

Oregon Department of **ENERGY**

Senate Committee on Energy
and Environment
April 27, 2023

Energy Facility Siting Process Overview

Janine Benner, Director
Marcy Grail, EFSC Chair
Todd Cornett, Assistant Director
for Siting



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Leading Oregon to a safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable future.

Our Mission

The Oregon Department of Energy helps Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. We advance solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and future generations.

The Agency Includes

- **Six Divisions**, including Energy Facility Siting
- **Five Boards, Commissions, and Advisory Groups**, including the Governor-appointed and senate-confirmed Energy Facility Siting Council

OREGON'S ENERGY FACILITY SITING PROGRAM

Oversees the review, decision-making, and compliance for most large-scale energy-generating facilities and infrastructure in Oregon.



Oregon's Energy Facility Siting Program

- The Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) is the final decision-making authority
- The Oregon Department of Energy's Siting Division serves as staff to EFSC



STATE JURISDICTIONAL ENERGY FACILITIES

OREGON REVISED STATUTE 469.300(11)



- Solar PV
- Wind (on-shore only)
- High Voltage Transmission Lines
- Geothermal
- Thermal Generating
- Plants that Convert Biomass to a Gas, Liquid, or Solid
- Pipelines
- Surface Facility Related to an Underground Natural
- Nuclear Installation
- Synthetic Fuel Plant
- Liquefied Natural Gas Storage Facility
- Uranium Mill or Mill Tailings Disposal Facility
- Battery Storage (as related and supporting only)

OREGON'S ENERGY FACILITY SITING PROGRAM

Solar Energy - Current

Jurisdiction

- > 160 acres on high value farmland
- > 1,280 acres on arable farmland
- > 1,920 acres on any other land

