



Adventures in FACA

How USFWS developed its voluntary guidelines for wind energy development



Wind Energy Conundrum

We must!

- * Climate change
- * Energy independence
- * Jobs and economic growth
- * Public support for renewable energy

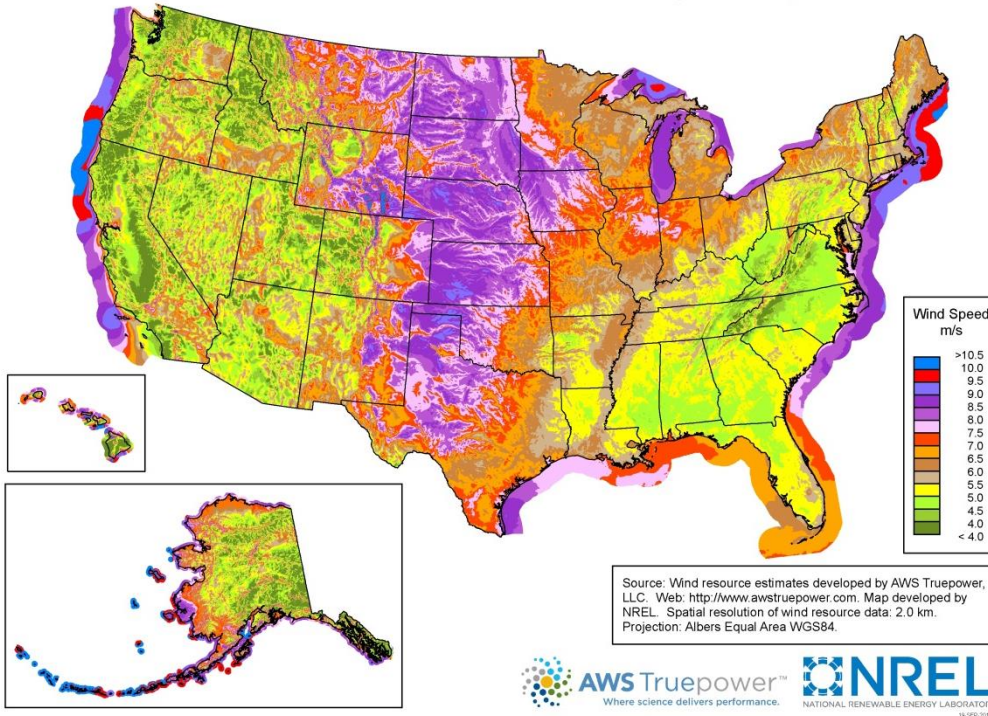
But...

- * New environmental impacts
- * New infrastructure needs
- * NIMBYism/public opposition



