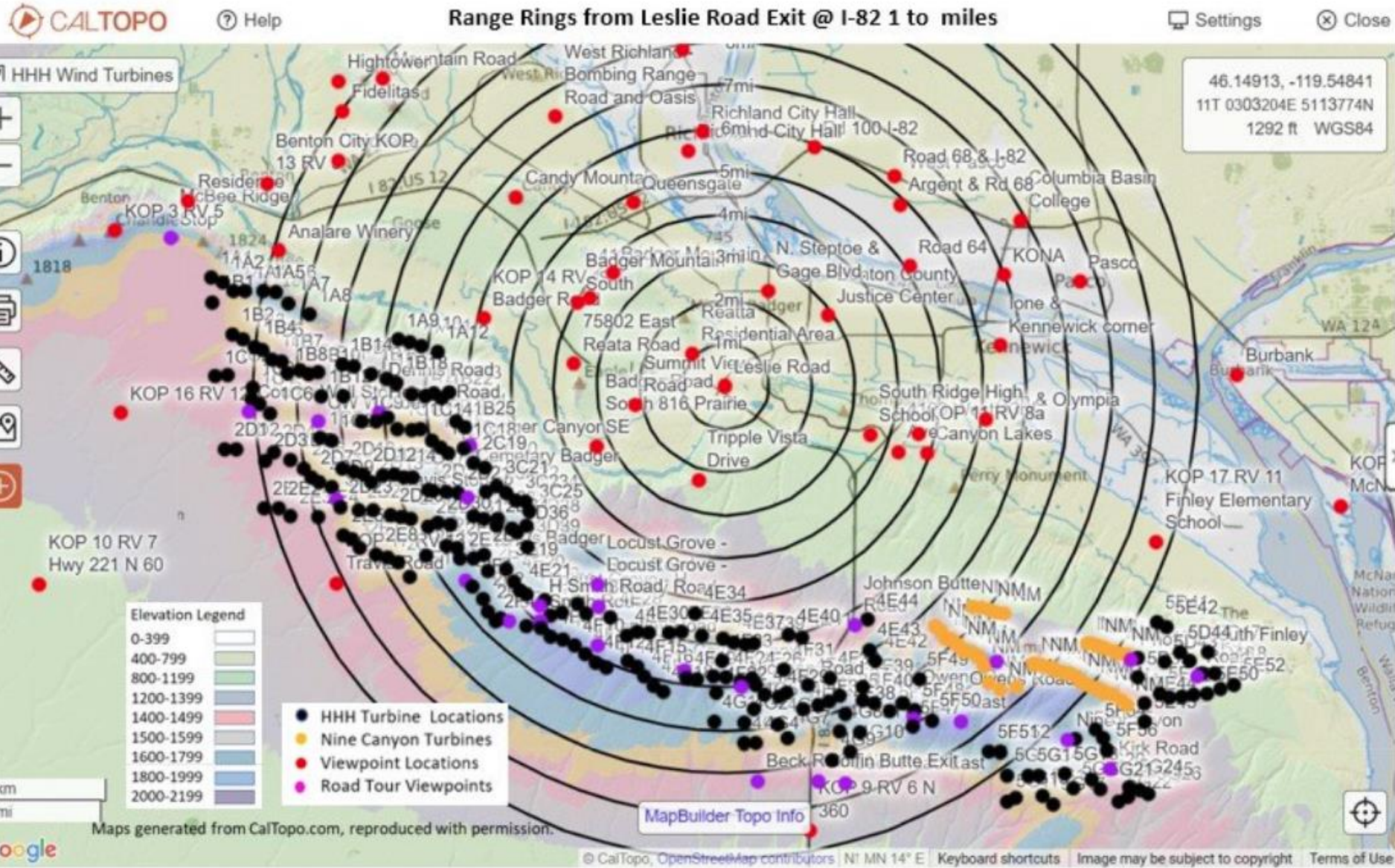
Visiting & parking instructions  
(Parking pass required)

**Department of Defense Consultation**

Local governments are required to report to the Department of Defense when an energy facility application is received - RCW 36.01.320

# How Many Turbines Will You See?

# Viewsheds - Locations



[Benton City](#)

[Red Mountain Wineries](#)

[Queensgate Area](#)

[Summit View Residences](#)

[Reatta Residences](#)

[Leslie Road at I-82](#)

[Badger Mountain Preserve](#)

[Badger Mountain South Residences](#)

[Tripple Vista Residences](#)

