

Facilitating timely and responsible
development of wind energy



while protecting wildlife
and wildlife habitat

American Wind Wildlife Institute: The Voice of Science, The Power of Collaboration

AWWI Collaborative Process

How can wind energy and wildlife best coexist for a healthier, stronger planet?

Conservation groups, the wind energy industry, and decision-makers all want practical answers to this question. With the stakes higher now than ever before in the debate over how and where to develop wind energy in the U.S., AWWI offers a first-of-its kind, collaborative process that encourages shared planning, facilitates collective decision-making, and delivers results.

AWWI Mission

AWWI brings together wind industry, non-profit, and state agency leaders in a shared mission:

*To facilitate timely and responsible development of wind energy
while protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat*

As we accomplish this mission, wildlife and wildlife habitat not only coexist with wind energy, but also reap the broader benefits that wind energy makes possible.

AWWI Initiatives

To accomplish its mission, AWWI has since its creation in November 2008 launched initiatives in the following key areas:



Research



Assessment Tools



Mitigation



Education

● Wind Wildlife Research

Objective information is needed to help guide wind energy development siting decisions, protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and optimize the timely and responsible deployment of wind energy.

AWWI is building a national wind-wildlife research program to fill critical gaps in our knowledge of the wildlife impacts of wind energy development. The program will establish a comprehensive research agenda, answer priority questions, and identify future challenges.

Under this program, AWWI convenes experts to establish a peer-reviewed research plan for the next three to five years, with a focus on prioritizing research that has immediate and practical application in the siting of wind energy projects.

AWWI Sustaining Partners and Friends

AES Wind Generation
American Wind Energy Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
BP Wind Energy
Clean Line Energy Partners
Defenders of Wildlife
Environmental Defense Fund
enXco
First Wind
GE Energy
Horizon Wind Energy
Iberdrola Renewables
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
NRG Systems, Inc.
Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
Pattern Energy Group
Renewable Energy Systems Americas
Ridgeline Energy, LLC
Shell WindEnergy Inc.
Sierra Club
The Nature Conservancy
Union of Concerned Scientists
Vestas Americas



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● Research and Data Collection

In order to support and generate good research, it is important to know what data already exist. AWWI is therefore building the Research Information System (RIS), a centralized database that collects and organizes wind-wildlife data. Work on a pilot version of the RIS has begun in 2011 in contract with Oregon State University. In addition, AWWI is creating a RIS Task Force to:

- collect raw data from site-specific pre-construction and post-construction surveys,
- ensure that data can be used without disclosure of sensitive information,
- ensure data is properly used to avoid bias, and
- ensure proper data entry and maintenance of the RIS.

● Planning and Landscape Assessment Tools

Preliminary, landscape-level screening can be a useful planning tool. AWWI, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), has developed a science-based Landscape Assessment Tool (LAT) that is now available to the public.

AWWI's technical LAT committee, which led this effort, continues to work on the LAT to enhance its functionality, and improve and expand data layers. AWWI will also continue to assess the current state of mapping tools to evaluate strengths, challenges, and gaps, to serve stakeholders and the broader community interested in renewable energy development and the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Access to the LAT is provided on the AWWI Web site, and AWWI will work with TNC to further publicize its availability and educate stakeholders about its use.

● Mitigation Strategies

In cases where impacts are unavoidable, AWWI supports the development and evaluation of mitigation measures that minimize impacts or provide cost-effective and scientifically sound compensatory mitigation for wind energy projects.

AWWI's Mitigation Committee is facilitating work on this issue, and a report on the state of the art for compensatory mitigation was released in June 2010. The report has served as a point of reference for stakeholders in their discussions and decisions. AWWI will conduct further research and build technical expertise to identify new, effective mitigation measures, and support widespread implementation.

● Education and Outreach

AWWI believes that siting decisions and the public debate should be based on solid science. Outreach and education are therefore an integral component of AWWI's mission.

We work to improve the rate of practical application of new scientific findings in the field, and are committed to broadly disseminating the results of wind-wildlife research and initiatives. AWWI also reaches out to stakeholders through its on-going collaborative activities.

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