



Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

July 16, 2013

Twenty-seven species are listed as **threatened** or **endangered** in Nebraska; fourteen of these are also federally listed. Information about these species including range maps, listed species by county, and species descriptions can be found at:
<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/windandwildlife.asp#listed>.

Spatial data of Nebraska's Endangered and Threatened Species for use with GIS is available at:
http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/nongame/Heritage/ET_Ranges.asp

Around Nebraska...

[Wind farm construction hoped for by year's end](http://journalstar.com/legislature/wind-farm-construction-hoped-for-by-year-s-end/article_077d1e29-b317-5ced-88f4-3dbab6c7afab.html). A Kansas company planning what could turn into a \$400 million wind farm in Dixon County hopes to begin construction by the end of the year. (http://journalstar.com/legislature/wind-farm-construction-hoped-for-by-year-s-end/article_077d1e29-b317-5ced-88f4-3dbab6c7afab.html).

Around the Nation & World...

Wind and Wildlife

[Blanding's turtles halt wind farm at Ostrander Point](http://www.thestar.com/business/2013/07/04/blandings_turtles_halt_wind_farm_at_ostrander_point.html). A tribunal has blocked a proposed wind farm because of increased vehicle traffic, poachers and predators it would create in the endangered creature's habitat. (http://www.thestar.com/business/2013/07/04/blandings_turtles_halt_wind_farm_at_ostrander_point.html).

[Wind power does not strongly affect greater prairie chickens, 7-year study finds](http://phys.org/news/2013-07-power-strongly-affect-greater-prairie.html). Wind power development does not ruffle the feathers of greater prairie chicken populations, according to the results of a seven-year study from a Kansas State University ecologist and his team. (<http://phys.org/news/2013-07-power-strongly-affect-greater-prairie.html>).

[Eagle Conservation, Research, and Wind Energy: Issue Brief](#). American Wind Wildlife Institute (AWWI) released this brief in June 2013. Topics covered include Wind Energy and Eagles, The 2009 Eagle Rule, Proposed Change to Permit Duration Applied to Wind Power Projects, and more. ([http://awwi.org/uploads/files/AWWI-Eagle-Issue-Brief-\(June2013\).pdf](http://awwi.org/uploads/files/AWWI-Eagle-Issue-Brief-(June2013).pdf)).

[Maui bird enclosures aim to mitigate wind turbine impact](#). Boston-based First Wind, which operates the Maui's largest wind energy project, has unveiled the first of two bird enclosures on the island designed to mitigate bird deaths and loss of habitat resulting from the company's wind turbines. (http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/20130712_Maui_bird_enclosures_aim_to_mitigate_wind_turbine_impact.html).

[American Wind Wildlife Institute Database Project Moves Ahead](#). The American Wind Wildlife Institute (AWWI) recently announced that its Research Information System (RIS), which is creating a centralized database to provide accurate analysis of wind energy wildlife impacts, has entered phase two of development. (<http://aweablog.org/blog/post/american-wind-wildlife-institute-database-project-moves-ahead>).

[New York Inches Towards Offshore Wind Energy](#). Recently the New York State Department of State released [a long-awaited study that maps out wind, wildlife and environmental conditions](#) in New York's ocean waters. As [my colleague Sarah Chasis writes](#), this study will allow offshore wind projects to be sited in ways that are "smart from the start"—that avoid potential conflicts with wildlife and other marine uses. (<http://www.earthtechling.com/2013/07/new-york-inches-towards-offshore-wind-energy/>).

Wildlife

[Bat Maps: The Conservation Crusade](#). Researchers at the University of Leeds describe how they recorded the echolocation calls of more than 15,000 bats during 120 walks in the Lake District to create maps that show the suitability of areas for bat habitation. (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/07/130702202909.htm>).

The article by Chloe Bellamy et al., **[Multiscale, presence-only habitat suitability models: fine-resolution maps for eight bat species](#)**, was published in Journal of Applied Ecology this month. (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1365-2664.12117/abstract;jsessionid=35386ACF16E58F4CC5755C40E2335AD9.d04t03>).

[Bats among animals added to Nova Scotia protected list](#). Nova Scotia listed bats as an endangered species Thursday due to a widespread fungal infection that has wiped out over 90 per cent of the province's bat population in just a couple of years. (<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1141295-bats-among-animals-added-to-nova-scotia-protected-list#.Ud76mrsXkNs.twitter>).

[Lesser Prairie-Chicken Nest Survival May Decline by 2050](#). Lesser prairie-chicken nest survival may decrease to a level considered too low to sustain the current population by 2050, according to a new report by Texas Tech University and the U.S. Geological Survey. The publication assesses the effects of temperature and precipitation change on lesser prairie-chicken reproduction on the Southern High Plains. (<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3638&from=rss#.UeWXho196-0>).

