Engagement with Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Wildlife and Wind Energy Workshop
Module 2; Section V
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Major points

• When to contact MFWP
• Partnership with USFWS
• Contact with other state agencies
• Importance of engaging local biologists
• Data available
• Common themes in MT
• Bat Recommendations
• Data Sharing
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks ROLE

• FWP has laws to protect wildlife
  • MCA 87-5-201 (direct take)
  • MCA 87-5-109 (research)

• FWP has a non-regulatory role with wind

• FWP is interested in voluntary consultation

• Share what we know to make for successful projects that minimize impacts to wildlife
When?

• As early as possible is welcome
• LOCAL FWP biologists can provide valuable insight
• Second USFWS recommendations
• MT NHP database is valuable
• FWP can have other information
What you might hear from FWP...

• Partnership with USFWS
• sage-grouse and sharp-tailed lek locations
  • Have you contacted the Sage-grouse program?
• Have you conducted acoustic surveys for bats?
• Can native grasslands be avoided?
• Will public lands access be lost?
Voluntary Recommendations

- 2 years pre-construction, 2 years post-construction surveys
- Follow Voluntary Recommendations to Minimize Bat Fatalities (2020)
- When feasible, share data with AWWIC
- Assist with a successful consultation → successful siting of a wind project → minimizes wildlife impacts
Thank you!

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