

Geronimo Energy on: America's Eagles

It goes without saying that eagles are the most revered bird in the United States. As our national symbol for freedom and courage, eagle populations have long been protected by the U.S. government. Geronimo Energy adheres to a three-fold policy when it comes to protecting these iconic animals.

COLLECT FACTS

On August 9, 2007, the bald eagle was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "... the bald eagle is now flourishing across the nation and no longer needs the protection of the Endangered Species Act."

Contrary to some lines of thought, wind turbines aren't the avian killers they have been made out to be. According to the report, "Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Mortalities at Wind Energy Facilities in the Contiguous United States," published by The Raptor Research Foundation in 2013, throughout a timespan of 15 years from 1997 to 2012, only 6 bald eagles and 26 golden eagles were reported as killed by wind turbines in the United States.

Furthermore, a report made by the U.S. Forest Service confirmed that wind turbines are the smallest threat to birds, on par with airplanes. In the graph below, the U.S. Forest Service compared a variety of sources of avian deaths. They found that turbines are responsible for as little as one percent of the deaths caused by the next smallest killer, communications towers.



RESPECT AND USE GUIDELINES

American energy companies are increasing the number of clean wind energy projects, and there is an inevitable increase in the construction of tall wind turbines across the country. Both wildlife agencies and wind energy developers, including Geronimo Energy, recognize the need to provide guidance on how to make wind facilities safe and compatible with eagle conservation laws.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has developed the Eagle Conservation Plan Guide (ECPG), which supplements the Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines (WEG), to protect current eagle populations, as well as the species' development and growth. Additionally, the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) has established standards around which companies like Geronimo design their transmission lines. While following these various guidelines is voluntary, Geronimo actively advocates for the protection of our nationally renowned eagles and is committed to always build wind projects with both ECPG, WEG and APLIC guidelines at the heart of construction and operation.



Plan for an Unforeseeable Future

No energy source – or really any human activity - is completely free of impacts. As with any type of construction, no matter how much you plan for and try to foresee the future, events happen that are unanticipated and unfortunate. Experienced developers, such as Geronimo, know there is not only a need, but a responsibility, to prepare for these unexpected and unforeseeable occurrences.

Protecting the earth, environment and its inhabitants is at the heart of why we do what do: wind energy is one of the least harmful types of energy production. Wind energy as an industry off-sets billions of tons of carbon dioxide emissions, uses little to no water consumption, and uses a naturally occurring and replenishing fuel source. Our business is the business of environmental stewardship, and Geronimo will continue to take every step possible to ensure that we conduct business in the most environmentally responsible way possible, inclusive of our treatment and planning for eagle populations.