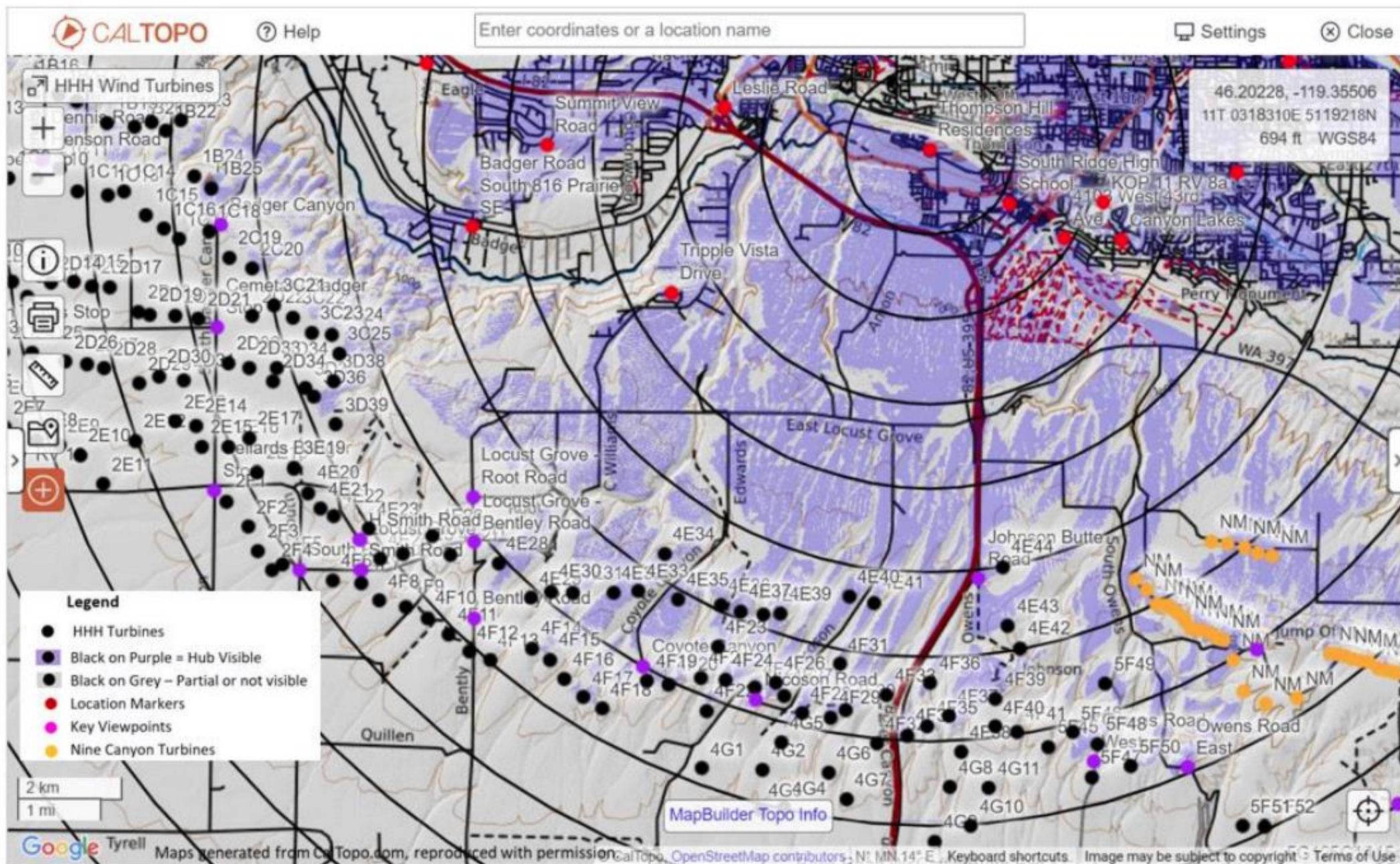
[Thompson Hill Residences](#)

[Canyon Lakes Residences](#)

[Kennewick High School](#)

[Finley](#)

