

**Resolution on Wind Energy Development
by the Board of Directors of the
Oregon-California Trails Association**

Whereas the United States Government is encouraging the rapid deployment of wind turbines and related infrastructure in areas including currently designated and proposed National Historic Trails, and

Whereas, the wind turbines and their infrastructure such as transmission lines and roads adversely impact the setting and degrade the historic nature of the trail areas, and

Whereas, there is little possibility to reduce the visual impact of the turbines due to (a) the need to place them on ridge lines and (b) their ability to attract attention as a result of their dynamic nature (rotation), the following is resolved:

1. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the first priority when seeking to mitigate an adverse impact is avoidance. We therefore recommend that both wind farms and transmission lines be placed in areas not visible from the National Historic Trails and historic trails authorized for study under the Public Lands Act of 2009, except in areas already heavily impacted by other development.
2. Where necessary, transmission lines should follow existing corridors and not be placed in new areas especially those areas maintaining the feel and character of the emigrant era. Lines and towers should be designed for low visual impact.
3. An area of critical concern is that area of Central Wyoming extending from east of Independence Rock to the Little Sandy River Crossing. This segment, designated as “high priority” for protection by the National Park Service, is evocative of the emigrant travels of the mid-1800s that brought between 300,000 and 500,000 to the West and established the United States as a continent-spanning nation. The trails and setting in this area deserve the highest level of protection.

Adopted by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting held in Loveland, Colorado on August 18, 2009.

For the Board,

Glenn Harrison
President

Bill Martin
Vice President, President-elect