The article by Blake A. Grisham et al., [***The Predicted Influence of Climate Change on Lesser Prairie-Chicken Reproductive Parameters***](#), was published in PLOS ONE this month. (<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0068225>).

[***Lesser Prairie-Chicken & Vertical Structures: NM Project***](#). The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has partnered with hundreds of groups to restore and link back together the Lesser Prairie-Chicken's eastern New Mexico habitat. (<http://www.hppr.org/post/lesser-prairie-chicken-vertical-structures-nm-project>).

[***6-month extension granted on prairie chicken listing***](#). A decision by the federal government on the fate of small, reclusive grouse that lives throughout the Great Plains will be postponed for six months. (http://www.thepampanews.com/community/article_118c6132-e8de-11e2-b52a-001a4bcf6878.html).

Wind

[***Repowering gives new life to old wind sites***](#). Replacing old machines with fewer, larger and taller modern units that are quieter, far more reliable, and capable of producing vastly more electricity is an activity that has increased significantly during the last five years, according to [GlobalData's 2012 report Wind Repowering](#). (http://aweablog.org/blog/post/repowering-gives-new-life-to-old-wind-sites?goback=%2Egde_1903248_member_254897593).

[***SWiFT Time-lapse***](#). DOE/Sandia Scaled Wind Farm Technology (SWiFT) facility at the Reese Technology Center in Lubbock, Texas allows for rapid, cost-efficient testing and development of transformative wind energy technology, with specific emphasis on improving wind plant performance. The facility's advanced testing and monitoring will help researchers evaluate how larger wind farms can become more productive. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pb_SYi0swpg&feature=youtu.be).

Tools

[***Using Spatial Data and Web Mapping Tools to Support Wind Energy Planning off the North Carolina Coast***](#). Many states are exploring the potential to produce renewable wind energy offshore. The federal government is also committed to spurring the rapid and responsible development of this abundant renewable resource through its "Smart from the Start" wind energy initiative for the Atlantic outer continental shelf. To this end, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) creates and leads wind energy task forces to discuss the designation of wind energy areas in federal waters off of coastal states. (<http://csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/stories/wind-nc>).

[***Wind Turbine Ordinances***](#). This page [lists 135 state and local wind turbine ordinances](#). State and local governments and policymakers can use this collection of example wind turbine ordinances when drafting a new wind energy ordinance in a town or county without existing ordinances. (<http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/policy/ordinances.asp>)

[***USFWS Wind Energy Development Information Website***](#). This website provides value tools such as **wind energy training materials, other tools, and announcements**. Check it out at: <http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/index.html>.

Other

[BLM advances major Wyo.-to-Nev. project as Obama admin pushes renewable energy](http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059983876). The Bureau of Land Management today released the draft environmental review of a Wyoming-to-Nevada transmission line project that would allow wind-generated electricity in Wyoming to power homes as far away as California and could play a major role in meeting aggressive renewable energy goals outlined last week in President Obama's climate change strategy. (<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059983876>).

Job Opportunity

[Quantitative Ecologist - focused on wind energy and wildlife](http://ornithologyexchange.org/jobs/index.html/_/postdoctoral-positions/quantitative-ecologist-focused-on-wind-energy-and-wildlife-r2490). The United States Geological Survey is recruiting a post-doctoral scientist in quantitative ecology for a project focused on developing and testing methods to assess the impacts of wind energy on wildlife at regional to national scales. (http://ornithologyexchange.org/jobs/index.html/_/postdoctoral-positions/quantitative-ecologist-focused-on-wind-energy-and-wildlife-r2490).

Upcoming Events

Wind Energy Training Series for Voluntary Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines - Part 2. July 31, 2013, 2-4 p.m. ET. E-mail windbroadcast@fws.gov with the subject "register" to register for this broadcast. To check out the first broadcast, go to: http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/wind_training/wind_training.html.

Annual Central Mountain Plains Section Meeting (The Wildlife Society) will be in Cedar City, UT on August 12-15, 2013. The focus of the conference will be on 3 major issues: Human-Wildlife Conflict Management, Refuge and Riparian Ecology and Management, and Energy Development and Wildlife Management. For more information: <http://wildlife.org/CMP/>.

America's Grasslands Conference will be held August 12-14th in Manhattan, Kansas. *America's Grasslands: The Future of Grasslands in a Changing Landscape* will bring together researchers, natural resources professionals, farmers and ranchers, policy experts, and conservationists to discuss the conservation of North America's grasslands and the opportunities and outlook for these vital ecosystems in a changing landscape. Included as a topic of interest is "Energy development and grasslands."

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 5-10, 2013. For more information: <http://wildlifesociety.org/>.

Sixth Annual Wind Conference will be held in Lincoln, NE on November 13-15, 2013. This year's theme is "Harvesting Nebraska's Potential." For more information and to register: <http://nebraskawindconference.com/>.

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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In the Message Field (NOT Subject): UNSUBSCRIBE wind_wildlife