



## Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

June 3, 2014

### Featured...

**[The Clean Power Plan Cuts Carbon Pollution](#)**. Power plants are the largest source of carbon pollution in the U.S., accounting for roughly one-third of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions. Nationwide, the Clean Power Plan will help cut carbon pollution from the power sector by 30 percent below 2005 levels. (<http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards>).

**[EPA rules on power plants' carbon emissions create anxiety](http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/epa-rules-on-power-plants-carbon-emissions-creates-anxiety/article_5715675a-aa75-11e3-8cae-0017a43b2370.html)**. Electric utilities in Nebraska and Iowa will be reading carefully through the hundreds of pages of groundbreaking new rules aimed at cutting the carbon pollution of existing power plants. ([http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/epa-rules-on-power-plants-carbon-emissions-creates-anxiety/article\\_5715675a-aa75-11e3-8cae-0017a43b2370.html](http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/epa-rules-on-power-plants-carbon-emissions-creates-anxiety/article_5715675a-aa75-11e3-8cae-0017a43b2370.html)).

**[Dealing with Climate Change: A Moral Obligation](http://www.doi.gov/news/blog/dealing-with-climate-change-a-moral-obligation.cfm)**. President Obama understands that we have a moral obligation to future generations to leave our land, water and wildlife better than we found it. The Administration this week unveiled another historic milestone in the President's bold [Climate Action Plan](#). At the President's direction, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Clean Power Plan](#) proposal calls for cuts in carbon pollution from existing power plants, the single largest source of carbon pollution in the United States. (<http://www.doi.gov/news/blog/dealing-with-climate-change-a-moral-obligation.cfm>).

**[AWEA: EPA Rules Could Be Third Biggest Driver For Wind Behind PTC And RPS Policies](http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13036)**. Renewable energy technologies, such as wind and solar, stand to benefit from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) sweeping [proposal](#) to limit carbon dioxide pollution from existing power plants under Section 111 (d) under the Clean Air Act. ([http://www.nawindpower.com/e107\\_plugins/content/content.php?content.13036](http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13036)).

### Around Nebraska...

**[Company gets exclusive rights to wind study](#)**. After some fine-tuning of language, the City Council approved a contract allowing a wind energy company exclusive rights to study whether wind power

generation will work for a small portion of David City's future power needs. The Council voted unanimously May 28 to grant Bluestem Energy Solutions, based in Omaha, an exclusive contingent development agreement to study the feasibility of generating a consistently usable amount of energy for the city. ([http://columbustelegram.com/banner-press/news/company-gets-exclusive-rights-to-wind-study/article\\_44343e89-402c-5b40-9ac3-1d998529d4c7.html](http://columbustelegram.com/banner-press/news/company-gets-exclusive-rights-to-wind-study/article_44343e89-402c-5b40-9ac3-1d998529d4c7.html)).

**[7th Annual Nebraska Wind & Solar Conference & Exhibition: Turning Challenges into Nebraska Opportunities](#)** will be on October 29th and 30th in LaVista, Nebraska. There are sponsor and exhibitor opportunities at varying price levels. If you have presentation ideas, you can submit them to: [admin@nebraskawindconference.com](mailto:admin@nebraskawindconference.com). (<http://nebraskawindandsolarconference.com/>).

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](#)**. 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.

**[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 the Nation & World...**

### ***Wind and Wildlife***

**[New Design May Reduce Bird Deaths In Wind Turbines On Altamont Pass](#)**. Each year, thousands of birds die each year because they fly into wind turbines on the Altamont Pass east of Livermore. New technology could help reduce the number of bird deaths. ([http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2014/05/23/new-design-may-reduce-bird-deaths-in-wind-turbines-on-altamont-pass-livermore-interstate-580-golden-eagle-animals-environment-renewable-energy/?utm\\_content=bufferbf3b8&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=linkedin.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2014/05/23/new-design-may-reduce-bird-deaths-in-wind-turbines-on-altamont-pass-livermore-interstate-580-golden-eagle-animals-environment-renewable-energy/?utm_content=bufferbf3b8&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin.com&utm_campaign=buffer)).

**[Wildlife and wind](#)**. FIRST it was birds; now it's moose that are at the centre of a lingering dispute between Horizon Wind and those who oppose it building 16 energy-producing turbines on the Nor'Wester escarpment overlooking Thunder Bay. ([http://www.chroniclejournal.com/editorial/daily\\_editorial/2014-05-23/wildlife-and-wind](http://www.chroniclejournal.com/editorial/daily_editorial/2014-05-23/wildlife-and-wind)).

**[Forewind under microscope](#)**. Offshore developer Forewind will set down with planning officials next week to explore environmental issues at the proposed 2.4GW Creyke Beck offshore wind farm. The Planning Inspectorate session at the KC Stadium in Hull on 3 and 4 June is a specific hearing for the Round 3 Dogger Bank project relating to biodiversity, biological environment and ecology and habitats regulation assessment. (<http://renews.biz/67299/forewind-under-microscope/>).

**[Heartland to study its wind turbine's effect on birds](http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/education/heartland-to-study-its-wind-turbine-s-effect-on-wildlife/article_10c69243-ce2e-5c68-b763-1d0c854de155.html)**. Heartland Community College will be doing a more complete study later this year to determine if its wind turbine is killing too many birds and bats. [http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/education/heartland-to-study-its-wind-turbine-s-effect-on-wildlife/article\\_10c69243-ce2e-5c68-b763-1d0c854de155.html](http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/education/heartland-to-study-its-wind-turbine-s-effect-on-wildlife/article_10c69243-ce2e-5c68-b763-1d0c854de155.html).

