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Birds and Wind Farms



Wind Power: It's not smart unless it's bi

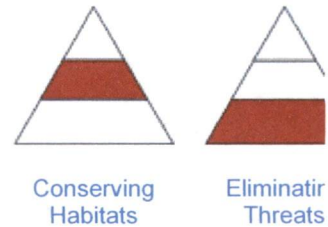
Wind farm by Joshua Winchell FWS

The Challenge

Wind power has the ability to be a green, bird-friendly form of power generation, but Birds can die in collisions with the turbine blades (up to 14 birds per megawatt per rate of around 2.2 birds/MW/Yr according to industry estimates), towers, power line also be impacted through habitat destruction from the siting of turbines, power line: such as sage-grouse are particularly sensitive to the presence of turbines, and can breeding grounds several miles away from a wind farm.

ABC Conservation Framework

This collisions element of this program fits into two the category **Eliminating Threats** of within ABC's conservation Framework. Habitat ramifications of wind farms fit under **Conserving Habitats**



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Filed: 5/12/2011 Pages: 3

John Moe

Primary Birds Impacted

Potentially all night-migrating songbirds are at risk of colliding with wind turbines, a when wind farms are sited in areas they frequent, particularly wildlife refuges. Greatly sensitive to the presence of wind turbines near their breeding grounds.

Solutions

American Bird Conservancy supports alternative energy sources, including wind power. We support the approval and implementation of new wind energy projects, potential risks to birds, and site analyses, including assessments of bird abundance, timing, and magnitude of impacts on birds (e.g., agriculture).

Wind energy project location, design, operation, and lighting should be carefully evaluated to avoid as well as adverse impacts caused by habitat fragmentation, disturbance, and site characteristics (e.g., agriculture).

Excellent guidelines to prevent adverse impacts of wind power generation on birds exist. These need to be turned into mandatory regulations.

- [Read ABC's Bird-Smart Wind Policy](#)
- [Read some FAQs relating to bird-smart wind power](#)

ABC Results



Thanks to the generous support of the Leon Levy Foundation, ABC's smart wind program to address the threats to birds and their habitat has brought about real policy change to benefit birds. [Read ABC's policy](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on wind/bird interactions and ABC's work.



Following pressure from ABC and other groups, a federal advisory committee on wind energy and birds has been created.



ABC and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology brought all the scientists working on wind energy and birds together for the first time to exchange information and ideas at a meeting.

What Next?

Guidelines developed by the federal government on the siting and operation of wind farms need to become mandatory regulations to have the teeth that will protect birds at all wind farms.

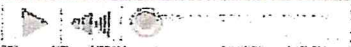
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Links & Info

- Birds and Collisions Overview
- Glass and Building Collisions
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A comprehensive national plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse needs



Bureau of Land Management sage-grouse plan regulations on wind brought in line with Fish and Wildlife Service Guidelines



Wind farms need to comply with the National Environmental Policy



Production tax credits and subsidies for wind energy companies need environmental compliance.



Take Action

Sign our petition to make wind power bird-smart through mandatory standards for

 **Sign the Petition** 

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