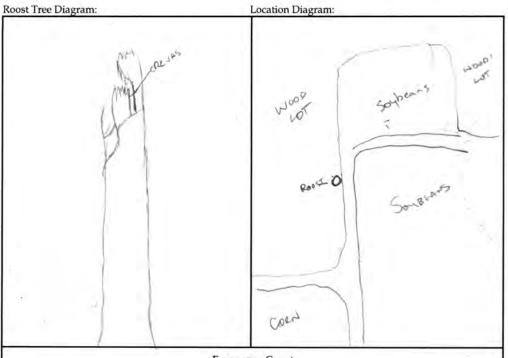
Roost Tree # 314

0	cation_	# 314 Eastor	Pro	oject No	./Projec	t Name	110.0	1 E	MERSON CR	EEX	Date Fi	rst Found	7-30-15
Co	unty S	ENCLA				State _			Qua	ad Fires	de		
a	t-Long/	UTM: N/E_4	1.1790	0		W/N 8:	2.8878	4	Zone <u>-</u>	Datum:_	NAD83 Obs	servers: MTM	LELS
#	Tree Tag	Species	DBH	Height	ft or m	Condition*	% Bark	Cover**	Tree	Available		Habitat	
	#	opecies	(cm)	Tree	Roost	Condition	Usable	Total	Ranking***	Roost/ Observation	Interior	Edge	Open
1	314	OLERCUS SP.	91	60'		SNAC	Luu	HIGH	C				
2	7 1	Ulgus sp	10"	12'		LIVE	Low	Hiers	Sub-C		Cano	opy Cover at Roo	st
3		Ulaus Sp	7"	10'		LIVE	Lod	4.64	unsia		Open	Intermediate	Closed
4		Whias Spin	23°	40'		LIVE	Lou	141616	Sun C				Ciosca
5		Acer rubrus	19.5"	35'		LIVE	Love	Hist	Cn			Basal Area	
6		Carya ovala	36 "	55		L1V6 -	HeH	High	C	100	Live Trees	Snags	All Trees
7		Carya nyale	31"	55		Live	HIGH	HIGH	c	V	70	10	80
8	B = 1	Carya ovata	9"	12		LIVE	Low	Hier	BNOOR				1 00
9											I	Roost Location	
10	1.0										Bark	Cavity	Crevice
11								1		Z TH			
2					-		- = 1				QUICK REFE	RENCE / †	CIRCLE
3	11.		2==1										
4			11 11 11									*Condition	
5											Snag	Live	Live-Damaged
6					E 1								
7											***	% Bark Cover	
8											645.00	Moderate = >	Low =
9	= 7			12.1	_= 1						High = ≥ 25%	10-<25%	< 10%
0			-11	170									
1		1									**	*Tree Ranking	
2		glish prism is used						1 11			Canopy	Sub-Canopy	Understory

Roost Tree # 314

Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MYSE /F /205

DDNR Band # 17178



			Bat Day	s	
No.	Date	Bat Freq.	Bat Band	Sex of Bat	Observations
1	7.30	205	17178	F	Y
2	7.31	205	17178	F	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7	FE.				
8					
9					
10	-0				
11	2 == 1				
12					
13					
14	-				

	1		-	100		Ti	me		Focal	
No.	Date	Temp °F	Weather	# of Bats	Sunset	Bats Start	Bats End	Tagged Bat	Bat exit#	Personnel/ Comments
1	7/30/15	81	Clear	3	8:49	8:47	9:44	9:44		TAB
2		TE.								
3	C 1									
4										

				Measureme	nts	
No.	Nature	Aspect	Width	Height	Ground	H ₂ O Level
1		14 - 3				
2	- T V					
3	3					

Comments:

at time: 8:35pm; Frequency End Time ! la: H pm

tree to the right, not Northern

1111



9:10) possibly sain but

4.44 - Northern Emerged - No ping on Reclever

8-1-15 OFF Parcel

N 41, 17 904 W 82, 88830 - 332'

N 41. 17860 W 82. 88918 -242

Copperhead Environmental Consulting Inc. P.O. Box 73, 11641 Richmond Rd. Paint Lick, KY 40461 (859) 925-9012

Likely Tree location

N 41.178988 W/ 47 828251

Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MVSE/F/172.387 Band # ODNR 23529 Roost Tree Data Form (2014)

