Summary of NWCC Wildlife Workgroup Survey Results

May 3, 2012

1. Executive Summary

A survey on the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative (NWCC) Wildlife Workgroup was developed to inform the development of key objectives for the Wildlife Workgroup in 2012 and beyond. The survey was distributed by email on April 13, 2012 to approximately 900 email addresses on the NWCC Wildlife Workgroup email list. The survey received 79 responses between April 13 and April 23, which represents a response rate of approximately 9%.

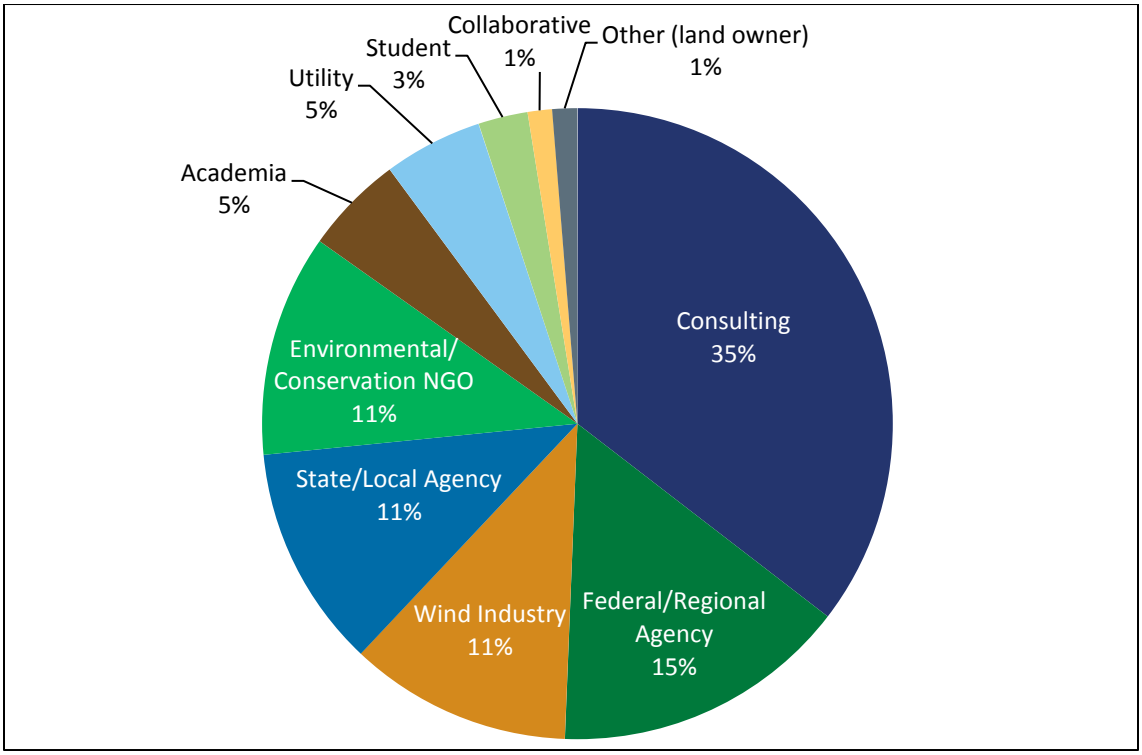
The key takeaways from the survey include the following:

- **Sectors:** Approximately half of the respondents were equally distributed between the following sectors: federal/regional agency; state/local agency; environmental/ conservation NGO; wind industry. The largest group of respondents (35%) were consultants.
- **Helpfulness of NWCC Products/Activities/Benefits:** Respondents have found the Wind Wildlife Research Meeting, Birds and Bats Fact Sheet ("Wind Turbine Interactions with Birds, Bats, and their Habitats: A Summary of Research Results and Priority Questions "),and "Comprehensive Guide to Studying Wind Energy/Wildlife Interactions" to be the most helpful.
- **Plans for 2012:** Respondents indicated general interest in attending NWCC events in 2012, although for many, actual participation will depend on the agenda and/or ability to secure travel/registration fee support.
- **General Outreach and Communications:** Respondents strongly preferred regular emails containing updates on wind-wildlife activities rather than continuing with the bi-monthly Wildlife Workgroup update calls. There was also interest in the creation of a web catalogue with information on wind-wildlife activities occurring in the U.S.
- **Webinars:** Respondents indicated the most interest in webinars on research results and on-going research. There is also high interest in webinars on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance and Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines ('Guidelines'). There is not as much interest in webinars on other aspects of wind power.
- **FWS Guidelines Training:** Some ideas for supporting the FWS in training on the Guidelines include:
    - Hosting a training associated with the Wind Wildlife Research Meeting
    - Maintaining an online toolbox of resources for compliance with the Guidelines; provide regionally-applicable education material
    - Facilitating the development of case studies
    - Coordinating training in regions with experts sources from the NWCC network
    - Discussion among those who have applied the Guidelines to discuss lessons learned
    - Joint training for industry and FWS staff; training for those who review NEPA documents
    - Using the NWCC network to reach a wide audience with status updates

