



## Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

January 14, 2014

**[Northern Long-eared Bat Interim Conference and Planning Guidance](#)**, January 6, 2014. On October 2, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposed the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; NLEB) for listing as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The purpose of this document is to address the immediate information needs for section 7 conferences and conservation planning for the NLEB should it be listed.

## Around Nebraska...

**[NP to host wind energy symposium](#)**. The ins and outs of wind energy will be broken down for the public next month in North Platte. A "Siting of Wind Energy Development in Nebraska Symposium" is planned for Feb. 12 at the Quality Inn and Suites. "The purpose is to give information to producers, policy holders and any other Nebraskans interested in wind energy," Michael Riese, marketplace coordinator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, said. "We want to make sure people have correct information about what's happening in the state so they can make informed decisions." ([http://www.nptelegraph.com/news/np-to-host-wind-energy-symposium/article\\_8ecbae1e-f139-51ec-a93b-a1fb3e8ff465.html#user-comment-area](http://www.nptelegraph.com/news/np-to-host-wind-energy-symposium/article_8ecbae1e-f139-51ec-a93b-a1fb3e8ff465.html#user-comment-area)).

## Around the Nation & World...

### Wind and Wildlife

**[U.S. Wildlife Service to consider Somerset County turbine issues](#)**. The U.S. Wildlife Service will propose an eagle-taking permit during an Environmental Assessment on Wednesday. The proposal comes amid concerns that anticipated wind turbines in the area could cause eagle deaths and negative health effects. ([http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20140114/SH/301140048/U-S-Wildlife-Service-consider-Somerset-County-turbine-issues?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20140114/SH/301140048/U-S-Wildlife-Service-consider-Somerset-County-turbine-issues?nclick_check=1)).

**[Researchers, wind energy companies seek more bird-friendly turbines](#)**. The company is seeking Alameda County's approval to install 40 of its "shrouded" turbines in the Sand Hill area to test its theory that the turbine's unique design will help prevent golden eagles, red-tailed hawks and other species from colliding with the blades, hopefully reducing deaths. (<http://phys.org/news/2014-01-energy-companies-bird-friendly-turbines.html>).

**[Power line nests put US ravens in pole position for prey](#)**. Ravens in the US are building their nests on electricity power lines and using the height to target their prey, according to new research. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-25656289>).

**[Woodland, wetland and wildlife to get wind boost](#)**. PART of the East Ayrshire countryside would be significantly enhanced to benefit protected wildlife, if a wind farm project is approved. Wind energy specialists have laid out a series of improvements at the proposed 270 hectare site to restore degraded wetlands, revive protected native woodland and create hedgerow corridors which are a lifeline to wildlife. (<http://www.allmediascotland.com/media-releases/58835/woodland-wetland-and-wildlife-to-get-wind-boost/>).

**[Sustainable wind energy for humans and wildlife](#)**. Wind turbines, an excellent source of renewable energy, are better for the environment but bad news for wildlife. Although they are noisy and aesthetically unpleasing, wind power is gaining prominence as one of the best forms of renewable energy. (<http://www.eco-business.com/press-releases/make-wind-energy-more-sustainable-for-both-human-and-wildlife/>).

**[We Must Protect Eagles and Expand Wind Power at the Same Time](#)**. Striking a balance between wildlife conservation and wind energy development starts with understanding threats to eagle populations, and how our actions, including operating wind farms, are affecting them. ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/frances-beinecke/we-must-protect-eagles-and-expand-wind-power\\_b\\_4575471.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/frances-beinecke/we-must-protect-eagles-and-expand-wind-power_b_4575471.html)).

**[Bird conservation groups move to block Lake Erie wind turbine project at Camp Perry](#)**. Conservation groups say a proposed wind turbine to be erected at the Ohio National Guard facility at Camp Perry would threaten American bald eagles and several endangered species, and they have sent notice of their intention to sue to stop the project. ([http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/01/bird\\_conservation\\_groups\\_move.html](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/01/bird_conservation_groups_move.html)).

