

Status of Wind Energy in Montana

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING - WIND APPLICATIONS CENTER

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Abstract

Nationally, renewable energy sources are growing rapidly and are on track to surpass coal fired energy production shortly before 2040. In Montana, roughly 45% of the energy produced is from renewable energy, 7.5% from wind energy. Montana ranks 24th in the nation for installed wind energy production capacity, with 720MW. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Montana is ranked 5th for estimated potential onshore wind power¹. Taking advantage of that potential, wind energy in Montana has grown rapidly in the last decade. The installed wind energy capacity of Montana should be up to 800MW by the end of 2018, and up to 1200MW by 2020.

This report looks at information from the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, American Wind Energy Association, and other sources in order to summarize the status of wind energy in Montana. The summaries of each operational utility scale wind energy project include information about the site and the turbines used, as well as production information when available.

Montana Wind Energy Generation

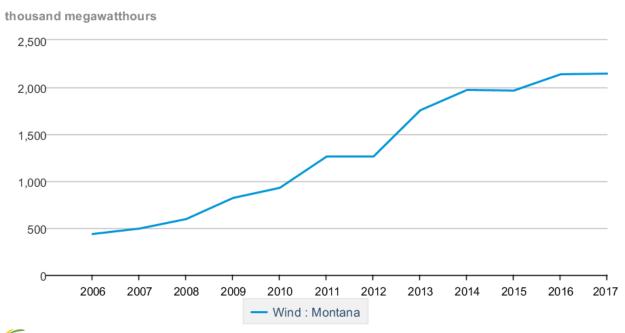


Figure 1 - EIA Montana Wind Energy Generation (Yearly)

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

¹ https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/51946.pdf

National Electrical Production Overview

For a long time the nation's electricity was generated mostly by coal. In recent years natural gas has surpassed coal, and according to the Annual Energy Outlook, renewables will surpass coal sometime near 2030. The US Energy Information Administration released the 2018 version of the Annual Energy Outlook on 2/6/18². The AEO "provides modeled projections of domestic energy markets through 2050, and it includes cases with different assumptions regarding macroeconomic growth, world oil prices, technological progress, and energy policies." Graphs from the 2018 AEO, figures 3, 4, and 5 below, are used to explore the status of electrical energy production at a national level.

One energy policy that plays a role in many of the predictions in the report is the Clean Power Plan, introduced by President Obama in 2015. "The CPP was promulgated under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act. Section 111 of the Clean Air Act authorizes the EPA to issue nationally applicable New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) limiting air pollution from "new sources" in source categories that cause or contribute to air pollution that may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare." In figures 3 and 4 below there are predictions with and without the CPP standards, which mainly impact coal fired power plants. Due to concerns from 27 states as well as a variety of companies the US Supreme Court issued a stay of the Clean Power Plan implementation on 2/9/16, pending judicial review On 3/28/17 President Trump signed the Executive Order on Energy Independence. Section 4 of this executive order calls for a review of the Clean Power Plan Dower Plan. The Environmental Protection Agency filed a proposal to repeal the CPP on 10/16/176.

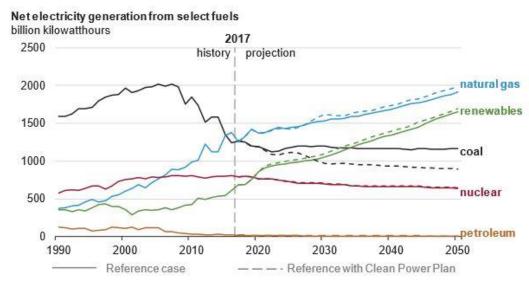


Figure 2 - AEO Electricity Generation Projections

² https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/pdf/AEO2018.pdf

³ https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/04/04/2017-06522/review-of-the-clean-power-plan

⁴ https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-10/documents/eo-13783-final-report-10-25-2017.pdf

⁵ https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-executive-order-promoting-energy-independence-economic-growth/

⁶ https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-10-16/pdf/2017-22349.pdf

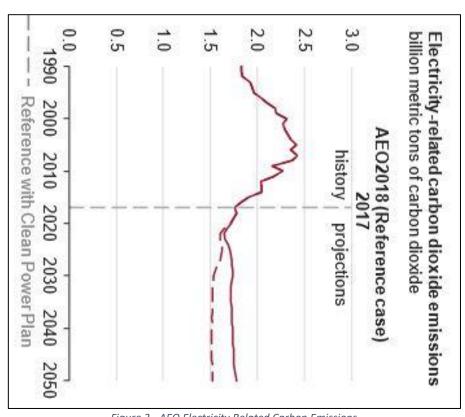


Figure 3 - AEO Electricity Related Carbon Emissions

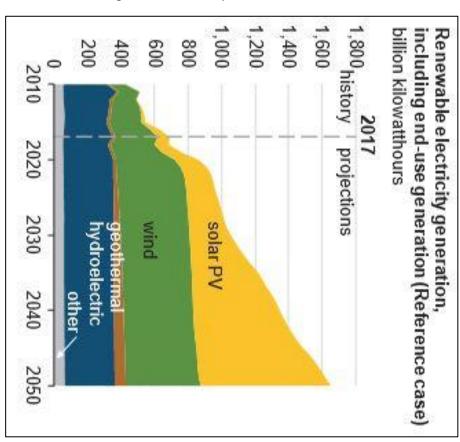


Figure 4 - AEO Renewable Electricity Projections

National Wind Energy Production Overview

In 2017, wind energy accounted for 6.3% of the nation's total energy production. According to the American Wind Energy Association, there are over 54,000 turbines with a combined nameplate capacity of 89,379MW. The top three wind producing states are Texas (22,799MW), Oklahoma (7,495MW), and Iowa (7,312MW)⁷. Montana (720wMW) is ranked 24th and produces 0.8% of the nation's wind energy⁸.

Wind Energy - Percentage of Total National Production

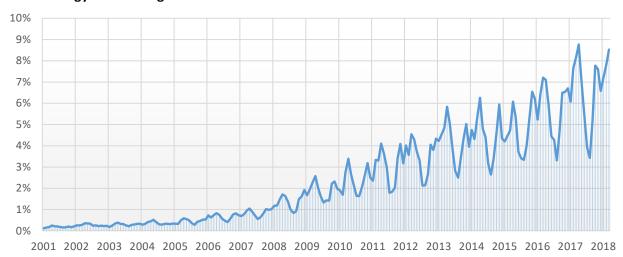


Figure 5 - Wind Percentage of National Production

National Energy Production

thousand megawatthours 200,000 100,000 2016 2018 2002 2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 United States : coal - United States : natural gas — United States : nuclear United States: conventional hydroelectric — United States: wind United States: all solar

Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 6 – EIA National Energy Production (Monthly)

⁷ https://www.awea.org/windenergyfacts.aspx

⁸ http://awea.files.cms-plus.com/FileDownloads/pdfs/Montana.pdf

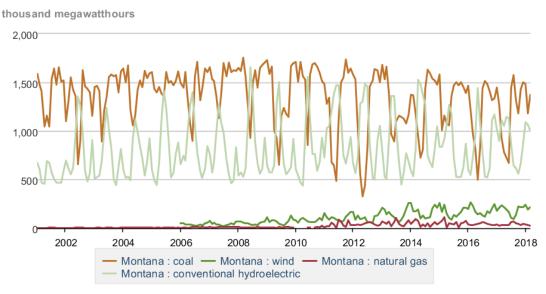
Montana Electrical Production Overview

The majority of the electricity in Montana is produced by coal and hydroelectric facilities, with about 7.5% produced by wind. Montana is a net energy exporter, selling roughly 50% of the energy produced to neighboring states like Washington and Oregon⁹.

