



The American Wind Wildlife Institute in Partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
and NorthWestern Energy Present:

Montana Wildlife & Wind Energy Virtual Workshop

April 27 & 29, May 4 & 6, 2021

10:00am-2:00pm MT

With generous support from the Turner Foundation



Thank you to the Planning Committee for your input and guidance:

- Kristina Smucker, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Renee Lemon, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Allison Begley, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Kyla Maki, MT Department of Environmental Quality
- Cory Shaw, MT Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
- Marco Restani, NorthWestern Energy
- Rene Braud, Pattern Energy
- Jeff Berglund, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Jake Martin, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Chuck Magraw, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Helen O'Shea, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Jeff Fox, Consultant
- Max Greene, Renewable Northwest

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Montana Wildlife & Wind Energy Virtual Workshop

Agenda

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10:00am-2:00pm MT

Workshop details and access information: <https://awwi.org/montana-wind-wildlife-workshop/>

Day 1: Tuesday, April 27, 2021

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10:00-10:30 MT	I. Welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open workshop 	Moderator: Paige Johnson, Outreach and Engagement Manager, American Wind Wildlife Institute (AWWI)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening remarks from state leader on intent and purpose 	Ken McDonald, Wildlife Division Administrator, MT FWP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda overview, ground rules, and introductions 	Paige Johnson, AWWI
10:30-11:45	II. Wind Energy in Montana	Moderator: Paige Johnson, AWWI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind energy buildout needed to meet national goals and western state clean energy laws Landscape for wind energy development on public lands 	Tom Darin, Sr. Director, Western State Affairs, American Clean Power
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of current wind energy operation and development in Montana, and prospects: wind resource, markets, drivers, access to transmission, economic benefits 	Nicole Hughes, Executive Director, Renewable Northwest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental benefits of wind energy in Montana 	Noah Long, Director, Western Region, Climate & Clean Energy Program, Natural Resources Defense Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A/discussion 	Moderator: Paige Johnson, AWWI
11:45-12:40	<i>Break</i>	
12:40-2:00	III. Wind Project Development Process & Site Selection	Moderator: Paige Johnson, AWWI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind project prospecting, siting, project development, and operation timeline and process/cycle 	Kristen Goland, Western Region Permit Manager, Avangrid Renewables
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the non-wildlife challenges / constraints / considerations for wind energy siting and development, and where does consideration of wildlife and habitat fit it 	Andrew Pinger, Regional Environmental Senior Manager, EDP Renewables
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study: Spion Kop wind energy facility 	Sam Milodragovich, Wildlife Biologist, formerly NorthWestern Energy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A/discussion 	Moderator: Paige Johnson, AWWI

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Day 2: Thursday, April 29, 2021

10:00-10:10 MT	Welcome and recap	Paige Johnson, AWWI
10:10-12:05	IV. Wind Permitting in Montana to Site and Operate	Moderator: Renee Lemon, Land Use Planner, MT FWP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session introduction 	Renee Lemon, MT FWP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and processes among state and local agencies for permits and approvals related to wind energy development and operation on private and state trust/other public lands in Montana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forrest Mandeville, Owner/Planner, Forrest Mandeville Consulting - Carolyn Sime, Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program Manager, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) - Craig Jones, Major Facility Siting Act, MT Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) - Cory Shaw, Property Management Section Supervisor, DNRC - Jean Riley, Transportation Planning Engineer, MT Department of Transportation - Maya Rao, MPDES Permit Writer, MT DEQ - Kyla Maki, Energy Resource Professional, MT DEQ
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of process by developers 	Judd Stark, Project Manager, Catena Consulting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A/discussion among session speakers and participants 	Moderator: Renee Lemon, FWP
12:05-12:50	<i>Break</i>	
12:50-2:00	V. Siting Wind and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Wind Energy Guidelines	Moderator: Paige Johnson, AWWI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Voluntary Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Framework for decision making ○ Nuts & bolts ○ USFWS role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homework for participants: WWRM 2020 WEGs workshop recording - Jeff Berglund, Fish and Wildlife Biologist - Jake Martin, Assistant Field Supervisor, USFWS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with and roles of state and local agencies 	Allison Begley, Avian Conservation Biologist, MT FWP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of implementation 	Erin Lieberman, Vice President, Environmental Compliance & Strategy, Invenergy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A/discussion 	Moderator: Paige Johnson, AWWI

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Day 3: Tuesday, May 4, 2021

10:00-10:10 MT	Welcome and recap	Paige Johnson, AWWI
10:10-10:35	VI. Overview: Wind Energy Impacts to Wildlife: State of the Science, Research Priorities, and Solutions	Moderator: John Lloyd, Associate Director of Research, AWWI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State of the Science: What do we know? ○ Collision and habitat-based impacts ○ Overview of strategies to avoid, minimize, and compensate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Lloyd, AWWI - Ryan Butryn, American Wind Wildlife Information Center Manager, AWWI
10:35-1:20	VII. Key Species/Taxa: Impacts, Minimization, Compensation	Moderator: John Lloyd, AWWI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bats: Natural history and ecology in Montana 	Dan Bachen, Senior Zoologist, MT Natural Heritage Program
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bats: Recommendations for minimizing bat fatalities in Montana 	Kristina Smucker, Nongame Bureau Chief, MT FWP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eagles: BGEPA, USFWS guidance, risk assessment, population status and conservation measures 	Kevin Kritz, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study: Eagle Protection and Offset Program - just finalized with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, eagle take permits associated with wind operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marco Restani, Energy Biologist, NorthWestern Energy - Kari Soltau, ESA Certified Ecologist, Burns & McDonnell - Paul Sherman, Mitigation Market Sector Lead, Burns & McDonnell
11:45-12:20	<i>Break</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grouse: Overview and what we know about grouse and wind energy 	Chad LeBeau, Research Biologist, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfragmented grassland habitat: Avian impact offset methodology 	Jill Shaffer, Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A/discussion 	Moderator: John Lloyd, AWWI
1:20-2:00	VIII. Looking to the Future	Moderator: John Lloyd, AWWI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ongoing efforts and research gaps ○ Uncertainty and supporting decision-making ○ Panel discussion 	Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul Rabie, Ph.D, Research Biometrician, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. - Mona Khalil, Energy & Wildlife Program Specialist, U.S. Geological Survey - Bryan Bedrosian, Conservation Director, Teton Raptor Center

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Day 4: Thursday, May 6, 2021		
10:30-11:00 MT	Welcome and recap; review plan for the day	Moderator: Paige Johnson, AWWI
11:00-11:30	IX. NorthWestern Energy on the Future of Wind Development in Montana	John Hines, VP of Supply and MT Government Affairs, NorthWestern Energy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A/discussion 	Moderator: Paige Johnson, AWWI
11:30-1:30	X. Group discussion: Insights, Lessons Learned, Looking to the Future, and Next Steps	Facilitator: Abby Arnold, Executive Director, AWWI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout Groups: Discuss lessons learned and ideas for next steps • Plenary: Breakout groups share insights, and discuss next steps 	
1:30	Adjourn	

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