

GRAPEVINE CANYON WIND PROJECT

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

Flagstaff, Arizona



• Access road upgrades were an important part of the environmental analysis because of necessary upgrades for construction.

• Lattice transmission line towers are often less apparent to viewers from a distance because light and color pass through.



Scope

EIS Preparation

Project Description

Transcon Environmental served as the third-party contractor assisting Western Area Power Administration and the Coconino National Forest in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS was prepared to analyze the environmental consequences resulting from the construction and operation of a 500 megawatt utility-scale wind generation facility near Flagstaff, Arizona. The study area was approximately 100,000 acres and included private, state, and federal land under the jurisdiction of the Coconino National Forest. Components of the project included up to 333 turbines, a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line over 15 miles in length, and a 345 kV switchyard.

Transcon completed preparation of environmental studies and reports suitable for compliance with Federal regulations, with the exception of biological resources. As part of the environmental studies completed for the project, Transcon conducted an extensive Class I cultural survey which included areas with extremely high site density. Other sensitive issues researched and analyzed included visual resources and land use; in particular, the affects of the project on big game hunting. Transcon conducted public scoping meetings and public hearings for the Draft EIS and assisted Western with Tribal coordination and consultation. Transcon assisted agency stakeholders with soliciting and responding to comments on the draft EIS published in July 2010. The final document will incorporate those responses and is expected to be published by the end of 2011.

Agency Coordination

Coconino National Forest, US Department of Energy, Coconino County, Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona State Department, and various tribal and local agencies.



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