



Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

February 5, 2014

Request for bat acoustic transect data. The USFWS has provided funding to coordinate the compilation, analysis, and summary of currently available acoustic transect data. Results from this broad scale analysis of acoustic transects will provide initial estimates of population trends for multiple species throughout the eastern United States, thereby assessing impacts to bats from multiple threats including white-nose syndrome and renewable energy projects.

Timeframe of the project: Submit files by **31 March 2014**; Reports available by 31 December 2014

To submit data, please contact: Eric Britzke, US Army ERDC, Eric.R.Britzke@usace.army.mil

See attached document for more information.

Around Nebraska...

[Symposium to Discuss Wind Energy Development in Nebraska](http://ianrnews.unl.edu/symposium-discuss-wind-energy-development-nebraska). Nebraska has excellent wind resources, and since the passage of LB1048 in 2010, there is potential for exporting electricity from wind farms, which means tax benefits, jobs and lease payments to landowners. However, wind energy does have its issues. (<http://ianrnews.unl.edu/symposium-discuss-wind-energy-development-nebraska>).

[Wind Power Helps Nebraska Utility Meet Record-High Energy Demand](http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.12463#!). The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) says customers drove up their energy use to battle frigid temperatures on Jan. 6, causing the utility to [set a new all-time winter peak](http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.12463#!) for generating electricity. Wind power was there to help. (http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.12463#!).

[Wind farm needs power buyer](#). A majority of the land has been leased from local property owners but energy supplied from the Dawson County Wind Farm project seven miles northeast of Farnam has yet to find a

destination. (http://www.gothenburgtimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6918:wind-farm-needs-power-buyer&catid=1:local&Itemid=2).

[Construction set to begin on Custer County wind farm.](#) Omaha households will get more of their electricity from wind power, with construction set to begin this month on a new wind farm in Custer County that has been in the works for several years. (<http://www.omaha.com/article/20140116/MONEY/140118957/1707>).

[The 2014 Nebraska Prairie Chicken Festival.](#) The 2014 Nebraska Prairie Chicken festival (April 4-6, 2014) will be hosted by Calamus Outfitters and the Gracie Creek Landowners. The festival will kick off with a tradeshow featuring local arts and crafts, educational displays, locally raised beef, live birds and more. (<http://www.calamusoutfitters.com/2014-nebraska-prairie-chicken-festival.htm>).

[Register online for 'Siting of Wind Energy in Neb.'](#) The Sandhills Task Force will present a "Siting of Wind Energy in Nebraska" conference from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Quality Inn and Suites Sandhills Convention Center in North Platte. Sponsors are the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Grazing Land Coalition, Western Nebraska Bank and The Nature Conservancy. (http://www.kearneyhub.com/news/register-online-for-siting-of-wind-energy-in-neb/article_c3568b00-8abd-11e3-bfba-001a4bcf887a.html).

Around the Nation & World...

Wind and Wildlife

[A Possible First: Lawsuit Over Birds Stops Federal Wind Energy Project.](#) A lawsuit threatened by a pair of bird conservation groups has halted a wind power development the federal government had planned along the Lake Erie shore in Ohio. (<http://www.kcet.org/news/rewire/wind/a-possible-first-lawsuit-over-birds-stops-federal-wind-project.html>).

[Criterion employing conservation measures to protect bat population.](#) Criterion Power Partners LLC has formalized the conservation measures employed at its 28-turbine wind project on Backbone Mountain in Garrett County to avoid and minimize effects of the wind project on endangered Indiana bats and other wildlife. (<http://www.times-news.com/local/x1280774295/Criterion-employing-conservation-measures-to-protect-bat-population>).

