Introduction to the Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines and Draft Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance

Module 1
Module 1

• Brief description of the course
• Brief history of the Wind Energy Guidelines
• Brief introduction to the Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance
Course Goal

• Develop a common understanding of the documents and their processes
• Understand and apply the Guidelines and ECPG consistently
• Resulting in wind projects that reduce risks to wildlife
History of WEG

• Commercial wind energy development in US in late ‘90s, early 2000’s
• Observed take of migratory birds
• FWS created interim guidance in 2003
• Observed take of migratory bats
• Comments on interim guidance indicated need for stakeholder involvement
History of WEG

• Secretary convened the Wind Turbine Guidelines Federal Advisory Committee

• Stakeholders: industry, states, tribes, NGOs

• Recommendations to the Secretary

• FWS used the Recommendations to draft the revised guidelines

• Published final guidelines in March 2012
Purpose of the Guidelines

• Tool to increase consistency

• Structured, scientific process for addressing wildlife conservation concerns
  ▪ Tiered approach
Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance

• Process that can collect and analyze information
• Can lead to a programmatic permit to authorize unintentional take of eagles
• In coordination with the Service
Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance

- Provides procedures for:
  - Early pre-construction assessments
  - Analyzing pre-construction information
  - Avoiding, minimizing, and/or compensating
  - Monitoring for impacts during construction and operation.
Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance

• Status of Guidance
  ▪ Currently in review – please bear with us!
Overview of Modules

• Module 2 – Important elements of the Guidelines
• Module 3 – Introduction to the ECPG
• Module 4 – Adherence and Coordination
• Module 5 – Foundations for Decision-making
• Module 6 – Landscape Considerations
• Module 7 – Field Studies
Overview of Modules

• Module 8 – Post-Construction
• Module 9 – Mitigation
• Module 10 – Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance
• Module 11 – Additional Considerations
• Module 12 – Summary
• Module 13 (optional) – Eagle Guidance Plan Modeling