

**Landscape/Habitat Subcommittee of the
Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee**
Telephone Conference – June 12, 2008

Draft Summary

Participants:

Abby Arnold	Cheryl Amrani	Mike Daulton
Rob Manes	Aimee Delach	Caitlin Coberly
Rich Rayhill	Robert Robel	Ed Arnett
Scott Darling	René Braud	Jo Ann Mills, FWS
Rachel London, FWS		

- Rob Manes developed a first draft of a catalogue of existing mapping efforts and shared it with the Subcommittee prior to the teleconference via e-mail. Those present on the call reviewed and discussed the draft.
- It was acknowledged that many mapping efforts are underway and products will be available before the FAC recommendations go to the Secretary.
- Additional tools were identified as worthwhile to explore, including a land-cover database and an NRCS database including 80,000 land cover point plots of non-federal land
- The subcommittee emphasized that it won't be endorsing any one product. Instead, it will identify available resources, and provide instruction on how to apply them. Recommendations will take geographic variability into consideration.
- The subcommittee moved on to a discussion of the broader issue of landscape level impacts, and each person on the call identified their vision of how the recommendations should address landscape-level impacts. These ideas included:
 - ✓ A decision tree/dichotomous key for could be developed to identify appropriate use of a mapping tool
 - ✓ Recommendations should be cost-effective without being too prescriptive
 - ✓ Inventory and recommend a minimum standard in the form of a set of layers that should be included in an analysis; should include species occurrences, large landscape habitat areas, fragmentation issues
 - ✓ Include in analysis the effects of transmission
 - ✓ Identifying maps are the easy part; difficulty lies in providing instruction on what to do with the maps
 - ✓ Differing views on whether some areas should be excluded from wind development
 - ✓ Use of recommendations about mapping tools should be voluntary
 - ✓ Need to put impacts into cumulative context in the larger landscape; e.g., what other projects are ongoing or in the pipeline

- ✓ Consider including other limiting factors that might impede wind development as map layers, such as airports and military operation areas
- **Next Steps were identified:**
 - ✓ Mike Daulton and Rob Manes will draft a matrix for the subcommittee to review.
 - ✓ Mike will draft the x and y axis of the matrix to start.
 - Where data are from
 - What are the layers
 - User-friendliness
 - Can layers be extracted
 - ✓ After axes are identified, Mike and Rob will use the information in Rob's e-mail, identify missing tools that are relevant to wind/wildlife, draft descriptions, and develop recommendations of which to use/how they will be used.
 - ✓ Conference calls scheduled for:

Tuesday, July 1st, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm EST
Tuesday, July 15th, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm EST

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