

# Table Mountain Wind Generating Facility Proposal

**By Wind Energy Team B**



# Proposal Background

- BLM analyzed in an EIS, the Table Mountain Wind Company, LLC (TMWC) application. A considerable amount of time has elapsed since the initial EIS was prepared. During this time:
  - The proponent changed – T. Boone Pickens is now a major player in this proposal
  - A new wind turbine design due to updated technology.

# Project Overview

- Project located 20 miles southwest of Las Vegas, between the communities of Goodsprings, Sandy, Jean, and Primm, Nevada.
- 325 acres of BLM administered public land
- Original project consisted of 250 smaller turbines, and 150-205 MW wind powered electric generation facility (WGF) with towers approximately 260 ft. in height.
- Revision in number of turbines to 88; 450 ft. towers.

# Project Overview

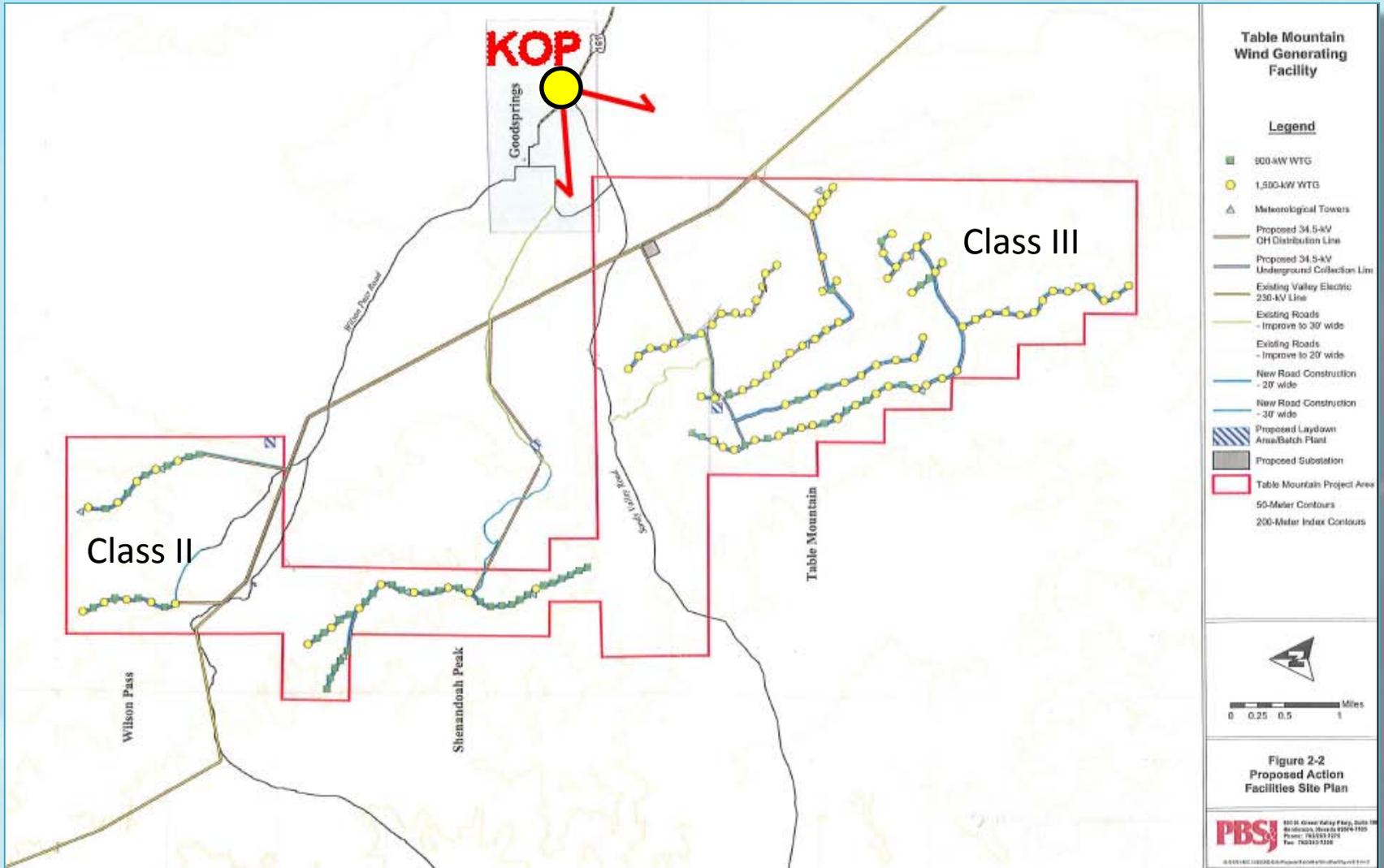
- The EIS for the initial proposal found that from 3 key observation points established for the project (the intersection of Jean and I-15, the towns of Goodsprings and Sandy), that the proposal did not meet the Class II or III objectives of the RMP.
- Two new key observation points were selected at
  - The intersection of Highway 161 and Sandy Draw Road (Team B)
  - The town of Goodsprings (Team A)