# Thompson Hill Residences South Facing Viewshed 499 ft hub height



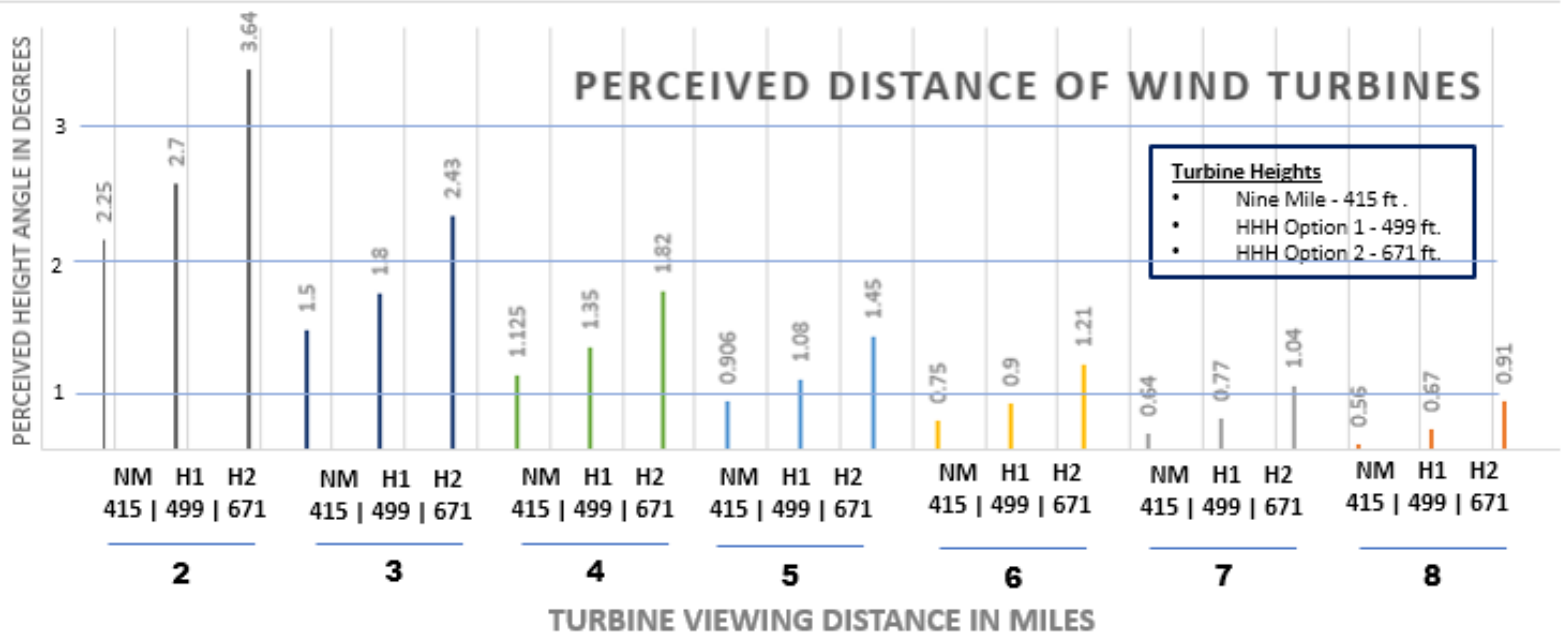
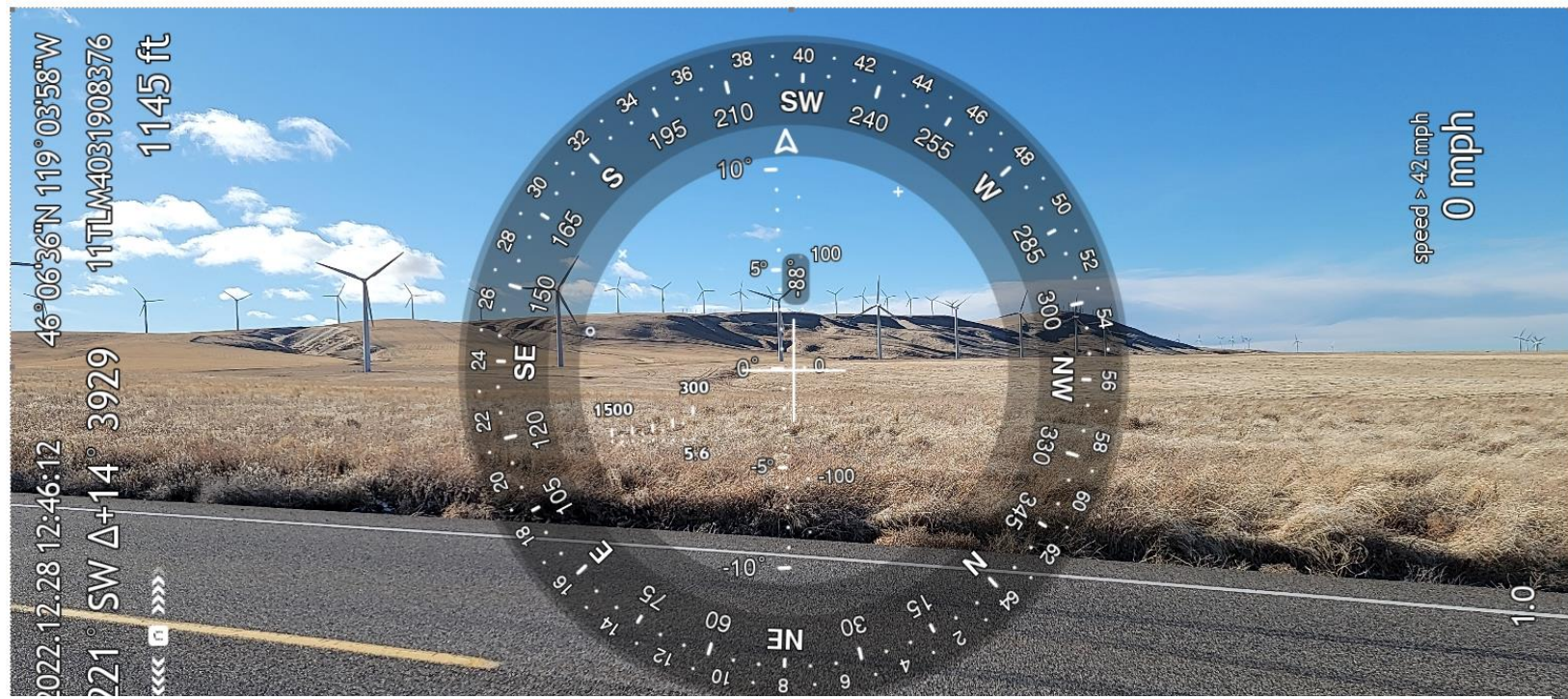
The closer they are, the bigger they appear

