

Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

December 5, 2012

Last week, researchers from around the U.S. (and a few from Europe) met in Colorado to present research on wind energy and wildlife. The information shared was excellent! Proceedings of the Meeting will be compiled and available in 2013. Check out the press release: [2012 Wind Wildlife Research Meeting Presents Latest Findings, Takes Stock of Progress in Understanding and Addressing Potential Wind Energy Impacts](#)
(http://awwi.org/news/documents/2012_Wind_Wildlife_Research_Meeting_Presents_Latest_Findings.pdf)

Around the Nation & World...

Wind and Wildlife

[Barriers and Opportunities for Post-construction Wildlife Monitoring at Wind Energy Facilities in the Great Lakes Region](#). This report by Dr. Sarah Stai et al. at (Dovetail Partners Inc.) describes results from a survey of wind energy stakeholders. It also includes a review of the different ways in which state agencies are assessing wildlife impacts from wind energy development.
(<http://www.dovetailinc.org/files/DovetailWindWildlife1112.pdf>).

[Wind Generator Towers Approved on Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Habitat in Arizona](#). A Maryland company has received more approvals to construct towers for a wind-based electricity generator in Arizona that would be located within a conservation management area in which the flat-tailed [horned lizard](#) (*Phrynosoma mcallii*) lives.
(<http://www.reptilechannel.com/reptile-news/2012/12/03/wind-generator-approved-on-flat-tailed-horned-lizard-habitat.aspx>).

[Proposed Wind Project Near Joshua Tree National Park Canceled](#). A proposed wind turbine installation that would have covered more than 63,000 acres of the California desert on the eastern edge of Joshua Tree National Park has been canceled by the Bureau of Land Management.
(<http://www.kcet.org/news/rewire/wind/proposed-wind-project-east-of-joshua-tree-np-canceled.html>).

[Lesser Prairie-Chicken May Soon Be Deemed Threatened Species](#). A species of chicken in Oklahoma may officially be listed as "threatened" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Threatened" is one level below "endangered," and it could hinder the future of wind energy development.
(<http://www.newsone6.com/story/20232966/status-of-lesser-prairie-chicken-species-may-hinder-wind-energy-industry>).

[Fish and Wildlife proposes listing lesser prairie chicken as 'threatened'](#). Dan Ashe, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced Friday a proposal to list the lesser prairie chicken as "threatened." (http://www.mywesttexas.com/top_stories/article_cff3a15a-7cbf-55e3-84e6-008674bb3ca5.html).

Wind

[Weather data from nation's largest wind farms could improve U.S. models, forecasts](#). Two of the nation's largest producers of wind-generated electric power will share privately-collected weather data

with NOAA, providing agency scientists with additional observations from wind farms across the nation for research and operations. (http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20121114_windfarm.html).

Wind farm developer Iberdrola hears from residents. Officials from Iberdrola Renewables say they've been considering the site for about three years, a mostly behind-the-scenes process that includes extensive wind-quality tests. Now, thinking the site would be a viable place to harness wind, the company has negotiated leasing agreements with seven landowners for about 6,000 acres, only a fraction of which officials say would be developed if the project moves forward.
(<http://www.concordmonitor.com/home/2892005-95/wind-project-cherian-company>).

Action Items

BOEM seeks public input for Atlantic wind area assessment. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is requesting public comment on an environmental assessment (EA) for an area in federal waters off Massachusetts where commercial wind energy development would take place.
(<http://www.rechargenews.com/energy/wind/article326664.ece>).

BOEM Announces Availability of Environmental Assessment for Wind Energy Area Offshore Massachusetts. Comments may be submitted via BOEM's website at: <http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/Public-Engagement/Public-Engagement-Opportunities.aspx> (click on the "Open Comment Documents" link) or mailed to: Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 381 Elden Street, HM 1328, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. (<http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Newsroom/Press-Releases/2012/Press10312012.aspx>).

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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