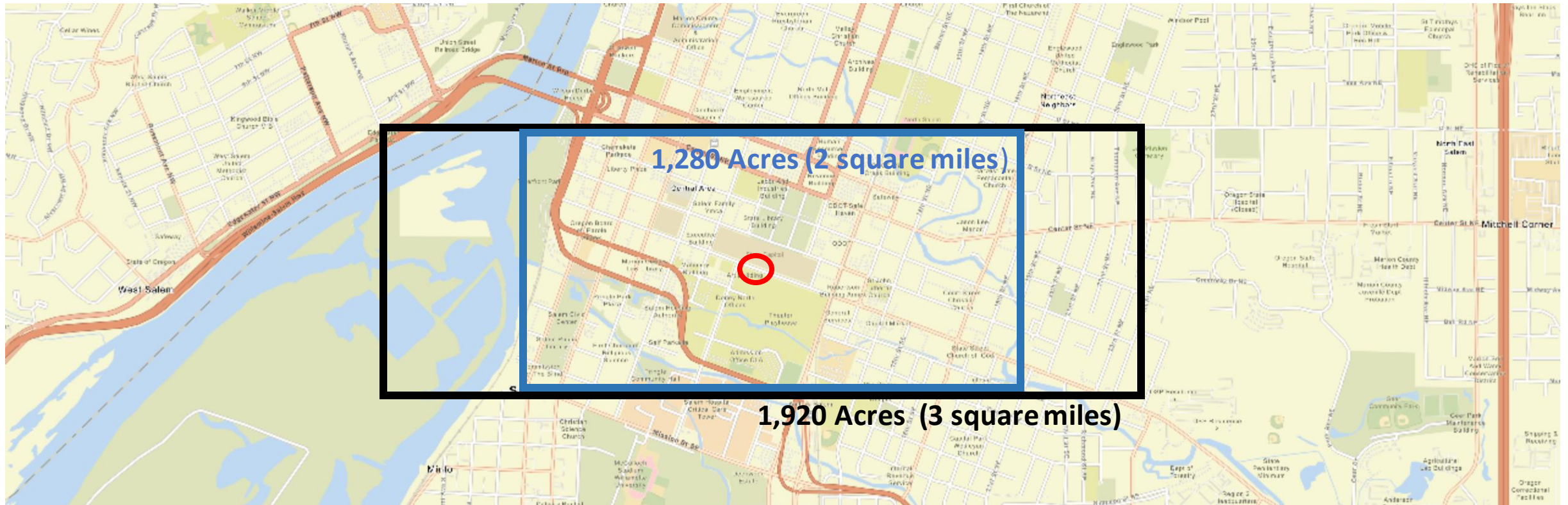
Active Projects

- 3,729 MW
- 39,526 acres or 62 square miles



OREGON'S ENERGY FACILITY SITING PROGRAM

Solar Energy - Current

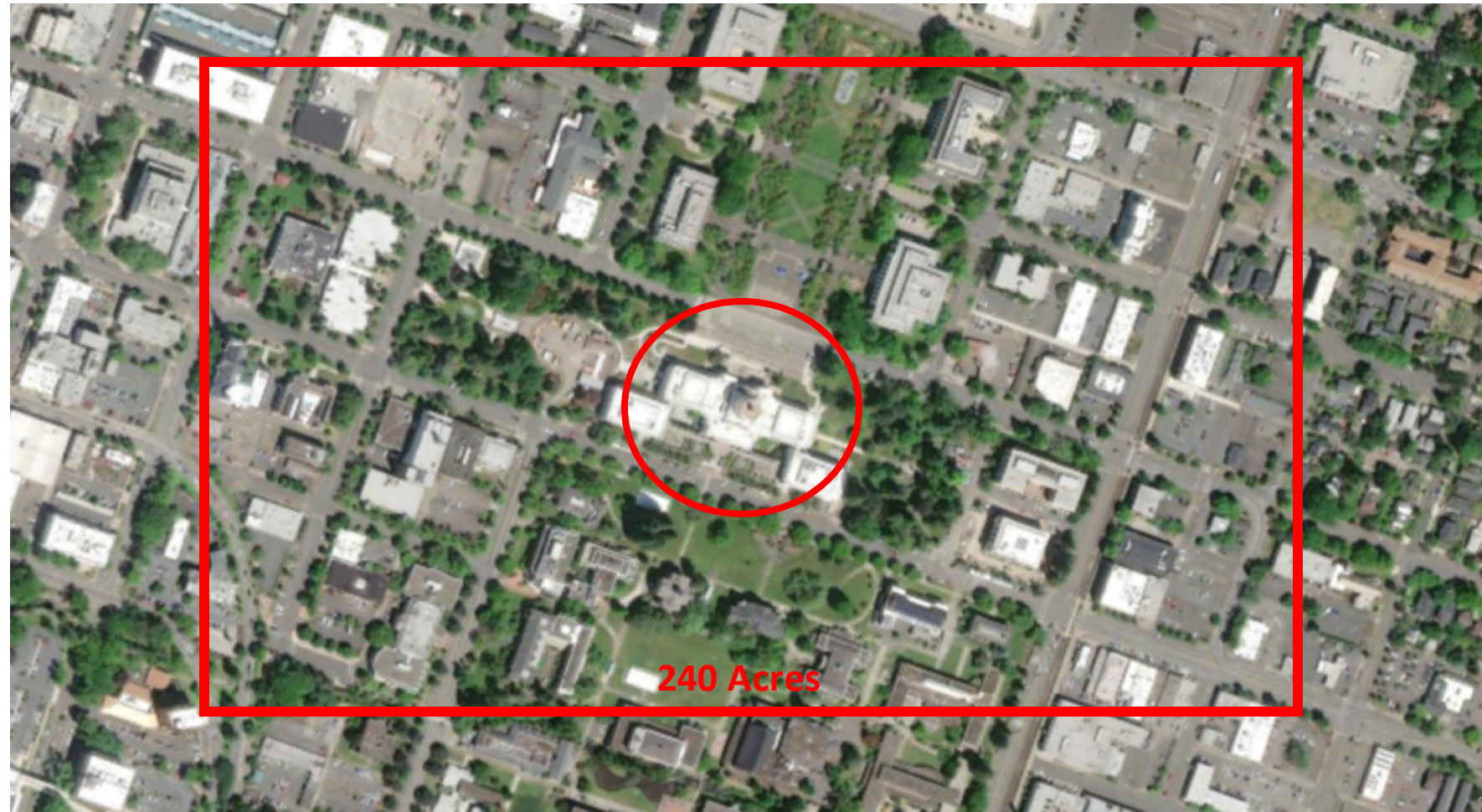


