

Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

July 3, 2012

Around the Nation & World...

[The trouble with turbines: An ill wind](http://www.nature.com/news/the-trouble-with-turbines-an-ill-wind-1.10849). With turbines threatening some bird and bat populations, researchers are seeking ways to keep the skies safe for wildlife. (<http://www.nature.com/news/the-trouble-with-turbines-an-ill-wind-1.10849>).

[BLM Publishes Final Environmental Impact Statement for Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/blm-publishes-final-environmental-impact-statement-for-chokecherry-and-sierra-madre-wind-energy-project-2012-07-02). The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management has announced its Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project, a 2,000-3,000 megawatt wind farm proposed by Power Company of Wyoming LLC in Carbon County, Wyoming. (<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/blm-publishes-final-environmental-impact-statement-for-chokecherry-and-sierra-madre-wind-energy-project-2012-07-02>).

[Bird Group Sues Obama Administration Over Wind Power](http://www.humanevents.com/2012/06/27/bird-group-sues-obama-administration-wind-power/). A lack of transparency by top Obama administration officials has prompted an environmental group to sue the Interior Department to determine whether wind power projects are killing large numbers of bats and birds. The wind development projects are located in Arizona, California, Florida, Minnesota, **Nebraska**, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Texas. (<http://www.humanevents.com/2012/06/27/bird-group-sues-obama-administration-wind-power/>).

[Fixing Wind Power's Bat Problem](http://spectrum.ieee.org/energy/renewables/fixing-wind-powers-bat-problem). This summer, engineers and bat biologists are coming together at a wind farm in Wisconsin to field-test a potential fix. They'll attach ultrasonic microphones to four or five turbine nacelles to record the high-pitched squeaks and clicks bats emit for navigating and locating prey. (<http://spectrum.ieee.org/energy/renewables/fixing-wind-powers-bat-problem>).

[German Wind Farms Can Kill Bats from Near and Far, Research Suggests](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/07/120702133529.htm). Results of research by the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) demonstrate that bats killed at German wind turbines originate mostly from northeastern Europe. The IZW-researchers analyzed the hydrogen stable isotope ratio in the fur keratin of the bats to determine the approximate location where the bats lived during the breeding season. (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/07/120702133529.htm>).

For a North American study on bat migration, check out **[Stable hydrogen isotope analysis of bat hair as evidence for seasonal molt and long-distance migration](http://www.mesc.usgs.gov/Products/Publications/21070/21070.pdf)** by Cryan et al. 2004. (<http://www.mesc.usgs.gov/Products/Publications/21070/21070.pdf>).

Wind

[New Federal Rules Boost Grid Access For Wind, Solar, Storage](#). The FERC aims to remove regulatory barriers to ensure that all of these resources can get access the grid and play a competitive role in the energy markets. To that end, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

passed a rule last week to make it easier for solar and wind providers to distribute their power to the grid. (<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ericagies/2012/06/29/ferc-moves-to-ease-wind-solar-energy-storage-onto-the-grid/?ss=strategies-solutions>).

[Mass., RI Wind Area Closer to Development](#). The U.S. government said Monday it has completed an environmental assessment that will guide construction of wind projects in a swath of federal waters off the coasts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, with the hope of offering leases to developers by the end of next year. (http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/mass-ri-wind-area-closer-development-16700551#.T_MX4LVfFM4).

[U.N. chief unveils clean energy pledges, investments](#). The U.N. chief unveiled these commitments to his "Sustainable Energy For All" initiative at the Rio+20 U.N. development conference in [Brazil](#), the first public pledges made to the program since its launch in September 2011. The United States pledged \$2 billion in grants, loans and loan guarantees, as well as public-private energy technology to support the initiative. (<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/21/us-un-climate-energy-idUSBRE85K1RI20120621>).

Wildlife

[Whooping cranes leave Coastal Bend for Canada](#). The last remaining flock of wild whooping cranes has returned to Canada following another difficult drought season in the Coastal Bend. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials estimated that roughly 245 endangered whoopers left the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding marshes by mid-April. (<http://www.caller.com/news/2012/jun/14/whooping-cranes-leave-coastal-bend-for-canada/>).