# Project Overview

- The revised project is sited in 2 VRM areas:
  - Class III on Table Mountain
  - Class II on Wilson Pass.
- Town of Goodsprings is very interested in this project and has concerns over the visual impacts, and changing the entire project area to a VRM IV.



# Project Area



# Existing Conditions

(Table Mountain, Class III)



KOP – View Eastside of Table Mountain

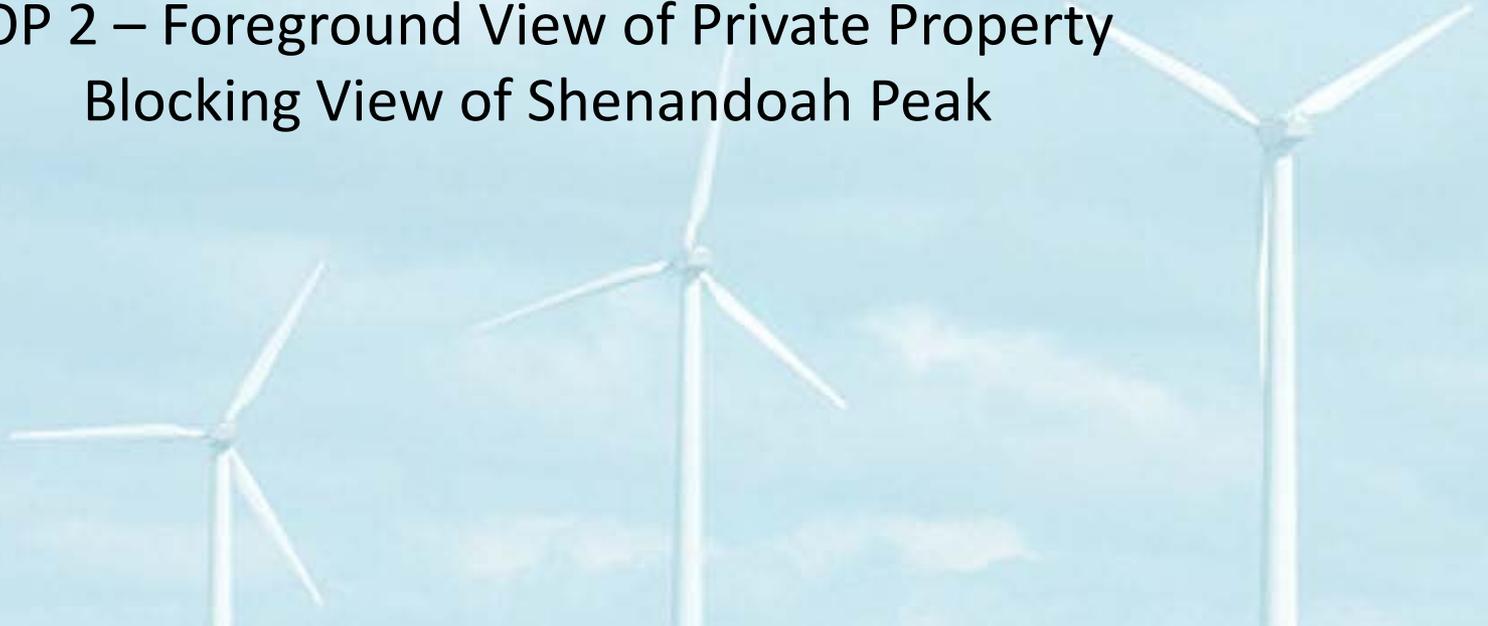


# Existing Conditions

(Wilson Pass, Class II)