In April 2005, as part of the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act, the Renewable Portfolio Standard required utility companies to obtain 15% of the energy they sold from renewable sources¹⁰. Northwestern energy, the state's largest utility company, produced about 60% of the energy they sold in 2017 from renewable sources¹¹.

Montana has a variety of residential and commercial renewable energy tax credits and loan programs available, as well as other renewable energy incentive programs. Net metering, which is required by law in Montana for installations less than 50kw, allows surplus energy produced by a customer's renewable system to be sold back to the utility company for energy "credits." ¹² Montana also requires utility companies to offer customers a green power option to purchase energy from renewable sources¹³. Northwestern Energy's green power option program is called "E+ Green" and allows customers to pay \$2 per month per 100kWhrs of renewable sourced energy.

Montana Energy Production



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 7 - EIA Montana Energy Production

⁹ https://leg.mt.gov/content/Publications/Environmental/2014-understanding-energy.pdf

¹⁰ http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/384

¹¹ http://www.northwesternenergy.com/save-energy-money/business-services/business-services-montana/renewable-energy/e-green

¹² http://deq.mt.gov/Energy/renewableenergy/netmeterrenew

¹³ http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/26

Montana Wind Energy Production Overview

Montana currently has 13 operational utility scale wind energy projects that encompass 20 different sites, and have a cumulative nameplate capacity of 721.6MW. When the Stillwater site goes online later in 2018, that total will be raised to 800.6MW. In 2016 wind energy accounted for 7.57% of Montana's energy production, enough to power roughly 197,000 homes¹⁴.

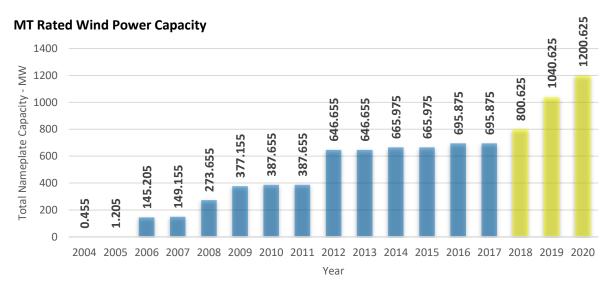


Figure 8 - MT Rated Wind Power Capacity

Wind Energy - Percentage of Total Montana Production

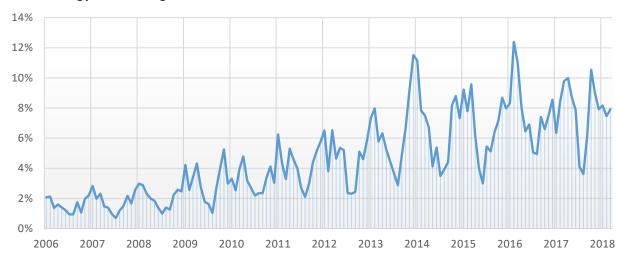


Figure 9 - Wind Percentage of Montana Production

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¹⁴ http://awea.files.cms-plus.com/FileDownloads/pdfs/Montana.pdf

Wind Energy Benefits

In 2015 the US Department of Energy released the Wind Vision report. The report showed that wind power could produce 10% of the nation's energy by 2020, 20% by 2030, and 35% by 2050¹⁵. The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and the Wind Energy Foundation used the data from the 2015 Wind Vision report to produce the Montana Wind Vision Fact Sheet¹⁶. In this document the AWEA states that achieving the DOE's Wind Vision goal for Montana would have the benefits described in the figures below.

Table 1 - AWEA Montana Wind Vision Facts

Consumer Benefits in Montana		Cumulative through 2050		
Electricity bill savings		\$677 million		
Savings through lower natural gas p	rices	PS .		12 billion
Economic Benefits in Montana	В	y 2020		Ву 2030
Annual property tax revenue	\$25.72 million			\$126.13 million
Annual land lease payments	\$10.43 million			\$51.14 million
Environmental benefits in Montana	a	By 2020		By 2030
Annual water use avoided, in gallon	S	900.67 million		7.19 billion
Annual carbon pollution avoided, in metric tons	n 1.68 million			11.7 million
Annual carbon pollution avoided, in		354,000		2.46 million

Table 2 - Renewables NW Fact Sheet Data

equivalent cars worth of emissions

Project	County	Capital Investment (Million \$)	Construction Jobs	Permanent Jobs
Judith Gap	Wheatland	\$203	200	12
Horseshoe Bend	Cascade	\$15	20	1.5
Martinsdale Colony	Meagher	\$5	10	0.5
Diamond Willow	Fallon	\$45	100	4
Glacier Wind	Toole	\$550	486	40
Gordon Butte	Meagher	\$20	20	1
Rim Rock Wind	Glacier	\$400	300	20
Spion Kop	Judith Basin	\$86	100	4
Musselshell 1	Wheatland	\$20	38	2
Musselshell 2	Wheatland	\$20	37	1

17

18

¹⁵ https://www.energy.gov/eere/wind/maps/wind-vision

http://awea.files.cms-plus.com/FileDownloads/pdfs/Montana.pdf

¹⁷ http://windenhttp://awea.files.cms-plus.com/FileDownloads/pdfs/Montana.pdfergyfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/wind-vision-fact-sheet-MT.pdf

¹⁸ https://renewablenw.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/montana%20wind%20power%20factsheet%2012Mar6.pdf

Wind Resource Potential

The AWEA also states in the fact sheet that "the latest data from the DOE finds that wind energy could provide 89.8% of Montana's electricity by 2020 and increase to 403.5% by 2030. The wind energy produced in Montana alone would power the equivalent of 6.4 million average American homes by 2030." The roughly 1000% increase in wind energy production Montana would have to make to confirm these predictions is impossible. However, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) data for wind energy potential in Montana shows that there is possibility for a large amount of growth. NREL states that the land based technical wind potential for the state at an 80m hub height is 687,977 MW¹⁹. Although it is likely not possible to reach this full potential due to power transmission, ecological, and economic conditions, NREL's research on wind resource potential shows that Montana has plenty of opportunity for future wind resource development.

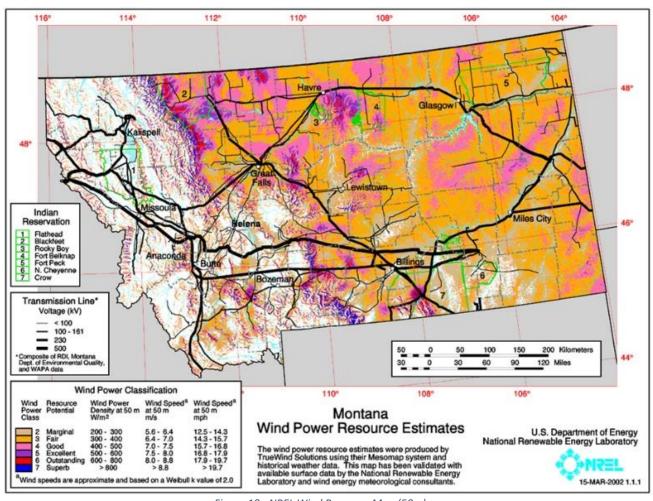


Figure 10 - NREL Wind Resource Map (50m)

¹⁹ https://windexchange.energy.gov/states/mt

Montana Wind Power Production

The power produced by wind facilities fluctuates due to varying wind speeds, or the total lack of wind. As a result the actual power produced by wind facilities will be different than their nameplate capacity.

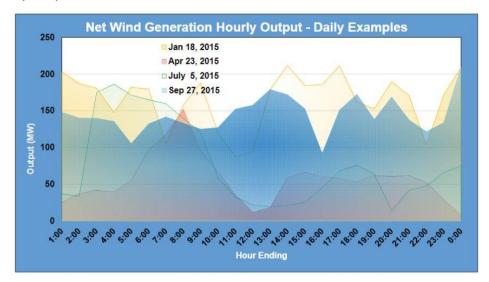


Figure 11 - NWE Hourly Wind Generation Examples

The capacity factor of a wind facility, or of an individual turbine, is the percentage of the nameplate capacity power that was actually produced over a period of time. The map below shows where in Montana a capacity factor of 35% or higher can be expected, based on wind speed and meteorological data. The average historical capacity factor for utility scale wind energy facilities in Montana, based on Energy Information Administration data, is 33%.

