



## Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

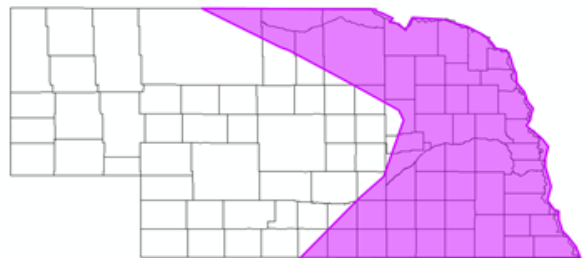
October 4, 2013

The 12-Month Finding on a Petition to List the **Northern Long-Eared Bat** was posted in the Federal Register on October 2, 2013. The USFWS has proposed to list the Northern Long-Eared Bat as **endangered** throughout its range. There is a 60 day comment period ends on December 2, 2013.

For more information:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/10/02/2013-23753/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-12-month-finding-on-a-petition-to-list-the-eastern>

Distribution of Northern Long-Eared Bat in Nebraska



Map based on Benedict 2004

## Around Nebraska...

**[Are Wildlife Concerns Limiting Wind Energy in Nebraska?](#)** Nebraska Educational Television reports on wind energy development and migratory birds in Nebraska. (<http://www.kvnonews.com/2013/09/are-wildlife-concerns-limiting-wind-energy-in-nebraska/>).

**[Wind for Schools Project Funding Case Studies, Part 3: Bloomfield Community Schools in Nebraska.](#)** Completed in 2010, the Bloomfield Community School installation utilized a variety of sources to raise funds for the project. With a total installed cost of \$15,500, the school was required to invest \$1,500 in the project. Other turbine funders included the local utility, Nebraska Public Power District

(NPPD), a local wind project developer, Midwest Wind Energy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Great Plains, and NUCOR Steel. Doering Trenching also provided in-kind services for the projects. ([http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/filter\\_detail.asp?itemid=3988](http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/filter_detail.asp?itemid=3988)).

**[San Diego firm to develop Nebraska wind project](#)**. A San Diego-based company says it has acquired and will develop the second phase of a wind energy farm near Broken Bow in central Nebraska. Sempra U.S. Gas & Power bought the project from Edison Mission Energy, of Santa Ana, Calif. Terms were not disclosed. (<http://www.fortmilltimes.com/2013/09/26/2985437/san-diego-firm-to-develop-nebraska.html>).

**[Nebraska utilities need to embrace wind energy](#)**. For decades the states and cities of the Midwest and Great Plains have imported energy. We've traded our hard earned dollars for coal, sending train cars full of cash to places like Wyoming. We've focused on improving that state's economy and quality of life, and ignored our own. Wind power changes all that. ([http://www.theindependent.com/opinion/another\\_opinion/nebraska-utilities-need-to-embrace-wind-energy/article\\_f7d3750a-2c44-11e3-b08b-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.theindependent.com/opinion/another_opinion/nebraska-utilities-need-to-embrace-wind-energy/article_f7d3750a-2c44-11e3-b08b-0019bb2963f4.html)).

**[Invenergy completes financing for 200.6-MW Neb. wind project](#)**. Invenergy LLC subsidiary [Invenergy Wind LLC](#) said Oct. 2 that it completed the debt and tax equity financing for its 200.6-MW Prairie Breeze wind energy center project near Lincoln, Neb. (<http://www.snl.com/Interactivex/article.aspx?CdId=A-25278428-12584>).

