

## 8 Short-Term Use and Long-Term Productivity

This section discusses the Proposed Project's short-term use of the local environment and the anticipated effects on long-term productivity. The impacts and use of resources associated with the Proposed Project are described in **Chapter 4**.

The Proposed Project would require commitments of resources such as soil, water, vegetation, wildlife populations and habitats, noise, visual resources, and land use for the life of the Proposed Project. Impacts to transportation resources and social and economic resources would occur primarily during construction. Revenue would likely increase for some local businesses, such as construction suppliers (*i.e.*, sand and gravel operators, machine shops/fabricators, etc.), hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and grocery stores in response to the needs of workers associated with constructing the Proposed Project.

Although the Proposed Project would not require a large amount of land to be taken out of production, losses of terrestrial plants, animals, and habitats from natural productivity to accommodate the Proposed Project Components and temporary disturbances during construction are possible. Land-clearing and construction activities, including personnel and equipment moving about a localized area, would disperse wildlife and temporarily eliminate habitats. Constructing the Proposed Project Components would result in short-term disturbances of biological habitats and could cause minimal long-term reductions in the biological productivity of localized areas near facilities.

The Proposed Project would remove less than 0.5 percent of agricultural lands from production within the Proposed Project area for the life of the project. However, the Proposed Project would result in few changes to existing agricultural practices because farming and grazing would continue in and around the wind turbines and other Proposed Project Components.

Introducing a new, renewable energy power project to the regional electrical system would be expected to reduce reliance on carbon-based energy sources, increase domestic energy production and supply, and contribute to long-term improvement of air quality.

If the Proposed Project is decommissioned, the facilities would be removed and the area of disturbance would be reclaimed. This action would restore the long-term productivity to the area.

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