

How to write an effective public comment during the scoping process

(Adapted from Pebblewatch.com)

If you'd like your public comment to count during the scoping process, then **don't** submit a comment saying, "Yes to the Lava Ridge Wind Project," or "No to the Lava Ridge Wind Project."

Those comments, along with other generic statements, like "Protect the historic site!" or "Renewable energy now!" are not considered "substantive" and will not garner a response from the Bureau of Land Management.

On the other hand, substantive comments will be grouped into themes – like Public Health, Wildlife Habitat, Native and Japanese American Cultural, Historical, and Socioeconomic Impacts. The BLM will respond to each comment (bundling up those that are similar).

So how can your comment pass the "substantive" test and be considered during the scoping session for the Bureau of Land Management's Lava Ridge Wind Project ?

The BLM asks you to be concise, specific, focused and to support your statements with explanations, facts, and references. You can also point to specific parts of the [Plan of Development](#). Note that each page has a page number and each line has a line number for your use.

Think about these questions to help you get started:

- What are your specific concerns about this project and how should they be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?
- Are there specific historic and cultural considerations in its proximity to the Minidoka National Historic Site and Shoshone-Bannock Nations ancestral lands?
- Are there considerations about the designation of land use (5.1.2) e.g. What about the sections that have been designated as "prime farmland"?
- Are there particular habitat and wildlife resources, subsistence activities/use areas, or other places that you use and how might they be affected by the project?

- Are there alternative ways of developing any of the components of the Lava Ridge Wind Project that should be considered in preparing the EIS?

And here are some examples of specific concerns:

- impact of the sound of the wind turbines on visitors to the area, specifically the Minidoka National Historical Site.
- During construction, increased traffic on roads near the historical site.
- Impact on the view of the landscape of the historical site (see “viewshed”).
- Need for Idaho to increase its capacity for sustainable energy sources.
- Need for local jobs for residents of Jerome, Lincoln and Minidoka Counties.
- Increased number of powerlines and powerstations and impact on the environment.
- Buried or exposed powerlines and environmental impacts.
- Wind turbines and impacts on wildlife, such as impacts on birds (mallards, gadwalls, redheads, ruddy ducks, and Canada geese), bats and other wildlife.

WAYS TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT (DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 20):

- **Submit this form or Email:** [BLM ID LavaRidge@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_ID_LavaRidge@blm.gov)
- **Online:** <https://go.usa.gov/xFKxg>. Click on the “Participate Now” button to the far right of the document link. Enter your comment and information, then click “Submit”.
- **Mail:** Kasey Prestwich, Project Manager, BLM Shoshone Field Office, 400 West F Street, Shoshone, ID 83352