

**WILDLIFE WORKGROUP NOVEMBER 14TH BUSINESS MEETING
NEXT STEPS SUGGESTIONS**

Members of the Wildlife Workgroup met on November 14, 2007, to discuss NWCC business, including membership, continuing and new workgroup activities for 2008, and other topics raised by members. The Workgroup agreed to the following activities in 2008, and put off for decision a number of additional items.

WILDLIFE WORKGROUP (WLWG) NEXT STEPS:

NWCC WLWG Outreach:

- ❖ *Outreach audit* – Members of the Wildlife Workgroup agreed to audit outreach and distribution of Wildlife Workgroup materials. The Workgroup agreed to consider the target audience for distribution of NWCC publications and efficacy of current efforts. NWCC staff will convene small working group to prepare for the Core Group a proposal for expanding distribution. Additionally, the Core Group discussed the idea of setting up a briefing for Congress on the WLWG activities. The Core Group did not commit to this activity. (Volunteers for the outreach audit included: Rob Fergus, Laurie Jodziewicz, and Jeff Deyette)
- ❖ *NWCC WLWG webcasts* – Suggested topics for 2008 webcasts:
 - Habitat needs and use of GIS mapping tools (possibly an activity for habitat subgroup)
 - Considerations involved in a cumulative impacts discussion/study
 - AWEA/DOE 20% wind technical report.
- ❖ *NWCC calendar* – The NWCC maintains a calendar of conferences and events related to wind energy. E-mail relevant events to Taylor Kennedy at tkennedy@resolv.org for inclusion on NWCC calendar.

Additional Activities for the WLWG to consider in the future:

- Consider developing a job/internship database for students interested in pursuing a career in wind energy, wildlife conservation, or climate change issues.

NWCC Wildlife Workgroup Core Group Membership

Core Group membership – The Wildlife Workgroup Core Group agreed to expand membership. NWCC Staff will continue to pursue a tribal representative.

Additionally, the Core Group agreed to extend invitations to:

- International Government and Industry Representatives:
 - Dr. Rafael Villegas-Patracca, Mexico's Institute of Ecology, and his designated alternate.
 - A CanWEA(Canada) representative (TBD) and his/her designated alternate.
- Utilities:
 - Jerry Roppe, PacifiCorp, will serve as an alternate to Noel Cutright, WE Energies.
 - Rich Piper, FPL will serve as an alternate to Jim Lindsay, FPL Energy.

- NGOs:
 - Rob Manes, The Nature Conservancy, will serve as a Core Group member; Jay Pruett, The Nature Conservancy, will serve as alternate.
- Industry:
 - Rich Rayhill, Ridgeline Energy and his designated alternate will serve as a small wind developer representative.
- States
 - AFWA will nominate their official representative and alternate soon.

The Core Group additionally agreed to discuss additions of technical experts that will offer technical advice on issues before the Core Group.

- ❖ Nominations to the NWCC Steering Committee: Sara McMahon Parsons, PPM Energy, will represent the Wildlife Workgroup on the NWCC Steering Committee. Rob Fergus, National Audubon, will serve as her alternate.

SUBGROUP ACTIVITIES AND NEXT STEPS: See attached for a list of current subgroup members. To volunteer for or remove your name from a subgroup, please contact Taylor Kennedy at tkennedy@resolv.org.

Probability of Impact Subgroup:

Strengths/Weaknesses Chart – During the Probability of Impact Workshop, meeting attendees developed a list of benefits and weaknesses associated with the four different approaches to predicting risk to wildlife from wind energy development. (Reconnaissance Level Site Assessment, Potential Impact Index (PII) scores, Quantitative Data Collection, and Ecological Risk Assessment) The Core Group agreed to expand this list into a summary white paper. NWCC staff will develop a draft for comment and consideration by the subgroup and then the paper will be submitted to the Core Group for adoption. Another activity suggested at the meeting was to develop a step-by-step comparison of methods generally used in pre-construction, as well as how and when the methods are applied (possibly in M&M document)

Grassland Shrub-Steppe Species Collaborative

The GS3C completed the Songbird Protocol and Critical Literature Review on Grassland Shrub-Steppe Species in 2007. For 2008, the KSU research project on impact of wind development on prairie chickens will continue. Additionally, the subgroup will have a briefing on issues related to sage grouse interaction with wind energy development and then decide on next steps.

Mitigation Toolbox Subgroup:

- ❖ In 2007, the Wildlife Workgroup published a Mitigation Toolbox, a compilation of useful information and tools for wind energy developers in preventing and mitigating impacts to wildlife. The Workgroup agreed to update the Toolbox every six months. Accordingly, NWCC staff will distribute Mitigation Toolbox update form and collate comments. The subgroup will then convene to select what tools to add to the toolbox and assist in the updating process. The WLWG will need to raise funds to support editing the Mitigation Toolbox.

Key Research Topics Subgroup:

- ❖ The Research Topics Subgroup has developed a reference paper compiling themes of research needs identified in major recent publications. Upon review of the draft, the Core Group directed the subgroup to edit the document and include a section on habitat-specific needs. NWCC staff will edit it and will convene the subgroup for comment. The subgroup will then seek the approval of Wildlife Workgroup Core Group before publishing the document. Please contact Taylor Kennedy at tkennedy@resolv.org with suggested habitat related publications to consult for inclusion.

Wildlife Research Meeting VII Planning Committee:

- ❖ The Planning Committee presented its proposal for a Wildlife Research Meeting anticipated for Fall 2008. The Wildlife Workgroup agreed to the proposal and directed the subcommittee to continue planning for the meeting. Contact Taylor Kennedy at tkennedy@resolv.org with suggestions for Wildlife Research Meeting VII venues. The Wildlife Workgroup directed the Planning Committee to consider a session on research relating to impact of wind development on habitat.

RfP to Update Methods & Metrics/Birds & Bats Factsheet Oversight Committee

- ❖ As a result of the Probability of Impact Workshop, the WLWG asked that the Methods & Metrics document RfP incorporate the request to develop a step-by-step framework for pre-construction predictions of impacts to wildlife. NWCC staff will work with NREL to incorporate this task into the Methods & Metrics document RfP and will circulate the RfP to the subgroup for approval. NREL will let the contract, though the subgroup will oversee submission of proposals, award of the contract, and the draft review and editing process.
- ❖ NREL will soon release the RfP to update the NWCC's Birds & Bats Factsheet.

Creation of Habitat Subgroup: The NWCC agreed to create a new subgroup to discuss habitat issues related to wind energy development.

- ❖ NWCC staff will seek volunteers and convene a conference call to develop the subgroup's priorities and an action plan.
- ❖ Once convened, the subgroup will develop a proposal for the creation of a database of GIS mapping projects across the nation. The subgroup will advocate for federal and state agencies to develop maps focusing on habitat, migratory birds and migration pathways.