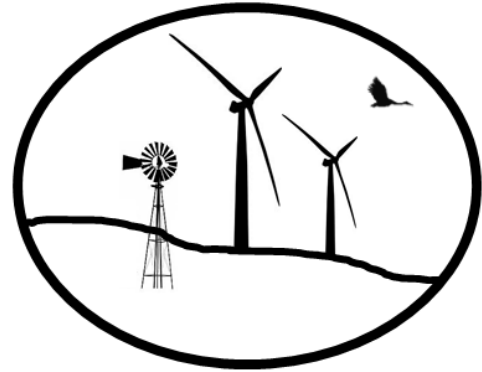


Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

January 6, 2015



Around Nebraska...



JOIN US MARCH 4th DURING SPRING MIGRATION

Experience why wind energy is not a great fit everywhere in Nebraska. The Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project is coordinating an event complete with observing thousands of waterfowl and cranes in the rivers, wetlands, and fields of Central Nebraska, lectures from area biologists, and time to learn more about how and why guidance materials are developed and projects are reviewed in Nebraska. Send



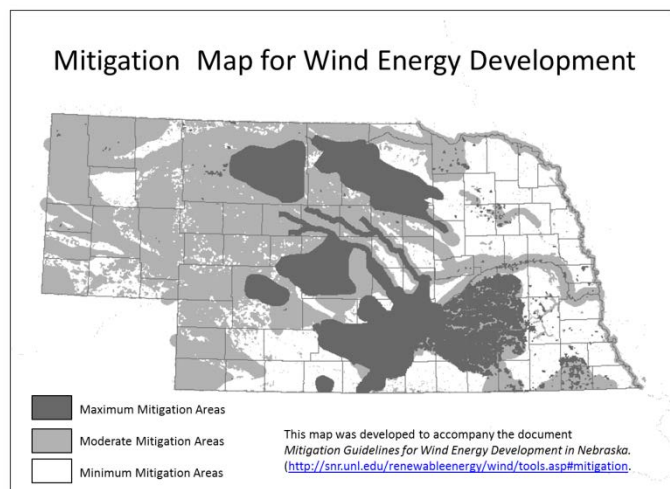
comments/suggestions to windwildlife@unl.edu.

Details regarding the event will be sent out soon!

COMMENTS REQUESTED: [MITIGATION GUIDELINES FOR WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN NEBRASKA](#)

The [Mitigation Guidelines for Wind Energy Development in Nebraska](#) were developed to standardize the mitigation process.

Wind energy developers will be provided a better idea of what mitigation, if any, will likely be recommended for wind energy facilities developed in different parts of the state. The Guidelines were developed by representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups and now, we want your input.



The document is currently in working draft format. All comments submitted to windwildlife@unl.edu in the next six months will be compiled. Updates will be made in April 2015.

Questions? Contact Caroline Jezierski @ 402-472-8188 or windwildlife@unl.edu.

<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/tools.asp#mitigation>

[Study: Nebraska has capacity to export more wind energy.](#) Nebraska has the capacity to build and export more renewable energy generated by wind farms than it does now, according to a study that will be released by the Nebraska Power Review Board. (http://journalstar.com/news/local/study-nebraska-has-capacity-to-export-more-wind-energy/article_b43ebfac-77e7-5550-b368-407f58fef7f0.html).

[Building infrastructure to sell wind energy could cost \\$4 billion, Nebraska power board says.](#) A new wind power analysis has found it would cost Nebraska utilities as much as \$4 billion to upgrade the state's electricity transmission system to support the export of wind-generated power to other states. A potentially significant portion of this cost would likely have to be borne by Nebraska utilities and their customers, depending on the extent to which the new lines are developed through the regional transmission planning processes. (http://www.omaha.com/money/building-infrastructure-to-sell-wind-energy-could-cost-billion-nebraska/article_e8385988-abde-5013-9cdc-f046bac43344.html).