Action Items

[Service Extended the Comment Period to Revise Eagle Permit Regulations](#). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has extended the comment period on the proposed rule, published on April 13, 2012, to revise the regulations governing permits for nonpurposeful take of Golden Eagles and Bald Eagles where the take is associated with, but not the purpose of, an activity. The comment period for Changes in the Regulations Governing Eagle Permitting will now close **July 12, 2012**. For more information visit: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/BaldAndGoldenEagleManagement.htm>

The Wildlife Society **[Renewable Energy Working Group](#)** is soliciting candidates who would like to run for office. The Renewable Energy Working Group will focus on wildlife and ecological issues associated with the siting, construction, and operation of renewable energy generating facilities. As the U.S. moves toward energy independence the growth of wind, photovoltaic, and other solar technologies will require large areas for energy production. Along with the growth, comes multiple issues for wildlife management. If you are interested in running for an officer position, contact Brenda Beatty (Brenda.Beatty@nrel.gov). If you are interested in the working group, check out: <http://www.wildlife.org/subunits/working-groups>.

Tools

[Bats and Wind Energy—A Literature Synthesis and Annotated Bibliography](#). The idea for this Open-File Report formed while organizing a joint U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/U.S. Geological Survey “Bats and Wind Energy Workshop,” on January 25–26, 2012. The purposes of the workshop were to develop a list of research priorities to support decision making concerning bats with respect to siting and operations of wind-energy facilities across the United States. (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2012/1110/>).

Upcoming Events

[The Wildlife Society Annual Conference](#) is taking place in Portland, Oregon, **October 13-18, 2012**. There are two symposia dedicated to wind-wildlife studies: 1) Mitigating Impacts of Wind Energy Development on Golden Eagles, 2) Bats and wind energy: Ecology, behavior, and methodology. Registration for the conference is open. (<http://wildlifesociety.org/>).

[Fifth annual Nebraska Wind Conference set for October](#). The Nebraska Wind Conference, the fifth annual wind conference organized by the Nebraska Wind Conference Committee (NWCC), will be conducted **October 22-23, 2012** in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. The two-day conference will focus on Nebraska's future wind energy development challenges and opportunities. (http://www.theindependent.com/news/ag_news/fifth-annual-nebraska-wind-conference-set-for-october/article_ff928fd5-bc66-5b66-988e-00bde5e50a13.html).

The **[Wind Wildlife Research Meeting](#)** will be held on **November 27-30, 2012** in Denver, CO. Topics of interest for the meeting include assessing direct and indirect effects on wildlife and their habitats, evaluating approaches used to avoid and minimize impacts, testing the efficacy of mitigation and conservation measures, and considering the context of wind energy development among other energy choices. (<http://www.nationalwind.org/issues/wildlife/researchmeetingix.aspx>).

Around Nebraska...

[Large wind farm planned in Wayne County](#). A U.S. company and one from Germany are teaming up to build a wind farm near Winside in northeast Nebraska that would be among the state's largest. Way Wind LLC of Madison, WI, and Nordex USA of Frankfurt, Germany, want to put 48 turbines on up to 8,000 acres of land south of the Wayne County town for a combined output of 120 MW. (http://journalstar.com/business/local/article_561db3c1-2404-5a74-8128-cf08f7ef65a7.html).

[Lincoln, Nebraska gets wind and solar powered traffic lights](#). In Lincoln, Nebraska, history is being made at a traffic light for the intersection of 84th Street and Highway 2. The first of its kind in the country, this light is being powered by two solar panels and a single wind turbine. (<http://revmodo.com/2012/06/22/lincoln-nebraska-gets-wind-and-solar-powered-traffic-lights/>).

[Wind Powering America's Wind for Schools Project Summary Report](#). The Nebraska Wind for Schools team has completed 18 installations to date and has another 6 planned for 2012. For more

information, go to page 54 of the report. (http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/pdfs/schools/wind_for_schools_summary_report.pdf).

Featured Webpage

[Nebraska Public Power District \(NPPD\) Wind Generation](http://www.nppd.com/about-us/power-plants-facilities/wind-generation/). NPPD's Wind Generation webpage contains information on six of Nebraska's wind energy facilities including links to fact sheets and generation statistics. To learn more about some of Nebraska's wind energy facilities, check it out! (<http://www.nppd.com/about-us/power-plants-facilities/wind-generation/>).

Did I miss something you would like to share with other listserv members or have any other suggestions? Email me at windwildlife@unl.edu.

Check out the **Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project website** at: <http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/>, **Wind Energy and Wildlife news** at: <http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>, and **Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project Facebook page** at: <http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaWindWildlife>.

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