0	st Tree	# 860 pen wood	Pro	ject No	./Projec	t Name 5	110	1 tv	versor	(W62+	Date Fir	st Found //	2/10
01	intu S	PNECC			()	State	014		Qua	ad Watso	\sim		1.15
it	Long	UTM: 0/E 41	.175	48	1	W/N - 83	. 042	16	Zone_	Datum	NAD83 Obs	ervers: G. Jan	05 / K 1)
4	Free Tag		DBH		t ft or m		% Bark	Cover**	Tree	Available		Habitat	
#	#	Species	(cm)	Tree	Roost	Condition*	Usable	Total	Ranking***	Roost/ Observation	Interior	Edge	Open
	860	F. Pennsylvan	Ca 45.	512	6	5	1+	H	C	Bark			
2		U. avencare	-27.5	8		5	L	H	C	Bark	Cano	py Cover at Roost	
		F. pennsylva	1:086.2	15		5	2	H	C	Barle	Open	Intermediate	Closed
		V. amenicano	-177	9	-	5	L	H	SC	BERK			
		Q. nbra		6		L	NEW	H	SC	None		Basal Area	
		A · Soccharur	24.9	10		- L	NODE	H	SC	None	Live Trees	Snags	All Trees
		P. Occidento				L	L	1+	C	BOR	70	40	110
		Aescules gla				L	Me	H	C	None			
,		V. americano	- 10.5	5		L	None	H	U	None	1	Roost Location	
0		A soaham	~48.1	9		L	NLOR	H	C	None	Bark	Cavity	Crevice
ı			34.1	14		L	NLe	H	C	None			
2											↓ QUICK REFE	ERENCE / †	CIRCLE
3													
1												*Condition	
5											Snag	Live	Live-Damage
5											4		
7							5				*	*% Bark Cover	
8							1 3				High = ≥ 25%	Moderate = ≥	Low =
,							5		1		Ingn - <u>- 2</u> 20%	10-<25%	< 10%
0								1			_		
1											*	**Tree Ranking	
2											Canopy	Sub-Canopy	Understory



Roost Tree # 860

Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MYSE/F/172.387 Band # ODNR 23529

Roost 7	ree Diag	gram:	1	_/	L	ocation Di	agram:										
	1	1		/			181	N.R	T196	1014			1	Bat Da	ys		
	1		1//	1	-	-7	RT	1			No.	Date	Bat Freq.	Bat Band #	Sex of Bat	Ob	servations
		11	11/	1		11	8				1	7/12	172.387	23529	F		
		101	/1//		- 40	05	1-10=/				2						
		11	XIX			KI	8				3						
		1	TAI			1 . 2 -	11			Field	4						
		4	1		- 1		xur-		Aa	iele	5						
		1				1100			1.3		6						
						Modely					7						
		d	1		- 1	500					8		Ĭ				
		1	7		- 1	4				1	9					1	
		1	10 %		- 1						10		1				
		V					1				11						
		1			+		-	CR 38			12						
					-						13		1 1				
			1								14						
					Emergeno	e Count											
						Т	ime		Focal				Cavit	y or Crevice (Characteris	tics	
No.	Date	Temp °F	Weather	# of Bats	Sunset	Bats Start	Bats End	Tagged Bat	Bat exit #	Personnel/ Comments					Opening !	Measureme	nts
	7/12	79	Clear	3	2105	2113	2125	2125	3	K. De Beck	No.	Nature	Aspect	Width	Height	Ground	H₂O Level

Comments:												
* Unfavorable	conditions	(rain + wind)	before	sunset	did	not allow	for	emergence	count	to	be dor	ne
A. OHIGHADIC	Contention							0				

NIA

3

2105

2104

NIA

Cloudy

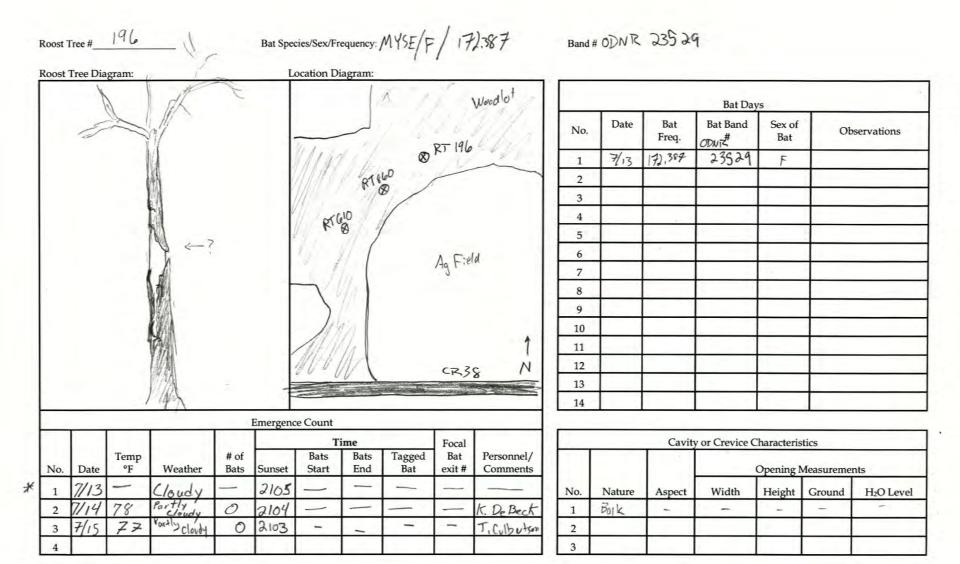


Roost	Tree	Data	Form	(2014))

Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MYSE/F/172, 387

Band # ODNR 23529

Ro	ost Tree	# 196	Pro	ject No	./Projec	t Name5	101	_/_	merson	West	Date Fir	st Found 133	Ly 2016
		Woodlot no Seneca	71701	CI	78	State	OH		Qua	d Watso	N		
La	t-Long/	UTM: (N/E_4	11.176	33		W/N 83.			Zone_	_ Datum:	NAD83 Obs	ervers: Toulbe	ertson, D. Hay
#	Tree Tag		DBH	Heigh	t ft o(m)		% Bark	Cover**	Tree	Available		Habitat	
#	#	Species	(cm)	Tree	Roost	Condition*	Usable	Total	Ranking***	Roost/ Observation	Interior	Edge	Open
1	196	V. quericana	19.9	16	5	Snag	High 60	High 85	SubCarry	Bark			
2		U. anvican	5,0	3		Live	High	-	u.	-	Cano	py Cover at Roos	t
3		U.amsnang	172	13	-	Snag	High-	-	Subcanory	_	Open	Intermediate	Closed
4		Unameticana	27.2	2,5	-	Snag	Low	Low	understag	-			
5		Q. palustrus	39,5	19	-	Live	-	High	(anopy	-		Basal Area (x!	9)
6		F. sonsy Varica	24.5	17	-	Snag	Low	High	Canopy	-	Live Trees	Snags	All Trees
7		Q. palustry	40,3	19	-	Live	-	Hish	Cunopy	-	40	60	100
8		Acer rubrum	25.5	16	_	Snag	Low	High	Sub (anors				
9		F. ornsyllanica	34,6	18	-	Snag	Low 10	Hogy "	Canory	-	I	Roost Location	
10		Viamericana	1.11	15	-	Live	Low	High	Carory	-	Bark	Cavity	Crevice
11									~		T		oun or n
12											♦ QUICK REFE	RENCE / T	CIRCLE
13													
14												*Condition	
15											Snag	Live	Live-Damaged
16													
17												*% Bark Cover	
18											High = ≥ 25%	Moderate = ≥ 10-<25%	Low = < 10%
19													
20		-								-			
21											*	**Tree Ranking	
22		nglish prism is used	2.11		201.0				1 0		Canopy	Sub-Canopy	Understory





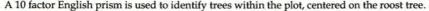
* Unfavorable conditions (rain + wind) before sunset did not allow for an emergence count to be completed



Roost T	ree Dat	ta Form	(2014)

Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MYSE | F | 172, 387
Band #

oost Tree	# 610	Pre	oject N	o./Projec	t Name	01	/	Emerso	n West	Date Fir	st Found 14 3	July 2016
ocation_	Woodlot no	canot	CR	58	0	01	L	0	ad Wat			
t-Longy	Seneca UTM: NDE	11.175	530	(State	64322	V 1	Qua	Datum	: NAD&3 Obse	ervers: T, Cult	pertson, D.
Two Too		DBH	T	nt ft on m	Condition*	1	Cover**	Tree	Available Roost/		Habitat	
#	Species	(cm)	Tree	Roost	Condition	Usable	Total	Ranking***	Observation	Interior	Edge	Open
610	F. pennsylvanica	29.5	7	6.5	Snag.	Low	High	Subcenory	Crevice			
	F. panney liang		17	× 1	snag .	Low	Hish	Canopy		Cano	py Cover at Roos	st
	A. Saccharum	-	20	CART	Live	Low	High	(anopu		Open	Intermediate	Closed
	Pidelfoides	86.5	27		Live	Low	High	Canopy				
	A, saccharum	38	16	-	Live	Lau	High	Conopy			Basal Area	
	F. prnsylvanica	38.4	19	P.S.	Snag.	Low	Low	Canopa		Live Trees	Snags	All Trees
		57.0	21	- 1	Line	Low	thish	Canopa		60	40	160
	Figrandifolio		2,5	- 16	Snag	High	Low	Understor				
	Figrandifdia	566	18		Line	High	Low	Canopy		F	Roost Location	
	J. nigra	42.2	32	-	Line	High	Low	Canory		Bark	Cavity	Crevice
										↓ QUICK REFE	RENCE / †	CIRCLE
											*Condition	
										Snag	Live	Live-Damaged
										**	*% Bark Cover	
										High = ≥ 25%	Moderate = ≥ 10-<25%	Low = < 10%
										**	*Tree Ranking	
										Canopy	Sub-Canopy	Understory

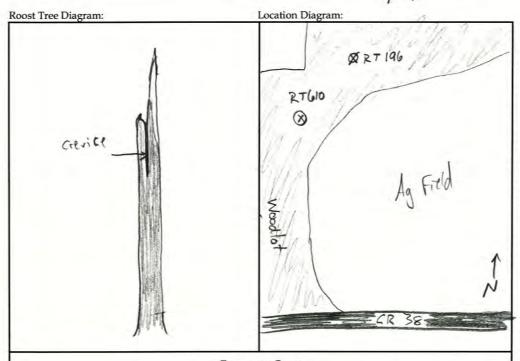




	٠.
10)
	10

Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MYSE/F/172.387

Band # ODNR 23529



			Bat Day	S	
No.	Date	Bat Freq.	Bat Band	Sex of Bat	Observations
1	7/14	172.387	23529	F	Crevice
2					
3					
4					
5			,		
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12				1.	
13					
14					

						Т	ime		Focal	
No.	Date	Temp °F	Weather	# of Bats	Sunset	Bats Start	Bats End	Tagged Bat	Bat exit #	Personnel/ Comments
1	7/14	78	Partly	4	2104	2121	2132	2122	2	H. Price
2	7/15	77	PastlyCloudy	0	2103	-	1	-	1	D. Hayes
3	1/14	. 11								
4	1/14									

		7		Opening l	Measureme	nts
No.	Nature	Aspect	Width	Height	Ground	H ₂ O Level
1	Crevice			6.5		-
2						
3						

Comments:



Roost	Tree	Data	Form	(2014)

Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MYSE/F/172,387

Band # 0DNR 23529

	ost Tree	woodlet no	orlhof	CR	38	t Ivaine			metson		Date Fir		
01	unty	Seneca				State	0	H	Qua	ad Wat	30h		1 0
at	-Long/	UTM: (N)E	41.175	57	(W/N 83.	64156		Zone _	Datum:	NAD83 Obs	ervers: T.Cult	outson, D. I
#	Tree Tag	Species	DBH	Heigh	ft or m	Condition*	% Bark	Cover**	Tree	Available Roost/		Habitat	
"	#	Species	(cm)	Tree	Roost	Condition	Usable	Total	Ranking***	Observation	Interior	Edge	Open
	609	F. Pennsylvanica	10.5	18	9	Snag	Low	High	Carrey	Bark			
2		A. Sachann	78.5	18		Snag	low	High	Canopy		Cano	py Cover at Roos	st
3		C. Laciniosa	44.0	17		Snag	Mod	Mod	Canopy		Open	Intermediate	Closed
		U amcicana	36.8	13		Snag	low	low	Sub-C				
5		F. pennsylvanica	49,0	19		Snag	low	High	Conapy			Basal Area	
,		F, pennsylvanica	29.4	17		Snay	low	Hah	Carry		Live Trees	Snags	All Trees
,		A. Suecherum	13,5	8		Live	low	High	Underston	,	30	60	10
		B. Lenta	26.2	10		Litt	low	484	Sub-C				
		Figrandifilia	29,0	11		Live	low	High	50b-C		I	Roost Location	
0								J			Bark	Cavity	Crevice
1											JOUICK REFE	RENCE / †	CIRCLE
2											V		
3												*Condition	
5											Snag	Live	Live-Damageo
5													
1											*	*% Bark Cover	
8											High = ≥ 25%	Moderate = ≥ 10-<25%	Low = < 10%
7									-				
)													
4											*	**Tree Ranking	
2											Canopy	Sub-Canopy	Understory



Roost Tree #_	600			Bat Spe	cies/Sex/Fi	requency:	MYSE/F	/172.	387	Band	#ODNR	23529				
Roost Tree I	Diagram:	4			ocation D											
	The same	V	1		1/3	, R	196						Bat Da	ys		
			/		HIA 100	NIZT	T196			No.	Date	Bat Freq.	Bat Band のD N表	Sex of Bat	Ob	servations
		The state of the s	/ /		P.	T860/				1	7/16	172.387	23529	F		
		A M			PTG10	1				2						
		11			92	1				3						
					VAIII				- 11	4						
					7/11/1			A	g. Field	5						
					YALL I				U	6						
		1	-1	- 1						7						
				- 1	VIIII					8	4	-				
				- 1						9						
				- 4					•	10						
		C			Albin				1	11						
		1		- 1	V 7	1	0	R38	N	12						
				1	=			10		13						
		16/2/								14						
				Emergen	ce Count											
					Т	ime		Focal				Cavit	y or Crevice (Characteris	stics	
No. Date	Temp °F	Weather	# of Bats	Sunset	Bats Start	Bats End	Tagged Bat	Bat exit #	Personnel/ Comments					Ononina l	Measureme	ate
2/1/			2	2102		2120	2115	I I	K. DeBeck							
1 //		Clew	1			_	and	1	M Gooden	No.	Nature	Aspect	Width	Height	Ground	H ₂ O Level
2 7/3	7 78	Clear	1	2102	2118	2138	_	_	1. Jouces	1	Bark					
3										2						
4			. 2	1		1				3		1				
Comment	s:															



MYSE/F/172,387

Roost Tree Data Form (2014)

Bat Species/Sex/Frequency:

Band # ODNR 23529

oost Tr	ree # 603 n_ Woodlet	Pro	b of	Projec	t Name	01	_/_t	merson	West Wir	Date Fir	st Found) u	ly 18,001
ounty		71017	. 04		State_	Ohio		Ouz	ad Watson			
t-Lon	WUTM: NE 4	11,175	90		@N 83,	04289		Zone _	Datum	:NAD 83 Obs	ervers: I. Culo	entson, D. 1
Tree 7	Гад	DBH	Heigh	t ft or m	C Pri t	% Bark	Cover**	Tree	Available		Habitat	
#	Species	(cm)	Tree	Roost	Condition*	Usable	Total	Ranking***	Roost/ Observation	Interior	Edge	Open
603	F. pensylvaniza	44,5	17	5	Snag	High	High	Caron	Bark			
	A. sachan	15,0	13		Live	100	Hah	Sub-c		Cano	py Cover at Roos	t
	U. americana	26.4	16		Live	low	H.3h	Caropy		Open	Intermediate	Closed
	A. Sacdurum	17.5	12		Live	lov	Hah	Sub-C				
	C. ovata	13,2	12		Live	low	14.54	5bc			Basal Area	
	1. ameilana	15.8	10		Liv	lon	High	Sub-C		Live Trees	Snags	All Trees
	Q. rubra	(0.6	20		Fin	low	High	Caropy		90	6	100
	Q. cubica	42.1	21		Live	low	14.76	Caropy				
	B. Lento	92'9	18		Live	lov	Hay	Carely		F	loost Location	
	A. Soacherum	25.6	15		Live	100	High	Caropy		Bark	Cavity	Crevice
							J					
										↓ QUICK REFE	RENCE / †	CIRCLE
											*Condition	
										Snag	Live	Live-Damaged
										**	% Bark Cover	
										W. 1 -> 0504	Moderate = >	Low =
										High = ≥ 25%	10-<25%	< 10%
										1		
										**	*Tree Ranking	
										Canopy	Sub-Canopy	Understory



