

# Renewable energy great if done right -- or is it?

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<http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/renewable-energy-great-if-done-right-or-is-it-114892054.html>

To the editor:

On Thursday, the Review-Journal published an editorial, "Against green," critical of a lawsuit filed by three tribes, the Western Watershed Project and the Center for Biological Diversity that requested the Spring Valley wind project be suspended and sent back to the Bureau of Land Management for further environmental review and public involvement.

The insinuation was that the groups opposed renewable projects more generally and that this was a case of blatant "NIMBYism." Nothing could be further from the truth.

For this project, standard environmental reviews were bypassed, resulting in a shoddy examination of the impacts of the project as well as precluding meaningful public notice and involvement.

And the negative impacts are many. The project intrudes upon a site which saw the massacre of American Indians in the mid-1800s. It impacts the breeding grounds of sage grouse -- a species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. It imperils 3 million bats on their migratory travels. It creates an industrial site next to Great Basin National Park.

Moreover, documents obtained by my organization reveal that the BLM ignored concerns from other federal agencies, the Nevada Department of Wildlife and its own experts in rushing approval of the project.

Renewable energy projects done right from the start are indeed a critical necessity for addressing climate change. There are many places in Nevada where wind and solar projects can and should be built. Unfortunately, by ignoring environmental concerns and good process, BLM has hindered rather than helped Nevada's transition to renewable energy.

Rob Mrowka

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The writer is an ecologist employed by the Center for Biological Diversity as a conservation advocate and covers public lands and environmental issues statewide.

**Tom.Reynolds** wrote on *January 30, 2011 08:24 AM*: I completely agree with Rob Mrowka. Solar and wind projects should be subjected to the same strict environmental standards as any other form of energy, including nuclear. To exempt solar and wind from those standards, even accidentally, is hypocritical at best.

**husky** wrote on *January 30, 2011 06:36 AM*: The most logical place to start with passive and active solar energy is at the local building department, point of use and existing developed areas. Artificially raising energy market prices to subsidize commercial energy development in pristine rural areas is unacceptable and poorly thought out. ( In my opinion). Millions of homes have been constructed in the past ten years without the ability to produce ONE WATT of power.