

Community Wind Workshop

July 13, 2021

Session 5 - Wildlife Impacts



Dorothy Barnett

The Climate + Energy
Project

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As the Executive Director of the Climate + Energy Project, Dorothy Barnett is leading the effort to address the Heartland's energy future. Grounded in an approach based on common ground solutions, Barnett has been successful in convening diverse voices in a conservative region of the country. Barnett has coordinated winning campaigns to protect the Kansas Renewable Portfolio Standard from special interest groups attacks during four legislative sessions, allowing the wind industry to grow to 40% of the state's power generation in just a decade.

Prior to her position as Executive Director, Barnett served for 4 years as CEP's Director of Energy and Transmission. This work put Dorothy on the ground in energy policy work at the local, state and regional level. Under Barnett's leadership, CEP continues to innovate and reach new audiences with projects like WEALTH: Water, Energy, Air, Land, Transportation and HEALTH, Climate + Energy Voters Take Action, the Kansas Environmental Leadership project and the Clean Energy Business Council, a multi sector business group focused on the advanced energy economy.



COMMUNITY WIND WORKSHOP 2021

Community Agreements

- **Platinum Rule** - *treat others the way you want to be treated.*
- **Notice the Room** - *build awareness together.*
- **Be Curious, Open, and Respectful** - *call in, not out. Throw sunshine, not shade.*
- **Be Conscious of Your Intent vs. Impact** - *Your intentions may be good, but the impact on another may be hurtful. You are responsible for the impact of your words.*





Mission

The Climate + Energy Project (CEP) builds resilience in Kansas through equitable clean energy solutions and climate action.

Purpose

The Climate & Energy Project:

- connects people, organizations, and ideas;
- presents science-based facts;
- facilitates critical thinking and community engagement; and
- co-creates equitable and productive solutions.

