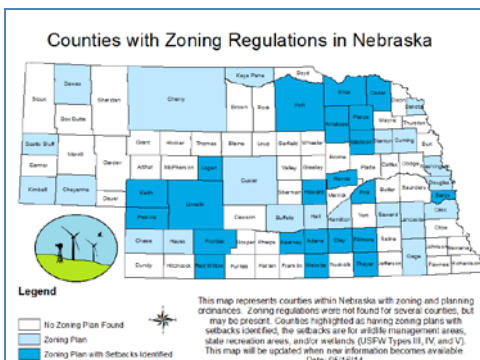


Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

May 21, 2014

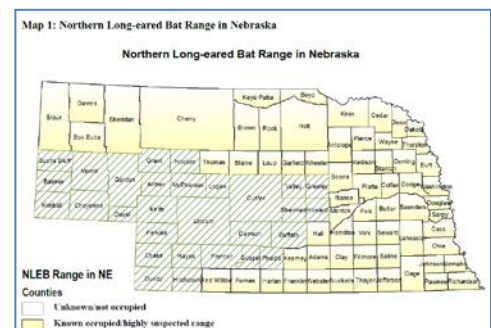
Featured...

[NWCC Wind Wildlife Research Meeting X](#). AWWI has released the **[Call for Abstracts](#)** for the upcoming NWCC Wind Wildlife Research Meeting X, to be held in Broomfield, CO, the week of December 1, 2014. The call for abstracts solicits proposals for oral presentations, panels, or posters on the latest wind-wildlife research. AWWI will accept the abstracts, which will be reviewed by a panel of experts. The deadline for abstract submission is **June 20, 2014**. (http://nationalwind.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/WWRM-X_Call-for-Abstracts.pdf).



[Counties with Zoning Regulations in Nebraska](#) has been added to the Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project website. Several counties have zoning regulations or ordinances for wind energy facilities. Several of the counties with zoning have setbacks for commercial scale wind turbines of 600 feet from Wildlife Management Areas, State Recreational Areas, and Wetlands (USFW Types III, IV, and V). Links to all county zoning regulations found through internet searches are available on the website. Please feel free to contact me at windwildlife@unl.edu with edits, suggestions, etc. (<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/windenergydevelopment.asp#zoning>)

The **[Nebraska Ecological Services Field Office](#)** (United States Fish and Wildlife Service), recently released a memorandum with updated information on the **[Northern long-eared bat \(*Myotis septentrionalis*\) Proposed Listing](#)** (attached). The memorandum includes the geographic range in Nebraska, seasonal bat activities, examples of conservation measures in known or potential habitats, and avoiding impacts to the Northern long-eared bat (NLEB). Activities involving tree clearing, prescribed burning, and bridge construction and demolition may impact NLEB.



[Nebraska Rare Species Education for Conservation](#) website launched! This new website features images, descriptions, range, habitat, population status, information pamphlets, and more on the 27 threatened and endangered species in Nebraska. The website is a great way to access information on Nebraska's listed species. (<http://rarespecies.nebraska.gov/>).

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposes to Revise Critical Habitat for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle](#): On May 5, 2014, the Service announced a final revision of critical habitat for the rare Salt Creek tiger beetle, which was listed as

endangered in 2005 under the Endangered Species Act. While only a few hundred beetles remain in three small populations in Nebraska on less than 35 acres, this revision will guide conservation efforts for the species, and includes critical habitat on 1,110 acres of saline wetlands. (<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/invertebrates/saltcreektiger/index.htm>).

Around Nebraska...

[NPPD, group at odds over proposed wind energy line](#). On the surface, the use of the wind energy to generate electricity and protecting Nebraska's Sandhills — and the environment — seem compatible. But in the north-central part of the state, the two are currently at odds. (http://www.theindependent.com/news/local/nppd-group-at-odds-over-proposed-wind-energy-line/article_d4aa10fc-d89c-11e3-865f-001a4bcf887a.html).

