



Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

April 4, 2014

Around Nebraska...

Please Report Whooping Crane Sightings

The entire population of Whooping Cranes in the Central Flyway is expected to migrate through Nebraska en route to breeding grounds in Canada. Every year, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, with help from other organizations and individuals, track Whooping Cranes as they move across the state. Learning more about Whooping Crane movements, habitat preferences, and behaviors can be helpful in finding ways to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts of wind energy development.

Individuals may report Whooping Crane sightings to any Commission office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or by calling the Crane Trust's Whooper Watch hotline. Contact information is as follows:

- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission: 402-471-0641
- USFWS office: 308-382-6468, ext. 10
- Whooper Watch: 1-888-3WWATCH (1-888-399-2824)
- Email submission may also be sent to joel.jorgensen@nebraska.gov

For more information: <http://neblandvm.outdoornebraska.gov/2014/03/please-report-whooping-crane-sightings/>

Joel Jorgensen, the Nongame Bird Program Manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, posts information and updates about nongame birds on the Nongame Bird Blog.

[Renewable energy proposal lacks enough votes among Nebraska lawmakers, goes dark](#). A state senator pulled the plug Tuesday on a bill to encourage more renewable energy development in Nebraska. Under current law, the state's public power utilities must consider cost and reliability when designing projects. The bill sponsored by Sen. Ken Haar of Malcolm would have expanded the list of considerations to include benefits such as jobs and tax revenue as well as costs related to water and fuel usage. (<http://www.omaha.com/article/20140402/NEWS/140409731>).

Around the Nation & World...

Wind and Wildlife

[Under grilling, FWS director defends wildlife enforcement at wind farms.](#) A House Committee hearing that was called March 26 to investigate the Obama administration's relationship with the wind power industry and the government's enforcement of wildlife protection laws served up more partisan squabbling than the kind of procedural answers for which Republican members said they were searching. (<http://www.sn1.com/Interactivex/article.aspx?CdId=A-27543743-12587>).

[Feds List Lesser Prairie Chicken as Threatened.](#) The Obama administration said Thursday it is placing a grassland grouse known as the lesser prairie chicken on a list of threatened species, a move that could affect oil and gas drilling, wind farms and other activities in five central and southwestern states. (<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/apnewsbreak-prairie-chicken-listed-threatened-23087572>).

[Group opposes wind farm in Ontario.](#) A group opposing Suncor Energy's plans to build a wind farm in the Plympton-Wyoming, Ontario, community said the [company's](#) study of the potential impact on migrating tundra swans is inadequate. (http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20140401/NEWS01/304010043/Group-opposes-wind-farm-Ontario?nclick_check=1).

Wildlife

[Bat Disease Discovered in Northwest Georgia.](#) A killing disease that's devastating bat populations is now working its way east and south through Georgia. Wildlife biologists early last year confirmed the presence of white-nose syndrome for the first time in Georgia bats. That was in far northwest Georgia. Now biologists with the state Department of Natural Resources, the University of Georgia and the federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have found it in northeast Georgia, the DNR announced this month. (<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/588155-bat-disease-discovered-in-northwest-georgia/>).

Wind

[Wind-energy production credit breezes into tax 'extenders' bill.](#) A tax credit for wind-energy production made it after all into a Senate bill that would revive a host of expired breaks for numerous industries. (<http://blogs.marketwatch.com/capitolreport/2014/04/03/wind-energy-production-credit-breezes-into-tax-extenders-bill/>).

[Wind Energy: On the grid, Off the Checkerboard.](#) Simulation in the "Journal of Renewable and Sustainable Energy" provides new insight into best arrangement of wind turbines on large installations. (<http://www.aip.org/publishing/journal-highlights/wind-energy-grid-checkerboard>).

[Wind Farms Flourish Across The U.S. As Interest In Renewable Energy Skyrockets.](#) Two new online interactive maps produced by the federal government show where the nation's wind farms are,

how quickly they were built and what impact they may have on the landscape. (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/26/wind-farms-us_n_5037512.html).

Tools

[National Wind Coordinating Collaborative \(NWCC\) Webinars on the Latest Wind-Wildlife Research and Tools](#). NWCC/AWWI hosts quarterly webinars on the latest research and tools related to the interactions of wind energy, wildlife, and wildlife habitat. The webinars include time for questions after each presentation. To receive the access information for upcoming webinars, please sign up. If you are interested in sharing your work on a webinar, please contact [Ian Evans](#). (<http://nationalwind.org/research/webinars/>).

[USGS Interactive Windfarm Mapper](#). The USGS created this publicly available [national dataset](#) and [interactive mapping application](#) of wind turbines. This dataset is built with publicly available data, as well as searching for and identifying individual wind turbines using satellite imagery. The locations of all wind turbines, including the publicly available datasets, were visually verified with high-resolution remote imagery to within plus or minus 10 meters. (<http://eerscmap.usgs.gov/windfarm/>).

[Developing a Research Framework for Increasing Understanding of Interactions between Eagles and Wind Energy](#). In this document, we outline a framework for a national, hypothesis-driven research program on eagles and wind energy. The principal goals of this framework are to guide research that improves our ability to predict and estimate take of eagles at wind energy facilities, to develop measures intended to avoid and minimize the take of eagles at operating wind energy facilities, and to compensate for, or offset, remaining eagle take. (http://awwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/AWWI-Eagle-Research-Framework_Final-01-23-14.pdf).

[Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines Webinar Series](#). The USFWS has offered a number of webinars related to the Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines. Recordings of the webinars, presentations, and transcripts are available at: http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/wind_training/wind_training.html.

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

Wind Energy Training Series: Broadcast #5, April 23, 2014. The final broadcast of the series is scheduled for April 23, 2014, 2 to 4 pm ET, and will focus on the latest and greatest in research. Host Christy Johnson-Hughes will be joined by Cris Hein of Bat Conservation International and Chad Le Beau and Wally Erickson of WEST, Inc. to share research results and conclusions related to bats, grassland birds, and sage grouse. E-mail windbroadcast@fws.gov with the subject "register" to register for this broadcast.

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=>).

Wind Wildlife Research Meeting X will be in Broomfield, CO, week of **December 1, 2014**. Dates TBD. The biennial Wind Wildlife Research Meeting provides an internationally recognized forum for researchers and wind-wildlife stakeholders to hear contributed papers, view research posters, and listen to panels that synthesize the most recent wind power-related wildlife research. (<http://nationalwind.org/save-the-date-wind-wildlife-research-meeting-x/>).

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>.

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In the Message Field (NOT Subject): UNSUBSCRIBE wind_wildlife