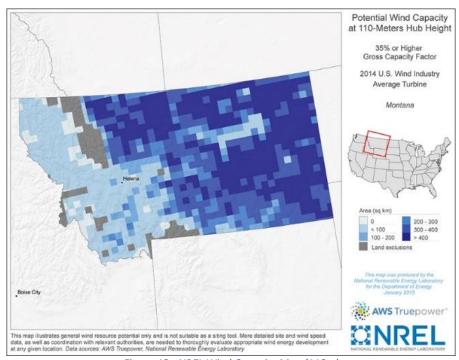


Figure 12 - NREL Wind Capacity Map (110m)

Average Capacity Factor - Montana

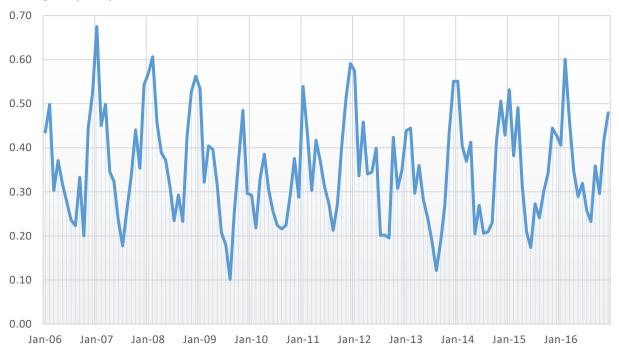
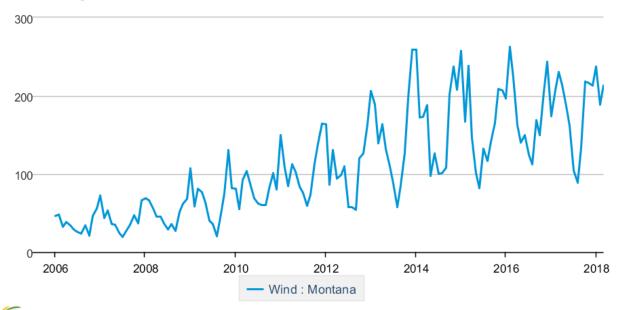


Figure 13 - Montana Average Capacity Factor

Wind Energy Production - Montana

thousand megawatthours



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 14 – EIA Montana Wind Energy Production (Monthly)

Operational Utility Scale Wind Energy Facilities

Table 3 - MT Operational Wind Facilities

Project	Site Name	Nameplate Capacity	Online Date	Historical Capacity Factor
		(MW)	Date	
Big Timber Wind (Greycliff)	Greycliff Wind	25	2018	0.27*
Diamond Willow Wind	Diamond Willow Wind (07)	1.5	2007	
	Diamond Willow Wind (08)	18	2008	0.35
	Diamond Willow Extension	10.5	2010	
Fairfield Wind	Fairfield Wind	9.6	2014	0.38
Gordon Butte Wind	Gordon Butte Wind	9.6	2012	0.51
Greenfield Wind	Greenfield Wind	29.9	2016	0.24*
Horseshoe Bend Wind Park	Horseshoe Bend Wind Park	9	2006	0.30
Judith Gap Wind Energy Center	Judith Gap Wind Energy Center	135	2006	0.40
Musselshell Wind Project	Musselshell Wind 1	10.5	2012	0.26
	Musselshell Wind 2	10.5	2012	0.29
Glacier Wind Energy	Glacier Wind Farm 1	106.5	2008	0.29
	Glacier Wind Farm 2	103.5	2009	0.30
Rim Rock Energy	Rim Rock Wind Farm	189	2012	0.32
Spion Kop Wind Farm	Spion Kop Wind Farm	40	2012	0.38
Two Dot Wind	Two Dot Wind Farm	9.72	2014	0.38
	Sheep Valley Ranch	0.5	2004	0.19**
	Moe Wind Farm	0.5	2007	0.15**
Martinsdale Colony	Martinsdale Colony North	0.8	2005	0.065**
	Martinsdale Colony South	2	2007	0.25**
Montana	Total:	721.62	Average:	0.33

Links to EIA data used to calculate capacity factor are included in the summary for each site unless noted otherwise.

^{*}The Big Timber and Greenfield sites have not been online long enough to have an appropriate amount of data to calculate accurate capacity factors. These values are still included when calculating the Montana average capacity factor.

^{**}EIA production data is not available to calculate capacity factor. These values were obtained from North Western Energy's 2015 Electricity Supply Resource Procurement Plan²⁰.

http://www.northwesternenergy.com/docs/default-source/documents/defaultsupply/plan15/volume1/chapter8existingresources

Judith Gap Wind Energy Center



(Invenergy)



Near Judith Gap, Wheatland County

The 135MW Judith Gap Wind Energy Center, located near Harlowton, began operation in 2006. Judith Gap was the first utility scale wind energy facility rated above one megawatt in Montana. The site sells power to Northwestern Energy.

Phase 2 of the Judith Gap Wind Energy Center is in the proposal process, and would produce an additional 52.5MW of rated power.

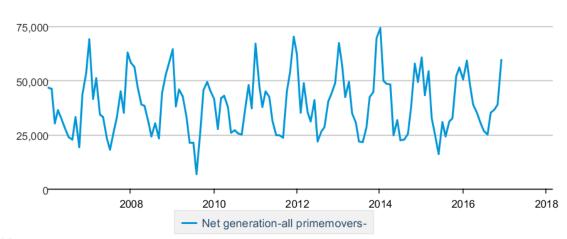
Wind Farm Information				
Rated Power	135 MW			
Turbine Quantity	90			
Online Date	2006			
Historical Capacity Factor	0.395			
Owner	Invenergy LLC			
Operator	Invenergy LLC			
Developer	Invenergy LLC			
Power Purchaser	Northwestern Energy			
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	\$31.71 (20yrs)			

Turbine Information				
Manufacturer	GE			
Model	1.5sle			
Nameplate Capacity	1500 kW			
Rotor Diameter	77 m			
Hub Height 80 m				
Rated Wind Speed 15 m/s				

21 22 23

megawatthours

100,000



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 15 - EIA Judith Gap Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatt hours)	50320	58793	47563	38641	34937	30096
24	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
	26489	24956	34947	36349	38660	59346

https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_3073_judith-gap.php
 https://www.thewindpower.net/turbine_en_57_ge-energy_1.5sle.php

http://psc2.mt.gov/Docs/ElectronicDocuments/pdfFiles/D2005-2-14_6633b.pdf https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/56377/?freq=M&pin=

Glacier Wind Energy



(naturener.us)



Near Ethridge, Glacier and Toole Counties

NaturEner purchased Glacier Wind Farms 1 and 2, as well as the Rim Rock Wind Farm project, from Great Plains Wind & Energy LLC in 2006. Glacier Wind Farm 1 went online in 2008 with 71 Acciona turbines, and Glacier Wind Farm 2 went online in 2009 with 69 turbines. Together the two sites are rated to a total of 210MW. Power produced by the Glacier Wind Farm sites is purchased by San Diego Gas & Electric.

