

**Science Tools & Procedures Subcommittee of the  
Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee**  
Telephone Conference – May 21, 2008

Draft Summary

Participants:

Robert Robel	René Braud	Ed Arnett
Taber Allison	Robert Thresher	Rachel London, FWS
Cheryl Amrani, Facilitator		

- The group reviewed a draft statement of purpose prepared by Robert Robel, and all those on the call agreed that it is a reasonable purpose:

***Purpose:*** *To evaluate scientific tools and procedures to:*

1. *Assess pre-development risk or benefits provided to wildlife.*
  2. *Measure post-development mortality of wildlife.*
  3. *Assess behavioral modifications of wildlife to development.*
  4. *Provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts on wildlife.*
  5. *Draft recommendations for the Wind Turbine Guidelines FAC to consider to reduce the risk of wildlife losses, if any, associated with wind power development.*
- Robert Robel presented a working definition of “wildlife” for the subcommittee to discuss. It was generally accepted by those present on the call, but the subcommittee wanted input from Dave Stout on what the FWS might want included in the definition. The working definition presented was:
    - ✓ *“Terrestrial and arboreal mammals and avian species and their habitats, and federally listed species.”*
  - The subcommittee discussed the types of outside expertise that would be needed on the subcommittee, based on the statement of purpose. Included in these needs were:
    - ✓ Statistical and metrics background
    - ✓ Definition of metrics for pre-construction studies that can be used to accurately assess post-construction impacts
    - ✓ An outside perspective on the issue and review of the subcommittee’s reports to the FAC
    - ✓ Expertise in varied habitats/geographic regions
  - The subcommittee considered two individuals proposed as technical experts: Doug Johnson, USGS, proposed by Robert Robel, and Dale Strickland, WEST, Inc., proposed by René Braud.
    - ✓ Consensus of those present was to invite Doug Johnson and Dale Strickland as technical experts to the subcommittee.

- It was agreed that as additional technical expertise is needed, the advocate for each expert will provide the subcommittee with résumés and bios.
- The subcommittee discussed existing resources available to the Subcommittee:
  - ✓ [NWCC Methods & Metrics](#)
  - ✓ [Journal of Wildlife Management paper](#)
  - ✓ NRC report – tools section
  - ✓ [GS3C Northern Prairie Group Song Bird Protocol](#)
- Next steps were identified:
  - ✓ Robert Robel will update the Landscape/Habitat subcommittee on the Science Tools & Procedures subcommittee during the 5/23/08 teleconference.
  - ✓ Subcommittee will review the existing resources identified, and will evaluate the types of questions that each answers and whether they are relevant to the FAC recommendations.
  - ✓ In order to foster integration, each subcommittee member will serve as a liaison between Science Tools & Procedures and other subcommittees that they serve on.
  - ✓ Rachel will send the group a scheduling request for the subcommittee's next call, the week of June 9<sup>th</sup>.