Roost	Tree #	603	2		Bat Spe	cies/Sex/Fr	requency:	MYSE/	-/17	3,387	Band	#ODNR	2352	9			
	Tree Dia		1 1 1	1		ocation D											
TIO GST	ree D.	V	1	u W	1		1/1/	× 196	ins	MIL				Bat Da	ys		
				1			6	8 602 13			No.	Date	Bat Freq.	Bat Band	Sex of Bat	Ot	servations
		411	///	W L	2 1	Why in	2860	100			1	7/18	172.387	23529	F		
					1		86)5			2						
		18				*	610/				3	11					
		V			1	Model	1/				4						
		1				A AM	1		Δ	~ Field	5						
						I WIN			M	9104	6	2-1					
							1			٠	7						
			PUL.							- 1	8						
	- +	7	XI C		ľ						9					-	
	F009	-			7	# 1// 1/1	X			1	10						
		A	M)		ľ	VIIII/IA					11					-	
		1/4	911			WV VII	11/1	(CB38	N	12	-					
											13					+	
		6,11	1		Emergeno	re Count					14						
					I		ime		Focal				Cavit	y or Crevice (Characteris	stics	
No	Date	Temp °F	Weather	# of Bats	Sunset	Bats Start	Bats End	Tagged	Bat	Personnel/							
No.		76		G	2101	2103		Bat	exit#	T.Colbetson D. Hayes						Measureme	
1	7/18		Pathy Cloudy			210)	2135	2103	1		No.	Nature	Aspect	Width	Height	Ground	H ₂ O Level
2	7/19	72	Few Clouds	0	3100				_	A, Haskins	1	Bosk	90°	4"	1.5	-	_
3											2						
4											3						

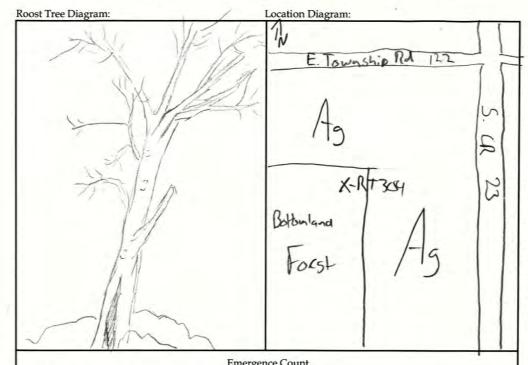


Roost	Tree	Data	Form	(2014)	1
140001		- un	T OTTER	1-01	

Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MYSE/Male/.267

Band # 00NR 23580

	unty 5	UTM: 0/E_4/	121	211		State_ W/N82	OH		Qua	ad Fireside	Date Fir	114	2
t	-Long/ Tree Tag	UIM: (N/E_7/	, <i>ISU</i> ,	34_	t ft on(m)	Condition*	.9620	Cover**	Zone _	Available Roost/	: NAD83 Obs	Habitat	m, r
	#	Species	(cm)	Tree	Roost	Condition	Usable	Total	Ranking***	Observation	Interior	Edge	Open
		P. deltoides		12		Snag	95	80	Canopy	Bark			
2		P. deltoides	30	12		Alive	10	100	Caraly	None	Cano	py Cover at Roos	t
3	_	Q. palustrus	45	15		Alive	0	100	Canople	None	Open	Intermediate	Closed
		1							10				
,												Basal Area	
5											Live Trees	Snags	All Trees
7											20	10	30
3													
9											I	Roost Location	
0											Bark	Cavity	Crevice
1													
2											↓ QUICK REFE	ERENCE / †	CIRCLE
3													
4						-						*Condition	
5											Snag	Live	Live-Damageo
6													
7											*	*% Bark Cover	
8							-					Moderate = >	Low =
9											High = ≥ 25%	10-<25%	< 10%
0													
1												**Tree Ranking	
2											Canopy	Sub-Canopy	Understory



			Bat Day	s	
No.	Date	Bat Freq.	Bat Band #	Sex of Bat	Observations
1					
2					
3	7 5 1				
4					
5					
6	1				
7			1		
8					
9					
10	1				
11					
12					
13					
14					