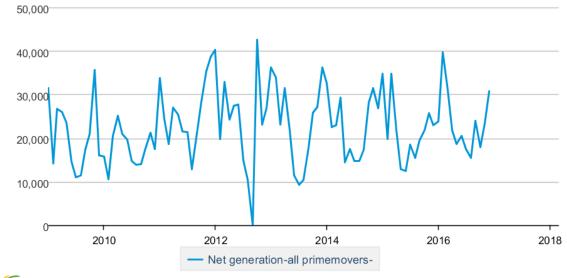
Glacier Wind Farm 1

Wind Farm Information				
Rated Power	106.5 MW			
Turbine Quantity	71			
Online Date	2008			
Historical Capacity Factor	0.290			
Owner	NaturEner			
Operator	NaturEner			
Developer	Mortenson			
Power Purchaser	San Diego Gas and Electric			
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	Confidential (15yrs)			

Turbine Information				
Manufacturer	Acciona			
Model	AW-1500/77			
Nameplate Capacity	1500 kW			
Rotor Diameter	77 m			
Hub Height	80 m			
Rated Wind Speed	11.1 m/s			

25 26 27





eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 16 - EIA Glacier 1 Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	23775	39766	31011	21825	18709	20457
28	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
	17552	15501	23946	17926	23388	30710

https://www.thewindpower.net/turbine_en_180_acciona_aw-1500-77.php
 https://www.thewindpower.net/turbine_en_180_acciona_aw-1500-77.php

http://www.mortenson.com/wind/projects/glacier-wind-farm-phase-i-and-ii https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/57049/?freq=M&pin=

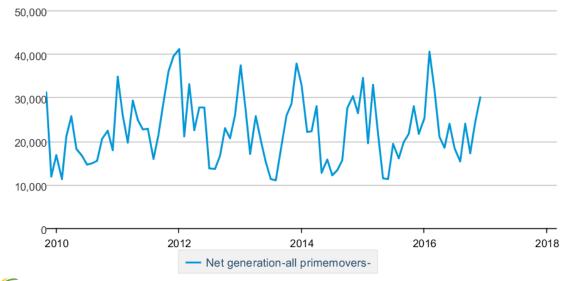
Glacier Wind Farm 2

Wind Farm Information				
Rated Power	103.5 MW			
Turbine Quantity	69			
Online Date	2009			
Historical Capacity Factor	0.300			
Owner	NaturEner			
Operator	NaturEner			
Developer	Mortenson			
Power Purchaser	San Diego Gas and Electric			
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	Confidential (15yrs)			

Acciona
-1500/77
1500 kW
77 m
80 m
11.1 m/s

29 30

megawatthours



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 17 - EIA Glacier 2 Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	25320	40548	31819	20890	18520	23930
31	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
	18418	15327	23921	17206	24350	30054

²⁹ https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm en 7111 glacier-ii.php

³⁰ http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/PUBLISHED/FINAL_RESOLUTION/106028.htm

³¹ https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/57050/?freq=M&pin=

Rim Rock Energy



(Mortenson)



Near Kevin, Toole County

The 189MW Rim Rock wind farm project went online in 2012, and is currently the largest wind farm in Montana. During peak generation, Rim Rock Wind Energy produces enough electricity to power roughly 60,000 homes. Shortly after construction, 25 of the 126 turbines were relocated about half a mile away from their original installation site to accommodate raptors nesting in the area.³² Power produced by the Rim Rock wind farm site is purchased by San Diego Gas & Electric.

³² http://www.altenerg.com/back_issues/julyaug2013-story3.htm

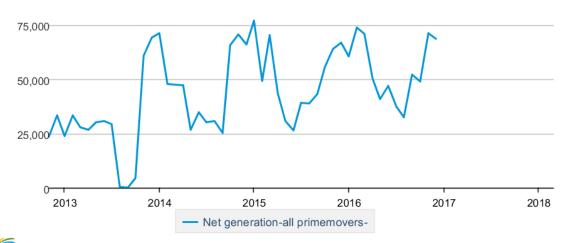
Wind Farm Information				
Rated Power	189 MW			
Turbine Quantity	126			
Online Date	2012			
Historical Capacity Factor	0.321			
Owner	NaturEner			
Operator	NaturEner			
Developer	Mortenson			
Power Purchaser	San Diego Gas and Electric			
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	Condfidential (15yrs)			

Turbine Information					
Manufacturer Acciona					
Model	AW-1500/77				
Nameplate Capacity	1500 kW				
Rotor Diameter	77 m				
Hub Height	80 m				
Rated Wind Speed	11.1 m/s				

33 34 35

megawatthours

100,000



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 18 - EIA Rim Rock Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	60443	73771	70841	50262	40664	46954
36	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16

https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_21306_rim-rock.php
 http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/PUBLISHED/FINAL_RESOLUTION/110403.htm

http://www.mortenson.com/wind/projects/rim-rock-wind-project https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/57995/?freq=M&pin=

Musselshell Wind Project



(Mortenson)



Near Shawmut, Wheatland County

The Musselshell Wind Project consists of two sites that are rated to a total of 21MW. Both sites went online in 2012, and each site consists of 7 Goldwind turbines. The Goldwind turbines feature their proprietary Permanent Magnet Direct Drive (PMDD) technology, which is designed to increase efficiency and reduce maintenance costs. Power from the Musselshell site is purchased by Northwestern Energy.

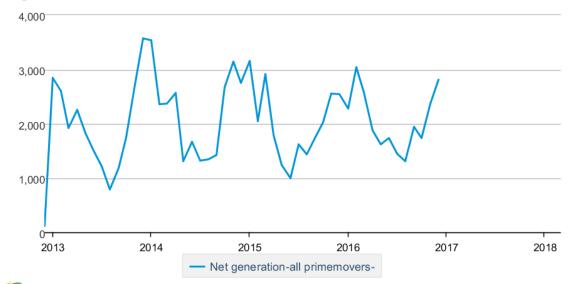
Musselshell Wind Farm 1

Wind Farm Information					
Rated Power	10.5 MW				
Turbine Quantity	7				
Online Date	2012				
Historical Capacity Factor	0.265				
Owner	Goldwind				
Operator	Musselshell Wind Project LLC				
Developer	Mortenson, Volkswind USA				
Power Purchaser	Northwestern Energy				
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	\$69.04				

Turbine Information					
Goldwind					
GW87/1500					
1500 kW					
87 m					
100 m					
9.9 m/s					

37 38 39

megawatthours



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 19 - EIA Musselshell 1 Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	2277	3041	2582	1877	1621	1732
40	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
	1443	1303	1947	1734	2364	2808

https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm en 21305 musselshell-wind-project-i.php
 https://www.goldwindamericas.com/15-mw-pmdd

http://www.northwesternenergy.com/docs/default-

source/documents/defaultsupply/plan15/volume2/windresourcepricing
https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/57963/?freq=M&pin=

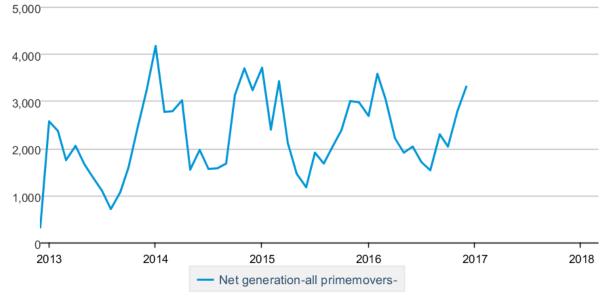
Musselshell Wind Farm 2

Wind Farm Information					
Rated Power	10.5 MW				
Turbine Quantity	7				
Online Date	2012				
Historical Capacity Factor	0.265				
Owner	Goldwind				
Operator	Musselshell Wind Project LLC				
Developer	Mortenson, Volkswind USA				
Power Purchaser	Northwestern Energy				
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	\$69.04				

Turbine Information				
Manufacturer Goldwin				
Model	GW87/1500			
Nameplate Capacity	1500 kW			
Rotor Diameter	87 m			
Hub Height	100 m			
Rated Wind Speed	9.9 m/s			