**[AWWI Receives DOE WINDEXchange Outstanding Partner Award](http://awwi.org/awwi-receives-doe-windexchange-outstanding-partner-award/)**. AWWI was honored to receive the [Outstanding Partner Award](#) from the U.S. Department of Energy WINDEXchange program, presented at the WINDEXchange Summit on May 5, 2014. The award was given for “continuing efforts and successes in supporting responsible development of wind energy while protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat.” (<http://awwi.org/awwi-receives-doe-windexchange-outstanding-partner-award/>).

**[Wind Energy's Environmental Transgressions](http://www.hawaiireporter.com/wind-energy%E2%80%99s-environmental-transgressions/123/comment-page-1)**. Friends of the Earth oppose the Arctic being ruined by oil extraction, but when it comes to damaging Scotland's wilderness with concrete and hundreds of miles of roads, they say wind energy is worth it as the impact of climate change has to be faced. ‘No way of generating energy is 100 percent clean and problem-free.’ (<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/wind-energy%E2%80%99s-environmental-transgressions/123/comment-page-1>).

## Wildlife

**[Glow-in-the-dark tool lets scientists find diseased bats](http://phys.org/news/2014-05-glow-in-the-dark-tool-scientists-diseased.html)**. Scientists working to understand the devastating bat disease known as white-nose syndrome (WNS) now have a new, non-lethal tool to identify bats with WNS lesions —ultraviolet, or UV, light. (<http://phys.org/news/2014-05-glow-in-the-dark-tool-scientists-diseased.html>).

**[Bats Have Sparkly Poop](http://www.wired.com/2014/05/scienceblogs0602bats/)**. Bats eat a lot of bugs — up to two-thirds of their body weight in insects daily for some species. There's an unexpected side effect of all that insect eating, though. Bat scat is described as “sparkling with insect exoskeletons.” Generally the words “sparkling” and “feces” aren't found together, unless you have a toddler that's gotten into a jar of glitter. (<http://www.wired.com/2014/05/scienceblogs0602bats/>).

**[Straight out of the Dark Knight! Bats use hair-thin muscles to shape their 'floppy' wings in flight](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2639744/Straight-Dark-Knight-Bats-use-hair-muscles-shape-floppy-wings-flight.html)**. Bats appear to fine tune their flight a little like Batman in the Dark Knight, whose wings almost ‘solidify’ when he starts to fly. The tiny muscles, called plagiopatagiales, were discovered over 100 years ago but their function has never been demonstrated until now. (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2639744/Straight-Dark-Knight-Bats-use-hair-muscles-shape-floppy-wings-flight.html>).

## Wind

**[Wind and Solar Energy Curtailment: Experience and Practices in the United States](http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy14osti/60983.pdf)** (NREL Report). Curtailment is a reduction in the output of a generator from what it could otherwise produce given available resources, typically on an involuntary basis. Curtailment of generation has been a normal occurrence since the beginning of the electric power industry. However, owners of wind and solar generation, which have no fuel costs, are concerned about the impacts of curtailment on project economics. (<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy14osti/60983.pdf>).

**[Rural Wind Energy Development Act Introduced](http://domesticfuel.com/2014/05/30/rural-wind-energy-development-act-introduced/)**. A bill to help rural areas get more power from the wind has been introduced. Representatives [Earl Blumenauer](#) (OR-03) and [Tom Cole](#)(OK-04) say their Rural Wind Energy Development Act will provide an investment tax credit to ranchers, farmers, and small businesses to offset the up-front costs of owning a distributed wind turbine.  
(<http://domesticfuel.com/2014/05/30/rural-wind-energy-development-act-introduced/>).

**[The 2014 Farm Bill's Rural Energy for America Program: A WINDEXchange Webinar](http://apps2.eere.energy.gov/wind/windexchange/filter_detail.asp?itemid=4154)**. In February, Congress passed a new Farm Bill that includes an Energy Title. The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides grants and loan guarantees to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses and rural electric cooperatives to install energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. DOE's WINDEXchange initiative hosted a webinar providing an overview of the new Farm Bill and how rural stakeholders can submit successful applications for REAP funding.  
([http://apps2.eere.energy.gov/wind/windexchange/filter\\_detail.asp?itemid=4154](http://apps2.eere.energy.gov/wind/windexchange/filter_detail.asp?itemid=4154)).

The **American Wind Energy Association** is pleased to announce that AWEA Careers in Wind is partnering with SmartBrief to bring you the new Wind Energy SmartBrief Job Board. Beginning Wednesday, June 4, the [Wind Energy SmartBrief](#) Job Board will appear in every issue of the Wind Energy SmartBrief newsletter, giving company job postings a wider reach, and offering job seekers an additional value to their SmartBrief subscription. We are sure this addition to the Wind Energy SmartBrief will be a great resource for individuals and organizations alike. (<https://www2.smartbrief.com/getLast.action?mode=sample&b=awea>).

## **Tools**

**[EISPC EZ Mapping Tool](https://eispctools.anl.gov/)**. The EISPC Energy Zones Mapping Tool is a free online mapping tool to identify potential clean energy resource areas within the Eastern Transmission Interconnection.  
(<https://eispctools.anl.gov/>).

**[Counties with Zoning Regulations in Nebraska](http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/windenergydevelopment.asp#zoning)** 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](mailto:windwildlife@unl.edu) with edits, suggestions, etc.  
(<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/windenergydevelopment.asp#zoning>).

**[Nebraska Rare Species Education for Conservation](http://rarspecies.nebraska.gov/)** 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://rarspecies.nebraska.gov/>).

**[National Climate Change Viewer](http://www.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/clu_rd/nccv.asp)**. 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](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](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](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](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](http://nationalwind.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/WWRM-X_Call-for-Abstracts.pdf)).

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**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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