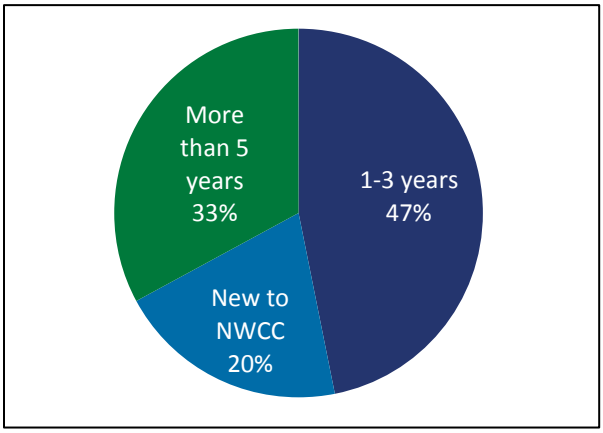
The charts and lists in the following sections summarize the full data set from the survey. Appendix A includes all questions asked through the survey.

2. Background on Survey Respondents

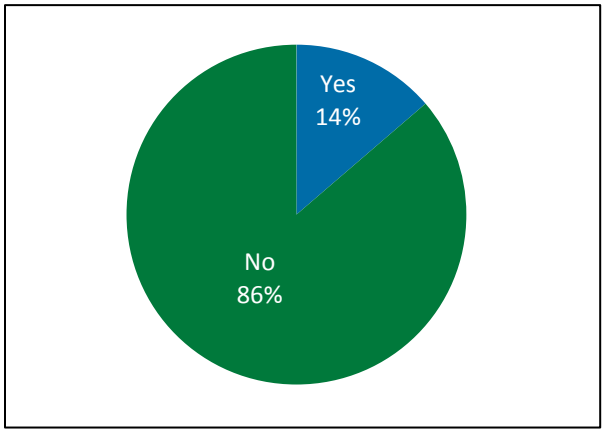
Sector Breakdown of Survey Respondents



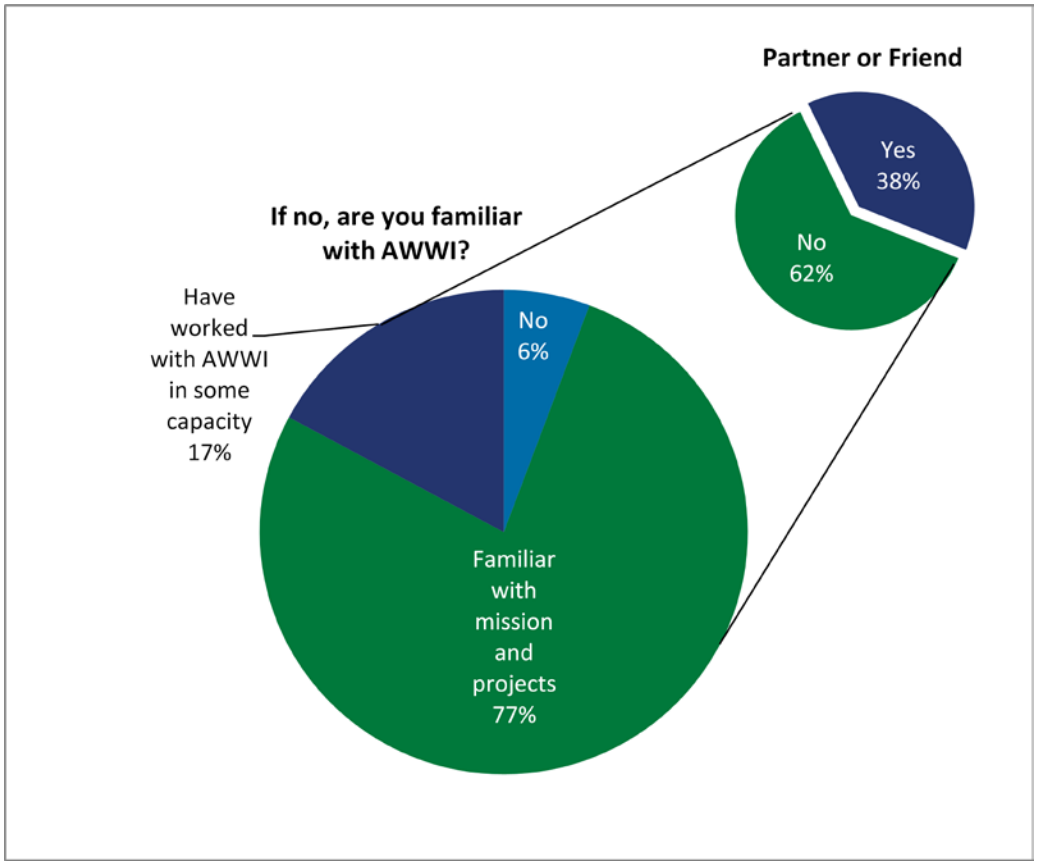
Length of Participation in NWCC Activities