**[8 Ways Wind Power Companies Are Trying to Stop Killing Birds and Bats](#)**. Hundreds of thousands of [birds](#) and [bats](#) are killed by wind turbines in the US each year, including some protected species such as the golden eagle and the Indiana bat. That's only [a small fraction](#) of the [hundreds of millions killed](#) by buildings, pesticides, fossil-fuel power plants, and other human causes, but it's still worrying—especially as wind power is experiencing record growth. (<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/01/birds-bats-wind-turbines-deadly-collisions>).

## Wildlife

**[A Five-Year Strategy for Global Bat Conservation](http://batcon.org/pdfs/BCI%20Strategic%20Plan%202013.pdf)**: Bat Conservation International's Strategic Plan for FY 2014 – 2018 is now available at: <http://batcon.org/pdfs/BCI%20Strategic%20Plan%202013.pdf>.

**[A meta-analysis of lesser prairie-chicken nesting and brood-rearing habitats: Implications for habitat management](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wsb.313/abstract)**, by Hagen et al was published in the Wildlife Society Bulletin in December 2013. (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wsb.313/abstract>).

## Wind

**[FERC's New 'Fast Track' Rules Will Make Clean Energy Development Easier](https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/ferc-adopts-new-california-fast-track-interconnection-rules-nationwide?goback=%2Egde_1903248_member_5827770826375573507#%21)**. FERC has adopted California's interconnection rules for small projects nationwide. The fast track process is a dramatically cheaper and faster interconnection process for qualifying small projects, so this change represents a major improvement with nationwide impacts. ([https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/ferc-adopts-new-california-fast-track-interconnection-rules-nationwide?goback=%2Egde\\_1903248\\_member\\_5827770826375573507#%21](https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/ferc-adopts-new-california-fast-track-interconnection-rules-nationwide?goback=%2Egde_1903248_member_5827770826375573507#%21)).

**[Wind Energy Helps Ward Off Power Outages](http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2014/01/wind-energy-helps-ward-off-power-outages)**. Over the last 48 hours, wind energy played a critical role in keeping homeowners warm as grid operators across the Eastern and Central U.S. worked overtime to keep up with record-breaking winter demand. Most importantly, [wind energy provided massive quantities of extremely valuable electricity when grid operators needed it most](http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2014/01/wind-energy-helps-ward-off-power-outages) to meet demand from electric heaters and furnace fans. (<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2014/01/wind-energy-helps-ward-off-power-outages>).

## Tools

**[Northern Long-eared Bat Interim Conference and Planning Guidance](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/pdf/NLEBinterimGuidance6Jan2013.pdf)**, January 6, 2014. On October 2, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposed the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; NLEB) for listing as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The purpose of this document is to address the immediate information needs for section 7 conferences and conservation planning for the NLEB should it be listed. (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/pdf/NLEBinterimGuidance6Jan2013.pdf>).

## Upcoming Events

**Announcing the 4th Broadcast of Wind Energy Training Series for Voluntary Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines.** The fourth broadcast will air on **Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 2:00 to 4:00 pm ET**. Host Christy Johnson-Hughes will be joined by Kathy Boydston (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies), Charles Newcomb (Endurance Wind Power), and Jennifer Norris (Ohio Department of Natural Resources). The broadcast will focus on how the WEG apply to distributed wind energy projects; coordination with State agencies; and the identification of "species of habitat fragmentation concern" as defined in the WEG. E-mail [windbroadcast@fws.gov](mailto:windbroadcast@fws.gov) with the subject "register" to register for this broadcast. [View previous broadcasts and related materials.](#)

**Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference** will be in Kansas City, MO January 26-29, 2014. For more information: <http://www.midwestfw.org/>.

**AWEA Wind Project Siting Seminar** will be held in New Orleans, LA January 29-30, 2014. For more information: <http://www.awea.org/events/Event.aspx?EventID=21659&navItemNumber=5647>.

**Siting of Wind Energy Development in Nebraska Symposium** will be held in North Platte, NE on February 12, 2014. Registration can be done online at: [go.unl.edu/windenergyconference](http://go.unl.edu/windenergyconference).

**AWEA WINDPOWER Conference & Exhibition** will be in Las Vegas, Nevada—May 5-8, 2014. WINDPOWER is the annual conference and exhibition for the U.S. wind industry, hosted by AWEA. For more information: (<http://www.windpowerexpo.org/index.aspx?&RDtoken=57901&userID=>).

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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