41

megawatthours



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 20 - EIA Musselshell 2 Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	2685	3586	3044	2213	1911	2043
42	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
	1702	1537	2296	2044	2787	3311

https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_21648_musselshell-wind-project-ii.php
 https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/57965/?freq=M&pin=

Spion Kop Wind Farm



(City of Bozeman)



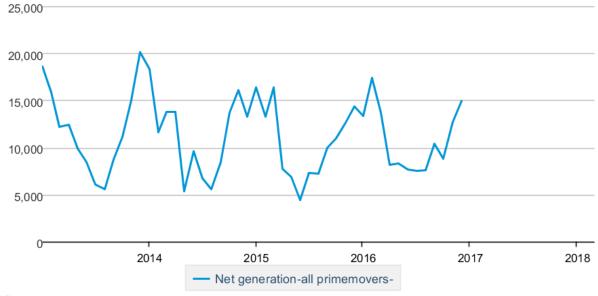
Near Geyser, Judith Basin County

The Spion Kop windfarm is a 40MW facility with 25 GE turbines located near the town of Geyser. The project was developed by Colorado based Compass Energies, and then purchased by Northwestern Energy. Although many Montana wind farms sell their power to Northwestern Energy, this is the only commercial wind facility owned by NWE.

Wind Farm Information				
Rated Power	40 MW			
Turbine Quantity	25			
Online Date	2012			
Historical Capacity Factor	0.384			
Owner	Northwestern Energy			
Operator	Northwestern Energy			
Developer	Compass Energies			
Power Purchaser	Northwestern Energy			
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	\$52.40			

Turbine Information							
Manufacturer GE							
Model	1.6-82.5						
Nameplate Capacity	1600 kW						
Rotor Diameter	82.5 m						
Hub Height	80 m						
Rated Wind Speed	12 m/s						
43 44	•						

megawatthours



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 21 - EIA Spion Kop Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	13383	17383	13731	8146	8293	7642
45	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
	7553	7624	10386	8835	12699	14986

⁴³ https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_24684_spion-kop-(us).php

https://www.thewindpower.net/turbine_en_380_ge-energy_1.6-82.5.php https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/58218/?freq=M&pin=

Fairfield Wind



(Foundation Windpower)



Near Fairfield, Teton County

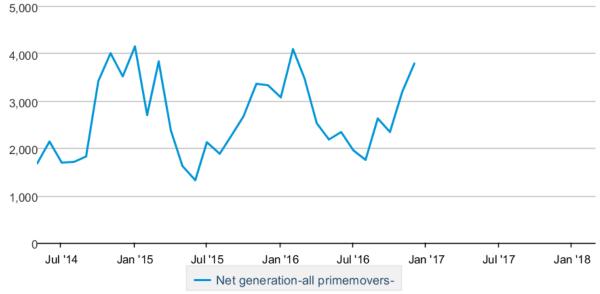
Foundation Windpower purchased the Fairfield Wind project from Fairfield Wind LLC in 2013 while the project was in late state development. The 9.6MW began operation in 2014 with six GE 1.6xle turbines. Fairfield, and its sister site Greenfield Wind Project, are both currently owned and operated by Greenbacker Renewable Energy Company.

Wind Farm Information				
Rated Power	9.6 MW			
Turbine Quantity	6			
Online Date	2014			
Historical Capacity Factor	0.378			
Owner	Greenbacker Renewable Energy			
Operator	Greenbacker Renewable Energy			
Developer	WINData LLC			
Power Purchaser	Northwestern Energy			
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	\$73.93			

Turbine Information					
Manufacturer GE					
Model	1.6xle				
Nameplate Capacity	1600 kW				
Rotor Diameter	82.5 m				
Hub Height	80 m				
Rated Wind Speed 11 m/s					

46 47

megawatthours



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 22 – EIA Fairfield Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	3067	4097	3478	2528	2184	2333
48	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
	1944	1755	2623	2335	3184	3782

⁴⁶ https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_20963_fairfield.php

⁴⁷ https://www.thewindpower.net/turbine_en_670_ge-energy_1.6xle.php 48 https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/58966/?freq=M&pin=

Greenfield Wind Project



(Dick Anderson Construction)



Near Fairfield, Teton County

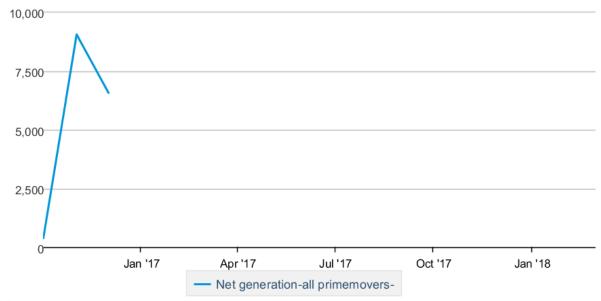
The Greenfield Wind Project is the sister project of the nearby Fairfield Wind Farm. Both sites were owned by Foundation Windpower and developed by WINData, and then purchased by Greenbacker Renewable Energy Company. Greenfield went online in 2016 with 13 GE 2.3-107 turbines, which are currently the largest turbines in the state.

Wind Farm Information				
Rated Power	29.9 MW			
Turbine Quantity	13			
Online Date	2016			
Historical Capacity Factor	0.245			
Owner	Greenbacker Renewable Energy			
Operator	Greenbacker Renewable Energy			
Developer	WINData LLC			
Power Purchaser	Northwestern Energy			
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	\$50.49			

Turbine Information				
Manufacturer	GE			
Model	2.3-107			
Nameplate Capacity	2300 kW			
Rotor Diameter	107 m			
Hub Height	80 m			
Rated Wind Speed	14 m/s			

49 50

megawatthours



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 23 – EIA Greenfield Energy Production

Month	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	-	-	-	374	9045	6552

51

⁴⁹ https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_23962_greenfield.php

⁵⁰ https://www.thewindpower.net/turbine_en_1007_ge-energy_2.3-107.php 51 https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/60486/?freq=M&pin=

Gordon Butte Wind



(Dick Anderson Construction)



Near Martinsdale, Meagher County

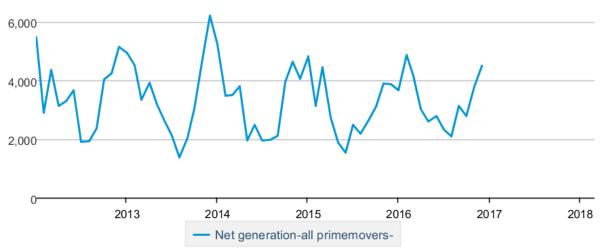
The 9MW Gordon Butte Wind farm, near Martindale, operates 6 GE 1.5sle turbines. Power from the Gordon Butte site is sold to Northwestern Energy. According to the Energy Information Administration data, Gordon Butte has the highest historical capacity factor in the state.

