

## **Wind Turbines / Wildlife FAC Objectives Clarification workshop**

### **Key tasks**

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**June 1, 2008 (draft)**

Dr. Gregory has been asked to lead a one-day workshop that would help members to clarify their objectives in light of the scope of the Committee's mandate. This objectives clarification workshop is scheduled for June 18, 2008 in Denver. Robin will co-lead the workshop with help from his colleague Graham Long.

This workshop is a follow-up to presentations (focusing on the use of Structured Decision Making approaches) that were made by Dr. Gregory at the April 23/24 Washington D.C. meeting of the FAC, as an aid to the committee's development of guidelines for minimizing impacts to wildlife and their habitats from land-based wind energy facilities. Primary workshop tasks will include:

- (a) structuring discussions designed to identify and clarify key goals and concerns of FAC members relevant to their development of recommended Guidelines. On the basis of earlier interviews (conducted by A. Arnold), reports of discussions at the first FAC meeting (February, 2008), and an initial discussion at the April 23/24 meetings, key dimensions of concern are likely to include biological, economic, social, and political issues, as well as various process considerations. The existing information is helpful. However, further definition is required at this stage to aid the Committee's deliberations.
- (b) providing guidance as to the relative importance of the different dimensions of concern, as an aid to future Committee planning.
- (c) defining objectives through development of performance measures (aka indicators or attributes). This task will help to inform the Committee regarding areas of focus, due to gaps in the data, or problems with the quality of data, needed to inform the Committee's recommendations.
- (d) identifying ways to address uncertainty in this data, from both a policy perspective (i.e., is there a role for adaptive management actions?) and a technical perspective (i.e., what key hypotheses might be informed, over what time period, and with what degree of confidence?).

The workshop discussions will distinguish between Principles, which underlie all Committee activities, and Objectives, which will serve as the main focus for the recommended Guidelines and for the evaluation of alternative content. This starting point is informed by the Committee's 4-point mandate and by the ongoing work of several subcommittees (e.g., Risk and Uncertainty, Guiding Principles, Legal). Additional considerations relating to scope, measurement, and scale will be introduced as appropriate in order to help refine the discussions and create a more useful end product.