

# Kevin Rim IBA is Known for Lots of Nesting Raptors Montana's Largest Wind Farm Threatens this IBA

Kevin Rim Important Bird Area (IBA) is located about 20 miles northwest of Shelby, Montana. The map located below shows the location of past raptor nests and proposed wind towers within the IBA.

**Bird Information:** Ten species of raptors have been documented to breed at Kevin Rim, including four species that are of Global (Ferruginous Hawk), Continental (Swainson's Hawk, Prairie Falcon), or State (Golden Eagle) conservation concern. In addition to these species, the Kevin Rim IBA has also hosted nesting American Kestrels, Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, Peregrine Falcons, Great-horned Owls, and Burrowing Owls.

The raptor nest locations appearing on the map located below were recorded in studies conducted between 1988 and 2005.

**Proposed Wind Farm:** NaturEner, a Spanish-owned company (<http://www.naturener.net/>), has proposed to place more than 200 turbines along the Kevin Rim, in a project they are calling Rim Rock Wind Farm. Currently about 100 wind turbines are proposed to be built within the IBA.



Kevin Rim cliff face. Photo by Kristi DuBois.



Ferruginous Hawk nest. Photo by Kristi DuBois.

**Landscape Description:** Kevin Rim is a prominent series of sandstone cliffs and outcrops, associated with steep, eroded hillsides. The rims tower over surrounding grasslands and sagebrush-dominated habitat--making the area ideal for hawks to nest on cliff faces, as well as on the ground.



Golden Eagle nest. Photo by Kristi DuBois.

## Rim Rock Wind Farm, NaturEner

**Location:** Glacier & Toole Counties - Montana, USA

### Specifications (from NaturEner website):

- *Project Status:* United States - Late Stage Development
- *Energy Capacity:* 189 MW
- *Annual Production:* ~ 695 GWh
- *# of Homes Powered:* ~ 66,150
- *Project Area:* ~ 25,000 Acres
- *Project Footprint:* Private land - wheat and livestock
- *Transmission Service:* 30-yr secured on Montana Alberta Tie Line
- *Turbines Details:* 1.5 MW, 80 Meter Turbines
- *In-Service Date:* Q4 2012

**Energy Purchase:** San Diego Gas & Electric Company has purchased 189 MW (Approved by California Public Utilities Commission on July 14, 2011), or 126 turbines.

# Kevin Rim Important Bird Area & Proposed Wind Farm

**Map Legend**

- Towers (moved)
- Towers
- Raptor Nests
- Kevin Rim IBA

**Land Ownership**

- MT State Trust Lands
- Private Land
- US BLM
- Water

