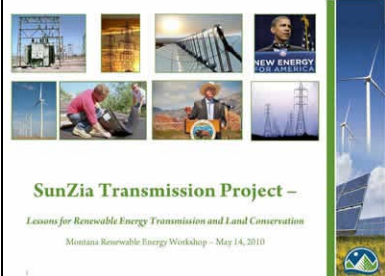
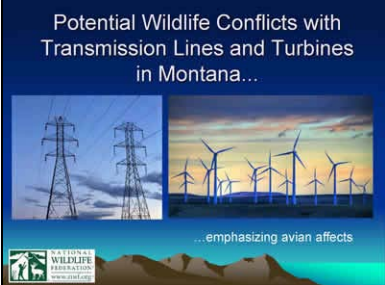



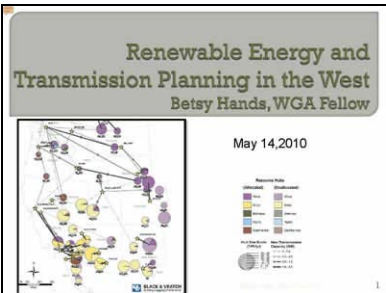
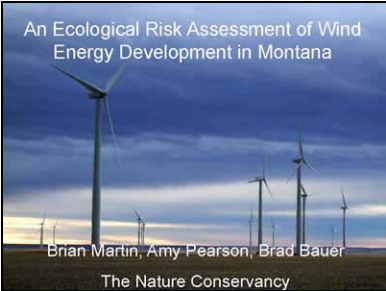
MONTANA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT,
WILDLIFE AND LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP

DATE: May 14, 2010

LOCATION: Great Northern Hotel, Helena

Presentation Information and Notes	
Presentation Title <i>Presenter, Affiliation</i> Bulleted Notes	Powerpoint Available? <i>(accompanying Powerpoints are listed directly on the website, below the link to this PDF document)</i>
Siting Considerations <i>John Audley, Renewable Northwest Project</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 104 MW or smaller, county can site the project, greater size it goes through the state. Who within the state government has jurisdiction?? Land use planning permits will be the basic process being utilized. Framework of voluntary and mandatory guidelines for appropriate siting. Macro-siting of data is the first part of the process- balancing pressures of mitigation and development. Formal mitigation formulas 2:1 3:1 habitat. On site mitigation or off-site? What is the best way- \$ will leave the county if mitigation is done elsewhere. 	<p>No</p>
Schweitzer Economic Development Plan <i>Evan Barrett, Governor's Office</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor's approach is to take advantage of all of our energy resources- no "cherry picking"-but do it right. Make it clean, but meet the market demand. Renewable Portfolio Standards- we must meet that. Schweitzer Energy Plan... rate of wind power development – fastest development in the nation. 386 up from 1 mw in 2005. Rim Rock 309 MW largest in NW. MT tied #2 in nation Harvard wind study energy potential 4700 TWh. Our growth and potential are not in unison for wind development. Firming Wind- how to cope with wind gap stabilization- 	<p>Yes</p>

<p>natural gas preferred alternative in firming. Provides consistency in power transmission. Other options: Pump Hydro, Wind-on-Wind, Compressed air energy storage, other. Draft EIS available in June for MSTI line. Chinook line straight to Vegas carrying 3000MW. \$12 billion in wind development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind Tax? \$1 per MWH at Rimrock wind farm would produce \$1 million in taxes. Property tax \$12 million. Don't think that taxing wind energy is necessary when property tax is so high. • Says he wants to incorporate conservation groups and communication between developers and conservation interests. Circles on a map vs. what people want. • Lack of citing regulations is a good thing... Not a problem until we make it one. • Citing of towers is tied to transmission lines? Source of supply is part of analysis? • Building permits? 3 acres/ megawatt • Grasslands line w/ water storage?? 	
<p style="text-align: center;">SunZia Transmission Project <i>Alex Daue, The Wildlife Society</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE transmission line won't ever truly exist- no laws in place- anything can run on it. • Underground transmission lines- what are the economic constraints? • "Not Rocket Science" (Alex Daue) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Potential Wildlife Conflicts with Transmission Lines and Turbines in Montana...Emphasizing Avian Affects <i>Ben Deeble, Sage Steppe Coordinator, National Wildlife Federation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife corridors and increased transmission lines don't mix- use existing corridors in key wildlife areas • (SW MT transmission lines (MSTI and Chinook) will travel near I-15 corridor) • Sage grouse react adversely to wind development- fear of increased predator perches on transmission poles and shadow flicker. • Increased habitat fragmentations of ungulates- tend to avoid transmission routes. • Migratory waterfowl routes also a factor. Trumpeter swans have high occurrence of collision with transmission lines. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> 