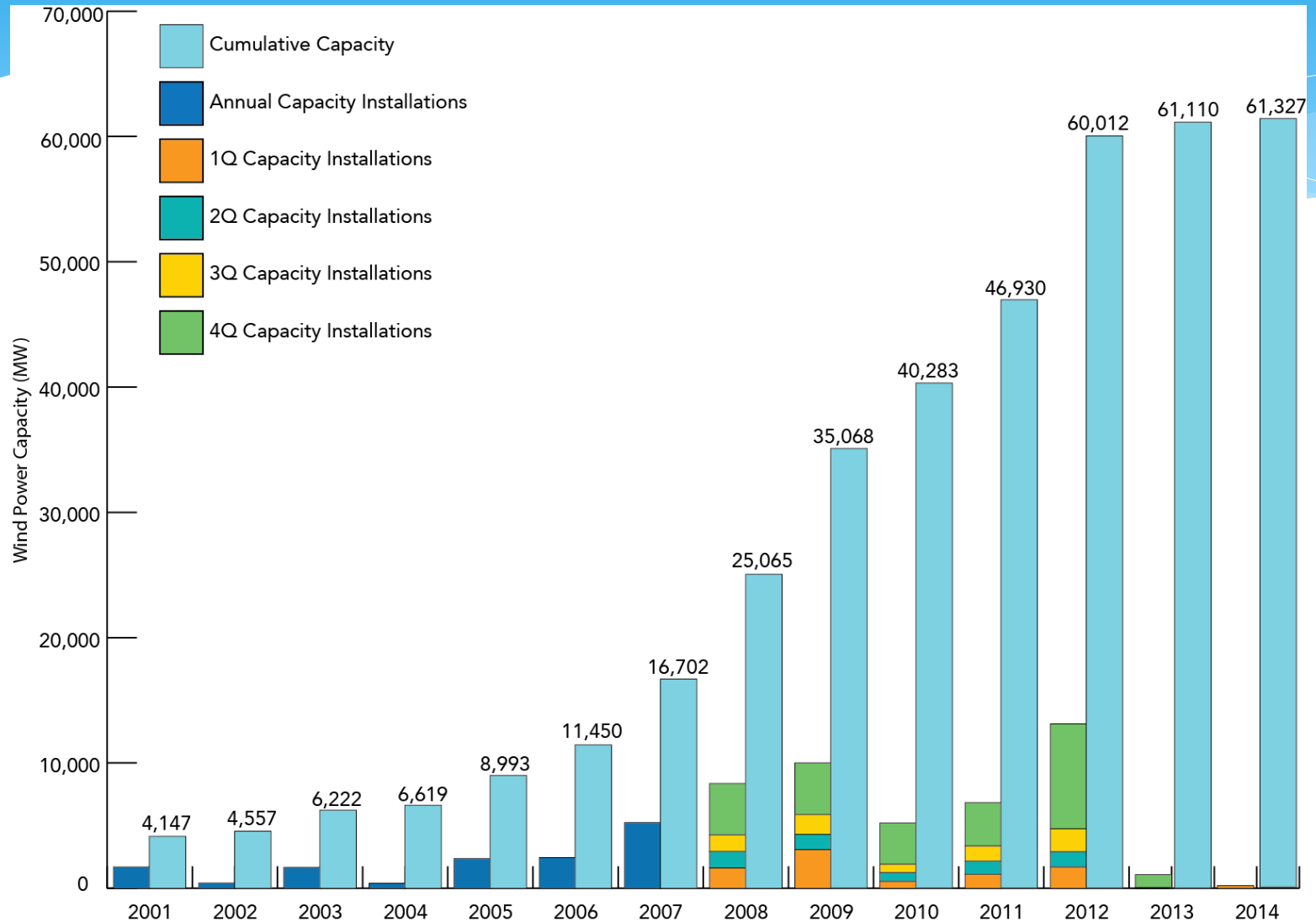
FWS Concerns

United States - Land-Based and Offshore Annual Average Wind Speed at 100 m



- * Our statutory responsibilities include:
 - * MBTA, ESA, BGEPA, FWCA
- * Direct effects
 - * Avian fatalities – birds & bats
 - * Habitat loss & fragmentation
- * Indirect effects
 - * Behavioral modification
 - * Reduced productivity

Wind Energy “Boom”



Source: American Wind Energy Association; www.awea.org

Process

- * 2003: FWS publishes Interim Voluntary Guidelines
 - * Written by FWS working group
 - * Commenters urged stakeholder participation
 - * Became clear that we needed the benefit of outside expertise
- * Next step: collaborative stakeholder group formed to create “a consensus-based set of recommendations to improve the USFWS’s national guidance.”