						T	ime		Focal	
No.	Date	Temp °F	Weather	# of Bats	Sunset	Bats Start	Bats End	Tagged Bat	Bat exit#	Personnel/ Comments
1	7/20	73	Clear	1	2059	2135	2135	21351	1	1-
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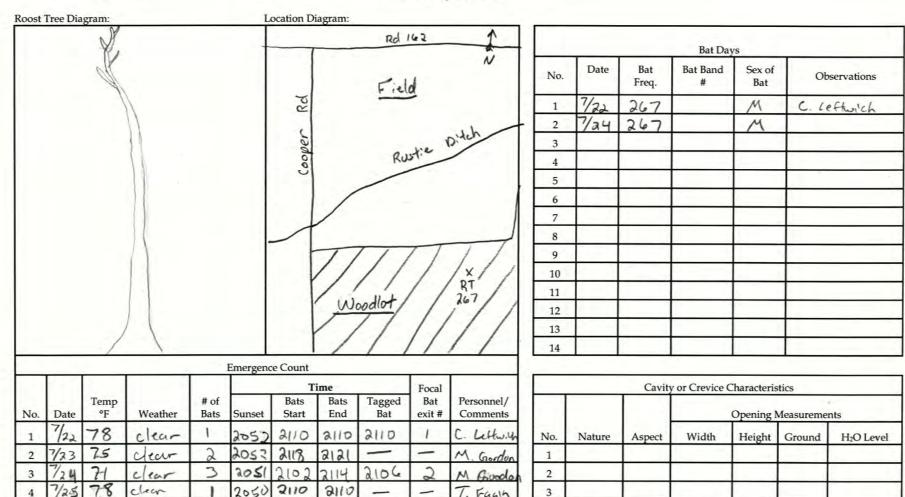
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Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MYSE/M/172.247

Band #

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		V. goricana	25.9	17m			L	H	(Canor	y Cover at Roost	
			32.5	18m		L	L	H	(Open (Intermediate	Closed
		C. ovata	40,9	20m		4	H	1-1	C				
		Viamericana	34.6	15 m		5	H	L	V			Basal Area	
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M. Gooden

Comments:



Roost Tree Data Form (2014)
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Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MYSE/M/172.267

Band #

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	#	Species	(cm)	Tree	Roost	Condition*	Usable	Total	Ranking***	Roost/ Observation	Interior	Edge	Open
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5											Snag	Live	Live-Damaged
5													
7											**	% Bark Cover	
8											High = ≥ 25%	Moderate = ≥	Low =
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1											**	*Tree Ranking	
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Bat Species/Sex/Frequency: MISE /M/172.267

Band #

Roost 7	Tree Dia	gram:			L	ocation Di	agram:				_						
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* But could have possibly emerged from nearby tree





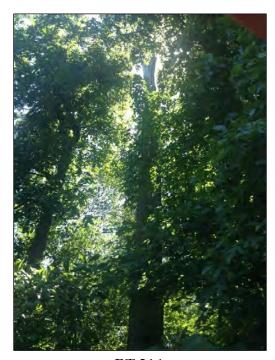
APPENDIX E

Roost Tree Photographs

Roost Tree Photos



RT 140



RT 314



RT 860



RT196



RT610



RT602



RT603



RT309



RT258



RT251

Eastern Massasauga Habitat Assessment for the Emerson West Wind Project Seneca County, Ohio

December 2016



Prepared by:

Goniela Iskali and Travis Brown

Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. 408 W. 6th Street Bloomington, Indiana 47404

December 5, 2016



Privileged and Confidential - Not For Distribution

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Emerson West Wind, LLC (Emerson West) is developing the Emerson West Wind Project (Project) in Seneca County, Ohio. Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST) was contracted to complete a desktop assessment of potential suitable habitat within the Project area for the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*).

Eastern massasaugas prefer open wetlands or wet grasslands that have less than 50% canopy coverage, and that are located adjacent to upland grasslands or shrub scrub areas. They also have been documented using forested areas. WEST reviewed species records provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and existing publicly available datasets such as the USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and the US Geological Survey (USGS) National Land Cover Database (NLCD) to assess the potential for suitable eastern massasauga habitat within the Project area (defined as forested and emergent wetlands, and adjacent suitable upland habitats larger than 0.01 square kilometers (km²; 2.5 acres [ac]).

Forty-four habitat patches were identified as wetland areas or wetland areas with adjacent potential upland habitat with a minimum size of $0.01~\rm km^2$ ($2.5~\rm ac$). Thirty-seven habitat patches were identified as freshwater forested and shrub wetlands that ranged from $0.013~\rm km^2-0.48~\rm km^2$ ($3.22~\rm ac-118.27~ac$) and six wetland complexes were identified as emergent wetlands that ranged from $0.01~\rm km^2-0.62~\rm km^2$ ($2.80-152.99~\rm ac$).

These 44 habitat patches met the criteria used to define potential suitable eastern massasauga habitat; however, these patches were isolated and fragmented and would likely not support eastern massasauga populations. Note that there are no known records of eastern massasauga occurring in Seneca County or within the Project area. Risk of impact posed by the Project is low; however, avoidance of potentially suitable habitat is recommended to ensure impact avoidance.

STUDY PARTICIPANTS

Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.

Rhett Good Senior Project Manager

Goniela Iskali Project Manager and Report Compiler

Travis Brown Report Editor
Jeff Fruhwirth GIS Technician
Rebecca Schmitt Technical Editor

REPORT REFERENCE

Iskali, G. and T.Brown. 2016. Eastern Massasauga Habitat Assessment for the Emerson West Wind Project, Seneca County, Ohio. Draft Report: November 2016. Prepared for Apex Clean Energy, Inc. (Apex), Charlottesville, Virginia. Prepared by Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST), Bloomington, Indiana.

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INTRODUCTION

Emerson West Wind, LLC (Emerson West) is developing the Emerson West Wind Project (Project) in Seneca County, Ohio. Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST) was contracted to complete a desktop assessment of the potential habitat present within the Project area for the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*).