KOP 2 – Foreground View of Private Property  
Blocking View of Shenandoah Peak



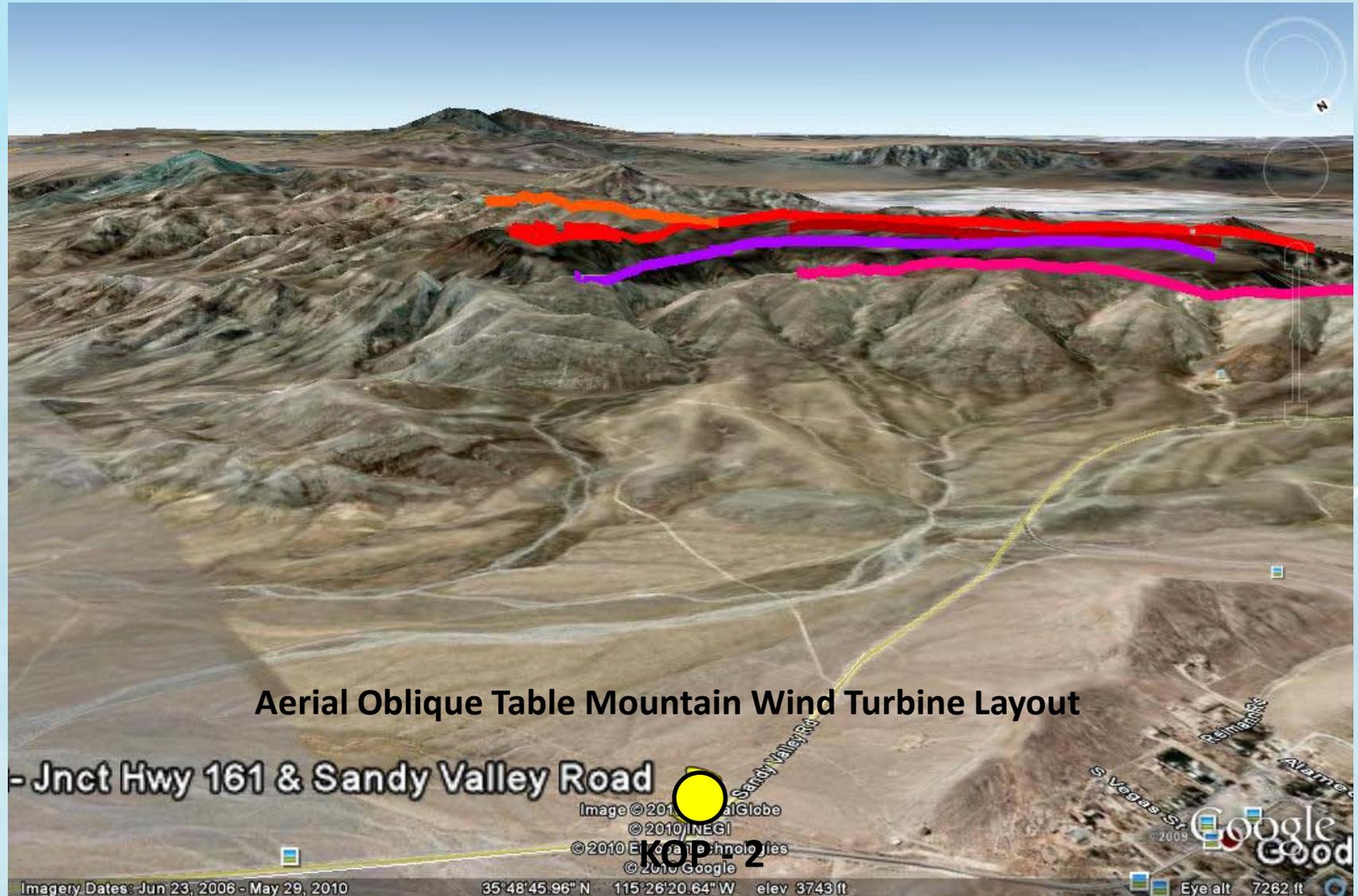
# Existing Conditions

## SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

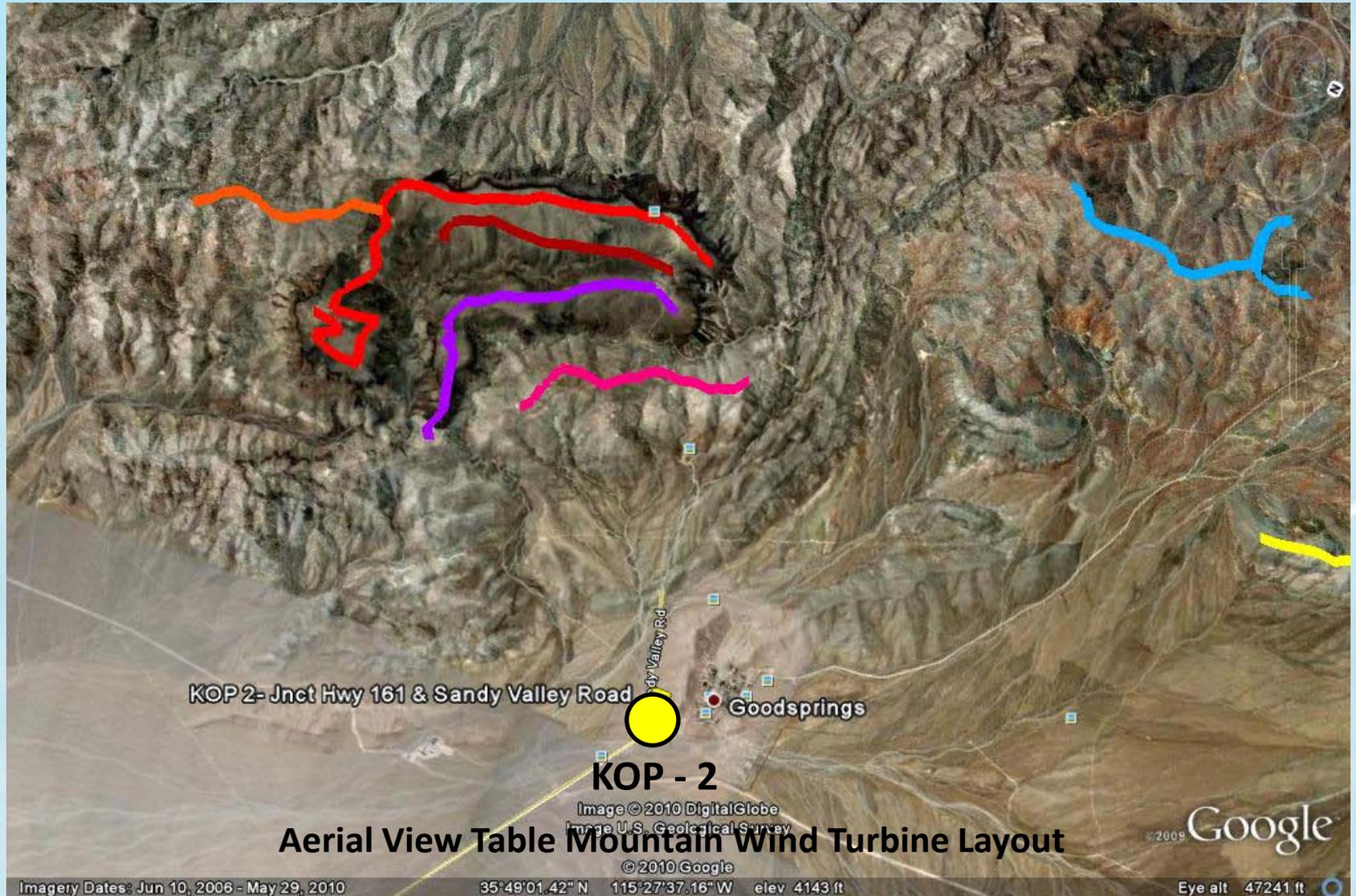
## SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rounded to angular, gradual to steep slopes	Patchy, rounded with some regular distribution, indistinct	Curvilinear road, vertical thin t-line poles. Small private dwelling on adjacent lands are boxy and vertical. Communication site, boxy and vertical
LINE	Ridgeline silhouette, horizontal valley lines, diagonal drainage lines	Weak linear elements	Curvilinear road, vertical t-line poles, moderately strong visual elements
COLOR	Homogenous, monotone, uniform earthtones	Subtle, monotone	Brown poles, white comm. Site, grey road with lighter road shoulders brighter than surrounding areas
TEXTURE	Smooth to finely coarse with uniform distribution	Fine to medium smooth	Smooth comm. Site, smooth road though it contrasts with road shoulder

