

Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

July 17, 2012

Around the Nation & World...

[Sandwich Tern Sinks Big UK Offshore Wind Farm.](http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/07/sandwich-tern-sinks-big-uk-offshore-wind-farm/) The Sandwich Tern breeds on North Norfolk coast of England, near where Centrica was planning to build a 540-megawatt offshore wind farm. The U.K. Department of Energy and Climate Change, citing the threat that development could pose to the Sandwich tern, rejected the project. (<http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/07/sandwich-tern-sinks-big-uk-offshore-wind-farm/>).

[LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Eagle-take permits don't sanction bird killing.](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jul/16/eagle-take-permits-dont-sanction-bird-killing/) The eagle take permit is not a wholesale license to kill birds, and is not specifically designed for the wind industry. Rather it is intended to provide legal protection to an individual or company - whether it be wind energy, oil-and-gas, etc. - for an eagle fatality that is incidental to and not the purpose of an otherwise legal activity, including energy production. (<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jul/16/eagle-take-permits-dont-sanction-bird-killing/>).

[Scientists Discuss Renewable Energy's Effect on Wildlife.](http://www.kcet.org/news/rewire/wildlife/scientists-discuss-renewable-energys-effect-on-wildlife.html) The first-ever **[North America Congress for Conservation Biology \(NACCB\)](#)** kicked off in Oakland this weekend, and its schedule early this week provides a concise illustration of the fact that renewable energy development and wildlife conservation can often find themselves in opposition. (<http://www.kcet.org/news/rewire/wildlife/scientists-discuss-renewable-energys-effect-on-wildlife.html>).

[How California's Altamont Pass wind farm repowers.](http://www.kalev.com/2012/06/26/how-californias-altamont-pass-wind-farm-repowers/) NextEra Energy Resources, which owns about half of the Altamont Pass wind turbines, recently repowered at its Vasco Wind Energy Center, replacing 440 antiquated windmills with just 34 new models. Benefits of repowering include a decrease in fatalities of area raptors like golden eagles and red-tailed hawks, which have been known to get caught in the windmills' spinning blades. (<http://www.kalev.com/2012/06/26/how-californias-altamont-pass-wind-farm-repowers/>).

Wildlife

[Social Bats Pay a Price With New Fungal Disease: Study Determines Which Bats Are Headed for Extinction.](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/07/120703134057.htm) A recent study by Langwig et al. 2012 found that the impact on bat populations of white-nose syndrome may depend on how gregarious the bats are during hibernation. Species that hibernate in dense clusters even as their populations get smaller will continue to transmit the disease at a high rate, dooming them to continued decline. (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/07/120703134057.htm>).

Wind

[2010 Cost of Wind Energy Review](http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/52920.pdf). Tegen et al. 2012. This NREL report presents information on the cost of wind energy in 2010, along with a summary of historical trends and future projections. (<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/52920.pdf>).

Tools

[How Wind Developers Can Successfully Navigate FWS Siting Guidelines](http://nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.10095). The guidelines recently published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provide the template for consistent, reasonable and scientifically justified analysis that facilitates environmentally compatible wind power projects. Suggestions for how to use these guidelines include: get trained, engage all levels, continue to invest, and demonstrate patience. (http://nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.10095).

[New Database Makes Costs of Energy Technologies More Transparent](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=768). The **[Transparent Cost Database \(TCDB\)](#)** provides technology cost estimates for companies, utilities, policy makers, consumers, and academics, and can be used to benchmark company costs, model energy scenarios, and inform research and development decisions. (http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=768).

Action Items

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>.

Upcoming Events

[The Wildlife Society Annual Conference](http://wildlifesociety.org/) 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 Oct. 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...

[On location: Loup board checks out wind farm](#). The Loup Public Power District Board of Directors took their meeting to the Laredo Ridge Wind Farm near Petersburg to better understand Nebraska Public Power District's green commercial energy option that will debut next year. (http://columbustelegram.com/news/local/on-location-loup-board-checks-out-wind-farm/article_2291a7a0-c6a0-11e1-a783-001a4bcf887a.html).

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

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