

Exhibit L

Protected Areas

**Yellow Rosebush Energy Center
September 2025**

**Prepared for
Yellow Rosebush Energy Center, LLC**

Prepared by



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Applicant	Yellow Rosebush Energy Center, LLC
Facility	Yellow Rosebush Energy Center
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rules

1.0 Introduction

Yellow Rosebush Energy Center, LLC (Applicant) seeks to develop the Yellow Rosebush Energy Center (Facility), a solar energy generation facility, battery energy storage system, and related or supporting facilities in Wasco and Sherman counties, Oregon. This Exhibit L was prepared to meet the submittal requirements in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 345-021-0010(1)(L) and the approval standard in OAR 345-022-0040.

2.0 Analysis Area

As defined in the Project Order¹, the Facility's analysis area for protected areas is the area within and extending 2 miles from the site boundary (Figure L-1). The site boundary is defined in detail in Exhibits B and C and is shown on Figure L-1.

3.0 Protected Areas Inventory – OAR 345-021-0010(1)(I)(A)(B)

OAR 3450-021-0010(1)(I) Information about the potential impacts of the proposed facility on protected areas in the analysis area, providing evidence to support a finding by the Council as required by OAR 345-022-0040, including:

(A) A list of all protected areas within the analysis area, identifying:

- (i) The distance and direction of the protected area from the proposed facility;*
- (ii) The basis for protection, by reference to a specific subsection of OAR 345-001-0010(26); and*
- (iii) The name, mailing address, phone number, and email address of the land management agency or organization with jurisdiction over the protected area;*

(B) A map showing the location of the proposed facility in relation to the protected areas; and

No protected areas are located within the analysis area nor the site boundary. Thus, no inventory or analysis of protected areas is provided. This conclusion is based on a review of best available geographic information systems data, maps, and the most current information for the categories of protected areas listed in OAR 345-001-0010(26).²

¹ Oregon Department of Energy, Project Order for Yellow Rosebush Energy Center (January 2024).

² Sources: BLM 2024a, BLM 2024b, BLM 2024c, BLM 2024d, BLM 2024e, Google Earth 2023, NOAA 2024, NPS 2024a, NPS 2024b, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System 2024, ODFW 2024a, ODFW 2024b, OPRD 2020, OPRD 2024a, OPRD 2024b, OPRD 2024c, OPRD 2024d, OPRD 2024e, OSU 2022, OSU 2024, USFWS 2024a, USFWS 2024b, USFS 2024a, USFS 2024b, USFS 2024c, USGS 2024, Wilderness Connect 2024.

4.0 Potential Impacts – OAR 3450-021-0010(1)(I)(C)

OAR 3450-021-0010(1)(I)(C) A description of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility, if any, on the protected areas including, but not limited to, potential impacts such as:

No protected areas were identified within the analysis area, therefore no significant potential impacts to protected areas are anticipated from the proposed Facility.

5.0 Submittal Requirements and Approval Standards

5.1 Submittal Requirements

Table L-1. Submittal Requirements Matrix

Requirement	Location
OAR 345-021-0010(1)(L) Information about the potential impacts of the proposed facility on protected areas in the analysis area, providing evidence to support a finding by the Council as required by OAR 345-022-0040, including:	–
(A) A list of all protected areas within the analysis area, identifying:	Section 3.0
(i) The distance and direction of the protected area from the proposed facility;	Section 3.0
(ii) The basis for protection, by reference to a specific subsection of OAR 345-001-0010(26); and	Section 3.0
(iii) The name, mailing address, phone number, and email address of the land management agency or organization with jurisdiction over the protected area;	Section 3.0
(B) A map showing the location of the proposed facility in relation to the protected areas; and	Figure L-1
(C) A description of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility, if any, on the protected areas including, but not limited to, potential impacts such as:	Section 4.0
(i) Noise resulting from facility construction or operation;	Section 4.0
(ii) Increased traffic resulting from facility construction or operation;	Section 4.0
(iii) Water use during facility construction or operation;	Section 4.0
(iv) Wastewater disposal resulting from facility construction or operation;	Section 4.0
(v) Visual impacts of facility structures or plumes, including, but not limited to, changes in landscape character or quality; and	Section 4.0
(vi) Visual impacts from air emissions resulting from facility construction or operation, including, but not limited to, impacts on Class 1 Areas as described in OAR 340-204-0050.	Section 4.0

