

WDFW WIND POWER GUIDELINES

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wind Power Guidelines



April 2009



WDFW WIND POWER GUIDELINES

The WDFW Guidelines were developed collaboratively through a representative stakeholder group.

Group members included:

- Non-governmental Organizations
- County planners
- Wind energy developers
- State and Federal agencies
- Interested public (through SEPA review)



INSTALLED CAPACITY– TOP 5

Megawatts

Sources:

US EIA - <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/aer/consump.html>

AWEA – November 2010

9727



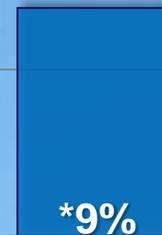
Texas

3670



Iowa

2739



Minnesota

2095



Oregon

1964



Washington

* % Renewable Consumption

WASHINGTON REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Most WA wind projects are permitted through local land use processes (County Conditional Use Permit)
- Wind project developers can also opt into statewide Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) process
- Statewide Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires environmental comprehensive analysis (checklist or EIS) of all wind projects
- WDFW Wind Power Guidelines provide guidance on biological studies and agency considerations

WDFW GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Measures in the WDFW Wind Power Guidelines are intended to fully mitigate for habitat losses for species affected by land-based wind facilities.

*State and/or Federal “threatened” or “endangered” may require additional mitigation and/or Federal consultation.

*DFW Wind Power Guidelines **DO NOT** provide protection or consideration for species listed under the Endangered Species Act

- Wind developers are encouraged to site wind power projects on disturbed lands

*No mitigation is required on disturbed lands except when used by significant aggregations of wildlife or State/Federally listed species.

WDFW GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Wind project developers should be discouraged from using or degrading high value habitat areas, and habitat areas that are difficult to restore.
- Wind project developers should be encouraged to place linear facilities in or adjacent to existing disturbed corridors
- Wind project developers are responsible for acquiring replacement habitat under this proposal and for management of such lands for the life of the project, unless otherwise indicated.

WDFW GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Mitigation packages should be negotiated in consultation with WDFW and the permitting authority.
- The functions and values of the mitigation package should meet the extent of the impact on habitat.

WIND POWER MITIGATION

Habitat Classification:

Habitats in Washington State were categorized by ecological functional value.

- Class I and Class II habitats are considered the highest priorities for current statewide conservation action in Washington. (i.e. shrub steppe, grasslands, conifer/hardwood forests).

WIND POWER MITIGATION

Habitat Classification:

Habitats in Washington State were categorized by ecological functional value.

- Class III are lower priority habitats than I and II, but are still considered to have some ecological value (i.e. low quality shrub steppe, Eastside grasslands, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands).

WIND POWER MITIGATION

Habitat Classification:

Habitats in Washington State were categorized by ecological functional value.

- Class IV habitats are generally low value habitats that have been subject to severe disturbance (i.e. - commercial agriculture lands).

WIND POWER MITIGATION

Habitat Mitigation Classification Table		MITIGATION	
CLASSIFICATION ¹	HABITAT TYPE ^{2,4}	Temporary Impact	Permanent Impact
Class I West side	Westside Grasslands/ Herbaceous Balds, Westside Lowland Conifer-Hardwood (Mature) Forest, Westside Oak and Dry (Non-commercial) Douglas-fir Forest and Woodlands, Coastal Dunes	CONSULTATION ³	CONSULTATION
Class I East side	Ponderosa Pine Forest and Woodlands (includes Eastside Oak Woodlands)		
Class II West side	Coastal Headlands and Islets, Subalpine Parkland	0.5:1 MITIGATION/ RESTORATION ⁷	2:1 ACQUISTION
Class II East side	Eastside (Interior) Mixed Conifer Forest, Lodgepole Pine Forest and Woodlands, Montane Mixed Conifer Forest, Upland Aspen Forest, Shrub-steppe		
Class III West side	Alpine Grassland and Shrublands, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Lands	0.1:1 MITIGATION/ RESTORATION	1:1 ACQUISTION
Class III East side	Eastside (Interior) Grasslands, CRP Lands		
Class IV	Croplands ⁵ , Pasture, Urban and Mixed Environs	No Mitigation Required	No Mitigation Required
FORESTRY	Conversion of Commercial Forest Lands ⁶	CONSULTATION	CONSULTATION

MITIGATION “BY FEE” OPTION

- The wind project developer, permitting authority, and WDFW may identify an appropriate annual fee for the life of the project.
- A wind project developer, through consultation with WDFW and the permitting authority, may choose to use “By Fee” mitigation or a combination of habitat acquisition and “By Fee” mitigation.

MITIGATION “BY FEE” OPTION

- The fee is based on habitat in “average” condition and can be increased or decreased to account for differences in habitat quality.
- The annual fee will be used primarily to support “stewardship” (management, monitoring, restoration, protection from degradation) of high-value habitat in the same ecological region as the project.
- A “lump-sum” up-front payment may be applied in-lieu of annual fees.

WIND POWER MITIGATION

Where a wind project will affect habitat in “excellent” condition developers should engage in additional consultation with WDFW and the permitting authority to determine suitable mitigation.

Habitats in excellent condition are subject to consultation and are not covered in the Habitat Mitigation Classification Table.

WIND POWER MITIGATION

This Guidance is not intended to prevent or discourage WDFW, the permitting authority and wind project developers from negotiating “customized” or “alternative” mitigation packages.

QUESTIONS?

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