

# Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

September 11, 2012

## Around the Nation & World...

### Wind and Wildlife

**[Potential for commercial wind farms limited by Ottawa County wildlife.](#)** Kim Kauffman, executive director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, said her organization isn't against wind power, but think that using it near the sensitive area where millions of migratory birds pass through each year is a terrible idea, and would be devastating to birds. (<http://www.portclintonnewsherald.com/article/BC/20120830/NEWS01/208300307/Potential-commercial-wind-farms-limited-by-Ottawa-County-wildlife>).

### Wind

**[Enough Wind to Power Global Energy Demand: New Research Examines Limits, Climate Consequences.](#)** New research from Carnegie examines the limits of the amount of power that could be harvested from winds, as well as the effects high-altitude wind power could have on the climate as a whole. (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/09/120909150446.htm>).

For the complete study, check out the article authored by Kate Marvel *et al.*, "**[Geophysical limits to global wind power](#)**" published in Nature Climate Change (<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1683.html>).

**[ME graduate student aims to aid in wind energy development.](#)** Le Chen, PhD candidate in mechanical engineering, is dedicating her research to improve landowner participation in the development phase of wind farms. (<http://innovate.engineering.iastate.edu/2012/09/06/me-graduate-students-aims-to-aid-in-wind-energy-development/>).

**[Wind farm lets you bike, hike or hunt among towering turbines.](#)** Puget Sound Energy's Wild Horse Wind Farm, northeast of Ellensburg, offers 11,000 acres of rocky scrubland for bikers and hikers to explore — while getting a close-up look at 350-foot-tall wind turbines. ([http://seattletimes.com/html/outdoors/2019076703\\_odwildhorse09.html?syndication=rss](http://seattletimes.com/html/outdoors/2019076703_odwildhorse09.html?syndication=rss)).

### Action Items

**[Midwest Wind Energy Conservation Plan in Eight States.](#)** To ensure conservation of federally-listed species while meeting the growing demand for rapid approval of wind energy plants, the Service and a coalition of eight states, The Conservation Fund, and representatives of the wind energy industry are preparing a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

A Notice of Intent was put into the *Federal Register* on August 30, 2012. Interested parties can submit their input, suggestions and information at this stage in the planning process. The Notice of Intent opens a 30-day public comment period that will close on October 1, 2012. (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/>).

### 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** . The Nebraska 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.nebraskawindconference.com/index2.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...**

**Crofton Bluffs wind project may be operational soon.** The 22 turbines are in various stages of construction. After a 2 ½ - to three-month testing period, the wind farm is scheduled to go online by the end of the year, said Mark Becker of Nebraska Public Power District. (<http://www.omaha.com/article/20120831/NEWS/708319921/1016>).

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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