Endangered Species Act Information Paper

Before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) can issue a Section 10, 404, or Nationwide Permit, the Corps must comply with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) and ensure that an authorized project is not likely to jeopardize Federally listed endangered or threatened species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. If an endangered or threatened species or critical habitat occurs on a project site, and/or the action being authorized by the permit would directly or indirectly affect a federally-listed species, consultation is required. Consultation may require some time to complete, and may require project modifications to avoid adverse effects. To avoid any project delays, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) strongly recommends that the **applicant contact the Service prior to submitting a permit application** to determine if any endangered or threatened species issues exist in the project area. Early coordination with the Service will help to ensure timely review and evaluation of permit applications and will identify ESA project concerns early in the planning and design process.

The Service recommends that the following be included in a letter requesting threatened and endangered species information for Corps permits in Ohio:

- Location data including latitude and longitude of project area, site address, and county
- A detailed project description, including layout of any new construction
- A detailed description of onsite habitat, including the size, location, and quality (when available) of streams, wetlands, forested areas and other natural areas, and proposed impacts
- A description of the forested habitat onsite, including type of forest, and presence of dead or live trees with split branches or trunks or exfoliating bark, and proposed impacts
- Photographs representative of all cover types on the site and encompassing views of the entire site (photocopies are acceptable)
- A topographic map with the project area identified

The above information should be submitted to the following address:

Dr. Mary Knapp
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6950 Americana Pkwy
Suite H
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-4127

If you have additional questions, you may contact the Service at (614) 469-6923.

The Service recommends that the applicant submit the Service's response letter with the permit application.

Endangered Species Consultation for the Indiana bat

The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is a Federally listed endangered species, and its range includes all of Ohio, although known populations are unevenly distributed. The Indiana bat is the listed species that most frequently requires consultation between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If the Indiana bat and/or suitable bat habitat occur on the project site, avoidance and minimization measures to protect the bat and its habitat may be necessary.

Life History and Habitat

Since first listed as endangered in 1967, the Indiana bat population has declined by nearly 60%. Several factors have contributed to the decline of the bat including the loss and degradation of suitable hibernacula, human disturbance during hibernation, pesticides, and the loss and degradation of forested habitat, particularly stands of large, mature trees. Fragmentation of forest habitat may also contribute to declines. Summer habitat requirements for the species are not well defined but the following are considered important:

1. Dead or live trees and snags with peeling or exfoliating bark, split tree trunk and/or branches, or cavities, which may be used as maternity roost areas.
2. Live trees (such as shagbark hickory and oaks) which have exfoliating bark.
3. Stream corridors, riparian areas, and upland woodlots which provide forage sites.

General Measures to Protect the Bat

1. Protection/preservation of trees and associated habitats exhibiting any of the characteristics listed above.
2. In some cases, especially in areas where significant quantity/quality of bat habitat is present and proposed to be impacted or in areas where bats are known to occur, mist net or other surveys may be warranted to determine if bats are present onsite.
3. In some cases, where habitat is of low quality/quantity, seasonal cutting may be sufficient to avoid impacts to the bat

Due to the limited time frame when bat surveys may be completed (June-August), it is strongly recommended that the applicant contact the Service as early as possible in the project planning process to determine if surveys or additional avoidance and/or minimization measures will be necessary and to avoid project delays.

If you have additional questions, you may contact the Service:

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