## Around the Nation & World...

### *Wind and Wildlife*

#### ***3rd Broadcast of Wind Energy Training Series for Voluntary Land-based Wind Energy***

***Guidelines.*** The third broadcast will air on Wednesday, October 30, 2013, 2:00 to 4:00 pm ET. Host Christy Johnson-Hughes will be joined by several guests who will discuss topics related to Tier 4 (post-construction) of the Wind Energy Guidelines, including fatality estimation, reporting, and adaptive management. E-mail [windbroadcast@fws.gov](mailto:windbroadcast@fws.gov) with the subject "register" to register for this broadcast. Note: If a lapse in appropriations occurs, the Service website may be unavailable. For those who register via e-mail, you will not receive a confirmation e-mail until offices reopen. ***\*\*USFWS webpages are being redirect to a general DOI webpage, therefore previous broadcasts and related materials are not available at this time.***

#### **[WEBINAR: Recently-Released Research on Wind Energy and Grassland Birds &](#)**

**[Ducks](#)**. Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. ET. Go to webpage to Sign Up. (<http://www.nationalwind.org/issues/wildlife/2013researchwebinars.aspx>).

**[Windmill farm seeks permit to kill eagles](#)**. A large wind farm in Solano County would be the first renewable energy project in the nation to be issued a permit to kill eagles under a plan released Thursday by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#). (<http://www.sfgate.com/science/article/Windmill-farm-seeks-permit-to-kill-eagles-4847110.php>).

**[Eagle conservation effort at Solano wind energy project is first of its kind](#)**. [Wind energy](#) is known to be environmentally friendly, except for one persistent concern: The spinning turbine blades often kill birds, especially raptors such as eagles. Now, a [wind energy](#) project in [Solano County](#) may become the first in

the United States to commit to protecting golden eagles under federal law. (<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/09/27/5772735/eagle-conservation-effort-at-solano.html>).

**[Wind power and eagle deaths.](#)** A recent letter in the Star Tribune ("No more wind tower," Sept. 22) misstates the facts about wind power and eagles. No energy sector takes the issue of wildlife impacts more seriously than the wind industry. We do more to study, monitor, and mitigate for the impacts associated with project development and operation than any other energy sector. ([http://trib.com/opinion/letters/wind-power-and-eagle-deaths/article\\_5a882850-d362-5ed5-b7a1-b0ce8381499b.html](http://trib.com/opinion/letters/wind-power-and-eagle-deaths/article_5a882850-d362-5ed5-b7a1-b0ce8381499b.html)).

**[Bird Groups and Wind Turbines Getting Along.](#)** It has been widely assumed for years that two groups that don't get along are wind power advocates and bird protection groups. But, in a move that shows how far things have come, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is looking at [installing a wind turbine at its headquarters](#). (<http://ecogeek.org/component/content/article/3895>).

**[World Bird Sanctuary Alarmed by Wind Turbine Deaths.](#)** Walt Crawford with the World Bird Sanctuary initially thought moving away from petroleum-based products was a panacea. (<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2013/09/30/world-bird-sanctuary-alarmed-by-wind-turbine-deaths/>).

**[Plan protects endangered bats.](#)** The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and Green Mountain Power (GMP) have agreed on a plan to protect bats in Vermont. Under the plan, GMP will minimize the incidental taking of endangered bats at the Kingdom Community Wind plant as well as provide \$18,438 annually to bolster Vermont's bat conservation efforts. (<http://www.mountaintimes.info/news/features/2013/09/plan-protects-endangered-bats/>).

**[Harbour porpoise could blow giant wind farm off course.](#)** Environmental groups warn that proposals to construct 240 turbines in the Bristol Channel threaten hundreds of harbour porpoises. Conservationists campaigning against the Atlantic Array wind farm have called on ministers to designate the site as a special conservation area, which could prompt planning inspectors to refuse permission. (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/windpower/10341845/Harbour-porpoise-could-blow-giant-wind-farm-off-course.html>).

**[Marine Mammals Monitoring Important in Offshore Wind Developments.](#)** It is important to understand the status of marine mammals in an area prior to any development and understand potential impacts during and after development. (<http://subseaworldnews.com/2013/09/26/marine-mammals-monitoring-important-in-offshore-wind-developments/>).

