



The Western Section of The Wildlife Society and Wildlife Research Institute

Western Raptor Symposium
February 8-9, 2011
Riverside, California



Symposium
Sponsors



February 8 – 01:25-02:05 pm Session: Overviews – Wind Farms

Update on Scientific Investigations and Mitigation Directed Toward Raptor Fatalities in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area

K. Shawn Smallwood, 3108 Finch Street, Davis, CA 95616 (530) 756-4598; puma@cal.net

Hundreds of raptors have been killed annually in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA) due to collisions with wind turbines, electrocutions on distribution poles, and collisions with overhead lines and guy cables. Scientific investigations of the impacts began in the 1980s and continue to the present time. Scientists have recommended multiple mitigation measures, and multiple mitigation plans have been promised or required as conditions of operating permits and stemming from a settlement agreement following litigation. A Scientific Review Committee was activated in 2006, but effective solutions have remained elusive. Scientific uncertainty over the impacts and possible solutions has been one of the principal reasons for lack of progress in reducing fatalities. I will present the scientific challenges to estimating and interpreting the meaning of fatality rates, as well as determining the effectiveness of mitigation measures in the APWRA. I will also provide an update on scientific investigations and mitigation plans directed toward reducing fatality rates associated with raptor collisions with wind turbines.

*** NOTE: PowerPoint not posted online per author request**

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