

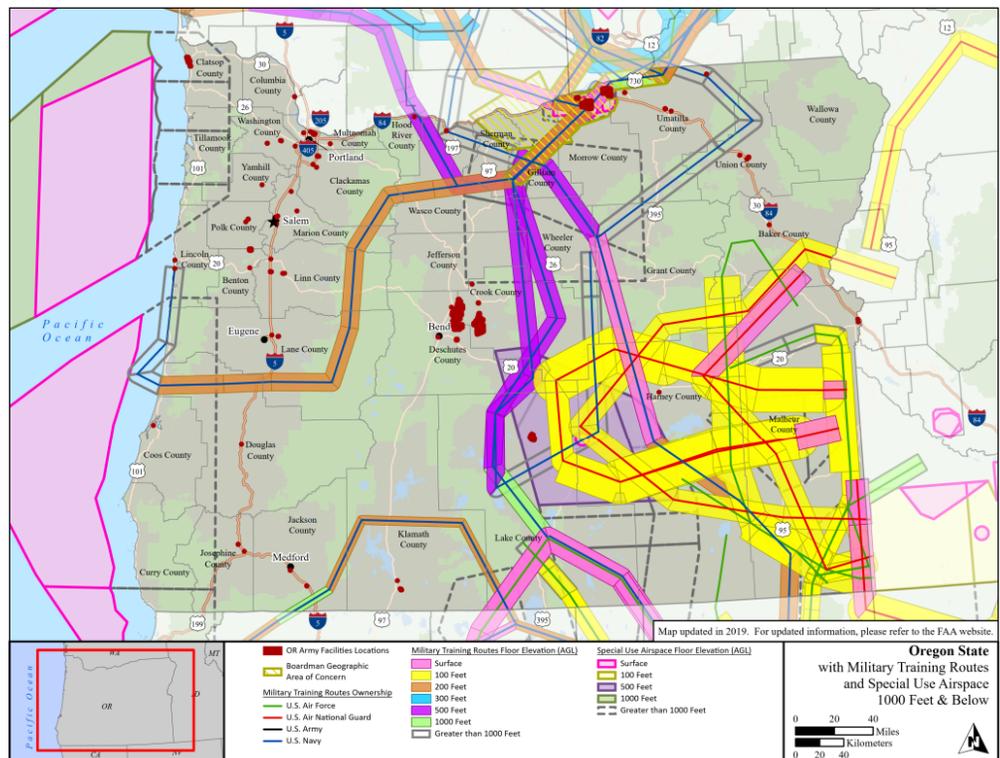
Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), working with the Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD) and Oregon State University-Institute for Natural Resources (INR), developed a renewable energy study proposal for consideration by the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA). OEA considers grant applications on a rolling basis, subject to the availability of funds appropriated from Congress. Washington and California have received funds for similar studies on renewable energy development. The proposal was successful and the project team was awarded a grant at the full requested federal amount of \$1,075,258 over an 18-month project period, with a required cost-share of \$119,473.

Project Purpose and Need

Continued renewable energy development is anticipated in Oregon in the coming decades, particularly solar energy, wind energy, off-shore wind, and associated transmission line development (see drivers for renewable energy development in ODOE's 2018 *Biennial Energy Report*, Chapter 3, page 4*).

Developing these energy resources involves balancing issues related to natural resources, land use, environmental impacts, noise concerns, and cultural and archeological artifacts (among others) through processes at all levels of government – federal, state, and local.



Example of military training routes and special use airspace in Oregon

Renewable energy and transmission projects also have effects on military training areas in Oregon and adjoining states, and may have a potential future effect on necessary military uses to prepare for future threats. Potential effects could include radar interference from wind facilities; low-level flight obstructions from tall structures such as wind turbines; electromagnetic interference from high-voltage transmission lines; and glint and glare from solar photovoltaic arrays near airfields. A recent Oregon example is the Fossil radar

*<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Documents/BER-Chapter-3-Renewable-Energy.pdf>

associated with the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), which has expressed concerns about the level of impacts from new wind energy projects. Meanwhile, there are parts of the state that have substantial renewable energy resources and facility potential. Local governments have benefitted from increased tax base and local economic growth through renewable energy project development.

This project will collect information about locations for current and future renewable energy and transmission development, and build an understanding of the constraints and opportunities that come with specific locations. The state can use this information to continue to support compatible renewable energy growth and economic development.

Project Summary

The project area covers the entire state of Oregon, including marine waters. The key elements of the project involve:

- Technical groups incorporating expertise from several agencies, such as the Oregon Military Department, Public Utility Commission, Department of State Lands, State Historic Preservation Office, and Department of Fish & Wildlife (among others).
- Compatibility assessments on military needs, renewable energy, and development constraints and opportunities that incorporate stakeholder, Tribal, and local government engagement and input. Assessments will be supported by consulting services secured via state procurement processes.
- Reviewing and analyzing relevant state and local siting and permitting requirements and processes as they relate to military coordination and notification procedures.
- INR leading development of a mapping tool through GIS, which will include relevant compatibility data (like environmental or military considerations). The mapping tool will be part of the “Oregon Explorer” online resource.
- Sharing the assessment report and mapping tool with military personnel, renewable energy developers, utilities, Tribes, local governments, state agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

Key Deliverables

- Oregon Compatible Renewable Energy Siting Assessment Report
- Oregon Compatible Renewable Energy Siting Mapping Tool and associated GIS data layers (hosted by INR)

These deliverables will raise awareness of renewable energy compatibility needs and will provide educational tools to identify potential project areas that have less conflict and could support economic development.

How to get involved

The assessments and mapping tool will involve stakeholder engagement and input. Sign up for the distribution list to learn more about engagement opportunities at <https://tinyurl.com/ORESASignup> or by emailing AskEnergy@oregon.gov.

You can also follow the process on the Oregon Department of Energy’s website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/ORESASignup.aspx>