



Engagement with Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Wildlife and Wind Energy Workshop

Module 2; Section V

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Major points

- When to contact MFWP
- Partnership with USFWS
- Contact with other state agencies
- Importance of engaging local biologists
- Data available
- Common themes in MT
- Bat Recommendations
- Data Sharing



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks ROLE

- FWP has laws to protect wildlife
 - MCA 87-5-201 (direct take)
 - MCA 87-5-109 (research)
- FWP has a non-regulatory role with wind
- FWP is interested in voluntary consultation
- Share what we know to make for successful projects that minimize impacts to wildlife



When?

- As early as possible is welcome
- LOCAL FWP biologists can provide valuable insight
- Second USFWS recommendations
- MT NHP database is valuable
- FWP can have other information



What you might hear from FWP...

- Partnership with USFWS
- sage-grouse and sharp-tailed lek locations
 - Have you contacted the Sage-grouse program?
- Have you conducted acoustic surveys for bats?
- Can native grasslands be avoided?
- Will public lands access be lost?



Voluntary Recommendations

- 2 years pre-construction, 2 years post-construction surveys
- Follow Voluntary Recommendations to Minimize Bat Fatalities (2020)
- When feasible, share data with AWWIC
- Assist with a successful consultation → successful siting of a wind project → minimizes wildlife impacts



Thank you!



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