



Oregon

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To: Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

Date: July 10, 2026

Subject: Agenda Item H (Action Item):
Biglow Canyon Wind Farm – Appointment of Agricultural Mitigation Selection
Committee Member for the July 24, 2026 EFSC Meeting

BACKGROUND

On March 27, 2026, the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC or Council) issued its Final Order on Request for Amendment 4 of Biglow Canyon Wind Farm Site Certificate and granted issuance of a Fourth Amended Site Certificate authorizing the construction and operation of a 125 MW solar photovoltaic power generation facility on up to 1,924 acres of cultivated land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use in Sherman County. The site was, and currently is, primarily used for the production of dryland wheat.

In reviewing the facility's compliance with the Land Use Standard, the Council found that the proposed solar photovoltaic power generation components would use more high-value and arable farmland than permitted under OAR 660-033-0130(38), and as a result could not be approved without taking an exception to Statewide Planning Goal 3. To support its exception request, the certificate holder proposed to make a one-time payment of \$1,600 per acre of farmland occupied by the facility to an Agricultural Mitigation Fund that would be administered by the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District according to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Council found that economic benefits to the local agricultural economy that were reasonably likely to be generated by the fund supported an economic benefits reason, and that economic benefits were one of the reasons that justified an exception to Statewide Planning Goal 3. In granting the exception, the Council imposed Site Certificate Condition PRE-LU-03 requiring the certificate holder to adhere to the terms of the MOU.

As part of its responsibilities in administering the funds, the County is required to establish a six-person Advisory Committee to make recommendations on the distribution of funds based on the guidelines provided in a Community Investment Plan. As required by the MOU, the Advisory Committee must include one non-voting member selected by the Energy Facility Siting Council.

The Council may select any person with subject matter expertise over statewide or regional agriculture issues pertinent to Sherman County dryland wheat farming to serve on the Committee. The Department consulted with staff at the Department of Land Conservation and

Development and the Oregon Wheat Growers Association to identify potential candidates. Based on this consultation, the Department recommends the Council appoint Ernie Moore. As an alternative, secondary option in the event of any schedule limitations by the primary recommended individual, the Department also recommends the Council appoint Daisy Goebel.

RECOMMENDED SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ernie Moore – Ernie Moore is a fourth-generation dryland wheat farmer from Moro in Sherman County, Oregon, with a long record of leadership in the region's agricultural community. He has served as chair of the Sherman Station Liaison Committee and the Sherman Station Endowment Fund, helping secure funding to support the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center and advance research on dryland farming, no-till practices, and alternative crops. In 2024, he received the Outstanding Volunteer Award from Oregon Wheat in recognition of his contributions to agricultural research and the wheat industry.

Daisy Goebel – Daisy Goebel is a professional land use planner with extensive experience in Oregon's agricultural communities. As a Principal Planner for Morrow County, she oversaw land use planning, zoning, transportation planning, and development review, working on issues that balance agricultural preservation, rural economic development, and property rights. She has extensive experience working with farmers, ranchers, local governments, and state agencies on projects that support the long-term viability of agricultural lands while guiding responsible growth and development.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Council appoint Ernie Moore as the primary member, and Daisy Goebel as a secondary member for the selection committee.