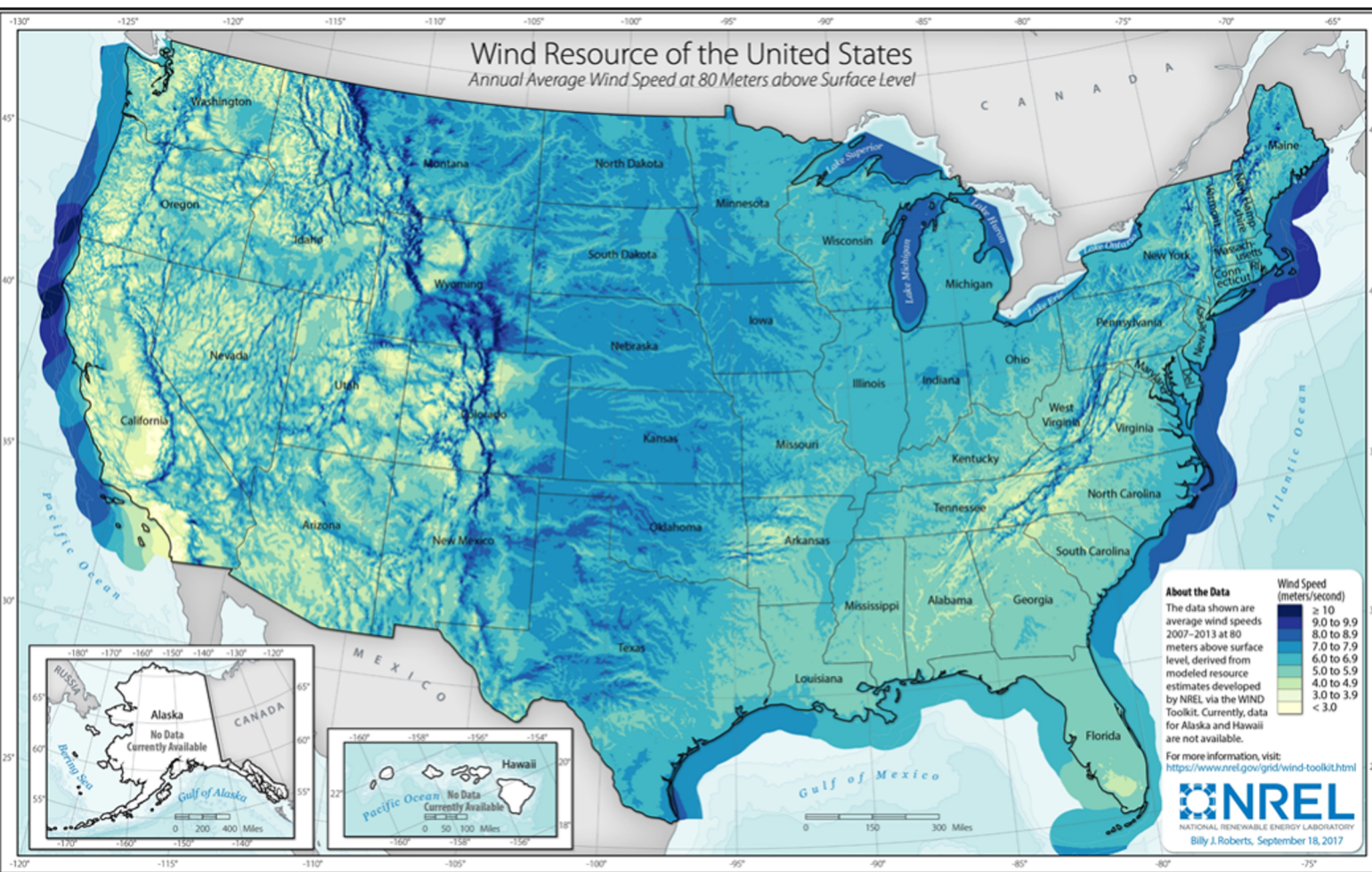


U.S. WIND CORRIDOR

- Central Location
- Strong wind resource

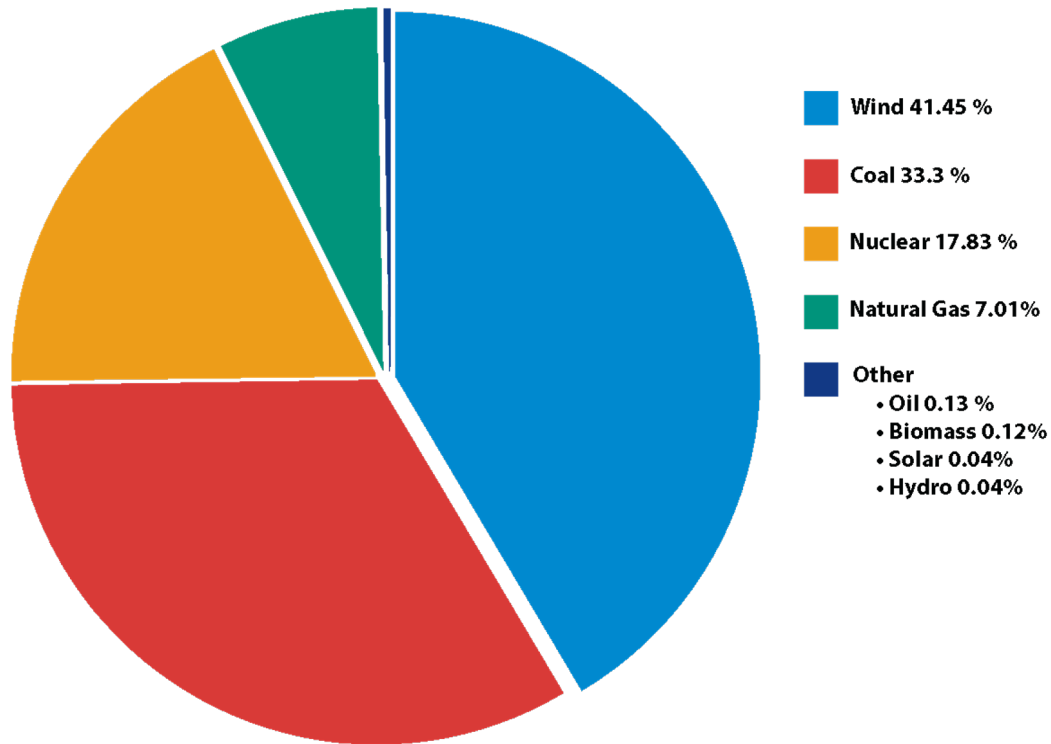
Kansas Rankings (AWEA Market Report)

