

WIND POWER

WILDLIFE CONSIDERATIONS

# ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- Location
- Size of Project
- Species affected
  - Birds
  - Bats
  - Special status species
  - Big Game

# LOCATION

- Some habitats are not complex or problematic
- Rich habitats with high amounts of species diversity and habitat richness carry more risk from development



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# SIZE

- Permanent footprint (usually small)
- Outside boundary or affected area (usually quite large when expressed in terms of acres per megawatt)



# BIRDS

- Not problematic on wind projects currently in place in Umatilla County
- Potentially a large impact if wind facilities are expanded to more complex habitats with greater species diversity



# BATS



- Historically, numerous species impacted
- Concern is building about cumulative impacts
- 1 species of bat on the Sensitive Species List as Critical
- 7 species of bats on the Sensitive Species List as Vulnerable

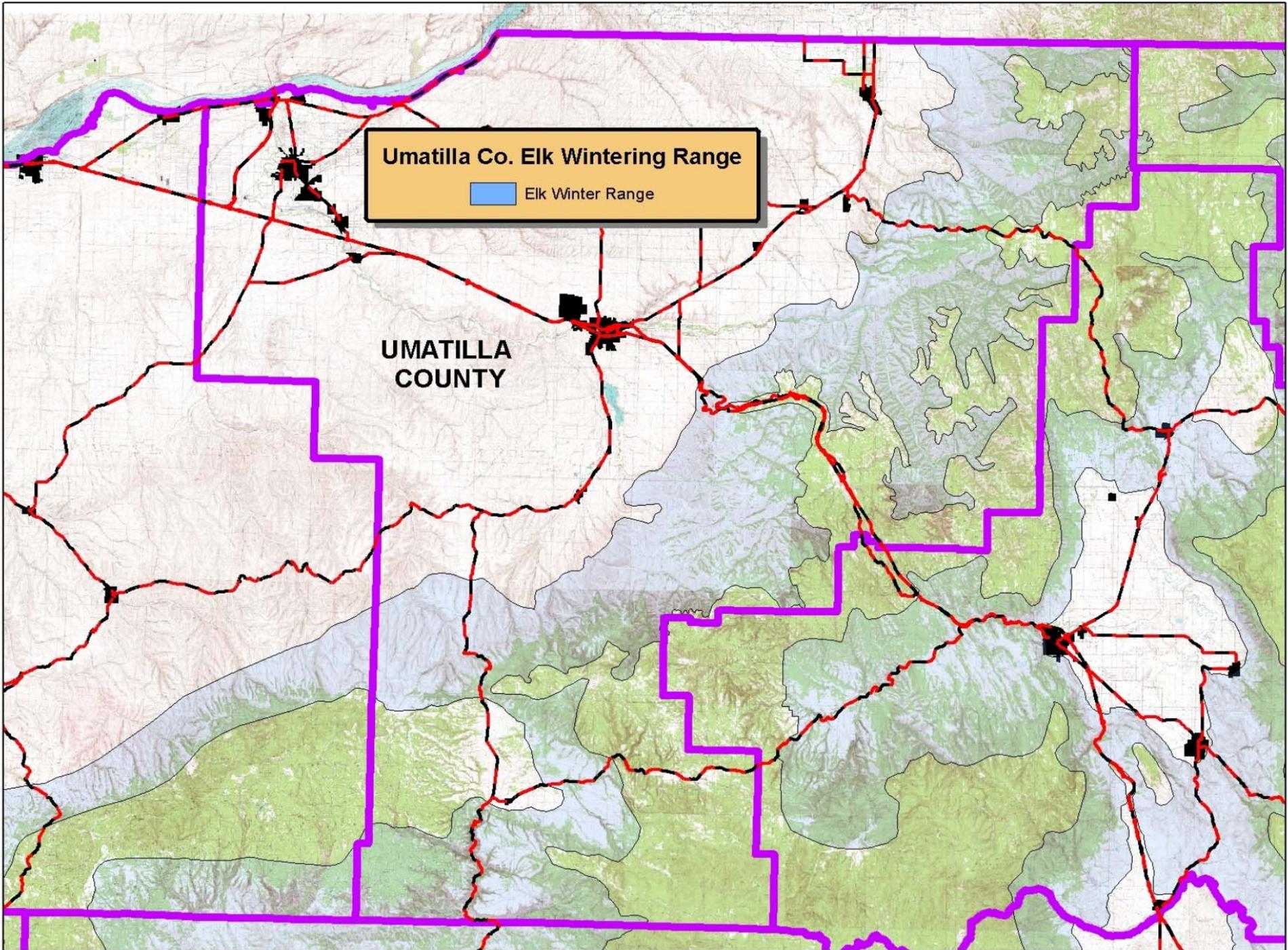
# Special Status Species

- Washington ground squirrels
- Burrowing owls
- Ferruginous hawks
- Swainson's hawks
- Number of species to consider could rise in more complex habitats

**BIG GAME**

# WINTER RANGE

- West slope of Blue Mountains in Umatilla County is high density wintering area.
- 14,500 elk winter on west slope in Umatilla County
- 16,000 mule deer.
- There is 972 sq. miles of elk winter range in County.
- Big game hunting is significant source of economic activity to County (\$3,534,000 in Umatilla Co. in 2008)
- Elk are more disturbance adverse than other big game species.
- Significant interest in winter range by wind developers at this time.







# ODFW's ROLE IN PROCESS

- Involved early in process if possible
- Technical resource to decision making body and applicant on wildlife issues.
  - Scope wildlife concerns with applicant
  - Help applicant design wildlife studies
  - Help decision maker interpret study results
- Will work on behalf of decision maker with applicant on wildlife related issues.
  - Help design mitigation plan for permanent losses to habitat
  - Help with revegetation plan for temporary losses to habitat
  - Help decision maker and applicant with monitoring and mitigation plan for operation of facility.