OREGON'S ENERGY FACILITY SITING PROGRAM

Solar Energy – HB 3179A

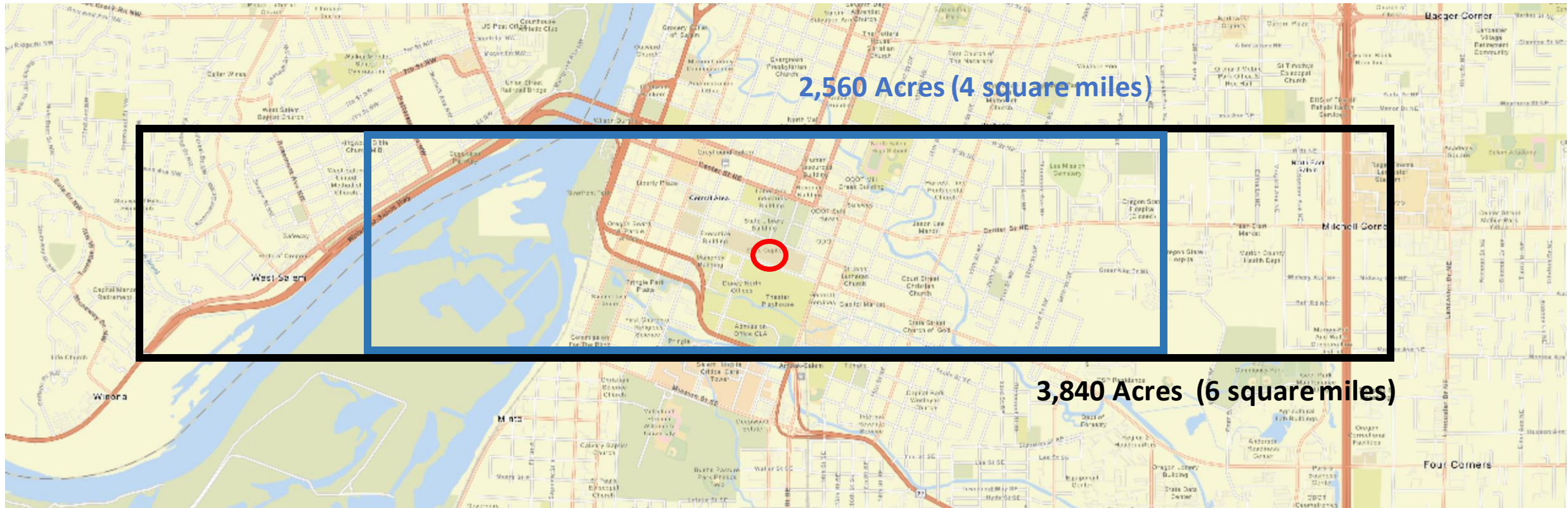
Jurisdiction

- > 160 to 240 acres on high value farmland
- > 1,280 to 2,560 acres on arable farmland
- > 1,920 to 3,840 acres on any other land



