Estimating cumulative impacts on wildlife (birds and bats). This working group will both quantify potential risks associated with wind-energy development and help derive science-based, peer-reviewed, best-practice guidelines for improving siting and operating practices over the long-term.

Understanding the real impacts of wind-energy development on wildlife can be accomplished via standardized protocols and definitions for measuring risk in a Before-After-Control-Impact (BACI) design. Estimating cumulative impacts on migratory wildlife can only be accomplished via standardized methodology.

Tier 2: Site characterization (broad characterization of 1 or more potential project sites)
Tier 3: Pre-construction monitoring and assessment (site specific assessments at the proposed project site)
Tier 4: Post-construction monitoring of effects (to evaluate fatalities and other effects)
Tier 5: Research (to further evaluate direct and indirect effects, and assess how they may be addressed)

With upcoming global wind-energy build-out estimated in the millions of units, cumulative environmental impacts must be considered and understood to promote responsible expansion of this renewable energy source. In June 2009, 30 wildlife scientists convened to identify key research priorities concerning wind energy’s potential impacts on migratory wildlife (birds and bats). This working group refined knowledge gaps into 4 priority areas refined knowledge gaps into 4 priority areas refined knowledge gaps into 4 priority areas refined knowledge gaps into 4 priority areas.

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