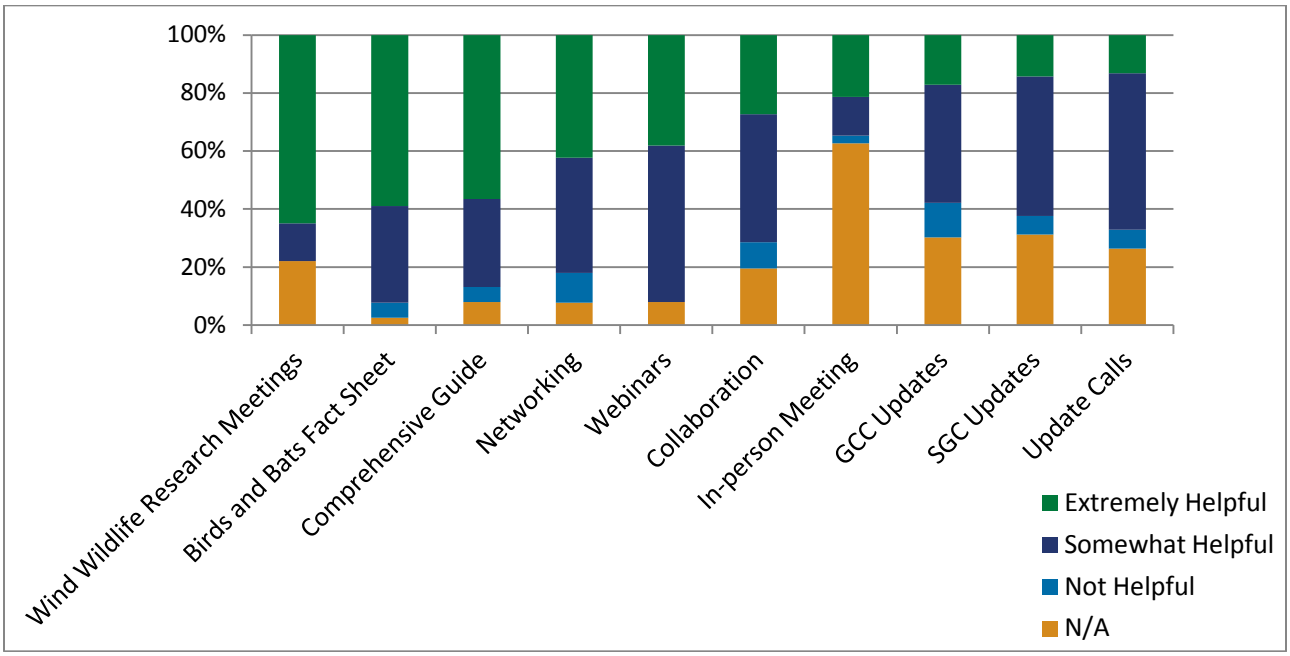
Participation as a Core Group Member



Familiarity with AWWI



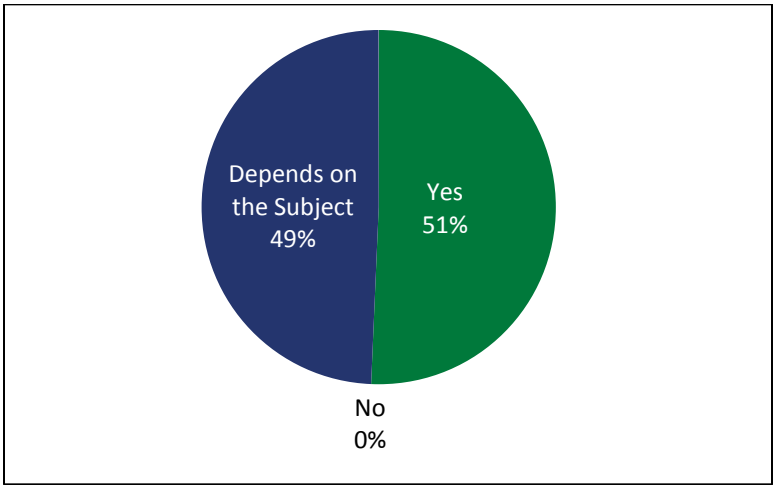
Helpfulness of Wildlife Workgroup Events/Products/Benefits[1]



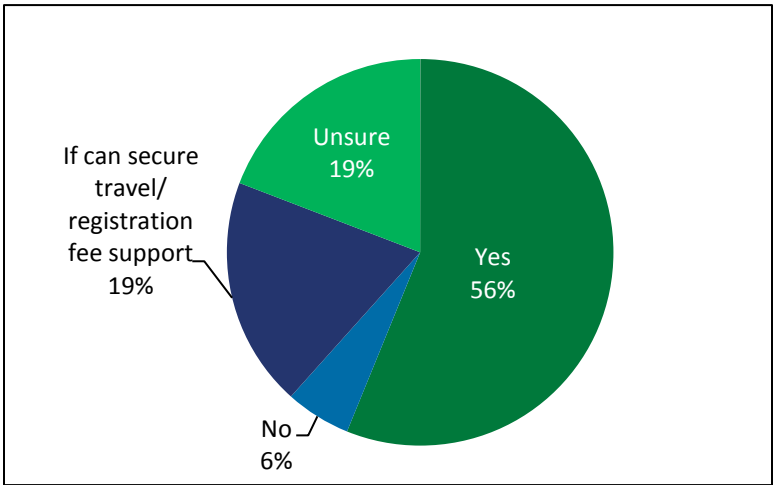
[1] SGC (Sage-Grouse Research Collaborative); GCC (Grassland Community Collaborative)

