

Landscape Habitat (Mapping) Subcommittee of the
Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee
Telephone Conference – March 14, 2008

Draft Summary

Participants:

Abby Arnold, Facilitator		René Braud
Mike Daulton	Aimee Delach	Rob Manes
Rich Rayhill	Jo Ann Mills, FWS	Rachel London, FWS

- The group reviewed their purpose statement and proposes the following revision:

Possible purpose of this subcommittee

- *Review various landscape mapping tools, how these tools characterize status of the habitats, accuracy of the tools to assess the habitats, accuracy of the tools to characterize individual species' habitat needs, including cumulative impacts, strategies for developing the tools, and guidelines for applying the tools.*
 - *Make recommendations on what use of information would be and what use should not be.*
 - *Develop tools that can be used to identify areas where wind energy development and wildlife interests may be incompatible.*
- Some thoughts shared regarding the Subcommittee's goals are listed:
 - ✓ A regional landscape approach to course level planning
 - ✓ Assessment of cumulative impacts from existing, planned and proposed wind energy development projects.
 - ✓ Assignment of levels of risk to regions based on sensitivity and value of habitat
 - ✓ Examination of The Nature Conservancy's work in KS and OK, and possibility of expansion nationwide [*Avoid duplicating TNC's, Audubon's, or AWWI's work.*]
 - ✓ Addressing the concerns of industry by providing information about wildlife risk; bringing wildlife concerns to the forefront of the development process
 - ✓ Include in the process 1) educate on cumulative impacts at landscape levels; 2) identify high-risk wildlife landscapes with the caveat of looking within areas at a closer scale; 3) identify species that require landscape level habitats; and 4) translate layers into dynamic maps.
 - ✓ Include factors to support ranking, including wildlife needs and wind resources
 - ✓ Could be a tool for wind energy developers, NGOs, other industries, and others
 - ✓ The data is currently scattered, has different quality control standards, and is expensive. The importance of quality control should be stressed.
 - ✓ Mapping tools are useful to do an initial assessment of a site, but an on-the-ground site visit is also needed to obtain specific information
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- Next steps were identified:

- ✓ The Nature Conservancy will provide a briefing on technologies available for map development
 - ✓ Jo Ann will provide a briefing on the National Wetlands Inventory and their work on the Wetlands Mapper, including the development of data standards
 - ✓ Subcommittee will review Audubon's Important Bird Areas program
 - ✓ A web conference is scheduled on **Tuesday, April 1, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm EST** to hear from TNC, NWI, and Audubon. Jo Ann will set up the web conference and send the call-in information to Abby.
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- Subcommittee members who did not participate on this call will be given an opportunity to provide input.