

Unintended Victims

In a recent editorial on the rejection of a proposed wind farm in Huerfano County, it was stated that there is no negative environmental impact with wind energy ("PUC must reconsider", April 15). I feel this statement requires clarification.

Negative effects of wind turbines on bird and bat populations and their habitats are serious and require attention. The risks associated with direct turbine strikes are real. Turbine blades are as long as the wingspan of a 737 jet and consequently kill eagles, songbirds and bats, many of which belong to endangered species.

To be a truly "green" source of energy, wind power needs to employ careful siting, operation, monitoring and the adoption of newer, safer turbine designs that may pose less of a risk to eagles, other birds and bats.

Our society needs more low-carbon, renewable energy. But it must be developed in ways that minimize wildlife mortality and reduce habitat loss.

Dr. Peg Rooney, President

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