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Final Habitat Conservation Plan for Indiana Wind Farm.](#) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has released the final habitat conservation plan for the Fowler Ridge Wind Farm in northwestern Indiana. The Service has also finalized an environmental impact statement that addresses impacts to the endangered Indiana bat and the human environment. The habitat conservation plan developed by Fowler Ridge includes measures for the long-term conservation of Indiana bats at the Fowler Ridge facility. The Fowler Ridge Wind Farm currently includes 355 wind turbines in Benton County, with plans for up to 94 additional turbines. Two occurrences of Indiana bat mortality have been discovered and reported by Fowler Ridge during surveys at the facility. (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/706.html>).

[Fowler Ridge Wind Farm, Benton County, Indiana: Indiana Bat Habitat Conservation Plan](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/permits/hcp/FowlerRidge/pdf/FowlerRidgeWindFarmFinalHCP120913.pdf)
(<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/permits/hcp/FowlerRidge/pdf/FowlerRidgeWindFarmFinalHCP120913.pdf>).

[Tybee weighs turbine's effects on birds](http://savannahnow.com/news/2014-01-27/tybee-weighs-turbines-effects-birds#.UvLC6flr58F). Endangered piping plovers blend into the background of sandy beaches like Tybee's, where these small shorebirds are known to visit. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has identified global warming and wind turbines as emerging threats to these birds. (<http://savannahnow.com/news/2014-01-27/tybee-weighs-turbines-effects-birds#.UvLC6flr58F>).

[Environmental groups support Deepwater's wind farm proposal off Block Island](http://www.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/content/20140204-environmental-groups-support-deepwaters-wind-farm-proposal-off-block-island.ece). Environmental groups spoke in support of a proposed offshore wind farm near Block Island on Tuesday at the first public hearing before the lead state permitting agency for the project. (<http://www.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/content/20140204-environmental-groups-support-deepwaters-wind-farm-proposal-off-block-island.ece>).

[Conservationists call for regulating wind energy projects to protect wildlife](http://bakken.com/news/id/74321/conservationists-call-regulating-wind-energy-projects-protect-wildlife/). Voicing its support for utilising wind energy in Jordan, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) on Thursday said the government and renewable energy companies must follow safety guidelines when establishing wind farms. There are numerous plans for establishing wind energy projects in the Kingdom; therefore, it is imperative for the government and investors alike to consider environment and wildlife protection during the planning, implementation and operation of wind farms, RSCN Chairman Khaled Irani said. (<http://bakken.com/news/id/74321/conservationists-call-regulating-wind-energy-projects-protect-wildlife/>).

[Birmingham Audubon Board has 'serious reservations' about proposed wind farm regulations](http://blog.al.com/east-alabama/2014/02/birmingham_audubon_board_has_s.html). The Birmingham Audubon Society's board of directors say they have "serious reservations" about a proposed bill regulating wind turbine farms in Alabama. The board is also calling on Alabamians to lobby for guidelines in the legislation to make sure wind developments do not impact bird migration pathways. (http://blog.al.com/east-alabama/2014/02/birmingham_audubon_board_has_s.html).

[Wind farms under fire for birds of prey deaths](http://tdn.com/news/local/wind-farms-under-fire-for-birds-of-prey-deaths/article_2c8ce48e-864f-11e3-879f-0019bb2963f4.html). As a general rule, birds of prey are not watching for giant, spinning blades. In fact, eagles, hawks and owls are not even looking where they're going. They're focused on earth below, scouring the grass for mice, rabbits and prairie dogs. (http://tdn.com/news/local/wind-farms-under-fire-for-birds-of-prey-deaths/article_2c8ce48e-864f-11e3-879f-0019bb2963f4.html).

[Debate on wind turbines in Somerset continues](http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20140116/NEWS/301160073?nclick_check=1). A packed room of Somerset County residents and U.S. Wildlife Service officials debated the possible implementation of Great Bay Wind Energy's application for an eagle take permit at the J.M. Tawes Technology Center. (http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20140116/NEWS/301160073?nclick_check=1).