Wind Farm Information				
Rated Power	9 MW			
Turbine Quantity	6			
Online Date	2012			
Historical Capacity Factor	0.506			
Owner	Gordon Butte Wind LLC			
Operator	Gordon Butte Wind LLC			
Developer	Oversight Resources LLC			
Power Purchaser	Northwestern Energy			
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	\$67.83			

Turbine Information				
Manufacturer	GE			
Model	1.5sle			
Nameplate Capacity	1500 kW			
Rotor Diameter	77 m			
Hub Height	80 m			
Rated Wind Speed 15 m/s				

megawatthours

8,000



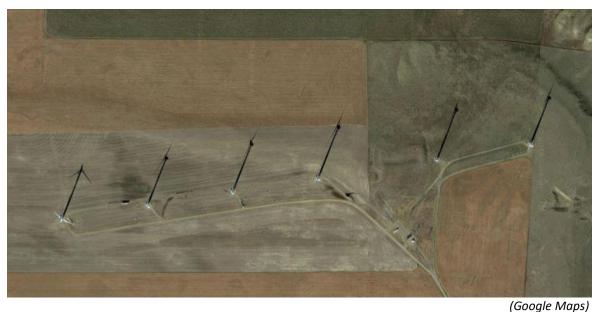
eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 24 – EIA Gordon Butte Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	3641	4864	4129	3002	2593	2770
53	L.I.A.C	A 1 C	Com 1C	Oct-16	Nov. 16	D = = 46
	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	001-16	Nov-16	Dec-16

https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_18735_gordon-butte.php
 https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/57748/?freq=M&pin=

Horseshoe Bend Wind Park



BLACKFEET Kootenai INDIAN RESERVATION itional Forest FORT PECK INDIAN RESERVATION Flathead National Forest FLATHEAD RESERVATION MONTANA oMissoula Helena Nez Perce -Miles City Clearwater National Butte Forests Billings Bozeman Beaverhead-Deerlodge CROW National Forest RESERVATION Payette onal Forest Salmon -Challis Yellowstone National Park

Near Great Fall, Cascade County

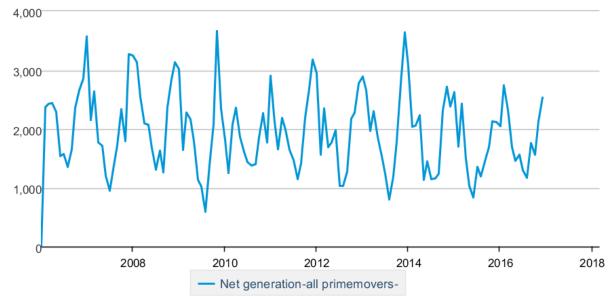
The 9MW Horseshoe Bend Wind Park is just west of the Great Falls airport, and operates 6 GE 1.5sle turbines. 5MW of Power from Horseshoe Bend is sold to Idaho Power, the rest is used by United Materials of Great Falls⁵⁴. The site was developed by United Materials and Exergy Development Group in 2006, and was purchased by Sansur Renewable Energy is 2009. Sansur has plans to expand the site, adding an additional 140MW.

⁵⁴ http://deq.mt.gov/Energy/renewableenergy/resourcesandtechnology/Wind/windprojectsmt

Wind Farm Information				
Rated Power	9 MW			
Turbine Quantity	6			
Online Date	2006			
Historical Capacity Factor	0.298			
Owner	Sansur Renewable Energy			
Operator	United Materials of Great Falls In			
Developer	Exergy Development Group			
Power Purchaser	UM, Idaho Power			
Power Price (\$/MWhr)				

Turbine Information					
Manufacturer GE					
Model	1.5sle				
Nameplate Capacity	1500 kW				
Rotor Diameter	77 m				
Hub Height	80 m				
Rated Wind Speed 15 m/s					
ГГ					

megawatthours



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 25 - EIA Horseshoe Bend Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	2050	2739	2325	1690	1460	1560
56	1					
56	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16

https://renewablenw.org/node/horseshoe-bend-wind-park
 https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_3072_horseshoe-bend.php

Diamond Willow Wind



(Montana-Dakota Utilities)



Near Baker, Fallon County

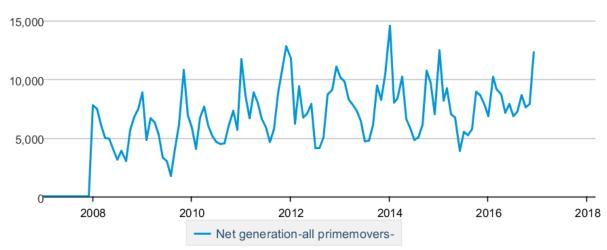
Montana Dakota Utilities developed, operates, and receives power from the 30MW Diamond Willow Wind project. A single GE 1.5sle turbine went online in 2007, followed by 12 more in 2008. The Diamond Willow Extension site went online in 2010 with 7 more turbines.

Wind Farm Information					
Rated Power	30 MW				
Turbine Quantity	20				
Online Date	2007,2008,2010				
Historical Capacity	0.352				
Factor					
Owner	Montana Dakota Utilities				
Operator	Montana Dakota Utilities				
Developer	Montana Dakota Utilities				
Power Purchaser	Montana Dakota Utilities				
Power Price (\$/MWhr)					

Turbine Information					
Manufacturer	GE				
Model	1.5sle				
Nameplate Capacity	1500 kW				
Rotor Diameter	77 m				
Hub Height	80 m				
Rated Wind Speed	15 m/s				
57 58 59					

megawatthours

20,000



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 26 - EIA Diamond Willow Energy Data

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	6802	10188	9140	8687	7088	7856
60	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
	6842	7230	8613	7594	7835	12244

https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_3071_diamond-willow-wind-(07).php
 https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_3070_diamond-willow-wind-(08).php

https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_11043_diamond-willow-extension.php https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/56782/?freq=M&pin=

Big Timber (Greycliff) Wind



(BayWa r.e.)



Near Greycliff, Sweet Grass County

Big Timber Wind LLC, currently a subsidiary of Con Edison, operates the 25MW Big Timber Wind Farm. The site is located on the Hobble Diamond Ranch, and is the newest utility scale wind project in Montana.

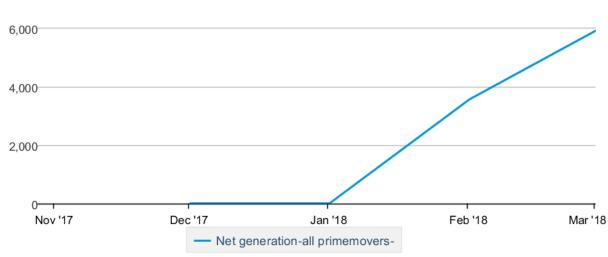
Wind Farm Information		
Rated Power	25 MW	
Turbine Quantity	14	
Online Date	2018	
Historical Capacity Factor	0.271	
Owner	Con Edison Development	
Operator	Big Timber Wind LLC	
Developer	BayWa r.e., Montana Wind Resources	
Power Purchaser	Northwestern Energy	
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	\$45.49	

Turbine Information		
Manufacturer	GE	
Model	1.79-100	
Nameplate Capacity	1790 kW	
Rotor Diameter	80 m	
Hub Height	80 m	
Rated Wind Speed 11 m/s		

61 62 63

megawatthours

8,000



eia Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 27 - EIA Big Timber Energy Production

Month	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	-	-	0	0	3550	5895

64

http://www.greycliffwind.com
 https://us.baywa-re.com/en/case-studies/americas-cases/?f=wind&c=big-timber

http://psc2.mt.gov/Docs/ElectronicDocuments/pdfFiles/D2015864FO7436d.pdf https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/61155/?freq=M&pin=

Two Dot Wind



(EDF Renewables)



Near Two Dot, Wheatland County

New Jersey Resources Clean Energy Ventures purchased the project from Two Dot Wind LLC in 2012. The 9.72MW site went online in 2014, and sells power to Northwestern Energy. Two Dot Wind LLC also operates two smaller sites located near the NJRCEV Two Dot Wind Farm site, and helped develop the Martinsdale Colony sites. The Sheep Valley Ranch and Moe Wind Farm sites are not represented in the EIA energy generation data on the next page.