SPECIES BACKGROUND

The eastern massasauga was once common throughout much of the Great Lakes basin, but is now restricted to scattered populations that are often isolated in the Midwest region (Harding 1997). Habitat loss and fragmentation, as well as persecution by humans, are thought to be the main reasons for the decline of this species (Szymasnki 1998). The eastern massasauga has been listed as state endangered in Ohio since 1996, and was listed in the Federal Register as federally threatened on September 30, 2016 (effective October 31, 2016 [USFWS 2016a]).

Seneca County is within the historic range of this species; however the USFWS stated that there were no known records for the eastern massasauga in Seneca County and indicated that the nearest known population was located in the Richmond Township of Huron County, which is 2.65 kilometers (km; 1.65 miles) east of the Project boundary (K. Lott, USFWS, pers. comm.).

The eastern massasauga spends the majority of the year in open lowland swamps, bogs, fens, and wet prairies with less than 50% canopy coverage, but the species has also been documented using forested areas (Reinert and Kodrich 1982; Harding 1997; Johnson et al. 2000; USFWS 2000). This species is generally active between April and late September, and it often hibernates in transition zones between uplands and wetlands, using crayfish burrows, rock crevices, tree roots, and other types of crevices that do not freeze (Seigel 1986; Johnson and Menzies 1993; Johnson 1995; Tennant and Bartlett 2000; Michigan Department of Natural Resources [MDNR] 2016). When they emerge from their hibernacula, they typically stay near the site for one to two weeks, basking in elevated sites before moving on to their summer habitats (Johnson 1995; King 1997; Parent 1997). Their summer months are spent in well-drained upland habitats, such as fields and grasslands (Harding 1997).

Temporal shifts in habitat selection during the eastern massasauga's active season have been documented in some studies, and preference between upland and wetland habitats seems to vary regionally and among populations (Reinert and Kodrich 1982; Seigel 1986; Bissell 2006; Harvey and Weatherhead 2006). The differences in habitat preference and use may result from local habitat conditions such as resource availability, landscape context, and fragmentation, or from sampling methods used among researchers (Bailey et al. 2012). However, most studies are in agreement that the eastern massasauga's association with wetlands is consistent, and individuals are almost never found more than 500 meters (m; 1,640 feet [ft]) away from wetlands (USFWS 2016b).

The home range of the eastern massasauga varies substantially within and among populations. In southern Michigan, average home range size varies from 0.05 square kilometers (km²; 12.4 acres [ac]) to 0.012 km² (3.19 ac; USFWS 2016b). However, larger home range sizes 0.25 – 0.26 km² (61.7 – 64.2 ac) have been documented in Ontario, Canada (Weatherhead and Prior 1992) and New York (Johnson 2000), and the smallest home range documented is 0. 01 km² (2.5 ac) in Monroe County, Wisconsin (USFWS 2016c). Existing literature does not provide information on the minimum patch size needed for individuals or populations of the eastern massasauga to exist, although persistence of populations is thought to decrease as patch size, quality of the habitat, and connectivity among microhabitats decreases. Connectivity between the summer and winter hibernating habitat is important for this species, as they must have unimpeded ability to access either type of habitat (USFWS 2016c).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is located in Seneca County, Ohio, and is characterized by flat to gently rolling topography dominated by cultivated crops (Figure 1). The Project is located within the Huron/Erie Lake Plain ecoregion, which is a broad, flat, fertile plain with some relic sand dunes, beach ridges and end moraines. Today, most of the forests have been cleared and the swamps artificially drained to make way for highly productive farms which produce corn (*Zea mays*), soybean (*Glycine max*), and livestock, and developed areas (US Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA] 2016).

Approximately 81.3% of the nearly 198 km² (49,110 ac) Project area is composed of cultivated cropland (Table 1). The next most common habitat is forested area, which composes 8.9% of the Project area and consists primarily of shelterbelts and woodlots associated with homesteads. Developed areas (e.g., farmsteads) compose approximately 5% of the Project area, and all other habitat types compose less than 3% of the Project area individually. The only types of wetlands present within the Project area are woody and emergent herbaceous wetlands, which compose less than 0.01% of the Project area individually (Figure 1, Table 1; US Geological Survey [USGS] National Land Cover Database [NLCD] 2011; Homer et al. 2015).

Table 1. Land cover types and composition at the Emerson West Wind Project.

Habitat	Acres	% Composition
Cultivated Crops	39,130.5	81.3
Deciduous Forest	4,302.5	8.9
Developed, Open Space	2,252.1	4.7
Hay/Pasture	1,288.8	2.7
Developed, Low Intensity	699.8	1.9
Herbaceous	210.1	0.4
Developed, Medium Intensity	136.1	0.3
Developed, High Intensity	34.0	0.1
Open Water	15.6	<0.1
Mixed Forest	12.7	<0.1
Barren Land	9.6	<0.1
Evergreen Forest	7.3	<0.1
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	6.5	<0.1
Woody Wetlands	3.1	<0.1
Shrub/Scrub	1.3	<0.1
Total	48,109.9	100

