



# Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

## June 2008

### *Planning Update #1 Windpower Guidelines*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife developed a guidance document in September of 2003 entitled “Windpower Guidelines”. Over the past 5 years, several wind power project proposals have been reviewed and constructed using this guidance document.

Wind power is seen as a clean alternative energy source that is making a major contribution to renewable energy standards. Within Washington State and nation-wide, wind power is one of the fastest growing energy industries that has drawn considerable interest from natural resource managers and advocates concerning impacts to wildlife and habitat resources.



Starting in April, 2008, WDFW convened the first Wind Power Stakeholders meeting to begin the process of updating the 2003 Windpower Guidelines. Stakeholders include, the wind industry, environmental, research, county, landowner, consultant, and WDFW. A second meeting was held in May that resulted in the formation of three teams.

Each team is in the process of more closely reviewing one of the three sections of the existing Windpower to reflect the best available science and information to address impacts to natural resources.



The “new” Windpower Guidelines for Washington will address, among other topics, pre-assessment screening, siting considerations and mitigation tools, as well as identify the processes and agencies involved for project review and permitting.

As the first state in the continental U.S. to publish Windpower Guidelines in 2003, we are confident that this public process for re-evaluation and update will allow for the continued strong support of both the wind industry and the conservation of natural resources in Washington State.

Look for *Planning Update #2* in September, 2008.