[Review of Bingham wind project to resume this month](http://www.onlinesentinel.com/news/Review_of_Bingham_wind_project_to_resume_this_month.html). The review of a proposed 62-turbine wind farm that would be the largest in the state will resume this month when the Department of Environmental Protection seeks input from the public at the second of two required public meetings. In November, the review of the project was put on hold because of concerns that wind turbines could hurt bats. (http://www.onlinesentinel.com/news/Review_of_Bingham_wind_project_to_resume_this_month.html).

[Wind Farms Do Their Part for Eagle Conservation Today, and Tomorrow](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-kiernan/wind-farms-do-their-part-b_4590022.html). This long-awaited program will provide more eagle conservation than currently exists today, which leaves many in the wind industry and others who share our concern for saving eagles scratching our heads over his hyperbolic response. (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-kiernan/wind-farms-do-their-part-b_4590022.html).

[With new permit in place, wind industry feels pressure to apply for eagle 'takes'](#). The wind industry is operating in a rapidly evolving regulatory environment as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and federal prosecutors press companies to obtain a newly expanded permit that allows them to kill and disturb eagles through the normal operation of their energy facilities, industry lawyers said Jan.

13. (<http://www.snl.com/Interactivex/article.aspx?Cdlid=A-26523453-12337>).

[Bat's flight from Somerset to Holland puts offshore wind farms in doubt](#). The remarkable discovery that a bat the size of a human thumb managed to fly from a village in the West Country all the way to the north of Holland could scupper future plans for vast off-shore wind farms, it was revealed yesterday. (<http://www.westerndailypress.co.uk/Tiny-bat-flies-Blagdon-Somerset-Friesland-Holland/story-20470452-detail/story.html>).

[Marine renewable energy and implications for cetaceans](#). WDC has produced a report pulling together all the current information on the impacts of marine renewables developments on cetaceans, and different countries approaches to these developments. The report is aimed at helping governments, developers and other key parties in the marine renewable energy industry to make the best-informed decisions as to where and how to site their facilities. (<http://uk.whales.org/wdc-in.-action/marine-renewable-energy-and-implications-for-cetaceans>).

[Booming German offshore wind power industry puts pressure on marine life](#). Offshore wind energy is continuing to grow off the German coast as the country remains dedicated to its energy transformation. But conservationists are concerned about the effects the industry is having on animals. (<http://www.dw.de/booming-german-offshore-wind-power-industry-puts-pressure-on-marine-life/a-17339633>).

Wildlife

[White-nose syndrome confirmed in bats in Arkansas](#). White-nose syndrome, a fatal disease to several bat species, has been confirmed in Arkansas, the state Game and Fish Commission said Wednesday. (<http://arkansasnews.com/news/arkansas/white-nose-syndrome-confirmed-bats-arkansas>).

[National Park Service, UM professor, others look to protect migrating wildlife](#). The National Park Service and the country's leading wildlife experts are developing a plan to conserve migrating wildlife as it moves through protected areas, sometimes crossing vast regions of the globe to reach birthing and feeding grounds. (http://missoulian.com/news/local/national-park-service-um-professor-others-look-to-protect-migrating/article_cde26d2c-83cf-11e3-ab01-0019bb2963f4.html).

[Optimism and Challenge for Science-Based Conservation of Migratory Species in and out of U.S. National Parks](#) by Joel Berger et al. 2014 was published in Conservation Biology. (<http://bergerlab.dbs.umt.edu/images/stories/61.pdf>).

[Study finds market forces influence the value of bat-provided services](#). Services provided by Mother Nature, such as pest control from insect-eating bats, are affected by market forces like most anything else in the economy, a University of Tennessee, Knoxville, study finds. The study's results have implications for biodiversity conservation efforts. (<http://phys.org/news/2014-02-bat-provided.html>).

[Market Forces and Technological Substitutes Cause Fluctuations in the Value of Bat Pest-Control Services for Cotton](http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0087912), by Laura López-Hoffman et al. 2014 was published in PLOS ONE. (<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0087912>).

