

Birds in the Wind 2013

Bird and bat populations have been one of the primary concerns of the recent growth in wind power across the United States. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimates that almost a half million birds are killed each year in the U.S. by wind turbines. (Scientific American, Aug. 20, 2012) While Wyoming has proven to have some of the nation's most productive areas for wind energy – over 9% of the state's electricity comes from wind – these areas also provide crucial habitat for many critters.

Determine the pros and cons of the proposed 22,000-acre Pioneer Wind Parks I and II in the northern Laramie Range. Include field data, geospatial analysis and multiple points-of-view. Consider both the biological and economical impacts of the project. Share your recommendations at a presentation to experts and interested citizens on September 18.

The Conference of the Birds
by Farid Uddin Attar,
illustrated by Peter Sis

Science:

Conservation of Natural Resources
Effects of Turbines – global perspectives
Turbine designs
Renewable Energy vs. Fossil Fuels
Turbine makes electricity?
Nesting, Migration & Foraging

GPS
Wind Currents
Electricity

Tech:

Documentation
Presentation style
Graphical representation

Camera II
Slides & Hyperlinks
Computer Basics

Social Studies:

Effects of turbines globally
Economics of wind energy
Court Records
Government Reports

National Energy Policy

Language Arts:

Reading ~ research specific
Writing ~
Speaking ~ presentation

Conference of the Birds
Writing: pros and cons
Researching