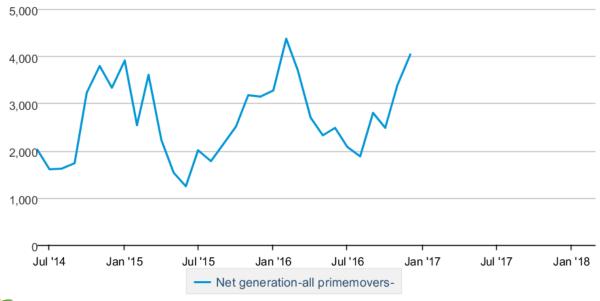
Two Dot Wind Farm

Wind Farm Information		
Rated Power	9.72 MW	
Turbine Quantity	6	
Online Date	2014	
Historical Capacity Factor	0.376	
Owner	NJRCEV	
Operator	NJRCEV	
Developer	OWN Energy, Mortenson	
Power Purchaser	Northwestern Energy	
Power Price (\$/MWhr)	\$58.83 (25yrs)	

Turbine Information		
Manufacturer	GE	
Model	1.62-87	
Nameplate Capacity	1620 kW	
Rotor Diameter	87 m	
Hub Height	80 m	
Rated Wind Speed -		

65 66

megawatthours



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Figure 28 - EIA Two Dot Energy Production

Month	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Energy Produced (megawatthours)	3273	4372	3711	2698	2330	2490
67	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
	2075	1873	2799	2492	3398	4036

⁶⁵ https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm en 22169 two-dot.php

⁶⁶ http://www.mortenson.com/wind/projects/two-dot-wind-project 67 https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/plant/59003/?freq=M&pin=

Sheep Valley Ranch

Wind Farm Information		
Rated Power	0.5 MW	
Turbine Quantity	7	
Online Date	2004	
Historical Capacity Factor	0.19	
Owner		
Operator		
Developer	Two Dot Wind LLC	

Turbine Information	
Manufacturer	Windmatic
Model	
Nameplate Capacity	
Rotor Diameter	
Hub Height	
Rated Wind Speed	
68	

Moe Wind Farm

Wind Farm Information		
Rated Power	0.5 MW	
Turbine Quantity	6	
Online Date	2007	
Historical Capacity Factor	0.15	
Owner		
Operator		
Developer	Two Dot Wind LLC	

Turbine Information		
Manufacturer	Vestas	
Model		
Nameplate Capacity		
Rotor Diameter		
Hub Height		
Rated Wind Speed		

⁶⁸ https://openei.org/wiki/Sheep_Valley_Ranch 69 https://openei.org/wiki/Moe_Wind_Farm

Martinsdale Colony Wind

onal Forest

Salmon -

Challis



Near Martinsdale, Meagher County

Yellowstone

The Hutterite colony in Martinsdale, with development assistance from Two Dot Wind LLC, installed 11 turbines in 2005, and 8 more in 2007. The refurbished Nordtank turbines provide a total nameplate capacity of 2.8MW between the two sites.⁷⁰

 $[\]frac{^{70}}{\text{https://billingsgazette.com/business/wind-harvest-hutterite-colony-boasts-state-s-biggest-wind-farm/article} \\ \frac{a53aaca1-262d-5755-9c17-bbf45f743a12.html}{a53aaca1-262d-5755-9c17-bbf45f743a12.html}$

Martinsdale Colony North

Wind Farm Information		
Rated Power	0.8 MW	
Turbine Quantity	11	
Online Date	2005	
Historical Capacity Factor	0.065	
Owner	Martinsdale Hutterite Colony	
Operator	Martinsdale Hutterite Colony	
Developer	Two Dot Wind LLC	

Turbine Information		
Manufacturer	Refurbished Nordtanks	
Model		
Nameplate Capacity		
Rotor Diameter		
Hub Height		
Rated Wind Speed		
71		

Martinsdale Colony South

Wind Farm Information		
Rated Power	2 MW	
Turbine Quantity	8	
Online Date	2007	
Historical Capacity Factor	0.25	
Owner	Martinsdale Hutterite	
OWNER	Colony	
Operator	Martinsdale Hutterite	
Operator	Colony	
Developer	Two Dot Wind LLC	

Turbine Information			
Refurbished Nordtanks			

https://openei.org/wiki/Martinsdale Colony North
 https://openei.org/wiki/Martinsdale Colony South

Utility Scale Wind Energy Facilities - Under Construction and Proposed

Under Construction

Project	Site Name	Rating	Online Date
	Mud Springs Phase I - Pryor Cave Wind	80	
Mud Springs	Mud Springs Phase II - Mud Springs Wind	80	
	Mud Springs Phase III - Horse Thief Wind	80	
Stillwater (Vivaldi Springtime)	Chilly and any () (in additional time a)	79.8	2018
	Stillwater (Vivaldi Springtime)		2018

Proposed*

Project	Site Name	Status	Rating	Online Date	Developer
Crazy Mtn (Coyote) Wind	Crazy Mtn Wind	Approved	80	2019	Pattern Development
South Peak Wind	South Peak Wind	In Permitting Process	80	2019	ALLETE Clean Energy
Beaver Creek ^{73 74}	Beaver Creek	Proposed	100		Chafin
Clearwater Energy ⁷⁵	Clearwater Energy	Proposed	300		Orion Renewable Energy
Haymaker Ranch Wind ⁷⁶	Haymaker Ranch Wind	Proposed	355		Haymaker Wind LLC
Horseshoe Bend Wind Park	Horseshoe Bend Phase 2	Proposed	140		Sansur Renewable Energy
Judith Gap Wind Energy Center	Judith Gap Phase 2	Proposed	52.5		Invenergy Services LLC
Martinsdale Wind Farm	Martinsdale Wind Farm	Proposed	80		EDP Renewables
Meadow Peak	Meadow Peak	Proposed	122		Wind Chasers LLC
Renaissance Wind	Renaissance Wind	Proposed	135		PowerWorks (Pacific Winds)
Tatan Didaa77	Teton Ridge - Phase I	Proposed	20		Windpark Solutions
Teton Ridge ⁷⁷	Teton Ridge - Phase II	Proposed	20		Windpark Solutions

^{*}Many more proposed wind projects were found when researching this list, many of them from the data available at renewablenw.org. The projects that made this list either had an additional source, cited below, or a listed development company that is already active in the region.

/8

 $^{^{73}\}underline{\text{http://www.pnmshelby.com/Tiger\%20III\%20grant\%20pdf/Montana's\%20Late\%20Stage\%20Wind\%20Farm\%20D} evelopments.pdf$

⁷⁴ https://www.ferc.gov/CalendarFiles/20170907160338-QF17-673-000.pdf

⁷⁵ http://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2015-2016/Energy-and-Telecommunications/Meetings/July-2016/clearwater-overview.pdf

⁷⁶ https://haymakerwind.com/project-overview/

⁷⁷ https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2016/07/28/3rd-wind-farm-proposed-in-teton-county/

⁷⁸ https://renewablenw.org/project_map

Mud Springs Wind Ranch



EverPower's Mud Springs Wind Ranch will consist of three sites that total 240MW, making it the largest wind energy project in Montana. The Prior Cave, Mud Springs, and Horse Thief sites will all have 32 Gamesa G114 2.5MW turbines. Power Generated from the Mud Springs sites will be sold to PacifiCorp.

Wind Farm Information			
Rated Power	240 MW		
Turbine Quantity	96		
Online Date			
Owner	EverPower Wind Holdings		
Operator	EverPower Wind Holdings		
Developer	Mud Springs Wind LLC		
Power Purchaser	Rocky Mountain Power		

Turbine Information			
Manufacturer	Siemens Gamesa		
Model	G114		
Nameplate Capacity	2500 kW		
Rotor Diameter	114 m		
Hub height	100 m		
Rated Wind Speed 14 m/s			
70 00 01 03			

79 80 81 82

⁷⁹ http://co.carbon.mt.us/construction-issues/mud-springs-wind-project/

 $^{{}^{80}\,\}underline{\text{http://www.jsbmarketresearch.com/construction/everpower-mud-springs-wind-farm-240-mw-montana-project-profile}}$

⁸¹ https://everpower.com/mud-springs-mt/

⁸² https://www.windpowerengineering.com/turbine/gamesa-g114-2-5mw/

Vivaldi Springtime Wind Project



Pattern Energy's 80MW Vivaldi Springtime Wind Project will have 31 Siemens Gamesa turbines. Five of these turbines have a nameplate capacity of 2.3MW, and a rotor diameter of 108m. The other 26 will have a nameplate capacity of 2.625MW, and a rotor diameter of 120m. The 120m turbines will be the largest in the state.