# Project Proposal



# Project Proposal



# Project Proposal



Met. Towers Measured for Scale  
(Partial View)



KOP - 2

# Project Proposal



Wireframe Model for Locating Turbines  
(Partial View)



KOP - 2

# Project Proposal



Table Mountain Wind Turbine Simulation  
(Partial View)



KOP - 2

# Project Proposal



Table Mountain Wind Turbine Simulation  
(Full View)



**KOP - 2**



# Project Proposal

## SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	n/a	No visible change in veg	Solid, prominent, tall and vertical with regular pattern that contrasts with existing form
LINE	n/a	No visible change in veg	Bold, straight regular vertical lines
COLOR	n/a	No visible change in veg	White, bright, vivid
TEXTURE	n/a	No visible change in veg	Smooth, contrasting with existing texture

# Contrast Rating (Long Term)

DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES											
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
		STRONG	MOD	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MOD	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MOD	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM				X			X		X			
	LINE				X			X		X			
	COLOR				X			X		X			
	TEXTURE				X			X			X		

- The project design DOES NOT MEET visual resource management objectives
- Additional mitigating measures ARE NOT recommended

Mitigation could be analyzed during plan amendment process, supplemental EIS

# Contrast rating ramifications

- Current VRM class for this area is:
  - Table Mountain is Class III
  - Wilson Pass is Class II
- The proposed project, due to a contrast rating (Strong) in several structure categories, does not meet the criteria for either a Visual Resource Management Class II or Class III.

# Conclusion

- Project as proposed would not conform to existing VRM class
- Potential project revision to turbine design and or placement as described in the next slide would not likely allow the project to conform to VRM class designation II or III
- An amendment to the RMP, changing the VRM designation to Class IV would be necessary for the project to be in conformance with VRM management objectives

# Potential Project Design Revisions

The following design revisions could reduce visual impacts, regardless of VRM Class

## **Wind Turbines:**

- Removing first array of turbines, a portion of the second turbines arrays (approximately 16 towers) on Table Mountain closest to HWY 161.
- Placement of turbine arrays on background mesa could be designed to reduce visuals from KOP and possibly reducing tower size.
- Explore moving turbine location within the project area to a less visually sensitive area.

# Potential Project Design Revisions

The following design revisions could reduce visual impacts, regardless of VRM Class

## **Ancillary Facilities:**

- Substation location could be moved south in natural depression of the topography.
- Overhead transmission lines connecting the arrays to substation could be relocated, instead of linear could be curvilinear, which is more consistent with existing natural landscapes.
- Road shoulders would be minimized or revegetated.