Take a Road Tour

[Free maps at TCC website](#)

See it & ground truth it for yourself.

Nine Mile -- HHH comparison



# Drone Photography & Video Answers the Question - Can You See Me Now?



Courtesy & with permission from [Bruce Bjornstad Drone Video](#) from turbine at 500 feet October 2022 from Rome by Dennis Road. Link opens up the 57 second video).



# Property Value & Real Estate Impacts



- Size, Number, Distance, Prominence, Lights, Movement, Shadow Flicker, Noise (if close), Dust, etc.
- Impacts on sale price, market value, time to sell, etc.
- Natural vs. Industrial Change is Permanent
- Duty to disclose – Form 17 Item 10
  - in reality – not a liability, basically impossible to prove intent
  - Ethics, reputation, and marketing

# Financial Impacts on Property Values & Real Estate

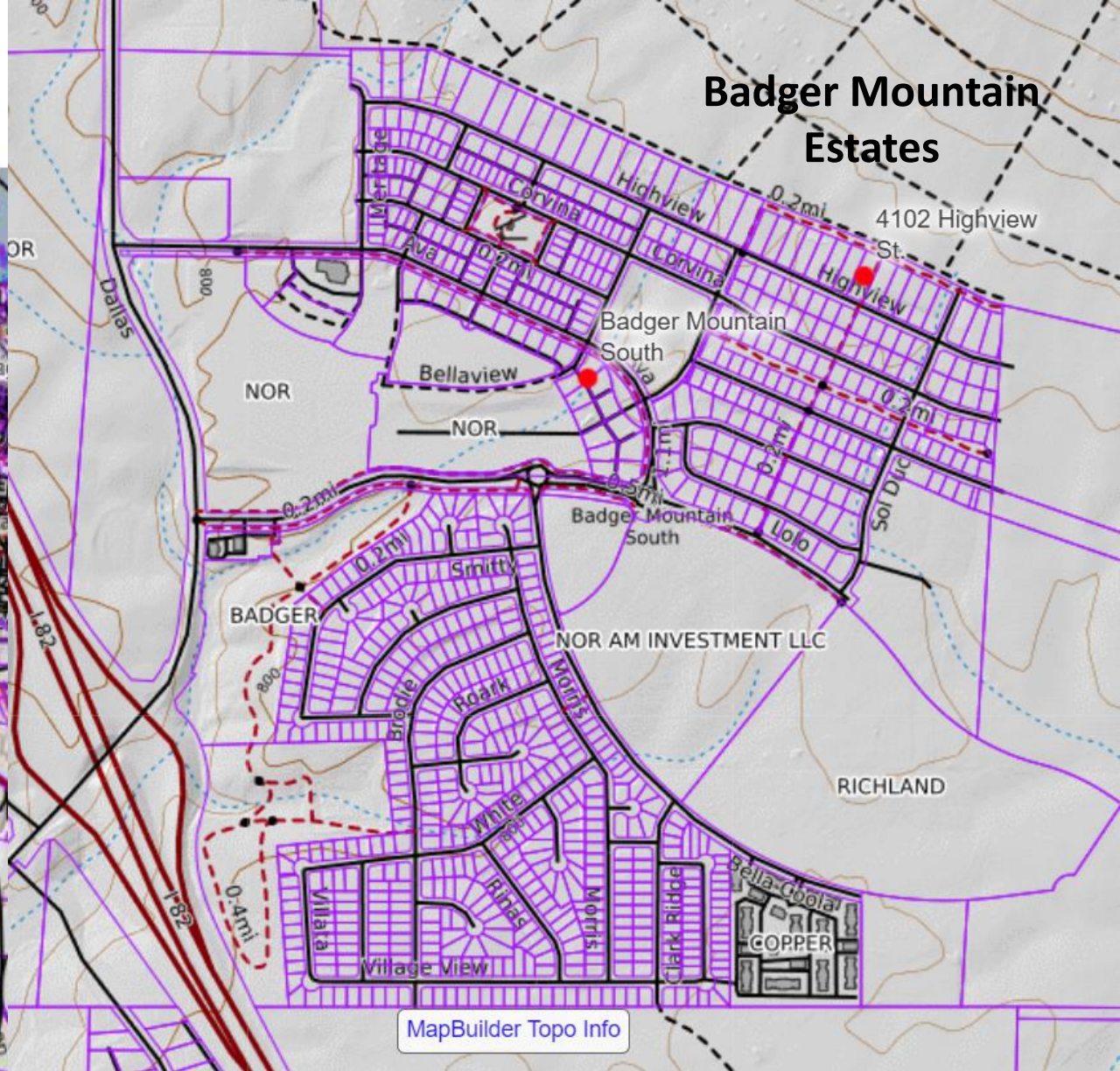
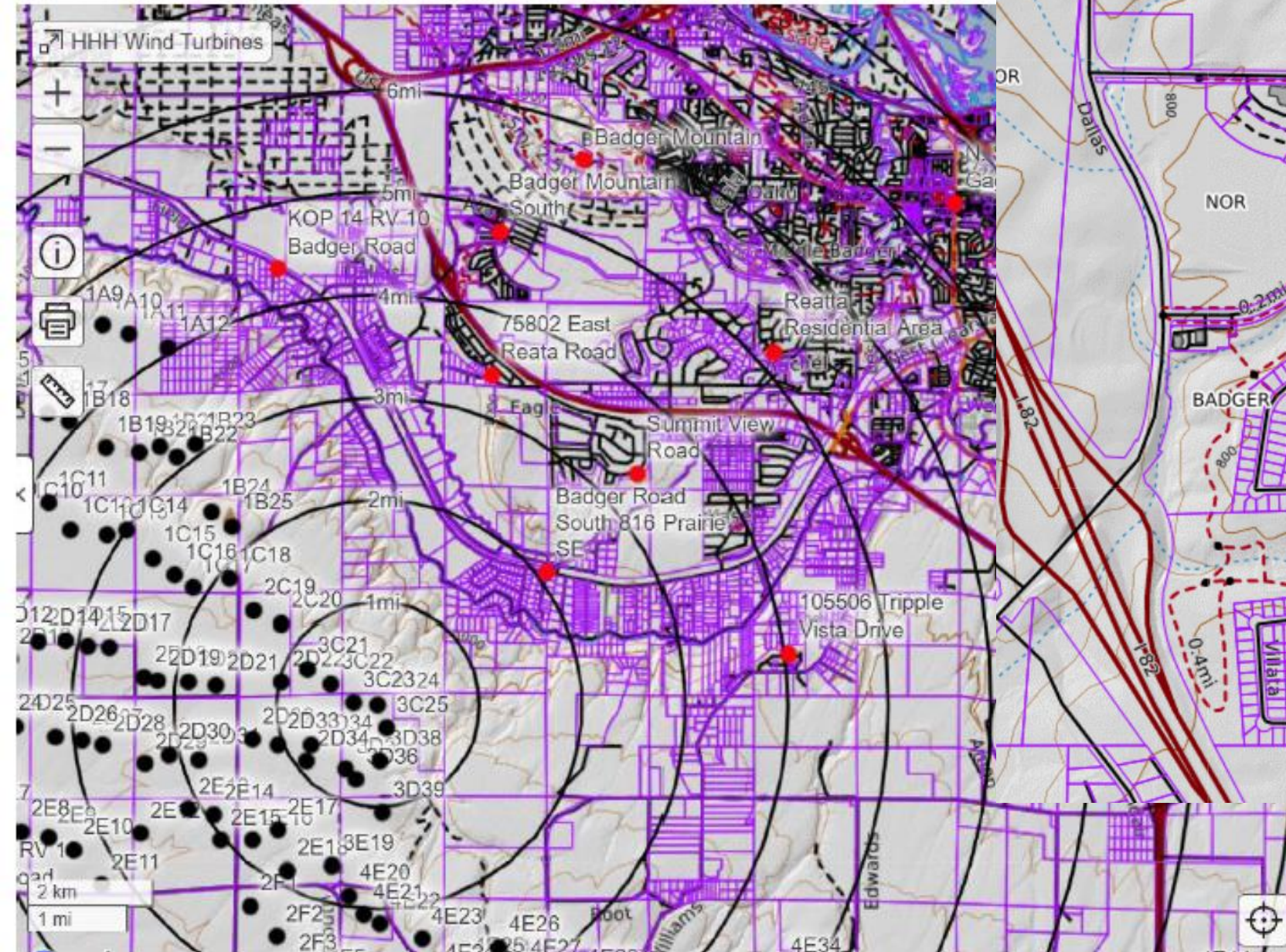


\$ 700K to \$1 Million Properties – Reduction in value from wind turbines ruining the view.  
Times the number of homes & residential communities.

