

STETSON WIND FARM PLANNING AND PERMITTING, WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

Client: UPC Wind Management

The Stetson Mountain Wind Farm will be a 57 megawatt generation facility consisting of 38 wind turbines to be installed along a 6.5-mile, low-elevation ridge in Washington County, Maine. In addition to the turbine structures, the project design includes meteorological towers, main and spur roads, a power collection system, general and turbine specific lay down areas, an electrical substation, and an operations and maintenance facility. A 37-mile transmission line is also part of the overall project plan.



The proposed Stetson Wind Farm shown in this photosimulation includes 38 turbines.

Woodlot was retained by the client to evaluate environmental constraints during the planning process, conduct necessary field studies, assist engineering team members with layout options, and coordinate all state and Federal environmental permitting for the entire project.

Environmental Studies

Woodlot has directed a wide range of evaluations of the ridgetop generation site and potential transmission corridor options. Tasks have included rare species investigations, extensive wetland delineations, wildlife assessments, archaeological and



Multiple transmission corridor options were evaluated through field surveys.

historic resource evaluations, visual impact assessments, and noise studies. As with the ridgetop work, natural resources along several alternative transmission line corridors were also assessed including wetlands, vernal pools, streams, and wildlife occurrences, to assist in route selection and engineering design.

Avian Surveys

In response to concerns raised by state and Federal wildlife agencies, Woodlot designed and conducted a series of avian and bat surveys to meet agency requirements, and produced defensible data to address their technical concerns. Field studies included avian radar surveys conducted over two seasons, raptor surveys, breeding bird evaluations, bat surveys, and design of a post-construction monitoring program.

Permit Coordination

Because project elements are located in organized towns and unorganized territories, permitting for the project has involved applications to two separate state entities, the Land Use Regulation Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection. Woodlot's role has included coordinating the development of multiple permit applications for rezoning, site development, and potential environmental impacts. Woodlot has also developed impact assessments, mitigation plans, and an application for US Army Corps of Engineers wetland permits, as well as local land use permits. This work has involved coordinating analysis and input from multiple team members, including design engineers and specialists in visual assessment, noise analysis, archaeology and historic architecture.