OREGON'S ENERGY FACILITY SITING PROGRAM

Solar Energy – HB 3179A



OREGON'S ENERGY FACILITY SITING PROGRAM

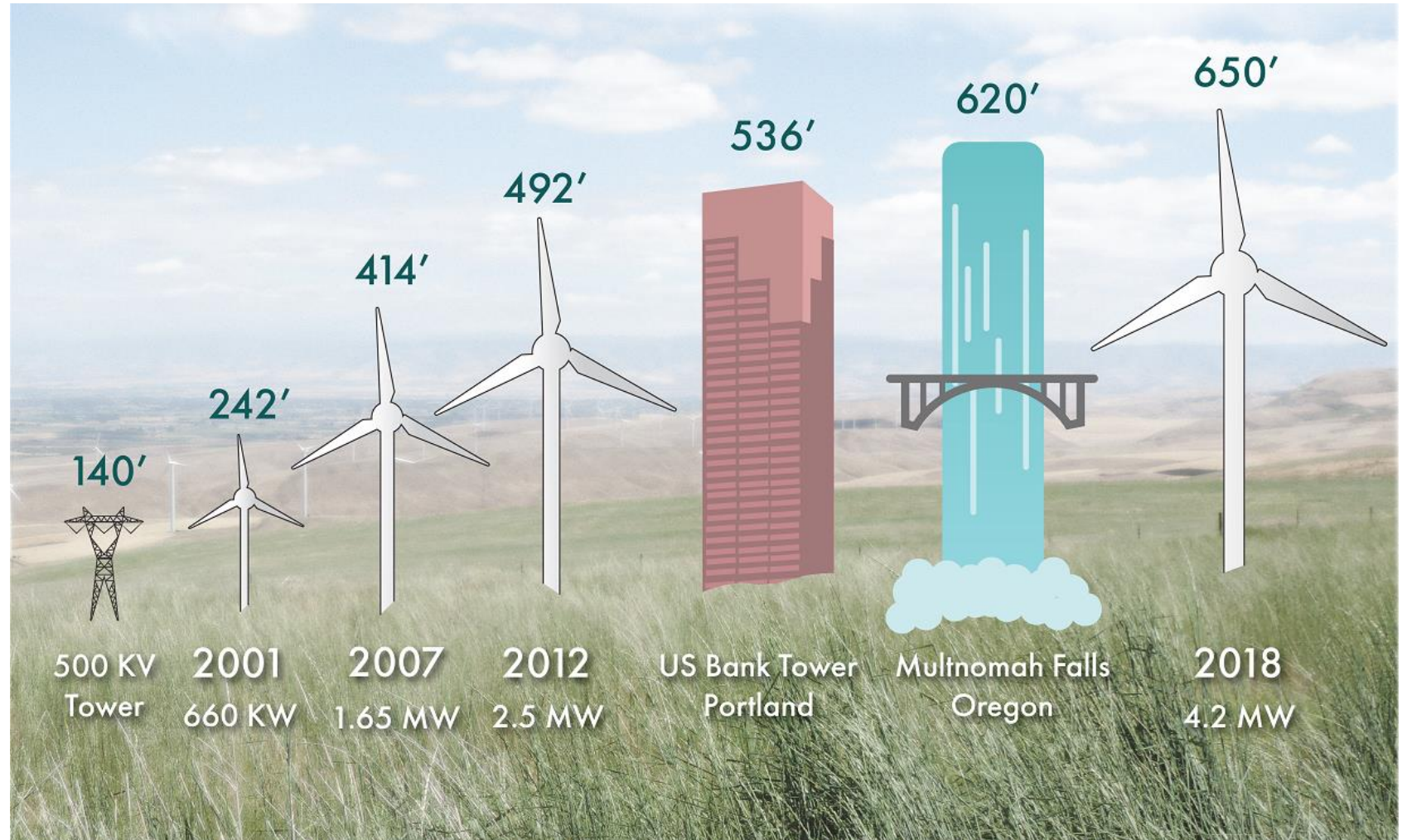
Wind Energy

Jurisdiction

= or > 150 MW max or 35 MW average capacity

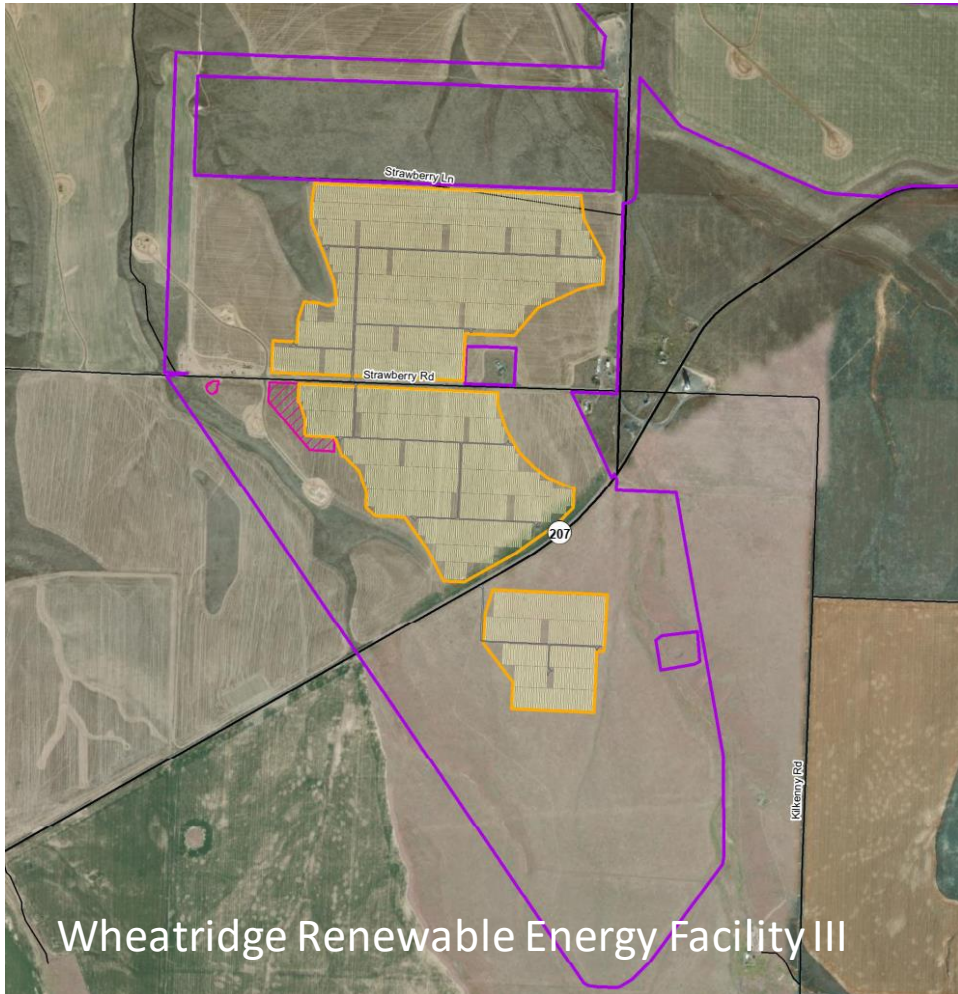
Active Projects

- 3,674 MW



OREGON'S ENERGY FACILITY SITING PROGRAM

Unique Aspects



- Consolidated review
- Reviewing agency review and participation
 - State Agencies
 - Local Governments
 - Tribal Governments
- Fee funded
- Public participation
- Rulemaking
- Annual compliance

