Maria Race
Director of Environmental Services, Edison Mission Energy
Contact Info: (630) 771-7862; mrace@edisonmission.com
Presentation Title: Post-construction monitoring and agency collaboration on Nebraska wind farms
Bio: Maria Race directs the Environmental Services team for Edison Mission Energy, Bolingbrook, Illinois, managing operational environmental compliance and policy for the coal, gas, and wind fleet. EME has 32 wind farms in 11 states, including 4 in Nebraska. Maria has worked for Edison Mission Energy for 11 years. Maria is an environmental generalist with expertise in water and hazardous waste management. In previous years, she has worked side-by-side with project management in permitting and negotiations involving wetlands and Habitat Conservation Plans. She has a BS in Physics from University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and an MS in Environmental Technology from New York Institute of Technology.

Emily Mix
Biologist, Tetra Tech EC, Inc.
Contact Info: (303) 980-3509; Emily.Mix@tetratech.com
Presentation Title: Eagles and Wind Energy: Understanding and Managing the Risk
Bio: Ms. Emily Mix is a Biologist with Tetra Tech Inc. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Northern Arizona University. Emily’s primary responsibilities include conducting field surveys, writing technical reports, and assessing impacts on wildlife for wind energy and solar energy projects. She served as the lead Biologist on two large-scale solar energy projects in California. She currently works on projects within golden eagle habitat for which she supervises focused studies and works with developers and resource agencies to determine appropriate avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and adaptive management strategies. Post project permitting, Emily has developed construction monitoring and compliance plans and set up post-construction mortality monitoring for operating wind farms.

Mary J. Harner, Ph.D.
Director of Science, The Crane Trust
Contact Info: mharner@cranetrust.org
Presentation Title: Introduction to the Whooping Crane Tracking Partnership
Bio: Dr. Mary Harner is the Director of Science at the Crane Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and maintenance of habitat for whooping cranes, sandhill cranes, and other migratory birds along the Platte River. Before arriving to the Platte River Valley, she studied at Tulane University, the University of Montana, the University of New Mexico, and the Free University of Berlin. Mary conducts and leads research on the interacting effects of hydrology and land management on the ecology of wetlands and floodplains.
Michelle Koch
Environmental Analyst Supervisor, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Contact Info: (402) 471-5438; michelle.koch@nebraska.gov
Presentation Title: Navigating the Wildlife Consultation Process
Bio: Michelle Koch has an undergraduate degree in Biology from Hastings College and received her Master’s Degree in Agronomy at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, where she conducted grassland research. She is an Environmental Analyst Supervisor at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in Lincoln. Her job entails reviewing a variety of development projects and permits to determine what impact they may have on state trust species, including endangered and threatened species, and their habitats.

Martha C. Tacha
Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Contact Info: (308) 382-6484, ext 19; martha_tacha@fws.gov
Presentation Title: Navigating the Wildlife Consultation Process
Bio: Martha went to college in Missouri and North Dakota, receiving both her B.S. and M.S. degrees in Wildlife Biology from North Dakota State University. She has worked as a Biologist for both state and federal resource agencies, and has been in her present position with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) since 1999. Martha has worked with endangered species for most of her career, specializing in whooping cranes and their migration through the Central Flyway. In the spring of 2012, she was given Service responsibility for overseeing wind energy development in Nebraska, and works closely with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and developers to ensure wind energy projects can proceed within the context of conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

Caroline Jeziorski
Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project Coordinator, Nebraska Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, University of Nebraska – Lincoln
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Session Moderator
Bio: Caroline Jeziorski is the coordinator for the Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project. The goal of the project is to minimize potential impacts of wind energy development and operation on wildlife resources by facilitating communication among stakeholders, providing outreach and education, and identifying and implementing priority research aimed. Although Caroline is from Nebraska, her schooling and work have taken her elsewhere to live and learn. Prior to her current position, she worked throughout the west, as a field technician, a biologist, and a naturalist. Her recent work has focused on human dimensions in resource management. Caroline has a B.A. in Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College and a M.S. in Marine Biology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.