

1 **USFWS Wind Turbine FAC Outline of Recommendations**  
2 ***From the Scientific Tools & Procedures Subcommittee***  
3 **October 2008**  
4

5 **I. Introduction**

- 6 A. Background  
7 1. Statement of USFWS mission  
8 2. Description of context and need for guidelines  
9 B. Statement of Committee Charter  
10 C. Guiding Principles<sup>1</sup>  
11 D. Members of FAC/signatures  
12

13 **II. Recommended Actions**

- 14 A. Preamble to Actions  
15 1. Avoid, minimize, mitigate impacts of wind energy development  
16 2. Result of actions taken  
17 a. Project approval and no concerns  
18 b. Project not undertaken  
19 c. Project proceeds with design modifications and/or  
20 appropriate mitigation and/or compensation is available  
21 3. Tiered approach  
22 a. Problem formulation at each Tier level  
23 b. Outcomes at each Tier determine whether to continue with  
24 project assessment or project development  
25 4. Confidentiality  
26 B. Actions Taken by Developer  
27 1. Preliminary screening of potential wind development site or sites  
28 (Tier1)  
29 a. Problem formulation  
30 b. Preliminary evaluation of potential site(s)  
31 c. Early consultation(s)  
32 2. Site Evaluation and Selection (Tier 2)  
33 a. Problem formulation  
34 b. Additional site characterization  
35 c. Early consultation(s)  
36 d. Develop project siting alternatives  
37 e. Select site(s)  
38 3. Pre-construction Assessment, Project Design, and Permitting (Tier  
39 3)

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<sup>1</sup> At the July FAC meeting, members approved a set of principles that would be inserted here. The premises were tabled.

- 40 a. Problem formulation
- 41 b. Tier 3 studies – for prediction of risk or impact
- 42 i. Field surveys
- 43 ii. Recommended guidelines in “Methods and
- 44 Metrics” document (Appendix X)
- 45 c. Siting decision
- 46 i. Design modifications (micro siting considerations)
- 47 to avoid predicted impacts
- 48 ii. Mitigation/compensation
- 49 iii. Consultation as appropriate
- 50 iv. Communication
- 51 4. Site construction - site development and construction best practices
- 52 5. Site operation and project impact assessment (Tier 4 and Tier 5)
- 53 a. Problem formulation
- 54 b. Conduct Tier 4 studies – fatality assessments
- 55 c. Conduct Tier 5 studies – Continue studies begun during
- 56 pre-construction (e.g., BACI, evaluation of predicted
- 57 impact)
- 58 d. Conduct new Tier 5 studies – Conduct new studies to
- 59 evaluation mitigation, risk reduction, and cumulative (i.e.,
- 60 population) impacts
- 61 e. Adaptive management – evaluation and adjustment
- 62 6. Retrofit and decommissioning
- 63 a. Implement land/habitat restoration standards
- 64 C. Government Agency policy actions (interagency coordination,
- 65 communication, and standardizing compliance)
- 66 1. Federal-federal (*e.g.*, FWS and BLM)
- 67 2. Federal-state
- 68 3. Federal-tribal
- 69 4. Agency (federal state and/or local)-developer (*e.g.*, ABPP, HCP,
- 70 MOUs)
- 71 5. Confidentiality
- 72 6. Green certification
- 73 D. NGO Actions
- 74 1. Industry/AWEA
- 75 2. Conservation organizations
- 76 3. AWWI
- 77 4. NWCC
- 78 5. Others

### 80 **III. Benefits**

- 81 A. Reduced ecological impacts

- 82 B. Increased compliance
- 83 C. Reduced regulatory risk
- 84 D. Improved predictability of wildlife and habitat impact
- 85 E. Cost savings
- 86 F. Improved likelihood of project financing
- 87
- 88 **IV. Revisions to Guidelines**
- 89 A. Incorporating feedback
- 90 B. Design and schedule mechanisms for revision
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