- #2 – Wind as % of total generation
 - #3 – Corporate wind purchases
 - #4 – Wind power installed capacity
 - #4 – Wind power generation
 - #5 – Wind turbines installed
- \$11.4+ billion** – Total investment
- 1.97 million** – Equivalent homes powered

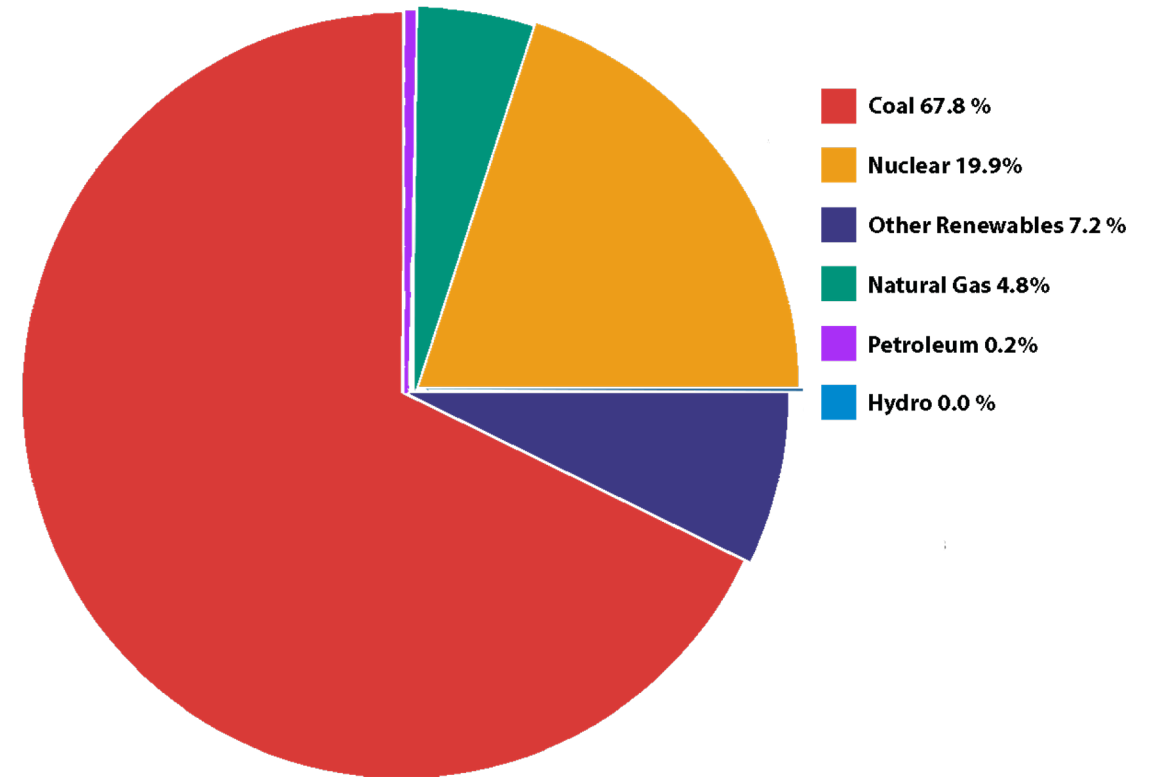


Kansas Electricity Generation

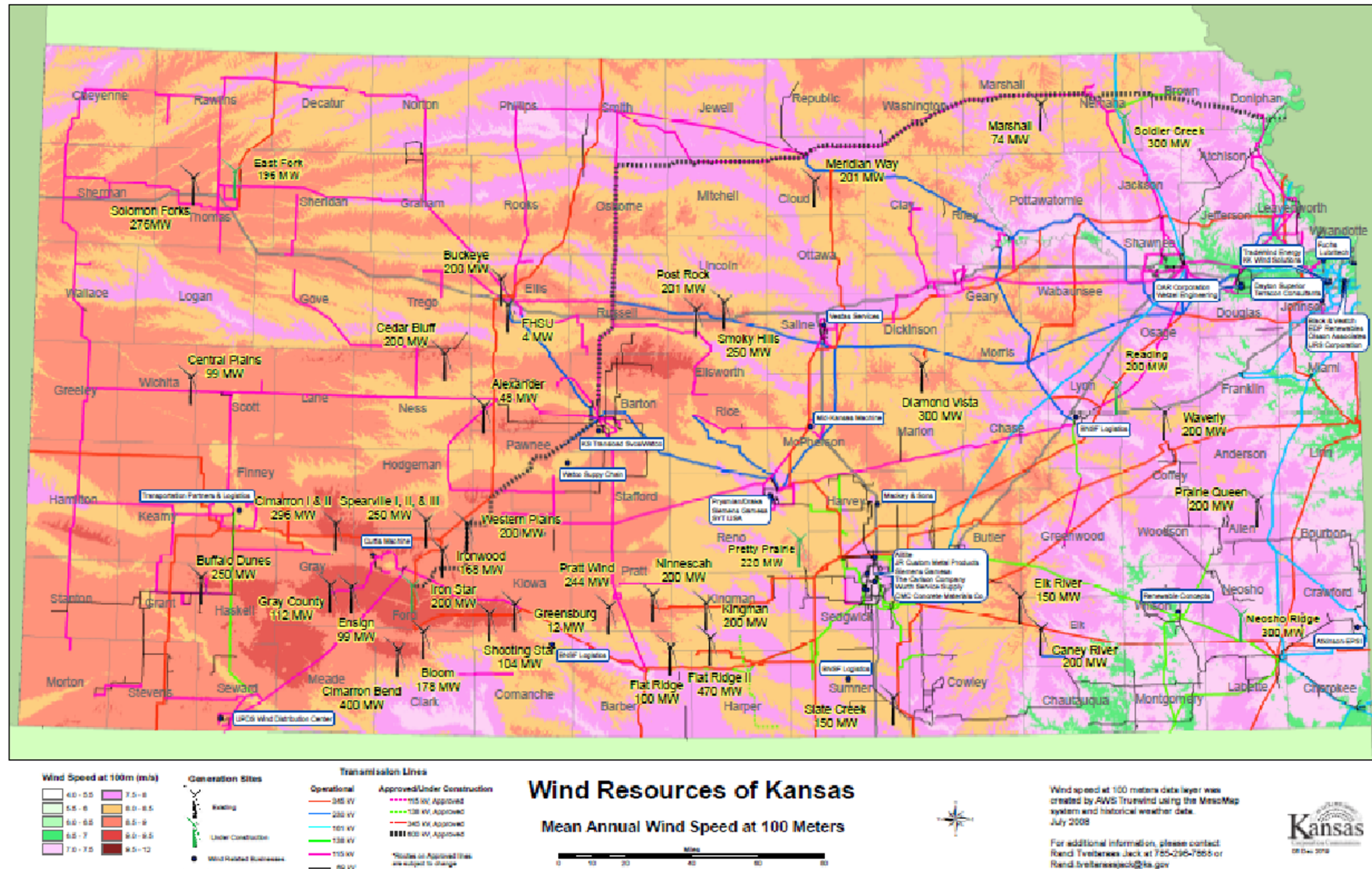
2019



2010



KANSAS WIND MAP WITH OPERATING AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION WIND FARMS AND RELATED BUSINESSES



Zac Eddy

KS Dept. of Wildlife,
Parks, & Tourism
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Zac Eddy was raised in Dodge City, and has a family background in farming and ranching. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Bethel College and a master's degree in geography from Kansas State University. Schooling and previous employment experiences have given him the opportunity to work with landowners, public agencies, and NGO's on a wide range of research and conservation projects. Following graduate school, Zac started his career working with USFWS's Habitat and Population Evaluation Team doing habitat and species distribution modeling focused on non-game Federal trust species. For just under 5 years, he has been employed as a Terrestrial Ecologist for KDWPT where his primary responsibilities include non-game species and habitat conservation as well as energy development siting consultations and permitting. Zac understands the economic and conservation priorities at work in the Kansas landscape and hopes to act as a bridge between those when possible. He, his family, and their ever expanding array of pets make their home on a few acres outside of Iuka, KS.





Ecological Reviews and Permitting Process

Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
Ecological Services Section

Zac Eddy

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Ecological Services

- Pratt, KS
 - Chief
 - Biologists – Field survey crews and technicians
 - Ecologists – Project reviews, research grant management
- KDWPT mission
 - ...conserve and enhance the natural heritage of Kansas, its wildlife, and its habitats and promote the state as a tourism destination...

