

## **APPENDIX G. PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES AND PHOTO SIMULATIONS USED IN HIGHLAND WIND TRAIL INTERCEPT AND WEB SURVEYS**

The photographic images and photo simulations in this Appendix were used in the Highland Wind trail intercept and web surveys. All photographic images and photo simulations were prepared by Terrence J. DeWan and Associates (TJD&A).

### **Trail Intercept Survey**

**Intercept Photo #1, Existing View from Little Bigelow to East/Southeast**, is a panoramic photograph of the existing view (based upon three photographs taken with a 'normal' lens), looking from the east peak of Little Bigelow Mountain toward Stewart and Witham Mountains in the direction of the Highland Wind Project. It was taken from the "worst case" position at the east peak of Little Bigelow Mountain, i.e., on a portion of the ledge about 125 feet from the high point of the peak, where the views are most open and there is virtually no vegetative obstruction. This position is labeled 9D in the Visual Impact Assessment prepared by TJD&A. Participants in the survey rated this photograph of existing conditions before they were asked to rate a photo simulation of the Highland Wind Project.

**Intercept Photo #2, Photo Simulation of Highland Wind Project, July/August 2010 Interviews** is a photo simulation of the Highland Wind Project that was used in the July and August 2010 trail intercepts on Little Bigelow Mountain. The image is identical to Intercept Photo #1 (existing conditions), except for the simulated addition of the Highland Wind Project's turbines (18 of which comprise the west string on Watering Tub, Witham Mountain, and Bald Mountain, and 21 of which comprise the east string on Burnt Hill and Briggs Hill). A total of 17 turbines, all in the west string, are within 8 miles of this viewpoint at the east peak of Little Bigelow Mountain. The closest of these is 4.98 miles away. The turbines used in this simulation have an 80-meter base and blades with a rotor diameter of 101 meters.

**Intercept Photo #3, Photo Simulation of Highland Wind Project, October 2010 Interview**, is nearly identical to Intercept Photo #2, except the turbines used in this simulation for the October intercepts have an 85-meter base (vs. 80 meters) and the blades have a rotor diameter of 100 meters (vs. 101 meters). When Highland Wind, LLC, determined in September 2010 that these alternative turbines were a possibility for the project, it asked that the photo simulation include these turbines in the October intercepts. Also, in Intercept Photo #3 the northernmost turbine in the western string has been repositioned so as to be located 485 feet to the east-northeast of its location in Intercept Photo #2, on ground that is slightly higher (50 feet of elevation) and at a distance that is slightly farther away (the closest turbine is now 5.04 miles from the viewpoint). There are no statistically significant differences in the

responses between the July and August participants versus the October participants for the Wind Energy Act criteria addressed in this study.

### **Web Survey**

The web survey used six images: two photographs and four photo simulations. The images were rotated randomly in the survey to remove any “order bias” in the responses. Thus, while the photos are numbered here as #1 through #6, they were presented in random order in the survey. The instructions on the web survey directed survey-takers to view the images at a distance approximately 1.5 times the width of the monitor to replicate the actual view.

**Web Photo #1, “Stewart – Within Mountain Area, Natural View,”** is a photo simulation based upon a photograph taken from the same “worst case” position at the east peak of Little Bigelow Mountain as the Intercept photos, as described above. In this image, there are no turbines, and the patches of cut-over forest that actually exist and are prominent on the slope of Stewart Mountain have been digitally “filled in” to provide the appearance of a naturally forested slope without the cuts (i.e., what a viewer would have seen prior to the cutting).

**Web Photo #2, “Stewart Mountain with Forest Cuts,”** shows the existing conditions, including the existing cut-over forest, as seen from the “worst case” position on Little Bigelow Mountain in the direction of the Highland Wind Project. This is the center image that was used to create the panorama in Intercept Photo #1. As a single image it fills the screen of an average computer monitor.

**Web Photo #3, “Stewart Mountain with Forest Cuts and Turbines Beyond,”** is the same as Intercept Photo #2, the photo simulation of the Highland Wind Project that was used in the July and August trail intercepts.

**Web Photo #4, “Sugarloaf Resort,”** is a photograph of Sugarloaf Resort, as seen from the east peak of Little Bigelow Mountain.

**Web Photo #5, “Little Bigelow, Natural View,”** is a photograph of the existing view from a point below Old Man’s Head (labeled Viewpoint 4 in the Visual Impact Assessment prepared by TJD&A), looking east toward Little Bigelow Mountain. Witham Mountain is in the background.

**Web Photo #6, “Little Bigelow, with Turbines,”** is a photo simulation based upon Web Photo #5 to show the Highland Wind turbines. These are the turbines with an 80-meter base and 101-meter rotor diameter. One turbine (the one closest to Little Bigelow Mountain) is within 8 miles, at 7.93 miles away. All others are more than 8 miles away.