[Neb. utility signs 2 contracts for wind from Invenergy, adds solar as well.](#) The utility issued a request for proposals in August for up to 200 MW of wind. It said in a news release that it received 15 responses with 105 distinct proposals. Both of the selected proposals were offered by [Invenergy LLC](#). (<https://www.snl.com/Interactivex/article.aspx?CdlId=A-30283552-12849>).

[Lincoln Electric System to buy more wind energy.](#) Lincoln Electric System said Friday it has agreed to buy additional supplies of wind energy. The customer-owned electric utility said it plans to buy 73 megawatts of wind energy by 2016 from the Prairie Breeze II Wind Energy Center in northeastern Nebraska and 100 megawatts from the Buckeye Wind Energy Center in north-central Kansas. LES also said Friday it plans to add five megawatts of solar power by 2016. (http://www.omaha.com/money/lincoln-electric-system-to-buy-more-wind-energy/article_11ce400f-e8bd-5ac9-adbe-a80c34cb2cb4.html).

[Lincoln power utility adds wind, solar farms.](#) Lincoln's power utility has announced plans to use enough power from wind farms and a solar energy project to increase its renewable energy generation portfolio to 48 percent by 2016. (http://www.starherald.com/news/regional_statewide/lincoln-power-utility-adds-wind-solar-farms/article_8503f530-a53b-5dbf-bea4-568e04386c72.html).

[Nebraska Seeks to Export Wind Energy.](#) The Nebraska Power Review Board (PRB) has [commissioned a study](#) that identifies the factors that impact the desirability of developing between 5,000 -10,000 MW of renewable energy for the state. Performed by the [Brattle Group](#), the study also presents options available to policy makers to meet the state's economic development objectives. (<http://domesticfuel.com/2014/12/17/nebraska-seeks-to-export-wind-energy/>).

Around the Nation & World...

Wind and Wildlife

[PacifiCorp Pleads Guilty To Violating Migratory Bird Treaty Act.](#) PacifiCorp Energy, a subsidiary of PacifiCorp, pleaded [guilty](#) in U.S. District Court in Wyoming to violating the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act in connection with the deaths of protected birds, including golden eagles, at two of the company's wind projects in Wyoming. According to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the charges stem from the discovery of the carcasses of 38 golden eagles and 336 other protected birds, including hawks, blackbirds, larks, wrens and sparrows, by the company at its Seven Mile Hill and Glenrock/Rolling Hills

wind projects, located in Wyoming's Carbon and Converse counties between 2009 and the present. As a result, PacifiCorp will pay \$2.5 million in fines and will take measures at the company's Wyoming wind farms to increase eagle populations.

(http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13781).

[BWEC e-Newsletter v. 13 December 2014](#). The newsletter features Pre- and Post-Construction Studies, Operational Minimization & Deterrent Research, Behavioral Studies, and more. (<http://www.batcon.org/pdfs/wind/BWECeNewsletterDec2014.pdf>).

[DSU researchers study ways to protect bats from wind turbines](#). But the solution isn't to shut down the turbines, scientists are studying ways to help turbines and bats coexist. Delaware Public Media's science reporter Eli Chen spoke to some bat researchers at Delaware State University who are doing just that. (<http://www.wdde.org/71051-dsu-researchers-study-ways-protect-bats-wind-turbines>).

[HiDef wings way to Burbo 2](#). HiDef Aerial Surveying has won a contract with Dong Energy to carry out high-definition bird surveys at the 258MW Burbo 2 offshore wind farm in England. (<http://renews.biz/81759/hidef-wings-way-to-burbo-2/>).

[Mike Fuhr: Wind farms aren't green if the prairie is destroyed](#). Many have been following the ongoing conflict in Osage County regarding industrial wind energy development — objections, denied permits, lawsuits, delays. Wildlife conservation is one of the many issues at hand there. Simply put, with regard to conservation, it comes down to the real estate mantra: location, location, location. (http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/readersforum/mike-fuhr-wind-farms-aren-t-green-if-the-prairie/article_89fdc3ee-b23c-5dc5-b530-c56793ec180b.html).