3. Plans to Attend 2012 NWCC Events

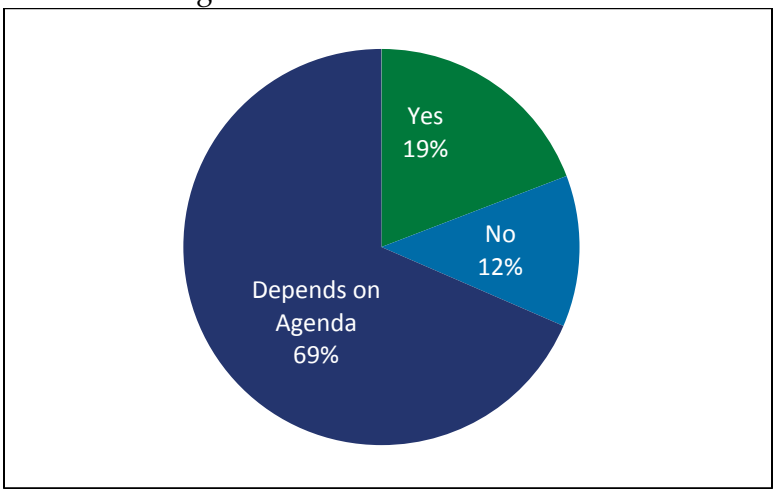
Webcasts



Wind Wildlife Research Meeting