# Ownership Plots

## [Pricing landscape quality](#)

### Badger Mountain Estates



MapBuilder Topo Info

**SCENIC SOLUTIONS**  
THE SCIENCE OF SCENERY

Dust, traffic, water issues, recreation impacts and more...



June 16, 2023

Fire



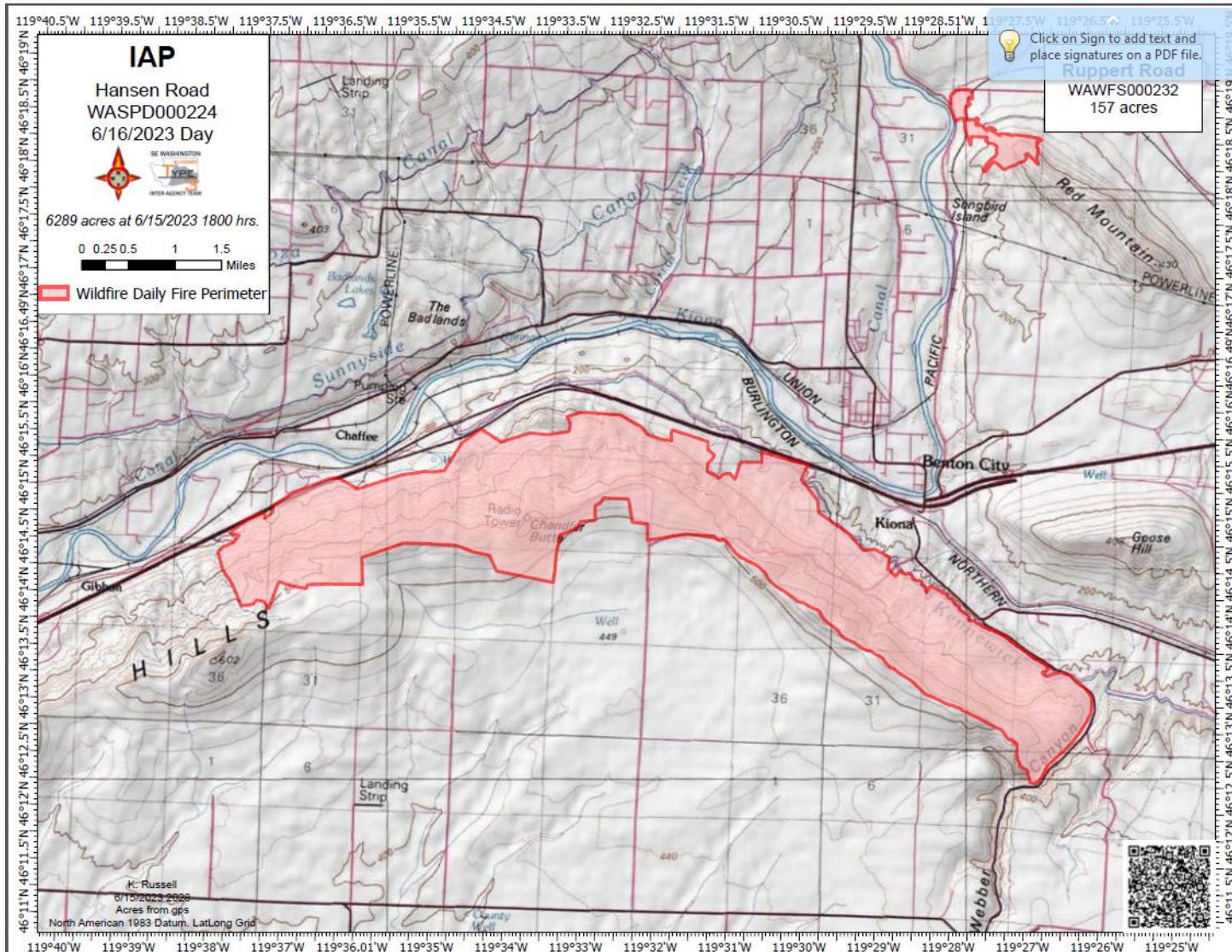








# Fire Fighting Map & Guidance from Benton County



## 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)

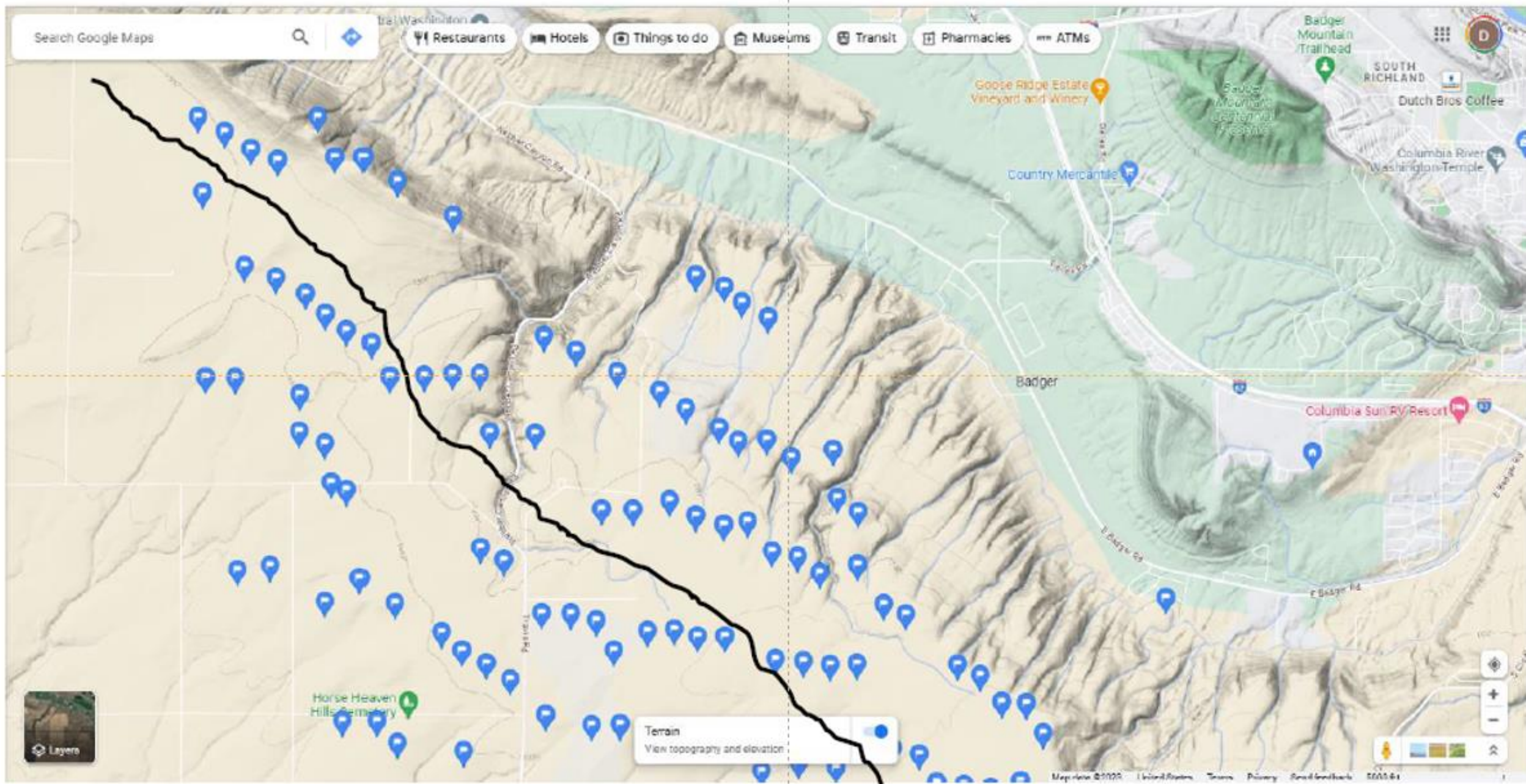
VLAT = Very Large Airtanker = >8,000 gallons (DC10, 747)