Wind

[Energy Department Announces Funding to Access Higher Quality Wind Resources and Lower Costs](http://energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-announces-funding-access-higher-quality-wind-resources-and-lower-costs). The Energy Department today announced \$2 million to help efficiently harness wind energy using taller towers. These projects will help strengthen U.S. wind turbine component manufacturing, reduce the cost of clean and renewable wind energy, and expand the geographic range of cost-effective wind power in the United States. (<http://energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-announces-funding-access-higher-quality-wind-resources-and-lower-costs>).

[KU study explores wind farm, airport intersection: Downwind turbulence from blades a potential aviation hazard](http://cjonline.com/news/state/2014-01-18/ku-study-explores-wind-farm-airport-intersection). Rotation of Kansas wind farm turbine blades may appear benign from the ground, but an invisible hazard lurks aloft for pilots of small aircraft. Research at The University of Kansas' engineering school, described as the first of its type in the nation, examined aerodynamic influences of industrial turbines on aircraft crossing downwind of these towering units. (<http://cjonline.com/news/state/2014-01-18/ku-study-explores-wind-farm-airport-intersection>).

[Forget Intermittency: NREL Says Wind Energy Can Boost Grid Reliability](http://cleantechnica.com/2014/01/24/forget-intermittency-nrel-says-wind-energy-can-boost-grid-reliability/). We've all heard the warnings about how intermittent renewables could "crash" the grid if for instance all of a sudden the wind stops blowing and grid operators are left in the lurch for power when they need it. But what if wind turbines actually improve grid reliability? (<http://cleantechnica.com/2014/01/24/forget-intermittency-nrel-says-wind-energy-can-boost-grid-reliability/>).

[First Offshore Wind Project Proposed for West Coast; Builds on Momentum from Successful Lease Sales for Projects in Atlantic](http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/secretary-jewell-announces-key-step-forward-for-offshore-wind-project-in-oregon.cfm). On the heels of President Obama's State of the Union address where he laid out actions to move the economy toward clean energy sources, reduce carbon pollution and create jobs, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today announced an important step forward for the first offshore wind project proposed for federal waters off the West Coast. (<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/secretary-jewell-announces-key-step-forward-for-offshore-wind-project-in-oregon.cfm>).

Tools

[2014 Range-wide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/surveys/pdf/2014IBatSummerSurveyGuidelines13Jan2014.pdf), January 2014. (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/surveys/pdf/2014IBatSummerSurveyGuidelines13Jan2014.pdf>).

[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.

(<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/pdf/NLEBinterimGuidance6Jan2013.pdf>).

The Wildlife Society Renewable Energy Working Group – LinkedIn. Connect with other resource professionals involved in renewable energy – wildlife work. To join, go to:

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4433729&trk=my_groups-b-grp-v, click Join.

Upcoming Events

AWEA Wind Project Siting Seminar will be held in New Orleans, LA ~~January 29-30, 2014.~~

POSTPONED. 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.

[The 2014 Nebraska Prairie Chicken Festival](http://www.calamusoutfitters.com/2014-nebraska-prairie-chicken-festival.htm) will be held April 4-6, 2014 and will be hosted by Calamus Outfitters and the Gracie Creek Landowners. The festival will kick off with a tradeshow featuring local arts and crafts, educational displays, locally raised beef, live birds and more. (<http://www.calamusoutfitters.com/2014-nebraska-prairie-chicken-festival.htm>).

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=>).

Conference on Wind energy and Wildlife impacts will be in Berlin, Germany, March 10-12, 2015.

(<http://www.cww2015.tu-berlin.de/>).

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>.

To unsubscribe to this listserv:

Send an e-mail message to: LISTSERV@UNL.EDU

In the Message Field (NOT Subject): UNSUBSCRIBE wind_wildlife