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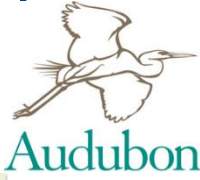


Federal Advisory Committee Act

- * Non-federal members
- * Reaching consensus
- * Providing recommendations to a federal agency
- * **FACA applies:** Must be chartered, fairly balanced, provide public notice of and conduct open meetings, and make all materials available to the public

Fairly Balanced: Stakeholders

- * Federal agencies
- * State agencies
- * Tribes
- * Non-governmental organizations
- * Wind energy developers & operators
- * Academia
- * Public



Produced by
Dave Stout

Directed by
Abby Arnold

Meet the FACers



STARRING: TABER ALLISON, DICK ANDERSON, ED ARNETT, MICHAEL AZEKA, THOMAS BANCROFT,
KATHY BOYDSTON, RENÉ BRAUD, SCOTT DARLING, AIMEE DELACH, SAM ENFIELD, GREG HUECKEL,
JERI LAWRENCE, STEVE LINDENBERG, ROBERT MANES, WINIFRED PERKINS, STEVEN QUARLES, RICH RAYHILL,
ROBERT ROBEL, KEITH SEXSON, MARK SINCLAIR, PATRICK TRAYLOR, MIKE DALTON IN MEMORY OF: ANDY LINEHAN

CO-STARRING: BOB THRESHER, DALE STRICKLAND, SUSAN GOODWIN, CHERYL AMRANI, RACHEL LONDON, CHRISTY JOHNSON-HUGHES,
ELANA KIMBREL, JIM LINDSAY, JIM EISEN, CLINT RILEY, DEB HAHN, AND A CAST OF THOUSANDS!

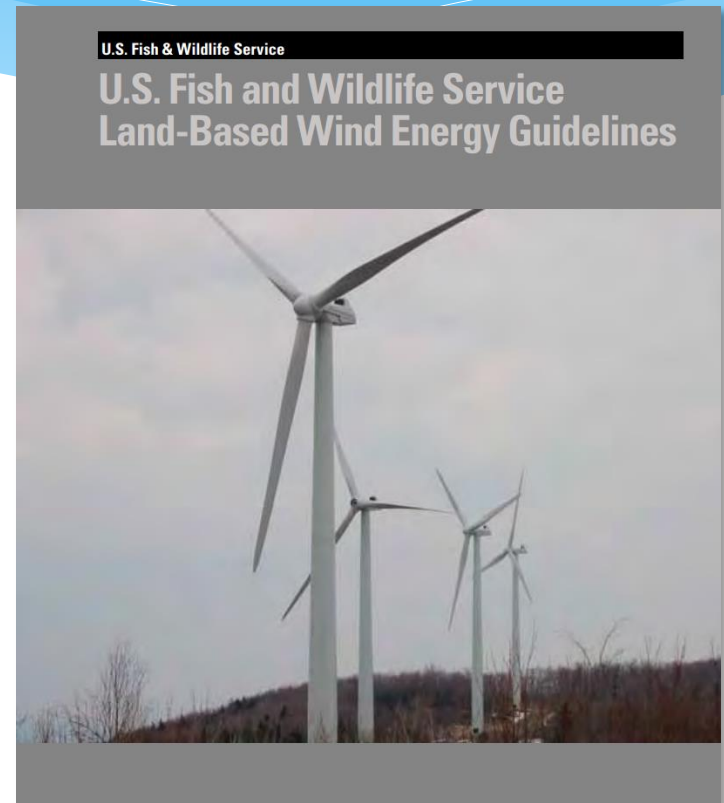
- Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee chartered in 2007
- Met 14 times from 2008 – 2010, mostly in person.
- Reached consensus on a set of recommendations in the form of recommended voluntary guidelines

Shifting Winds

- * New leadership within FWS - considerations
- * Industry involvement - perceptions
- * FWS working group used FACA recommendations to an extent, but published a DRAFT set of guidelines for public comment that did not reflect the totality of FACA recommendations
- * Stakeholders responded strongly to DRAFT guidelines

Getting Back on Track

- * Advisory Committee reconvened
- * Met four times in 2011
- * Made final recommendations to DOI and FWS
- * FWS published final **Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines** in March 2012



Lessons Learned



- * We lost valuable time to:
 - * Not involving stakeholders early
 - * Not seeking FACA guidance
 - * Leadership changes
- * But we did a few things right!
 - * Allow opportunities to socialize
 - * Live up to the full letter of the FACA law – public participation and transparency!