5.2 Approval Standards

Table L-2. Approval Standard

Requirement	Location
345-022-0040 Protected Areas	-
(1) To issue a site certificate, the Council must find:	-
(a) The proposed facility will not be located within the boundaries of a protected area designated on or before the date the application for site certificate or request for amendment was determined to be complete under OAR 345-015-0190 or 345-027-0363;	Section 3.0
(b) The design, construction and operation of the facility, taking into account mitigation, are not likely to result in significant adverse impact to a protected area designated on or before the date the application for site certificate or request for amendment was determined to be complete under OAR 345-015-0190 or 345-027-0363.	Section 4.0
(2) Notwithstanding section (1)(a), the Council may issue a site certificate for:	
(a) A facility that includes a transmission line, natural gas pipeline, or water pipeline located in a protected area, if the Council determines that other reasonable alternative routes or sites have been studied and that the proposed route or site is likely to result in fewer adverse impacts to resources or interests protected by Council standards; or	-
(b) Surface facilities related to an underground gas storage reservoir that have pipelines and injection, withdrawal or monitoring wells and individual wellhead equipment and pumps located in a protected area, if the Council determines that other alternative routes or sites have been studied and are unsuitable.	-
(3) The provisions of section (1) do not apply to:	
(a) A transmission line routed within 500 feet of an existing utility right-of-way containing at least one transmission line with a voltage rating of 115 kilovolts or higher; or	-
(b) A natural gas pipeline routed within 500 feet of an existing utility right of way containing at least one natural gas pipeline of 8 inches or greater diameter that is operated at a pressure of 125 psig.	-
(4) The Council shall apply the version of this rule adopted under Administrative Order EFSC 1-2007, filed and effective May 15, 2007, to the review of any Application for Site Certificate or Request for Amendment that was determined to be complete under OAR 345-015-0190 or 345-027-0363 before the effective date of this rule. Nothing in this section waives the obligations of the certificate holder and Council to abide by local ordinances, state law, and other rules of the Council for the construction and operation of energy facilities in effect on the date the site certificate or amended site certificate is executed.	-

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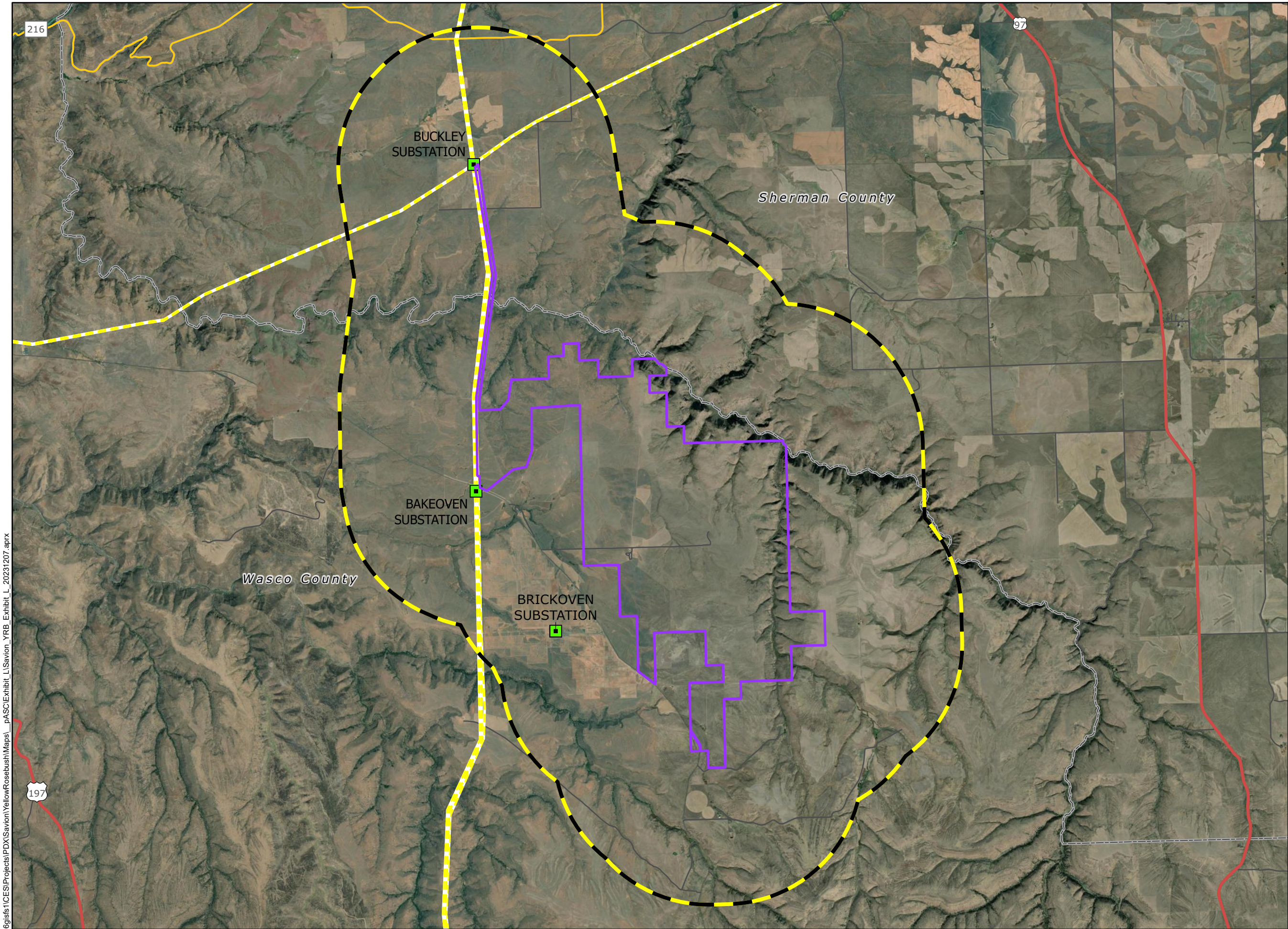
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Yellow Rosebush Energy Center

**Figure L-1
Protected Areas
within the
Analysis Area**

**SHERMAN AND WASCO
COUNTIES, OR**

- Facility Site Boundary
- Protected Areas Analysis Area (2-mile Buffer)
- County Boundary
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Local Roads
- Existing Transmission Line 500-kV
- Existing Substation



Reference Map



1:85,000

WGS 1984 UTM Zone 10N



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