## **Wildlife**

**[Texas Tech continues research on Lesser Prairie Chicken.](#)** The project Texas Tech has undertaken, which is called "A range-wide assessment of the influence of landscape and environmental change on lesser prairie chicken populations", is a three year project and is meant to provide information to land management individuals on how to better manage the lesser-prairie chicken population. ([http://www.myfoxlubbock.com/content/agdaylubbock/story/Texas-Tech-prairie-chicken/i0I\\_uKaOpkeCd27uxdPwwQ.csp](http://www.myfoxlubbock.com/content/agdaylubbock/story/Texas-Tech-prairie-chicken/i0I_uKaOpkeCd27uxdPwwQ.csp)).

**[New Study Shows Steep Decline of Lesser Prairie Chicken Populations - Findings Suggest Full Endangered Species Act Protections Urgently Needed.](#)** Lesser prairie chicken population numbers

dropped by more than 50 percent over the past year, according to a [study](#) released today. The finding raises questions about the adequacy of voluntary conservation measures proposed today for the rare grouse in a final [rangewide conservation plan](#) intended to preclude the need for Endangered Species Act protections. ([http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press\\_releases/2013/lesser-prairie-chicken-09-24-2013.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2013/lesser-prairie-chicken-09-24-2013.html)).

**[Range-wide population size of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken: 2012 and 2013](#)**. Prepared by Lyman McDonald et al. 2013 ([http://www.wafwa.org/documents/Final\\_08.13.2013\\_LPC\\_Popestimation.pdf](http://www.wafwa.org/documents/Final_08.13.2013_LPC_Popestimation.pdf)).

## Wind

**[Renewable Energy Study Shows That Benefits Outweigh Costs In U.S.](#)** Wear-and-tear costs on coal and natural gas power plants from adding high levels of wind and solar energy in the U.S. West is small compared with the benefits of generating less power using fossil fuels, a federal study said Tuesday. ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/24/renewable-energy-study-wind-solar\\_n\\_3982227.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/24/renewable-energy-study-wind-solar_n_3982227.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003)).

**[Energy Department Report Calculates Emissions and Costs of Power Plant Cycling Necessary for Increased Wind and Solar in the West](#)**. A new report released today by the Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) examines the potential impacts of increasing wind and solar power generation on the operators of coal and gas plants in the West. To accommodate higher amounts of wind and solar power on the electric grid, utilities must ramp down and ramp up or stop and start conventional generators more frequently to provide reliable power for their customers – a practice called cycling. ([http://energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-report-calculates-emissions-and-costs-power-plant-cycling-necessary?utm\\_source=PA930&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ProgressAlerts](http://energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-report-calculates-emissions-and-costs-power-plant-cycling-necessary?utm_source=PA930&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ProgressAlerts)).

**[Continuous Reliability Enhancement for Wind \(CREW\) Database](#)**. The Department of Energy (DOE) published a 2008 report describing a scenario in which wind energy provides 20% of the United States electricity production by the year 2030. This public Benchmark report is the third industry report to be issued under the Continuous Reliability Enhancement for Wind (CREW) national database project, with the first being published in October 2011. ([http://energy.sandia.gov/?page\\_id=6682#!](http://energy.sandia.gov/?page_id=6682#!)).

**[Forget Eagle Deaths, Wind Turbines Kill Humans](#)**. Who cares about birds? What about humans being killed by wind farm accidents? Does any energy source kill a significant number of people? (<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2013/09/29/forget-eagle-deaths-wind-turbines-kill-humans/>).

## Upcoming Events

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

**AWEA Wind Energy Fall Symposium 2013** will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado November 6-8, 2013. For more information: <http://www.awea.org/Events/Event.aspx?EventID=15940&navItemNumber=652>.

**Sixth Annual Wind Conference** will be held in Lincoln, NE on November 13-15, 2013. This year's theme is "Harvesting Nebraska's Potential." There will be a wind-wildlife session featuring Nebraska-based research and findings. 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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