Wind Farm Information		
Rated Power	79.75 MW	
Turbine Quantity	31	
Online Date	2018	
Owner	Pattern Energy	
Operator		
Developer	Pattern Development	
Power Purchaser	Northwestern Energy	

Turbine Information			
Quantity	5	26	
Manufacturer	Siemens Gamesa	Siemens Gamesa	
Model	2.3-108	2.6-120	
Nameplate Capacity	2300 kW	2625 kW	
Rotor Diameter	108 m	120 m	
Hub height	80 m	85 m	
Rated Wind Speed	11m/s	11m/s	

⁸³https://patterndev.com/en/media/press-releases/pattern-development-completes-financing-stillwater-wind-proj/

84 85

^{84 &}lt;u>Siemens Gamesa</u> – Full URL in Appendix ?

https://www.siemens.com/content/dam/internet/siemens-com/global/market-specific-solutions/wind/brochures/product-brochure-swt-2-3-108.pdf

Appendix

Primary Sources

US Dept. of Energy – Wind Exchange	https://windexchange.energy.gov/
Energy Information Administration	https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/
American Wind Energy Association	http://www.awea.org/resources/statefactshee
	ts.aspx?itemnumber=890
Renewables Northwest	https://renewablenw.org/project_map
The Wind Power	https://www.thewindpower.net/
Open El	https://openei.org/wiki/Map of Wind Farms
Northwestern Energy	https://www.northwesternenergy.com/

Other Links

Stillwater Turbine	https://www.siemens.com/content/dam/webassetpool/mam/tag-
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	power/documents/infografic-data-sheet/siemens-wind-power-
	onshore-geared-turbine-swt-2-625-120-data-sheet-en.pdf
Montana Wind Speed Data	http://deq.mt.gov/Energy/renewableenergy/resourcesandte
	chnology/Wind/winddata

Ecological Impact Links

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FWS Wind Energy Guidelines	https://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/es-
	library/pdfs/WEG_final.pdf
Renewable NW Sage Grouse Report	https://renewablenw.org/node/956
Mud Springs Biological Impact Plan	http://co.carbon.mt.us/wp-
	content/uploads/2015/11/16-Mud-Springs-Wind-
	<u>Bio-Cons.pdf</u>
Judith Gap Bat Fatality Monitoring	http://docs.wind-
	watch.org/AvianBatFatalityMonitoring-
	<u>JudithGapMT.pdf</u>
Identifying Low Impact Areas for	http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371
Wind Development	/journal.pone.0041468
Ecological Risk Assessment of Wind	https://www.nature.org/media/montana/wind-
Energy Development in Montana	report.pdf

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Image Source Hyperlinks

Judith Gap	https://invenergyllc.com/projects/overview
Glacier	http://www.naturener.us/2017/06/26/grid-when-wind-
	is-the-firmest-thing/
Rim Rock	http://www.mortenson.com/wind/projects/rim-rock-
	wind-project
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	wind-project
Spion Kop	https://www.bozeman.net/government/sustainability-
	climateprotect-/clean-energy/utility-scale-renewable-
	<u>energy</u>
Fairfield	http://foundationwindpower.com/p-northwest-energy-
	<u>fairfield.html</u>
Greenfield	http://daconstruction.com/greenfield-wind-project/
Gordon Butte	http://daconstruction.com/project/gordon-butte-wind-
	project-phase-1/
Horseshoe Bend	Google Maps
Diamond Willow	https://www.montana-dakota.com/rates-and-
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Big Timber	https://us.baywa-re.com/en/about-
	us/news/details/baywa-re-sells-its-montana-project-to-
	con-edison/
Two Dot	https://www.edf-re.com/project/two-dot-wind-farm/
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	hutterite-colony-boasts-state-s-biggest-wind-
	farm/article_a53aaca1-262d-5755-9c17-
	<u>bbf45f743a12.html</u>
Mud Springs	https://everpower.com/mud-springs-mt/

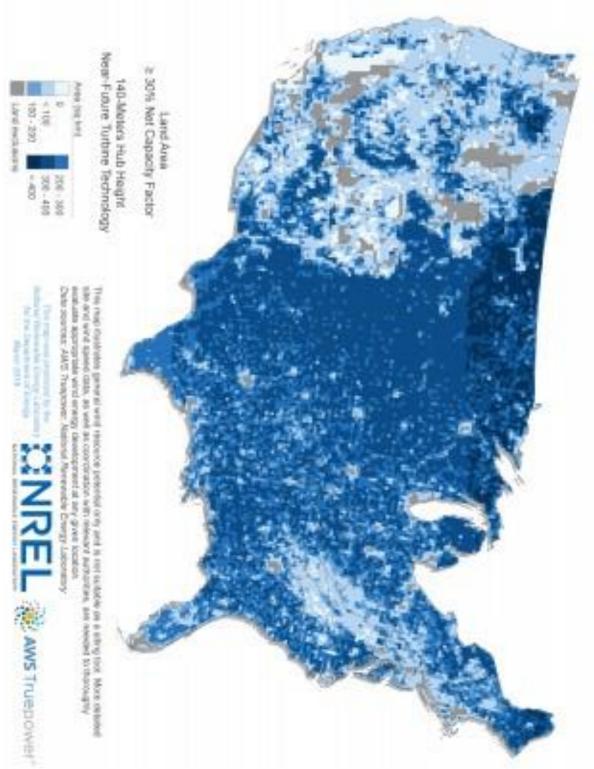


Figure 29 - NREL National Capacity Factor

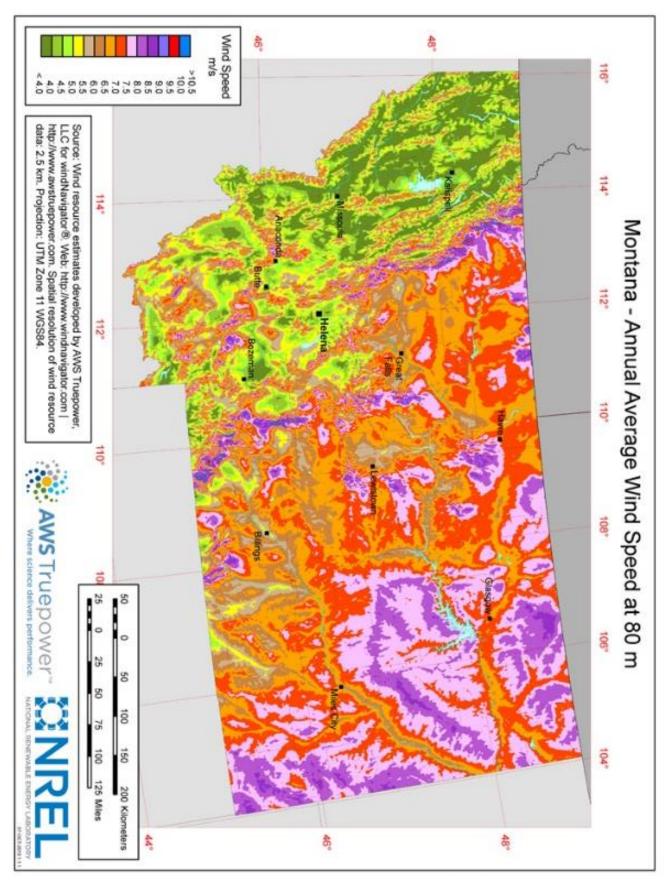


Figure 30 - NREL Montana Average Wind Speed