[Study suggests most seabirds avoid offshore wind farms](#). Most seabirds avoid offshore wind farm sites, new research has suggested. The review found that over 99% of seabirds were likely to alter their flight paths in order to avoid collision with turbines. The British Trust for Ornithology and the University of the Highlands and Islands' Environmental Research Institute in Thurso did the study. However, the researchers said what affect the farms have on some vulnerable species remained unclear. (<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-30479713>).

Wildlife

[Service Initiates Status Review of Monarch Butterfly under the Endangered Species Act](#). The Service has determined that a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, the Center for Food Safety, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and Dr. Lincoln Brower to list a subspecies of monarch (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) presents substantial information indicating that listing may be warranted. (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/764.html>).

Wind

[US extends PTC until end of 2014](#). The US Senate has approved a bill to extend the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for the wind industry for another year, taking it to the end of 2014. (<http://www.windpowermonthly.com/article/1326859/us-extends-ptc-until-end-2014>).

[Mapping the Frontier of New Wind Power Potential](#). The [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) (NREL), together with the Energy Department's [Wind Program](#) and AWS Truepower, has released [maps that illustrate the potential for wind energy development using new wind turbine technologies](#). (<http://energy.gov/eere/articles/mapping-frontier-new-wind-power-potential>).

[More Wind, Less Warming: How American Wind Energy's Rapid Growth can Help Solve Global Warming](#). By aggressively expanding wind energy, America can displace even more carbon pollution – putting the nation and the world on track to addressing global warming. (<http://pennenvironment.org/reports/pae/more-wind-less-warming>).

[Interior Launches Pilot Data Portal Offering Increased Transparency for Energy Royalty Revenue](#). Pilot Project Part of U.S. Implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a Global Effort to Strengthen Public Trust in Governance of Natural Resource Revenues. (<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/interior-launches-pilot-data-portal-offering-increased-transparency-for-energy-royalty-revenue.cfm>).

[Long Island rejects Deepwater](#). New York utility Long Island Power Authority has rejected Deepwater Wind's 210MW project proposed offshore Rhode Island. The board of trustees voted today on contract awards in a 280MW renewable energy request for proposals. The developer's \$1bn 35-turbine Deepwater ONE proposal was recently shortlisted in the call but failed to win a power purchase agreement. The utility followed staff recommendations and approved 11 solar projects totaling 122MW. (<http://renews.biz/81183/deepwater-one-decision-looms/>).

Webinars

[Tools For Sharing Information and Mapping Biodiversity](#). NWCC/AWWI hosts quarterly webinars on the latest research and tools related to the interactions of wind energy, wildlife, and wildlife habitat. Previous webinars are available online. (<https://nationalwind.org/research/webinars/#sthash.VZD7CYid.dpuf>).

Announcements

[DOE Releases Draft EIS For 3.5 GW Wind Transmission Project](#). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking public comment on the newly released draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Plains & Eastern Clean Line transmission line project. (http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13750).

Upcoming Conferences

[Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference](#) will be in Indianapolis, IN on February 8-11, 2015. (<http://www.midwestfw.org/index.html>).

[Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Informational Seminar](#) will be in Grand Island, NE on February 10, 2015. The annual one-day seminar focuses on research and management relevant to the Basins. (<http://rwbjv.org/2014/12/rwbjv-info-seminar-is-february-10-2015/>).

[2015 Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society \(NETWS\) Annual Meeting](#) will be in Ogallala, NE on February 26, 2015. (<http://drupal.wildlife.org/nebraska/>).

[The North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference](#) will be in Omaha, NE on March 8-13, 2015. (http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=348:north-american-conference-10&catid=37:NAWNRC&Itemid=61).

[AWEA Wind Project Siting Seminar](#) will be in Austin, TX on March 10-11, 2015. (<http://www.awea.org/events/Event.aspx?EventID=30886&SubSectionID=6678&navItemNumber=656>).

[Conference on Wind energy and Wildlife Impacts](#) will be in Berlin, Germany, March 10-12, 2015. (<http://www.cww2015.tu-berlin.de/>). Presentation titles are now available at: http://www.cww2015.tu-berlin.de/menue/oral_poster_presentations/parameter/en/.