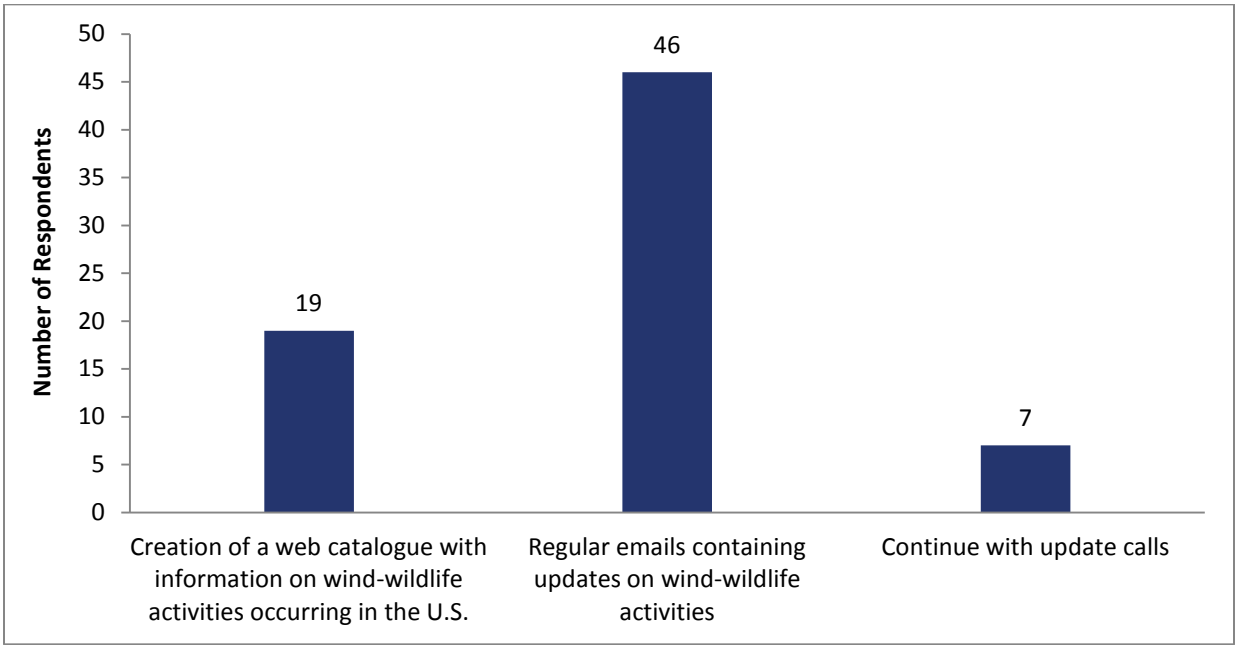


Annual Meeting



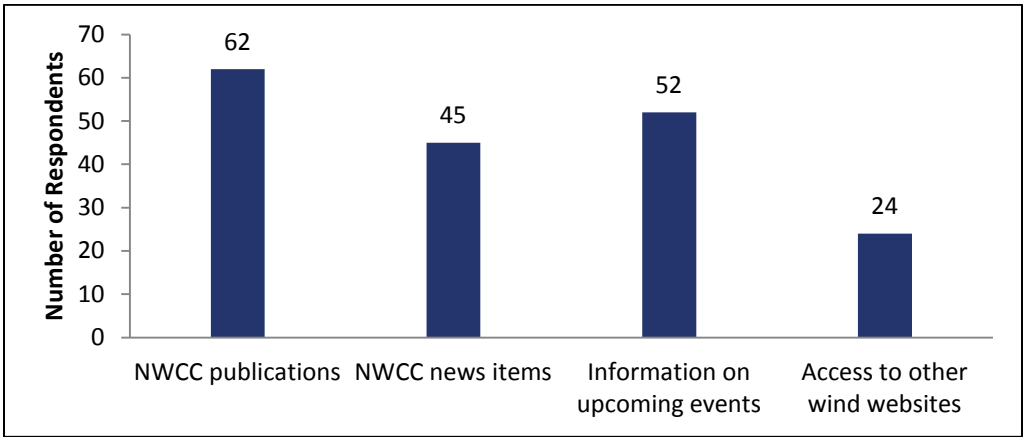
4. General Outreach and Communications Recommendations

