

Suggested Principles for Developing Recommendations by the
US DOI Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee
(note, there is not complete agreement on this draft)

Premises

- 1) The Committee defines wildlife as all plant and animal species within a region including communities of species interacting at different spatial scales.
- 2) The intent of the recommendations by this Federal Advisory Committee is to provide maximum protection against harm to fish and wildlife, and their habitats, while ensuring the widest opportunity to implement wind energy projects. In that interest, it is reasonable to proceed with caution where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage but a lack of full scientific certainty about the magnitude of those threats. Every effort should therefore be taken to assess, measure, and implement actions to prevent adverse impacts to fish, wildlife, and habitats, prior to implementation of any wind energy project.
- 3) The Committee recognizes that:
 - a. All forms of energy production have an impact on wildlife;
 - b. Wind is a renewable energy resource that can play a significant role in mitigating impacts of climate change that are predicted to harm wildlife
 - c. Properly sited wind energy projects should minimize ecologically significant harm to wildlife

Principles

1. The Guidelines should provide a foundation for consistent risk assessment of the effects of wind development on wildlife by all federal agencies
2. The Guidelines should adopt an approach that encourages acceptance by all federal agencies while recognizing the primary role of a lead agency in conducting and directing specific risk assessments within its regulatory, leasing, or other jurisdictional role.
3. The Guidelines should provide a voluntary means for states, tribal governments, and local governments to agree to implement state/local guidelines that are consistent or compatible with the federal guidelines in order to promote consistency and provide greater certainty in the review of wind energy development.
4. The federal approach should attempt to complement state and tribal roles and efforts to address wind/wildlife interactions.

5. The Guidelines should provide a framework for learning from experience in wind energy development and for incorporating increased knowledge to reduce uncertainty and strengthen the foundation of the guidelines
6. The Guidelines should provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate unique features of wind development sites, diverse geographic regions, and diverse habitat considerations, but provide consistent methodology for conducting pre-construction risk assessments and post-construction monitoring
7. The Guidelines should describe the degree of scientific certainty and uncertainty for specific recommendations, and determine research priorities for reducing uncertainty.
8. The Guidelines should present mechanisms for determining mitigation, when applicable, in the event of unforeseen impacts to wildlife during operation of a wind energy project
9. The Guidelines should define scientifically rigorous and cost-effective study designs that produce comparable data among studies across the country and improve the ability to predict wildlife impacts locally and regionally
10. The Guidelines should include a formal mechanism for revision to incorporate scientific and technological advances that reduce uncertainty in the interactions between wind energy projects and wildlife
11. The Guidelines should provide clarity and consistency that reduces the risk of exposure under federal wildlife laws