



**NGOs – Their
Role in Wind
Energy
Development
and Wildlife
Issues
Management**





A number of players in wind development arena:

- Wind Energy Project Developers
- Consultants
- Financial Institutions
- Federal Regulatory Agencies
- State Regulatory Agencies
- Local Regulatory Agencies
- Legislators
- Land Owners
- Local Communities
- Power Purchasers
- Ultimate End Users
- Transmission Planning Entities
- Transmission Builders and Operators
- Interested Parties
- Related Trade Organizations



And NGOs

The Nature Conservancy

National Audubon Society

State and local Audubon chapters

Defenders of Wildlife

American Bird Conservancy

Bat Conservation International

Izaak Walton League

The Wilderness Society

Ducks Unlimited

local organizations (i.e., “Save the Prairie”)

others



The Role of NGOs:

Getting involved in the siting processes, for both wind facilities and transmission lines

Advocating the conservation of wildlife

Encouraging the avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation of wildlife and habitat losses

Participating in development of guidelines and tools

Providing information on wildlife resources to all parties

Promoting appropriate research



Getting involved in the siting processes, for both wind facilities and transmission lines

- **transmission lines first**
 - at regional transmission planning level
 - with utilities or others who will select final route and build
 - with regulators and legislators involved with the process

- **generic wind farm siting processes**
 - NWCC
 - AWEA

- **specific companies or projects**



Advocating the conservation of wildlife

- Threatened and endangered species (fed. or state)
 - Candidate species
 - Declining species
 - Species of conservation concern
 - Other species, depending on the mission of the NGO
-
- Critical habitat
 - Unique habitat
 - Limited habitat
 - Habitat with active conservation
 - Other habitat, depending on the mission of the NGO



Encouraging the avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation of wildlife and habitat losses

Avoidance first

Failing avoidance, then minimization of impacts

Failing either of the first two, then mitigation for losses



Participating in development of guidelines and tools

Guidelines for transmission lines and for wind facilities

Guidelines for siting, operating, regulating, financing

Guidelines that are voluntary or mandatory

Guidelines at the

- federal level (here we are!)
- regional level
- state level
- local level

Tools for risk assessment, site assessment, etc.



Providing information on wildlife resources to all parties

Species effected





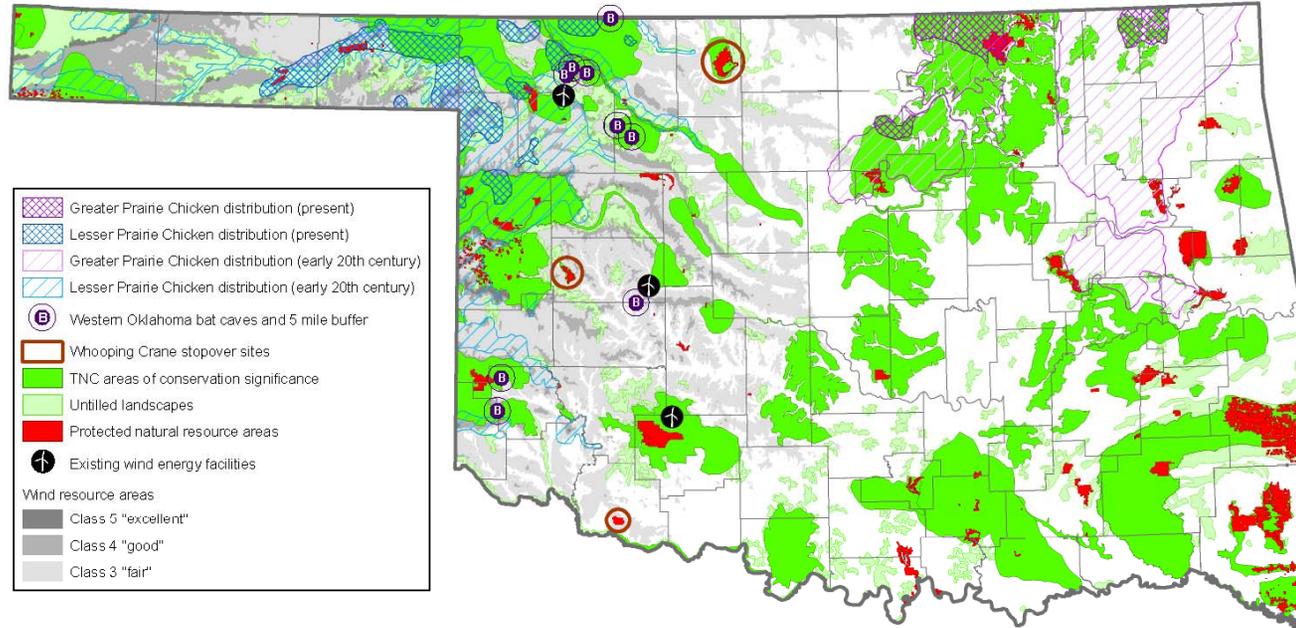
Habitat types effected





Collection of data and mapping of sensitive species and habitats

Oklahoma Natural Resources: Wind, Wildlife, Untilled Landscapes, and Protected Areas



Present Greater and Lesser Prairie Chicken distributions:
The Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma Chapter GIS,
with comments from the Sutton Avian Research Center and
the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation,
January 2005

Early 20th century prairie chicken distributions:
Digitized from Duck, L.G. and J.B. Fletcher. 1943.
Lesser and Greater Prairie Chicken distribution and densities.
in A Survey of the Game and Furbearing Animals of Oklahoma.
Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission.

Protected natural resource areas:
State parks, wildlife management areas,
National parks, grasslands/forests, wildlife refuges,
and Nature Conservancy preserves.
The Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma Chapter GIS,
February 2005

Untilled landscapes:
Central and Western Oklahoma -
Ostlie, Wayne. 2003. Untilled Landscapes of the Great Plains.
The Nature Conservancy, Midwest Science Center,
Eastern Oklahoma -
The Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma Chapter GIS,
January 2005

Western Oklahoma bat caves:
The Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma Chapter GIS,
January 2005

Whooping Crane stopover sites
Modified from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Whooping Crane sightings, 1947-1999
The Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma Chapter GIS,
February 2005

Wind resource areas:
Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative
<http://www.seic.okstate.edu/owpi/WindResheuralnetwork.htm>
August 2005



Potential alternative suggestions





A significant issue – NGOs are not often involved in the siting processes early.

Wildlife issues must be considered
EARLY
in the siting process.



Promoting appropriate research

- Topics
- Protocols
- Researchers
- Funding

AWWI – Wayne Walker