<p style="text-align: center;">Transmission Siting Considerations, Best Practices, and Lessons Learned <i>Gary Graham, Ph.D., Transmission Project Director, Western Resource Advocates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change environmental conundrum. Long term vs. short term concerns • Fast track renewable power vs. protecting important habitat and landscapes no matter the cost. Get renewable energy markets kicked off. .. But let’s not lose more than we have to. Retire coal plants as RE is phased in. Engagement in siting generation and development. No guarantee on quantity reliability of RE. Siting considerations “avoid” “minimize” “mitigate impacts” • Existing corridors, underground lines • BMP construction: Smart construction- species specific and site specific planning for construction • Tower designs to minimize raptor perches. • Sensitive resource management: active monitoring program of sites • Minimal construction, speed limits, control invasive species, • Replacement Habitat: At least 1 acre per 1 acre...equivalent type and quality of habitat • Venues of Engagement: NEPA, Public utility commission, county commissioners (building permits) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Renewable Energy and Transmission Planning in the West <i>Betsy Hands, Fellow, Western Governors’ Association</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40 billion appropriated for clean energy initiatives • Tax incentives up to \$20 billion • WECC oversees transmission policy vs. and in conjunction with WGA • Permitting system is very broken / no collaboration 	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">An Ecological Risk Assessment of Wind Energy Development in Montana <i>Brian Martin, Amy Pearson, Brad Bauer, The Nature Conservancy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bats are attracted to wind turbines. 41 bats killed per installed MW. Habitat fragmentation—not so different from oil and gas development. Hoary and Eastern Red bat are species of concern account for 90% of fatalities. http://conserveonline.org/library/mt-wind-analysis/view.html 	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> 

Group Breakouts	
Topic	Bulleted Notes
Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term exercise, reconsider “best practices” bill. Discussed requiring developers to discuss biological data collected. States with existing legislation? 27 examples of siting laws, no state requires developers to disclose data collected on private land (except PA). Public vs. Private land disclosure much different. Data turned over is up to the developer at this point. • What is the resistance to siting? Betsy/Janet -Anti regulation. Rural areas are suffering and need the development potential. We need to show we are working in partnership, learn how to say yes. Tax incentives for building in the right areas? Take advantage of taxes already established on land.
BMPs / Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of work on this already. Federal advisory committee has already adopted BMPs – incentives for the adoption. • Cover up research gaps. Integrate data back into system that FWP has developed. • As much support as possible from NGO and governor’s office for BMPs. • Identify the “YES” zones • Re-invigorate meetings, have dialogues, somebody needs leadership to get all of this moving. CO renewable conservation collaborative could serve as a model. • Idea of a task force of individuals to develop what the go zone would look like and to ensure ongoing participation- appointed by governor?? • Tap into fed/state funding mechanisms- • Build expandable infrastructure for power lines. New Market tax credit- used to create, invigorate economic develop opportunities in “poverty” areas. Currently not much of a market for tax credits. • Look at other state processes along these lines to mimic
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let’s be proactive, talk to developers right away. Don’t wait. Engage people, organizations interested in talking to developers. There is value in developing a process that is big picture stakeholder driven – work on both wind and transmission together. The intersection of state and local government is necessary for this to be feasible. We need to keep dialogue open and conversations ongoing.
Walk-away Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should NGOs seek to endorse the governor’s energy plan? • Governor to establish stakeholder input? • NGOs to agree on guiding principles to give to governor? • Other models in the West to explore further?