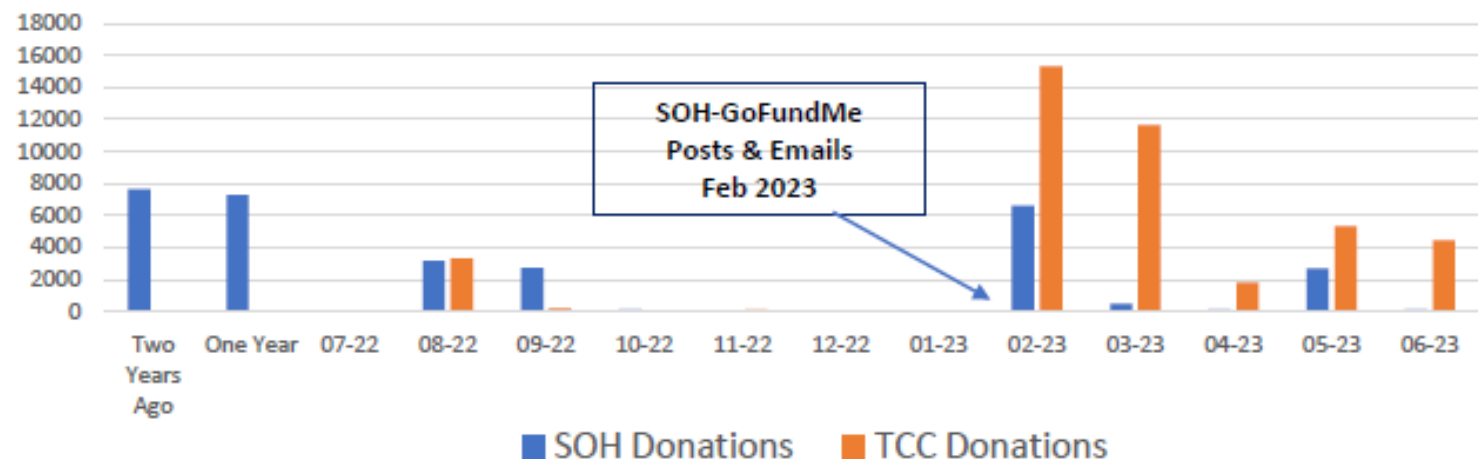
NASA WorldView  
Imagery

2023 JUN 18

# Turbines for Removal-Western Most Turbines 58 Turbines for Removal



### Donations

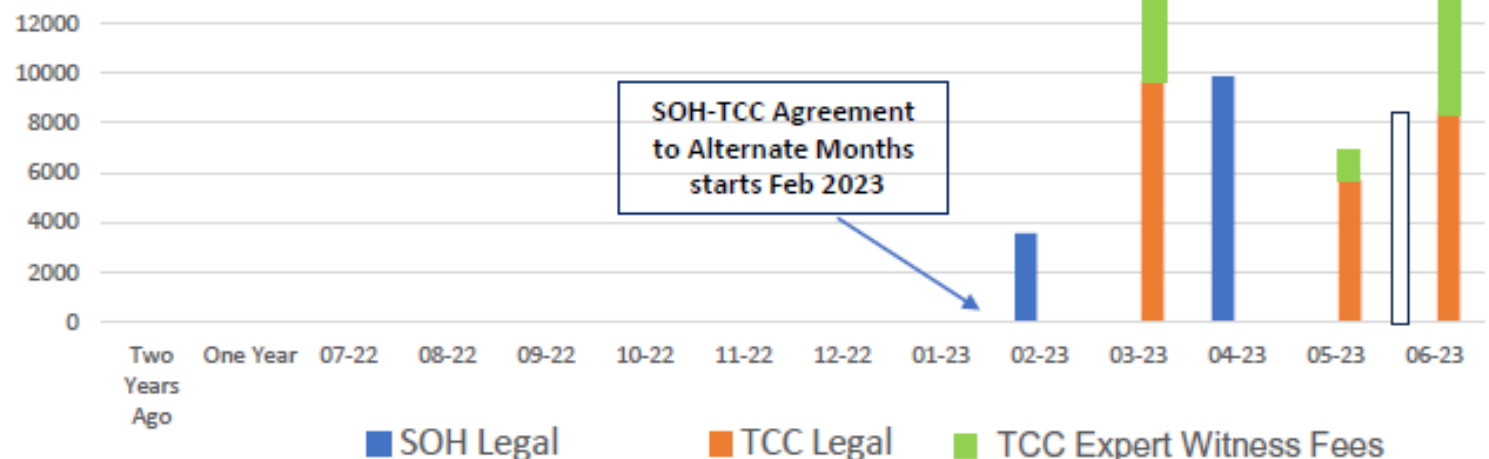


### Donations Received to Date:

SOH (without Checks to BB)  
 2021-2022 = \$14,911  
 6-2022 to 6-2023 = \$15,994  
 Total = \$30,965

Tri-Cities CARES  
 8-2022 to 6-2023 = \$46,410  
 TOTAL = \$46,410

### Legal and Expert Witness Expenses



### Legal & Expert Witness Monthly Fees Paid to Date 2023:

SOH (by Agreement)  
 1-2023 = \$ 3,570.00  
 3-2023 = \$ 9,858.10  
 5-2023 = Pending  
 TOTAL = \$13,428.10

Tri-Cities CARES  
 2-2023 = \$ 9,713.68  
 4-2023 = \$ 5,730.00  
 5-2023 = \$ 8,516.23  
 Expert Witnesses = \$12,356.00  
 TOTAL: \$36,315.91

# **We Need Your Help - Immediately**

- Legal Fees & Expert Witness Fees.
- Estimated costs >\$100K by February 2024.
- Plus filing suit to WA Supreme Court if Governor approves an EFSEC recommendation to grant the Permit.
- Donate Please by Check or Online at [www.TriCitiesCARES.org](http://www.TriCitiesCARES.org)

Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S.



Please Donate

Learn More



Latest News  
and  
Milestones

[www.TriCitiesCARES.org](http://www.TriCitiesCARES.org)