Preference for Regular Updates



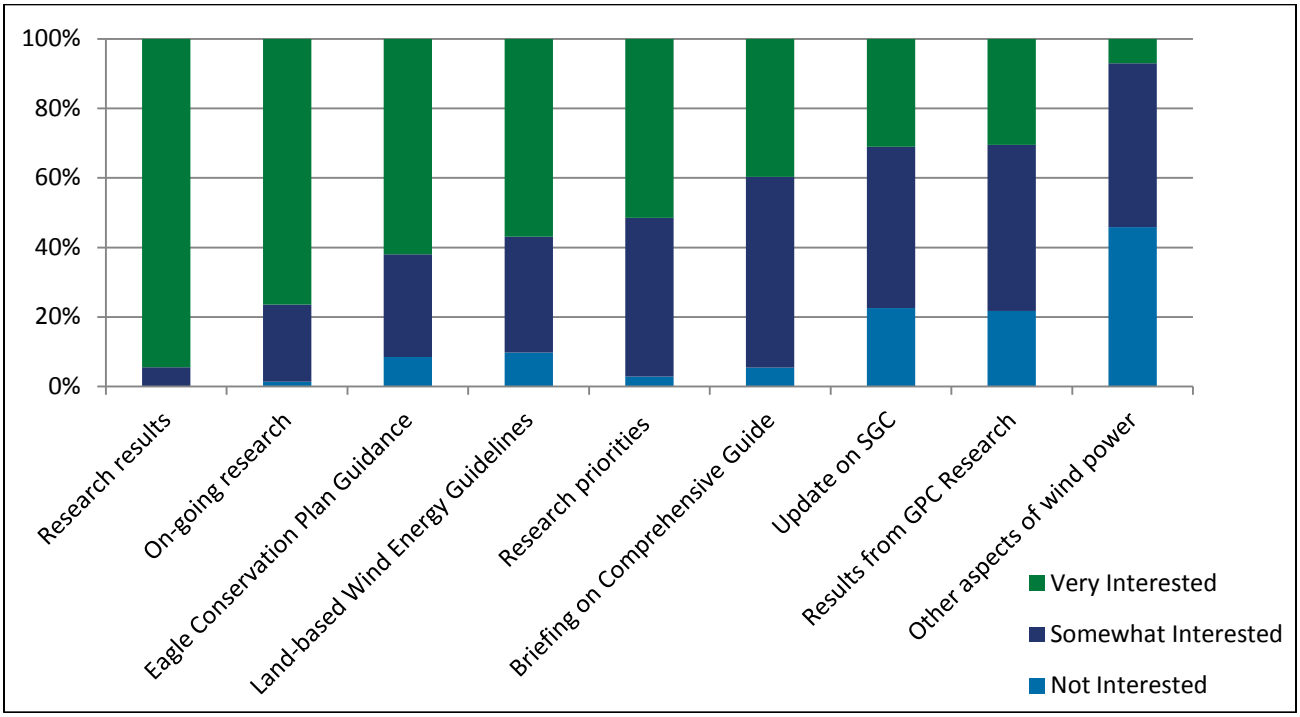
5. Website

Information Accessed on the Website in the Past

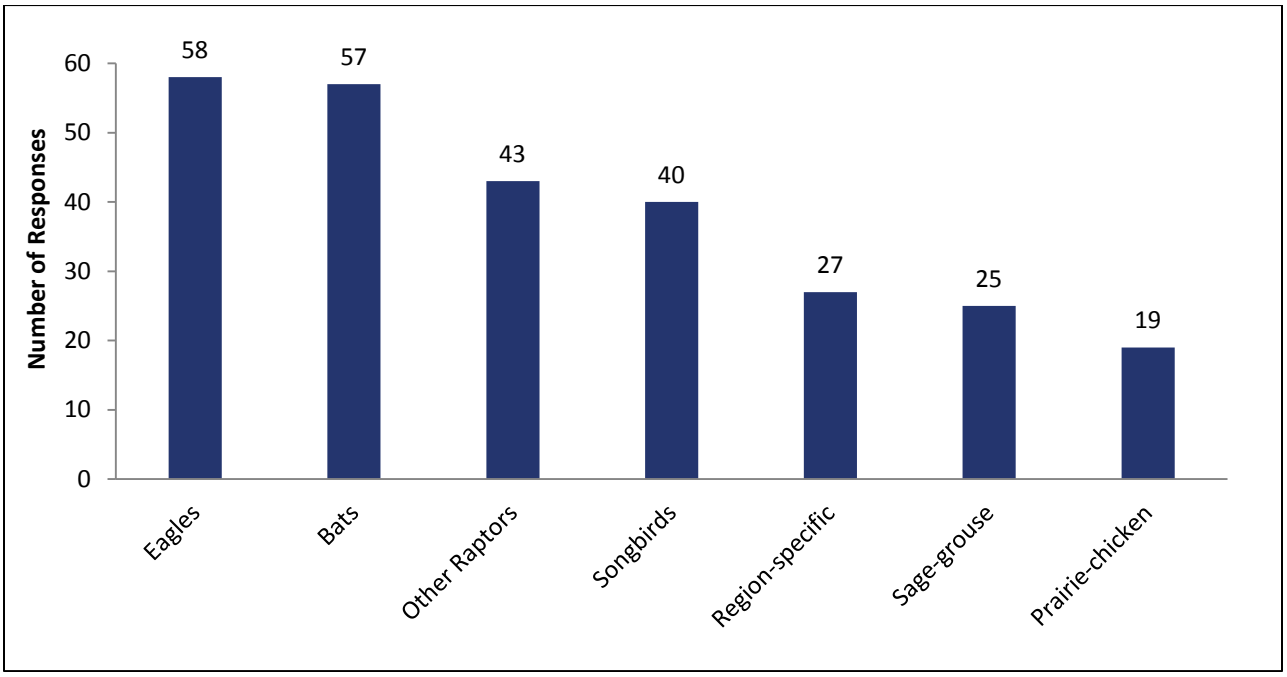


6. Webinars

General Webinar Topic Interests

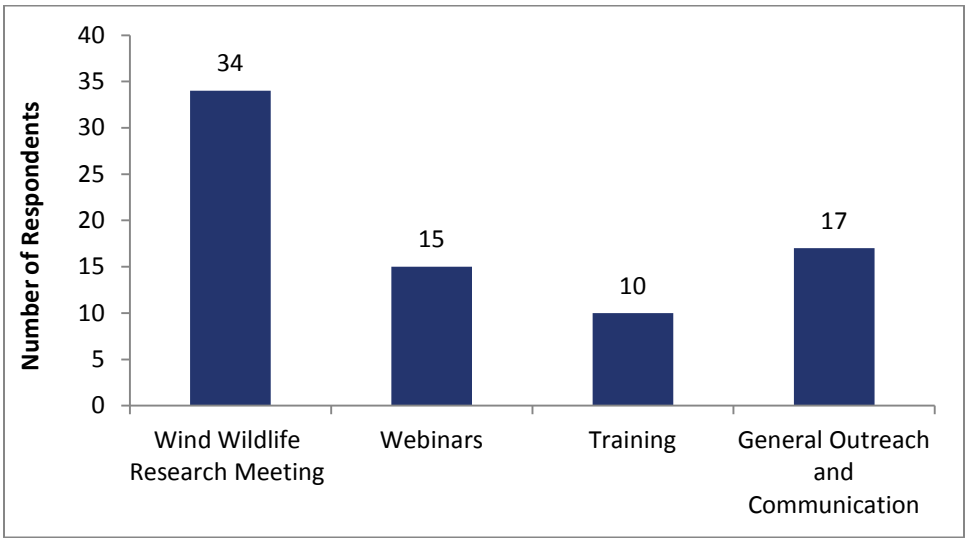


Research Topics of Most Interest



7. Other

Willingness to Help Plan Events



Appendix A: Survey Questions

NWCC Wildlife Workgroup Survey
We hope you will take the time to respond to the questions below. NWCC staff will compile the results to inform an evaluation of the Wildlife Workgroup organization and plans for the future.

1. Background

Name (Optional)
Affiliation (Optional)
Sector (please select one)

- Academia
- Collaborative
- Consulting
- Environmental/Conservation NGO
- Federal/Regional Agency
- State/Local Agency
- Student
- Utility
- Wind Industry
- Other
- If other, please list:

How long have you been participating in NWCC Wildlife Workgroup activities?

