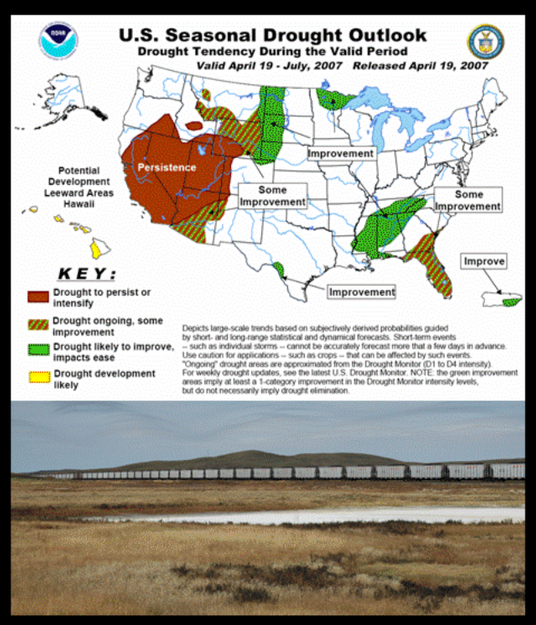
Growing Opportunities for Tribal Wind Power

Federal Policy and Tribal Potential:
Western Waters ~ Federal Wires ~Tribal Wind

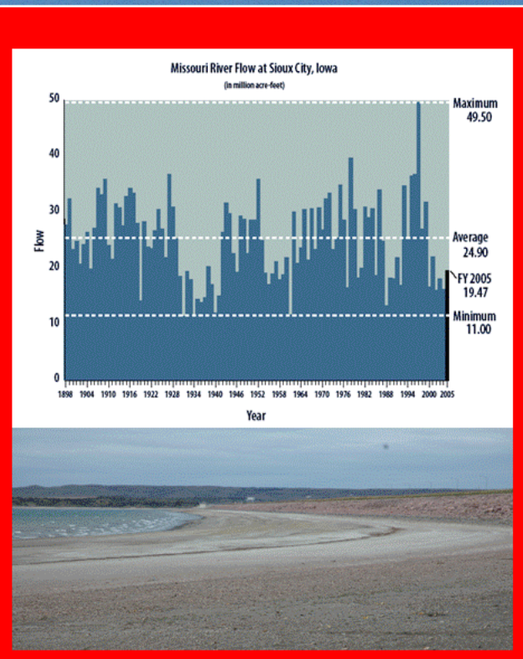
P. Spears and R. Gough, Intertribal Council On Utility Policy

WESTERN WATERS



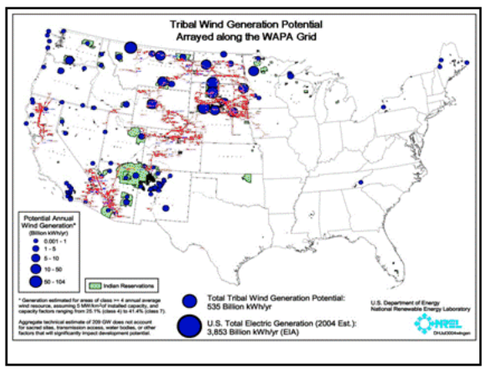
Carbon captures hydroelectric grid capacity in the drought-ridden West.

Severe persistent drought conditions plaguing much of the West have reduced the presence of renewable hydro-electricity on the Western Area Power Administration grid over the past decade by over 20%. Coal now takes up over 85% of the federal transmission capacity in the Northern Great Plains.



Below average water levels expose Missouri reservoirs and reduce hydropower.

FEDERAL WIRES



535 Billion kWh/yr Tribal Wind

Getting tribal wind built, inter-connected and integrated onto the federal grid through direct, long-term federal power purchase contracts and "green tag"/offset purchases for new projects would conserve water and optimize both federal and tribal renewable resources in the West in accordance with overall federal clean energy and Indian policies.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe's "LITTLE SOLDIER" Wind Project -- the first 100% tribally owned, utility scale wind turbine casts a long shadow across Indian Country.

FEDERAL POLICIES

Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 enhances tribal opportunities to develop the tremendous wind energy potential in Indian Country:

- **Tribal permitting authority**
- **Increased federal technical assistance to Tribes**
- **Reciprocal firming for tribal renewables and federal hydropower**
- **Federal renewable energy incentives tailored to meet economic development needs of Indian Tribes: CREBs**

HR 1954
"Allowing PTC Transfer Within Tribal Joint Venture"

- **Recommended by Western Governors Association**
- **Endorsed by 25x'25 Campaign**
- **Supported by COUP and NCAI**

TRIBAL WIND

Tribally-owned utility scale wind projects to:

- Meet local Reservation loads.
- Pool Tribal resources to obtain economies of scale, shares experience and risk, encourages local employment, and builds local capacity
- Ease initial integration of large project while interconnecting to a constrained grid though dispersal and displacement.
- Build greater overall project capacity from distributed generation of 80+ MWs spread across several Great Plains states, since the wind is always blowing somewhere.
- Reduce opportunity costs for expansion from initial 10 MWs up to 150 MWs.
- Use tribal green tags to overcome grid constraints, bringing national financial support for energy generation used locally.
- Help meet enhanced 2005 Energy Policy Act federal renewable portfolio standard objectives.

The Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians Wind Project with 25 Gamesa 2-MW turbines.

Tribes building sustainable rural economies with clean, emissions-free electricity.

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