

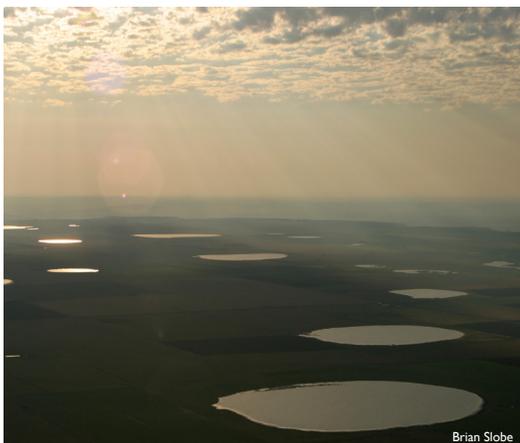
Partnering for Renewable Energy and Wildlife

The western Great Plains provides some of the best opportunities for developing wind energy. This region also features thousands of playas, a critical wetland habitat for migratory birds.

To manage these wetlands while also producing valuable renewable energy, key players must work together in the planning process.

By collaborating, wind energy developers and natural resource conservationists can ensure playas and wind farms continue to benefit both people and wildlife for years to come.

Ultimately, Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) hopes to see 80% of future wind energy developments placed outside of playa clusters.



Playa and Wind Energy Collaborative

PLJV is looking for people who are involved in wind energy development to join a collaborative of wildlife and industry professionals, such as developers, consultants and utilities, united in siting wind energy to avoid playas.

Our goal is to provide a venue for anyone working on wind and wildlife to share experiences and build awareness of playas while also exploring siting tools for playa wetlands. To help with this, we've developed the following tools:

- Energy development **siting recommendations** that advise that all energy development and associated infrastructure avoid playa clusters.
- Interactive **playa web map** that helps wind energy developers avoid playas.
- A **wind model** that informs partners where turbines will likely be built.
- Geospatial **playa data layers** to be used in any GIS software to help site wind turbines sensitively around playas.

“When people talk and share experiences, solutions come to the fore. That is our hope in creating the collaborative.”

— PLJV Coordinator Mike Carter



Why Avoid Playas?

Playas are the most numerous wetlands in the PLJV region, with more than 75,000 scattered across six states from Nebraska and Colorado to Texas and New Mexico.

When wind farms are installed around playas, it alters the ability of the playas to provide quality habitat for birds and aquifer recharge for people.

Since playas go through wet and dry cycles, they can be almost unnoticeable on the landscape, presenting problems for developers once water and birds show up. We strive to provide accurate information about avoiding playas so this situation is less likely to occur.



Get Involved

Share your thoughts on our siting guidance or join this group of professionals making intentional decisions for wind energy and playas.

pljv.org/wind-collaborative
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