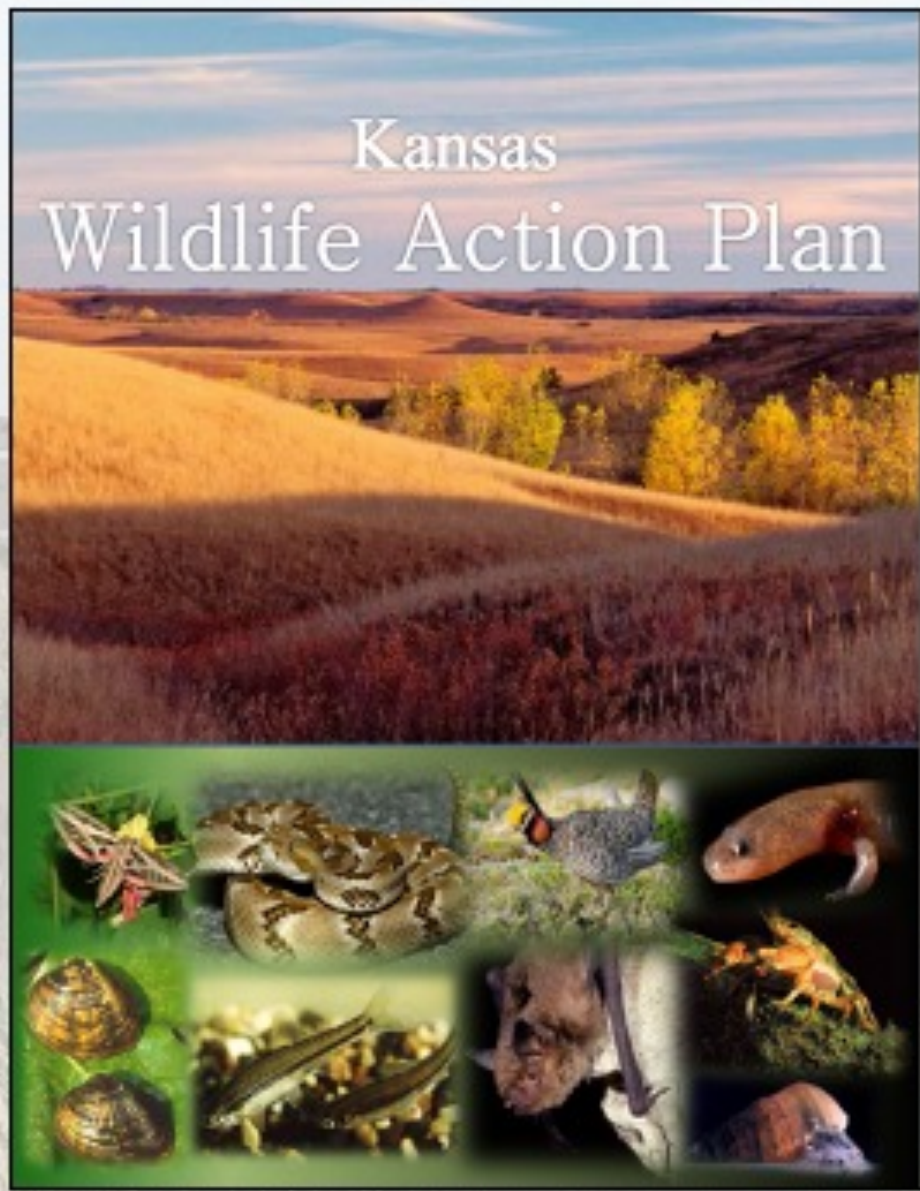
Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1975

- 12 Statutes-K.S.A. 32-957 to 963, 1009 to 1012, and 1033
- Protects state listed species
- Grant KDWP responsibility for conservation & recovery of listed species



Public's View on Listed Species

- Recent (2011) survey indicates that 91% of Kansas residents support conservation of Threatened & Endangered species
- More information see [our Kansas Wildlife Action Plan](#)



Kansas Species Listing Statuses

- **Endangered**
 - continued existence as a viable component of the state's wild fauna determined to be in jeopardy
 - Receive habitat protections
 - 22 species
- **Threatened**
 - appear likely to become an endangered species in foreseeable future
 - Receive habitat protections
 - 29 species
- **Species in Need of Conservation (SINC)**
 - Conservation needed/encouraged to prevent further imperilment
 - Do not receive habitat protections
 - 82 SINC



What Triggers an ESS Review?

