



The American Wind Wildlife Institute: Results through Collaboration and Transparency

AWWI: Mission

Wind energy is one of the cleanest and most commercially viable energy sources in the country and is undergoing rapid deployment. Scientific, conservation, wind industry and government leaders all agree that wind energy must play an important role in combating climate change. AWWI is leading through proactively addressing the potential biodiversity impacts from wind energy projects.

The Mission of **AWWI** is to facilitate timely and responsible development of wind energy while protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat.

We accomplish our mission through research, mapping, mitigation, and public education on best practices in wind farm siting and wildlife habitat protection.

AWWI Initiatives

Since the formal launch of the institute in November, 2008, AWWI Staff and Board of Directors have made significant progress in the implementation of its initiatives. In its first two years (2009-2010), AWWI has engaged in the following activities:

Research

- Create a Research Information System (aka. data repository)
- Fund important research needs
- Establish a Science Advisory Committee

Mapping

- Facilitate wind and wildlife landscape assessment
- Guide effective application of GIS data
- Help establish standards for wind-wildlife mapping across all stakeholders

Mitigation

- Explore cost effective and ecologically-beneficial mitigation strategies
- Encourage a science-based criteria in compensatory mitigation solutions

Education

- Inform stakeholders, decision makers and the public
- Provide Industry and NGO training/quality control

Wildlife Research:

AWWI encourages technically respected, world-class research and aims to fill critical research gaps to promote faster and safer deployment of wind energy. In 2010, AWWI will explore and oversee the initial development of a wind-wildlife research information system and data repository for wind energy studies. Data analyses will be used to assist industry and decision makers in responsible project siting as well as help researchers answer questions regarding wildlife and habitat impacts from wind energy development. While continuing to fund bat deterrent research, AWWI will look to establish a Science Advisory Committee of technical experts to help facilitate its research proposal funding process in 2011 and beyond. Dr. Judd A. Howell, Director of Research and Evaluation, is overseeing the initiative.

Landscape Mapping:

A science-based, wind-wildlife mapping tool is under web-development through a series of phases under contract with The Nature Conservancy. The tool's GIS application will display environmental attributes for landscape level biodiversity assessment. AWWI's technical Mapping Committee consisting of wind industry and conservation NGO representatives is overseeing the design and content of the tool. The tool has been beta tested, and peer reviewed. Dr. Judd A. Howell, Director of Research and Evaluation, is overseeing the initiative.

Compensatory Mitigation:

A report from Solano Partners on the state of compensatory mitigation for wind energy projects in the United States is being finalized for release. AWWI encourages avoidance and minimization of impacts for wind energy projects yet recognizes that impacts cannot be entirely avoided, therefore, in some cases, should be addressed through compensatory mitigation. AWWI strives to lead innovative and science-based compensatory mitigation strategies to help wildlife conservation efforts while providing clear cost implications.

Outreach & Education:

As part of its collaborative approach, AWWI educates key stakeholders on the mission of AWWI and the results of its initiatives. AWWI also provides an ongoing collaborative forum for prioritizing questions and addressing urgent wind-wildlife needs fairly and responsibly. AWWI's members draw on AWWI's initiatives and their wide-ranging expertise to create the conditions for sustainable project siting.

■ AWWI Leadership/Members

- AES Wind Generation
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Pattern Energy Group
- Clipper Windpower
- BP Wind Energy
- Environmental Defense Fund
- enXco
- GE Energy
- Horizon Wind Energy
- Iberdrola Renewables
- National Audubon Society
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- NRG Systems
- Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
- Renewable Energy Systems Americas
- Ridgeline Energy
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Sierra Club
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Vestas Americas

Executive Director: Abby Arnold

Director of Research: Dr. Judd Howell

Program Manager: Matt Kireker

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