

NWCC WIND WILDLIFE RESEARCH MEETING

Virtual Meeting • December 1–4, 2020

PRESENTED BY AWWI

Meeting Schedule

All times listed are Eastern Standard Time

Starting Early November

On-Demand

On-Demand Presentations

Over 75 presentations on research addressing wildlife and onshore and offshore wind energy siting, development, and operations.

Tuesday, December 1

12:00pm – 3:00pm

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Land Based Wind Energy Guidelines Workshop

Join a workshop co-organized by USFWS and American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), with support from AWWI and others, to learn about the development and application of the Land Based Wind Energy Guidelines (WEGs) including the background of their creation, the intent of implementation of the WEGs, the tiered approach to risk assessment, and resulting conservation benefits.

Wednesday, December 2

11:00am – 12:00pm

Opening Session: Celebrating Progress and Setting Future Wind-Wildlife Research Priorities

Celebrate progress made through the NWCC and by leaders over the past three decades on addressing wind energy and wildlife research. Then hear a discussion about what tools are available to help stakeholders determine the research priorities to inform decisions that minimize impacts to wildlife and their habitats as we expand wind energy to mitigate the worst impacts of climate warming.

Abby Arnold, American Wind Wildlife Institute
 Taber Allison, American Wind Wildlife Institute
 Robin Gregory, Decision Research and University of British Columbia, IRES
 Philip Halteman, Compass Resource Management Ltd.

12:00pm – 12:15pm	Break
12:15pm – 1:45pm	<p>Methods for Reducing Bat and Eagle Impacts from Wind Energy</p> <p>A diverse panel of bat and eagle experts will discuss direct strategies such as detection technologies and indirect strategies such as collision risk models, as well as local and regional strategies, to predict and reduce impacts on birds and bats. The panelists will discuss operational challenges to implementing technologies at wind facilities and factors operators need to consider when evaluating use of strategies currently available on the market.</p> <p>Amy Parsons, Avangrid Renewables (<i>Moderator</i>) Adam Duerr, Bloom Biological, Inc./Conservation Science Global, Inc. Chris Farmer, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. Sara Weaver, Bowman Consulting Jonathan Rogers, Persimia, LLC</p>
1:45pm – 2:15pm	Break: Explore on-demand presentations and sponsor booths
2:15pm – 3:45pm	<p>Aerial Eagle Nest Surveys: Alternative Approaches and Recommended Best Practices</p> <p>Eagle or other raptor nest surveys are often recommended by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for Eagle Conservation Plan development and/or are required by state wildlife agencies for state permitting. Nest data requirements will only increase along with wind development; however, methods for safer, more effective, and more efficient nest data collection could improve industry standards. Panelists will discuss new and innovative methods as researched, developed, and proposed by the Aerial Eagle Nest Surveys Task Force, a diverse group of individuals representing data management, technology innovation, and operations.</p> <p>Tim Hayes, Duke Energy Renewables (<i>Moderator</i>) Shawn Childs, PacifiCorp Sean Fitzgerald, NextEra Energy Adam Kreger, Clearway Energy Jerry Roppe, Avangrid Renewables</p>
3:45pm – 3:55pm	Daily wrap up and announcements

Thursday, December 3

11:00am – 12:30pm	<p>Technology Solutions and Application for Offshore Wind and Wildlife</p> <p>Monitoring wildlife activity and mortality at offshore wind facilities requires technology solutions. This panel will delve into the state of technology development and its application to address wind-wildlife issues and concerns for offshore wind, including an overview of technologies and discussion of how various types of technologies can be integrated at offshore facilities with a view on the U.S. and European markets. The panel will also discuss what types and amounts of data are needed, and at what frequency, to inform effective responses and adaptive management for wildlife impacts offshore.</p> <p>Kate Williams, Biodiversity Research Institute (<i>Moderator</i>) Trevor Peterson, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. Jennifer Stucker, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. Ricardo Tomé, STRIX Environment & Innovation Ruben Fijn, Bureau Waardenburg</p>
12:30pm – 1:30pm	<p>Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore on-demand presentations and sponsor booths• Sponsored session presented by WEST, Inc.: Building on the Past with Technology of the Future (12:45 – 1:00pm)
1:30pm – 3:30pm	<p>Wind Energy and Wildlife: Grand Challenges and Opportunities</p> <p>This panel will explore the implications of technological innovation in wind energy to wildlife risk assessment and mitigation. Panelists will discuss specific examples of how an interdisciplinary, systemic approach involving engineering and biological sciences can be translated into research and solutions for wind energy development and operation.</p> <p>Paul Veers, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (<i>Moderator</i>) Jay Diffendorfer, U.S. Geological Survey Katherine Dykes, Denmark Technical University Amanda Hale, Texas Christian University Todd Katzner, U.S. Geological Survey Eric Lantz, National Renewable Energy Laboratory Jenny McIvor, Berkshire Hathaway Energy</p>
3:30pm – 3:40pm	<p>Daily wrap up and announcements</p>

Friday, December 4

11:00am – 12:30pm	<p>Eagle Behavior and Wind Energy Siting and Operations</p> <p>This panel will explore the use of technologies and methods that enhance our understanding of eagle behavior at and near wind energy facilities. Decreasing costs of tracking technologies and increasing computational capability are allowing for finer resolution of eagle observations and modeling of their movements and the airspace they occupy. The panel will discuss the state of science and, given the cost-effective tools available, what research objectives are emerging to better assess and reduce collision risk.</p> <p>Stu S. Webster, American Wind Wildlife Institute (<i>Moderator</i>) Peter Bloom, Bloom Biological, Inc. Robert Fisher, U.S. Geological Survey Tricia Miller, Conservation Science Global, Inc. Eliot Quon, National Renewable Energy Laboratory</p>
12:30pm – 1:30pm	<p><i>Break: Explore on-demand presentations and sponsor booths</i></p>
1:30pm – 3:00pm	<p>Novel Approaches to Risk Assessment and Mitigation of Habitat-Based Impacts of Wind Energy</p> <p>Most build-out scenarios for wind include extensive development in regions that provide habitat for wildlife of high conservation concern such as prairie-chickens, sage-grouse, pronghorn, breeding ducks, and other grassland-nesting birds. Understanding how stakeholders can work together to integrate wind energy development and conservation of these taxa may prove essential in meeting renewable energy goals in a timely fashion. Panelists will present new ideas about risk assessment and mitigation solutions, with a particular focus on grassland and shrub-steppe wildlife of the central and western U.S.</p> <p>John Lloyd, American Wind Wildlife Institute (<i>Moderator</i>) Matt Holloran, Operational Conservation, LLC Chad LeBeau, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. Jill Shaffer, U.S. Geological Survey – Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center Zara Dowling, American Wind Wildlife Institute</p>
3:00pm – 3:15pm	<p>Closing Remarks</p>