- Any publically funded action
- State or federally-assisted action
- Action requiring a permit from another state or federal entity
 - KS Dept. of Agriculture
 - KS Dept. of Health and Environment
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- KDWPT does not have project denial authority



Wind Project Reviews

- KDWPT Wind Energy Position Statement gives broad guidance for site selection and pre-/post-construction survey recommendations
 - Internet search for “KDWPT Wind Position” or <https://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Environmental-Reviews/Wind-Power-and-Wildlife-Issues-in-Kansas>
- For large energy projects, including wind, KDWPT appreciates an iterative process
 - Multiple contacts between developers/KDWPT
 - Project introduction and siting study discussion, KDWPT initial comments/questions/recommendations, results of field siting studies (birds, bats, state species, habitat), KDWPT environmental review
- Review is guided by existing statutes and regulations
 - Review letters CC'ed to county zoning admin. or county clerk



Designated Critical Habitat

- Designated critical habitat (DCH)
 - Specific areas supporting a population of a listed species and providing features (physical/biological) essential to the conservation of the species
 - Specific areas not documented as currently supporting a listed species but determined essential for the conservation of the species (*e.g.* currently suitable, unoccupied habitat for population expansion)



Designated Critical Habitat

KDWPT Designated Critical Habitat Areas



DISCLAIMER: This map provides a general depiction of the written Designated Critical Habitat descriptions for state-listed Threatened or Endangered species. Newly proposed Designated Critical Habitat for the Cylindrical Papershell mussel is not depicted.

Not all portions of the green shaded areas are considered critical habitat, nor are the boundaries shown here hard delineations. If necessary for project reviews, final determination of critical habitat is made by a qualified KDWPT Ecologist after site review and evaluation.

Written DCH descriptions are produced by the multi-stakeholder Threatened and Endangered Species Committee before final approval by the KDWPT Secretary. All written descriptions are available on our website at <https://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Threatened-and-Endangered-Wildlife>.

All pertinent information submitted

Desktop review

Project **not** within DCH

Standard BMPs

Not suitable habitat

Project within DCH

Site evaluation

Suitable habitat present

Action Permit

Project construction

Completion in compliance

Project Area **Not** in DCH

- Notify project sponsors that a permit is not required from KDWPT
- Offer recommendations and suggest best management practices (BMPs) to minimize wildlife impacts
 - Avoidance and minimization recommendations
 - habitats to avoid, site restoration and/or voluntary offset suggestions, fish-friendly bridge/culvert designs, invasive species establishment minimization, erosion/water quality BMPS, etc.



Project Area **Within** Potential DCH

- Action Permit may be required for impacts to DCH
 - Site visit (habitat determination/quality evaluation)
 - Type of impact (permanent/temporary)
 - Special Conditions to avoid/minimize impacts
 - Avoidance requirements (HDD, timing restrictions, mussel surveys/relocation, etc.)
 - Restoration of temporary impacts (soil/stream disturbances)
 - Compensatory mitigation



Projects Reviewed & Permits Issued

- How many projects does KDWPT review in a year?
 - 2019: 1903 projects reviewed
 - 19 Action Permits, 0 required compensatory mitigation
 - 2018: 1896 projects reviewed
 - 18 Action Permits, 1 required compensatory mitigation
 - 2017: 1874 projects reviewed
 - 22 Action Permits, 2 required compensatory mitigation
 - 2016: 1819 projects reviewed
 - 27 Action Permits, 5 required compensatory mitigation
 - 2015: 2103 projects reviewed
 - 35 Action Permits, 2 required compensatory mitigation

Pete Ferrell

Elk River Wind Farm
Landowner
gpferrelliii@sktc.net



Pete Ferrell has worked at the Ferrell Ranch (established by his great-grandfather in 1888) basically all his adult life.

He was the initiator of and primary landholding member in the development of the Elk River Wind Farm constructed on the Ferrell Ranch in 2005.

He worked as a project development consultant for Energy for Generations, LLC (a wind power development company).





























FERRELL

RANCH