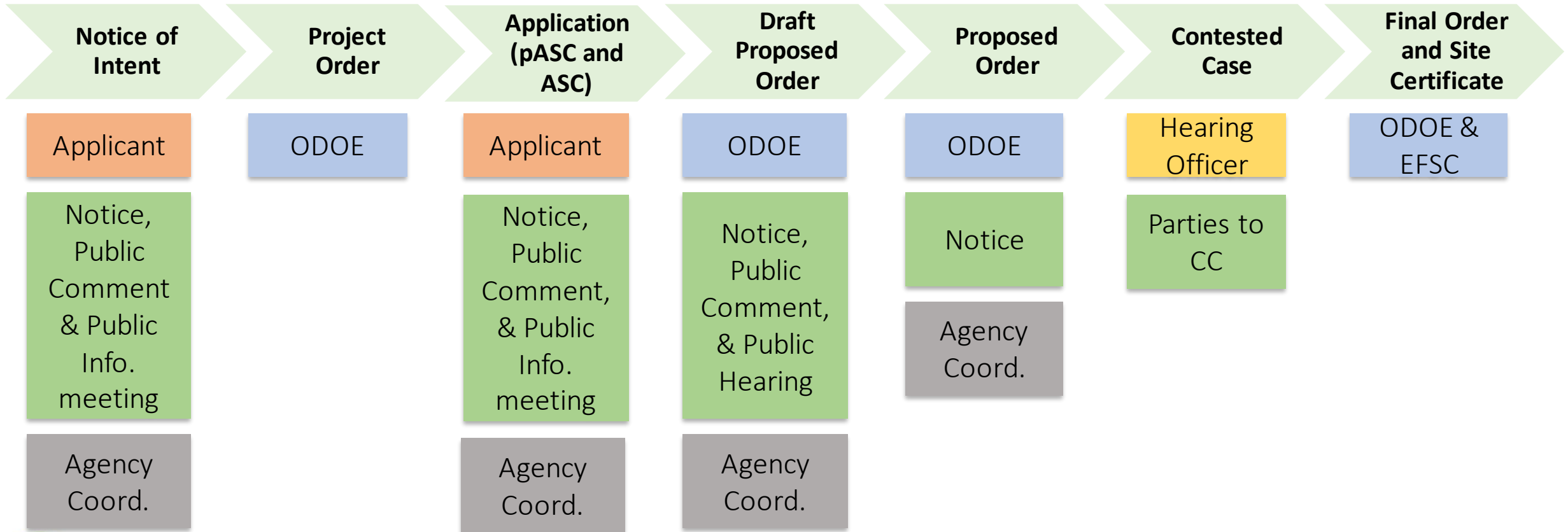
ENERGY FACILITY SITING PROCESS

EFSC Standards

- General Standard of Review
- Organizational Expertise
- Structural Standard
- Soil Protection
- Land Use
- Protected Areas
- Retirement and Financial Assurance
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Scenic Resources
- Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources
- Recreation
- Public Services
- Waste Minimization
- Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation
- Noise

ENERGY FACILITY SITING PROCESS

Application for Site Certificate Process



RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN OREGON

What EFSC is Doing to Help Meet State Goals

Approving Projects

- Over 1,200 MW of solar approved by EFSC; 812 MW not yet under construction
- Quick turnaround on application review
- Developers asking for time extensions on pending applications

EFSC Process Improvements

- Program Review
- Alignment of application requirements and standards
- Noise Rule Update

Developing a Strategy

- State Energy Strategy (HB 2534) and/or Low-Conflict Siting Areas (HB 3181)



ENERGY FACILITY SITING PROCESS

Compliance & Decommissioning

Annual Reports

Site Inspections

- Preconstruction
- Construction
- Operation
- Non-compliance

Decommissioning

- \$223 Million in total bonds and letters of credit
- Bonds and letters of credit for solar projects range from \$2.7 to \$28.8 Million



Energy Facility Siting Council

- Seven Members
- Live in six different counties
- Backgrounds include:
 - Electrical Transmission
 - State Legislature
 - Cultural Resource Protection
 - Land Use
 - Real Estate



Questions?

Christy.Splitt@energy.Oregon.gov

www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/

