

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines



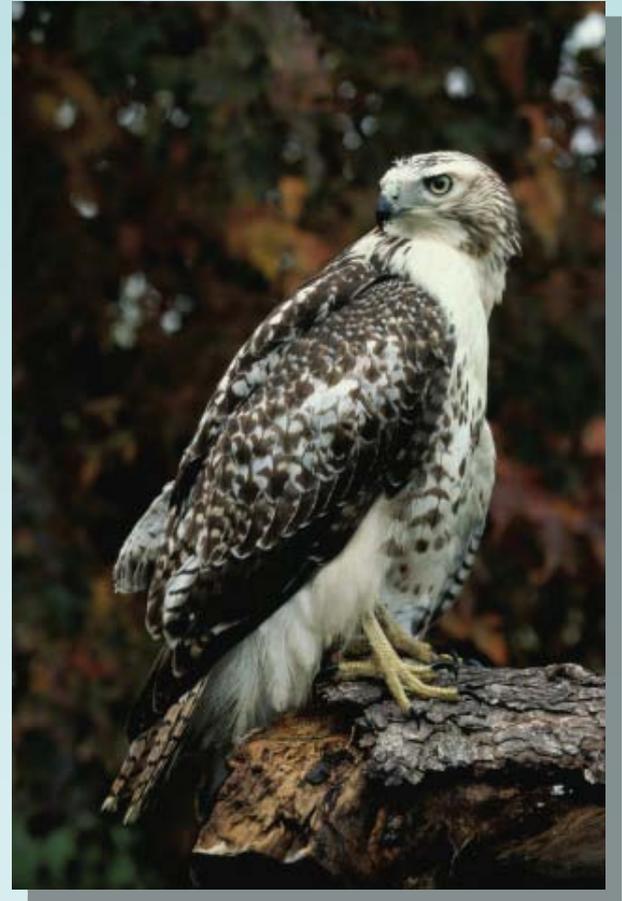
Draft Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines



- Some modifications to align with USFWS practices and policies
- Based on Wind FAC Recommendations
- Recommends early and frequent coordination
- Early coordination + timely review = greatest conservation benefit and cost effectiveness
- Voluntary
- Include comments raised by other Bureaus, such as NPS and USGS

FAC Recommendations and FWS Guidelines

- Similarities:
 - Adopted the tiered approach
 - Retained assurance language
 - Pre- and post-construction study intensity based on level of risk



FAC Recommendations and FWS Guidelines

On-Ramps



On-ramps allow projects under construction to enter the appropriate tier

Draft Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines: Additions

- Include information on the use of the FWS Mitigation Policy.
- Application of adaptive management as described by the DOI Handbook.
- Includes reference documents based on FWS guidance and survey methodologies (on the web page).

Summary of Changes

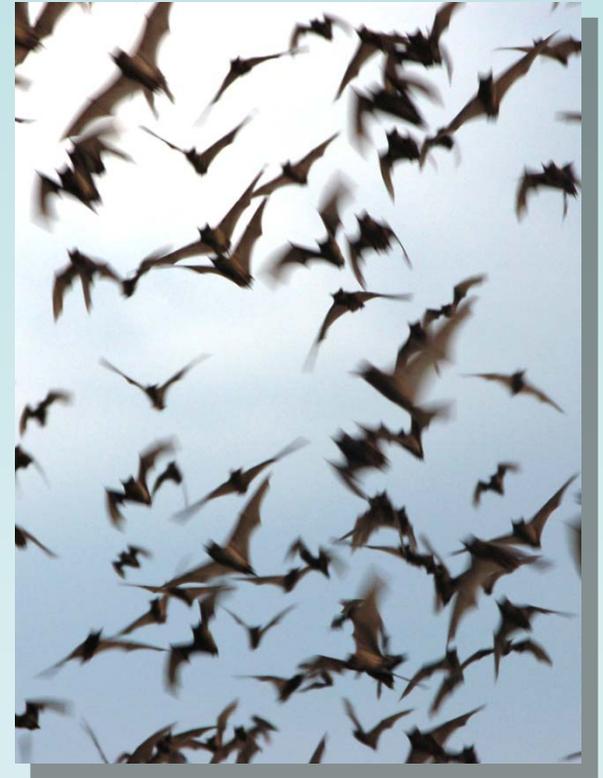


- Changes are based on science, policies, and administrative considerations.
- Much of the FAC material was retained, but put into a FWS context.
- Reorganization of document



Summary of Changes

- Specific survey methodologies and supporting research moved to website.
- Used terms consistent with FWS practices.
- Intent was to provide a brief manual to field staff and developers.
- Recognize need for clarification and reorganization in text.



Pre-construction Study Intensity

- Three years of pre-construction studies may be appropriate in many circumstances.
- However, the level of risk and the question of data requirements will be based on site sensitivity, affected species, and the availability of data from other sources.

Next Steps

- 90-day comment period, closed May 19, 2011
- Approximately 29,000 comments were received
- Majority are form letters from the American Bird Conservancy & American Wind Energy Association
- Substantive comments were received from Federal Advisory Committee members, industry, states, federal agencies, and conservation organizations

Next Steps

- Several key policy and legal issues identified, in addition to many technical concerns
- Recommendations on how to improve and incorporate concerns into Guidelines
- Implementation upon publication of FINAL in Federal Register.

A Few Comment Items

- What species should be covered by guidelines, Federal trust species and those likely to be affected by wind turbines versus all species of wildlife?
- Should the Service phase-in implementation of the Guidelines over a 2 years, as described in the FAC Recommendations?
- Expectation of due diligence to qualify for assurances

Identified Items continued

- Mandatory or voluntary?
- 3 years of pre-construction studies or base the recommendation on risk to species?
- Put best management practices for monitoring methodologies in an appendix to document
- Relevance of noise, barrier effects, and cumulative impacts on for every project

We Can Do It...

By working together, collectively, we can help ensure development of this energy source in a wildlife conscientious manner while increasing the nation's energy portfolio.



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