- New to NWCC
- 1-3 years
- More than 5 years

Which NWCC Wildlife Workshop events/products/benefits have been most helpful for your work? (Choices of Not Helpful, Somewhat Helpful, Extremely Helpful, and N/A)

- Wind Wildlife Research Meetings
- Webinars (most recent webinars covered research, both on-going and completed)
- Birds and Bats Factsheet ("Wind Turbine Interactions with Birds, Bats, and their Habitats: A Summary of Research Results and Priority Questions," published in 2010)
- Bi-monthly Wildlife Workgroup Update Calls
- Methods and Metrics Document (Most recent version, "Comprehensive Guide to Studying Wind Energy/Wildlife Interactions," published in 2011)
- Annual Wildlife Workgroup In-person Meeting
- Updates on the research overseen by the Grassland Community Collaborative (on the potential impacts of wind energy on Greater Prairie Chicken)
- Updates on the research overseen by the Sage-Grouse Research Collaborative (on the potential impacts of wind energy on Greater Sage-Grouse)
- Collaboration with other stakeholders
- Networking

2. Priority NWCC Wildlife Workgroup Activities for 2012

AWWI has a budget from DOE (through NREL) to conduct certain NWCC activities in 2012; additional activities not covered by the budget will require additional fundraising efforts to support. Your input on priority activities for the NWCC in 2012 and beyond will be invaluable in ensuring that the revamped NWCC Wildlife Workgroup is successful for years to come.

The following activities are currently planned for the NWCC Wildlife Workgroup in 2012:

- Hosting Topic-Specific Webinars
- Continuing to Facilitate the Research Collaboratives (Sage-Grouse Research Collaborative and Grassland Community Collaborative)
- Enhancing the Website
- Hosting the Ninth Wind Wildlife Research Meeting (scheduled for November 27-30, 2012, in Denver, CO)
- Hosting a Wildlife Workgroup Meeting
- Hosting Bi-monthly Wildlife Workgroup Calls

Which activities do you plan to participate on:

Webcasts

- Yes
- No
- Depends on the Subject

Wind Wildlife Research Meeting (November 27-30, 2012, in Denver, CO)

- Yes
- Only if can secure travel and/or registration fee support
- No
- Unsure

Wildlife Workgroup In-person Meeting (which would take place directly after the Research Meeting)

- Yes
- No
- Depends on Agenda

Regular Outreach/Updates

The bi-monthly Wildlife Workgroup Calls have offered time to update callers on NWCC activities and provide a forum to learn about other work. If we shifted resources to other outreach activities, which would be your preference:

- Continue with update calls
- Regular emails containing updates on wind-wildlife activities
- Creation of a web catalogue with information on wind-wildlife activities occurring in the U.S.
- Other

Webinars

Please rank your interest in the following topics, which could possibly be covered on NWCC webinars (Options of Not Interested, Somewhat Interested, and Very Interested)

- On-going research
- Research results
- Research priorities
- Briefing on "Comprehensive Guide to Studying Wind Energy/Wildlife Interactions"
- Education on other aspects of wind power (e.g., financing, operations)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance
- Update on Sage-Grouse Research Collaborative
- Results from NWCC-Supported Greater Prairie Chicken Research

Please select the research topics that most interest you:

- Songbirds
- Bats
- Eagles
- Other Raptors
- Sage-grouse
- Prairie-chicken
- Region-specific

Please list any other ideas/topics for potential webcasts below:

Training

AWWI has talked with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service about assisting with training on the Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines. Please share any ideas you have for how the NWCC network could be helpful for education about the Guidelines:
Note: A role for AWWI/NWCC in any training efforts has not been determined.

3. NWCC and AWWI

Is your organization a partner/friend of AWWI?

- Yes
- No

If no, are you familiar with the American Wind Wildlife Institute?

- No
- In name only
- Familiar with mission and projects
- Have worked with AWWI in some capacity

4. NWCC Wildlife Workgroup Organization

Have you ever been a member of the NWCC Wildlife Workgroup Core Group?

- Yes

- No

Rather than have a set Core Group to advise on priorities for the Workgroup, we propose to develop lists of people who are interested in guiding activities and developing specific committees on an as-needed basis. (Note: the SGC and GCC will continue to be governed by their existing Oversight Committees.)

Please check off any activities below that you would help plan.

- Wind Wildlife Research Meeting
- Webinars
- Training
- General Outreach and Communication

5. Communications and Website

Do you have ideas to improve how NWCC staff disseminate information or to reach new stakeholders?

What information do you access on the NWCC website:

- NWCC publications
- NWCC news items
- Information on upcoming events
- Access to other wind websites

Please list any critiques you have of the NWCC website or ideas for improvement:

6. Follow-Up

If we have additional questions, are you willing to participate in a short phone interview with an AWWI/NWCC staff member?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please include your contact information below.
Name
Email
Phone Number