

South Fork Wind Farm Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Definitions of Potential Impact Levels

(-) POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACT LEVELS

IMPACT LEVEL	Biological, Cultural & Other Physical Resources	Socioeconomic Resources
NEGLIGIBLE	Either no effect or no measurable impacts	Either no effect or no measurable impacts
MINOR	<p>Adverse impacts on the affected resource(s), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local ecosystem health; The extent and quality of local habitat for both special-status species and species common to the proposed Project area; The richness or abundance of local species common to the proposed Project area; Air or water quality; and Cultural resource(s) could be avoided; OR measurable impacts that occur would be small and the affected resource is expected to recover completely without remedial or mitigating action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most adverse impacts on the affected activity or community could be avoided; Impacts would not disrupt the normal or routine functions of the affected activity or community; OR the affected activity or community is expected to return to a condition with no measurable effects without remedial or mitigating action
MODERATE	<p>A notable and measurable adverse impact on the affected resource(s), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local ecosystem health; The extent and quality of local habitat for both special-status species and species common to the proposed Project area; The richness or abundance of local species common to the proposed Project area; Air or water quality; and Cultural resource(s) would be anticipated, some of which may be irreversible; OR the affected resource would recover completely, when remedial or mitigating action is taken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation would reduce adverse impacts substantially during the life of the proposed Project, including decommissioning; The affected activity or community would have to adjust somewhat to account for disruptions due to notable and measurable adverse impacts of the project; OR once the impacting agent is gone, the affected activity or community is expected to return to a condition with no measurable effects, when remedial or mitigating action is taken
MAJOR	<p>A regional or population-level impact on the affected resource(s), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystem health; The extent and quality of habitat for both special-status species and species common to the proposed Project area; Species common to the proposed Project area; Air or water quality; and Cultural resource(s) would be anticipated; AND the affected resource would not fully recover, even after the impacting agent is gone and remedial or mitigating action is taken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation would reduce adverse impacts somewhat during the life of the proposed Project, including decommissioning; The affected activity or community would have to adjust to significant disruptions due to large local or notable regional adverse impacts of the project; AND the affected activity or community may retain measurable effects indefinitely, even after the impacting agent is gone and remedial action is taken

(+) POTENTIAL BENEFICIAL IMPACT LEVELS

IMPACT LEVEL	Biological, Cultural & Other Physical Resources	Socioeconomic Resources
NEGLIGIBLE	Either no effect or no measurable impacts	Either no effect or no measurable impacts
MINOR	<p>A small and measurable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in ecosystem health; Increase in the extent and quality of habitat for both special-status species and species common to the proposed Project area; Increase in populations of species common to the proposed Project area; Improvement in air or water quality; OR limited aerial extent or short-term temporal duration of improved protection of cultural resource(s) 	<p>A small and measurable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in human health; Benefits for employment; Improvement to infrastructure/facilities and community services; Economic improvement; OR benefit for tourism or cultural resources
MODERATE	<p>A notable and measurable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in local ecosystem health; Increase in the extent and quality of local habitat for both special-status species and species common to the proposed Project area; Increase in individuals or populations of species common to the proposed Project area; Improvement in air or water quality; OR extensive/complete aerial extent, or long-term temporal duration of, improved protection of cultural resource(s) 	<p>A notable and measurable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in human health; Benefits for employment; Improvement to infrastructure/facilities and community services; Economic improvement; OR benefit for tourism or cultural resources
MAJOR	<p>A regional or population-level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in the health of ecosystems; Increase in the extent and quality of habitat for both special status and commonly occurring species; Improvement in air or water quality; OR permanent protection of cultural resource(s) 	<p>A large local or notable regional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in human health; Benefits for employment; Improvement to infrastructure/facilities and community services; Economic improvement; OR benefit to tourism or cultural resources