[Second Wind Tower Blade Suffers 'Structural Failure' At Prairie Breeze Wind Energy Farm](#). "It sounded like sheet metal falling down." That's how rural resident Jerry Kallhoff described the structural failure of a wind turbine blade which broke off a Prairie Breeze Wind Energy tower Sunday afternoon at a location southwest of Elgin. (<http://www.elginreview.com/?p=9091>).

Around the Nation & World...

Wind and Wildlife

[Special Rule for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken - Federal Register, Department of the Interior](#). Included in the final rule are activities covered under the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan, which includes construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning and remediation of wind power and power line activities and more. (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-04-10/pdf/2014-07298.pdf>).

[Study of Marin's McEvoy wind turbine: 3 dead bats, no dead birds](#). A wind turbine erected on a North Marin olive ranch amid pitched controversy — including concerns about an avian slaughter — has had "possibly nil" impact on birds, a three-year study concluded. (http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_25794316/study-marins-mcevoy-wind-turbine-3-dead-bats).

[Wind farms and eagle "take" permits – litigation is coming over the new "30-year" permit rule](#). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) recently changed its eagle "take" permitting rules to allow wind developers to apply for 30-year take permits; previously, such permits, which allow the incidental killing of eagles, were available for a maximum of just five years. Wind developers had lobbied for the rule change based on concerns that shorter permitting periods inhibit their ability to obtain financing. But now, a bird conservation group, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), is threatening litigation to overturn the "30-Year" rule. (<http://www.windpowerengineering.com/policy/environmental/wind-farms-eagle-take-permits-litigation-coming-new-30-year-permit-rule/>).

[Osage County wind farm permit denied](#). Many in the crowd cheered Thursday evening as the Osage County Board of Adjustment voted to deny a Kansas-based wind energy company's application for a permit to build a wind farm on sections of tallgrass prairie near Pawhuska. (http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/state/osage-county-wind-farm-permit-denied/article_2df92a40-d725-11e3-b8f4-0017a43b2370.html).

[At Missouri's Squaw Creek refuge, wind energy and wildlife preservation appear to collide](#). To say that the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge is a natural treasure in our area is to underestimate its value for both birds and humans. Now, a planned wind-power project near the Squaw Creek refuge is creating a collision of environmental values and causing alarm among people who believe those giant tri-bladed turbines pose too great a risk for eagles, migratory fowl, bats and other flying species. (<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/05/18/5029356/wind-power-project-near-missouris.html>).

[Protect Our Bats](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/12/opinion/protect-our-bats.html?_r=1). Disease and heedless management of [wind turbines](#) are killing North America's bats, with potentially devastating consequences for agriculture and human health. (http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/12/opinion/protect-our-bats.html?_r=1).

[Local Scientists Explore Wind Energy Development](http://publicradioeast.org/post/local-scientists-explore-wind-energy-development). Local researchers embarked on a 10-day mission off the coast of North Carolina to map the ocean floor. The new data may reveal areas where offshore wind energy development could occur with minimal impacts to sensitive fish habitats and ocean resources. (<http://publicradioeast.org/post/local-scientists-explore-wind-energy-development>).

[Effects of offshore wind farms on marine wildlife—a generalized impact assessment](http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/9/3/034012/article#erl492511s4). The studies showed a high level of consensus with respect to the construction phase, indicating that potential impacts on marine life should be carefully considered in marine spatial planning. Potential impacts during the operational phase were more locally variable, and could be either negative or positive depending on biological conditions as well as prevailing management goals. There was paucity in studies on cumulative impacts and long-term effects on the food web, as well as on combined effects with other human activities, such as the fisheries. These aspects remain key open issues for a sustainable marine spatial planning. (<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/9/3/034012/article#erl492511s4>).

[Leading Environmental and Conservation Groups and Deepwater Wind Announce Agreement to Protect Endangered Whales at Deepwater ONE Offshore Wind Farm Site](http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/07/5940410/leading-environmental-and-conservation.html?sp=/100/773/385/). A coalition of leading environmental and conservation organizations — Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and National Wildlife Federation (NWF) — and Deepwater Wind today announced an agreement to implement additional protections for endangered North Atlantic right whales during pre-construction activities for the Deepwater ONE offshore wind farm, which will be developed off the Rhode Island and Massachusetts coasts. (<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/07/5940410/leading-environmental-and-conservation.html?sp=/100/773/385/>).