[The 45th Annual Audubon's Crane Festival](http://nebraskacranefestival.org/) will be in Kearney, NE, March 19-22, 2015. (<http://nebraskacranefestival.org/>).

[The Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life](http://www.an2016.org/). The fourth International Conference on "The Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life" will take place in Dublin, Ireland, July 10-16, 2016. (<http://www.an2016.org/>).

Tools

[WGA launches RAPID Toolkit to speed, streamline siting and permitting of transmission lines](http://westgov.org/news/298-news-2014/847-wga-launches-rapid-toolkit-to-speed-streamline-siting-and-permitting-of-transmission-lines). Western Governors have rolled out the [RAPID Toolkit](http://westgov.org/news/298-news-2014/847-wga-launches-rapid-toolkit-to-speed-streamline-siting-and-permitting-of-transmission-lines), an online tool that streamlines the challenge of siting and permitting transmission lines in the West. The online tool is the culmination of a multi-year effort by Western Governors to tackle the challenge of transmission line siting and permitting. (<http://westgov.org/news/298-news-2014/847-wga-launches-rapid-toolkit-to-speed-streamline-siting-and-permitting-of-transmission-lines>).

[U.S. Climate Resilience Tool](http://toolkit.climate.gov/). The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit provides scientific tools, information, and expertise to help people manage their climate-related risks and opportunities, and improve their resilience to extreme events. The site is designed to serve interested citizens, communities, businesses, resource managers, planners, and policy leaders at all levels of government. (<http://toolkit.climate.gov/>).

[Soaring Bird Sensitivity Map: A planning tool for wind energy and other sectors](http://migratorysoaringbirds.undp.birdlife.org/en/sensitivity-map). The Soaring Bird [Sensitivity Map tool](http://migratorysoaringbirds.undp.birdlife.org/en/sensitivity-map) has been designed to provide developers, planning authorities and other interested stakeholders access to information on the distribution of soaring bird species along the Rift Valley / Red Sea flyway. This information can help to inform decisions on the safe siting of new developments, such as wind farms, ensuring that negative impacts on this important migration route are minimised. (<http://migratorysoaringbirds.undp.birdlife.org/en/sensitivity-map>).

[Energy Department, NREL Release State and Local Energy Data Tool](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/sled/#). DOE and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) recently released [SLED, the State and Local Energy Data online tool](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/sled/#) that provides state and local decision makers easy access to energy data specific to their location. The resources and data provided can be used to support strategic energy planning processes and deployment of clean energy projects. By entering a city and state or ZIP code into the SLED tool, users can see how their current electricity prices compare to the state and national averages, learn about applicable policies and incentives that could affect clean energy projects in their state, find available renewable energy resources, get details on alternative transportation fuel costs, and more. (<http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/sled/#>).

[WINDEXchange](http://energy.gov/eere/wind/windexchange) is the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Wind Program's hub of stakeholder engagement and outreach activities. The purpose of WINDEXchange is to help communities weigh the benefits and costs of wind energy, understand the deployment process, and make wind development decisions supported by the best available science and other fact-based information. (<http://energy.gov/eere/wind/windexchange>).

[National Assessment of Ecosystem Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes](http://www.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/land_carbon/Data.asp). View and download the primary data that has been developed by the USGS team in a variety of formats using the [LandCarbon Data Tool](http://www.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/land_carbon/Data.asp). Visualize data products, view and interact with maps, charts, and statistics that summarize the results of the USGS assessment. (http://www.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/land_carbon/Data.asp). **NOTE: Data on carbon sequestration for the ecoregions in Nebraska are not yet available. Other information is available to view at this time.

[EISPC EZ Mapping Tool](https://eispc.tools.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://eispc.tools.anl.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).

[National Wetlands Database, interactive mapping tool completed](http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html). 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](http://nationalwind.org/research/webinars/). 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](http://eerscmap.usgs.gov/windfarm/). 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](http://awwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/AWWI-Eagle-Research-Framework_Final-01-23-14.pdf). 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](http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/wind_training/wind_training.html). 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.

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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