Wildlife

[Bats Keep Social Networks](http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/bats-keep-social-networks/). Chances are when you hear the term social network your mind immediately refers to one of the many social networking platforms available today. A less thought of context for the term is one that relates to bats. But, believe it or not, the flying mammals maintain a social network just like humans do. (http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/bats-keep-social-networks/).

[Ontario's little brown bats now listed as endangered](http://www.beachmetro.com/2014/05/14/ontarios-brown-bats-listed-endangered/). Sadly, in February this year the little brown bat was put on the endangered list. They have become threatened by a disease known as white nose syndrome, caused by a fungus. (<http://www.beachmetro.com/2014/05/14/ontarios-brown-bats-listed-endangered/>).

[Leaf Litter Keeps Ground-Roosting Bats Warm](http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/05/06/leaf-litter-keeps-ground-roosting-bats-warm/). When winter weather arrives, most bats hibernate in caves, but a few species migrate to warmer areas. Warmer being relative, the migrating bats may still end up in places that are too cold for comfort, and sometimes hibernate under leaf litter for short periods of time. (<http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/05/06/leaf-litter-keeps-ground-roosting-bats-warm/>).

[Study finds sage grouse doing better on grazed lands](http://www.theprairiestar.com/news/livestock/study-finds-sage-grouse-doing-better-on-grazed-lands/article_58fab1ae-d9f1-11e3-94a0-001a4bcf887a.html). Cattle and greater sage grouse seem to be getting along just fine in southeastern Montana, according to a recent Fish Wildlife and Parks study, and that's a big deal. As sage grouse have been listed as a species worthy of protection under the Endangered Species Act, but precluded by higher priorities for now, western farmers and ranchers have been concerned about what the implications of such a decision might mean to the way they use the land. (http://www.theprairiestar.com/news/livestock/study-finds-sage-grouse-doing-better-on-grazed-lands/article_58fab1ae-d9f1-11e3-94a0-001a4bcf887a.html).

[Sage Grouse Biology & Ecology](#). The science advisers for the Sage Grouse Initiative and the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative teamed up to give a one-hour primer, useful rangewide for all practitioners who want to increase their underlying knowledge of the biology and ecology of sage grouse. This is part of a training series for planners seeking certification on

predictability. Features Dave Naugle (SGI) and Christian Hagen (Lesser Prairie-Chicken). (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smvSE-VJXic>).

Wind

[Rerouting Ships Can Save Billions for Offshore Wind](#). Rerouting ships to open up areas for offshore wind development could save billions of dollars in construction and operating costs for the renewable energy source, according to new findings by the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment (CEO). (<http://dailyfusion.net/2014/05/rerouting-ships-offshore-wind-28600/>).

Tools

[National Climate Change Viewer](#). The new tool gives citizens and resource managers the opportunity to look at climate-driven impacts on watersheds and map projected changes at the local, regional, state and watershed levels. (http://www.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/clu_rd/nccv.asp).

[National Wetlands Database, interactive mapping tool completed](#). To coincide with American Wetlands Month, which begins May 1, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is announcing the completion of the most comprehensive and detailed U.S. wetland data set ever produced, capping a 35-year effort by the Service to map the extent of the nation's wetlands. The Wetlands Inventory Mapper (<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>) has digitally mapped and made publically available wetlands in the lower 48 states, Hawaii and dependent territories, as well as 35 % of Alaska. (<http://www.agprofessional.com/news/National-Wetlands-Database-interactive-mapping-tool-completed--257553181.html>).

[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 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/>).

The **Call for Abstracts** solicits proposals for oral presentations, panels, or posters on the latest wind-wildlife research. AWWI will accept the abstracts, which will be reviewed by a panel of experts. The deadline for abstract submission is **June 20, 2014**. (http://nationalwind.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/WWRM-X_Call-for-Abstracts.pdf).

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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