Data from USGS NLCD 2011, Homer et al. 2015

WEST, Inc. 3 December 5, 2016

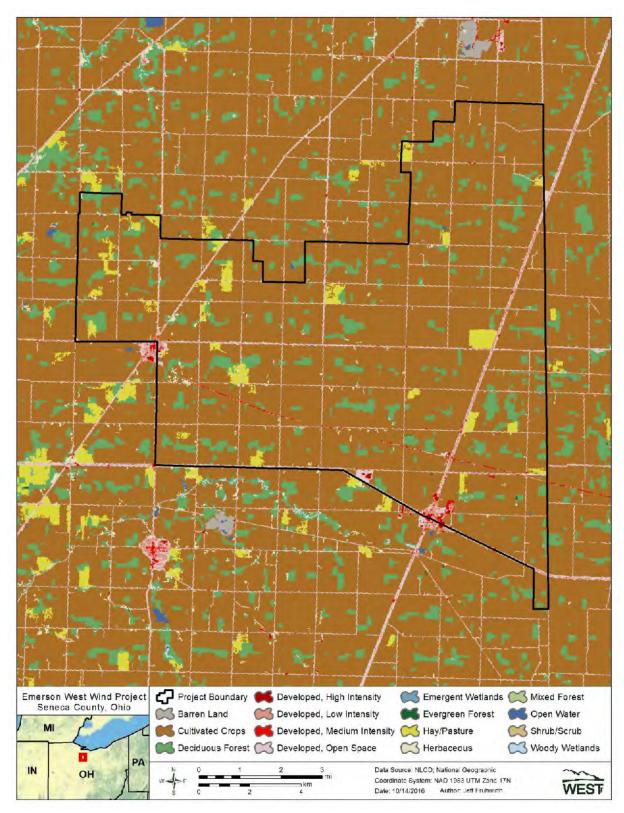


Figure 1. Land cover and location of the Emerson West Wind Project (USGS NLCD 2011, Homer et al. 2015).

METHODS

For the purposes of this desktop habitat assessment, WEST defined potential habitat as forested and emergent wetlands as well as adjacent suitable upland habitats (grassland, shrubs and forest) that when combined were larger than the minimum home range size recorded for the species 0.01 km² (2.5 ac; USFWS 2016c). Wetlands were identified using the USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data (USFWS NWI 2016) because the USFWS NWI database is more accurate and conservative when identifying wetlands compared to the USGS NLCD. Potential upland habitats were identified using the USGS NLCD (USGS NLCD 2011; Homer et al. 2015). WEST reviewed these datasets, as well as requested information on occurrence of the eastern massasauga from the Ohio USFWS Field Office, to identify potentially suitable habitat patches and evaluate their connectivity and potential suitability to support the species.

RESULTS

Forty-four habitat patches were identified as wetland areas or wetland areas with adjacent potential upland habitat with a minimum size of $0.01~\rm km^2$ ($2.5~\rm ac$). Thirty-eight habitat patches were identified as freshwater forested and shrub wetlands with adjacent upland habitat that ranged from $0.013~\rm km^2-0.486~\rm km^2$ ($3.22~\rm ac-118.27~\rm ac$) and six habitat patches were identified as emergent wetlands with adjacent upland habitat that ranged from $0.011~\rm km^2-0.619~\rm km^2$ ($2.80~\rm ac-152.99~ac$). Potential suitable habitat comprises $6.42~\rm km^2$ (1.587.5~ac) or less than 3.3% of the total Project area (Figure 2).

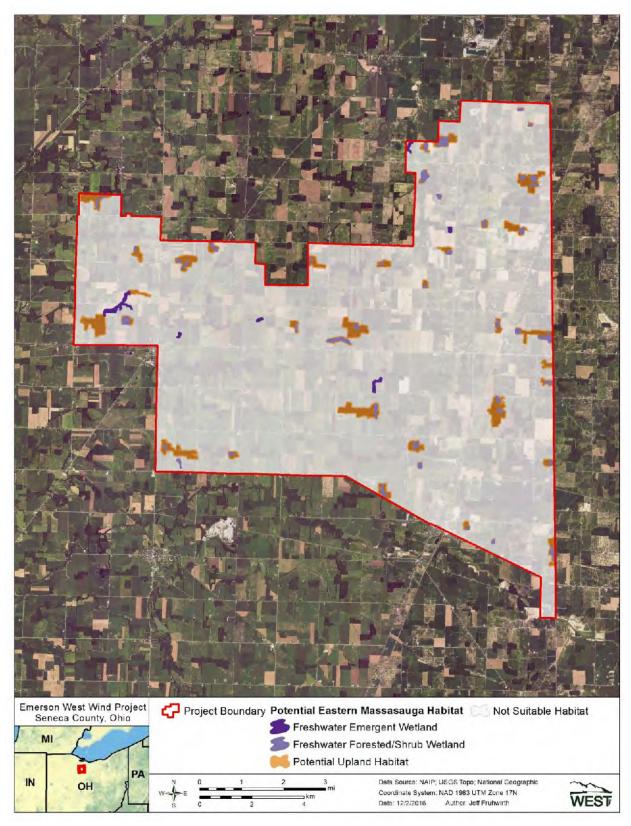


Figure 2. Potential habitat for the eastern massasauga within the Emerson West Wind Project (USFWS NWI 2016, USGS NLCD 2011, Homer et al. 2015).

CONCLUSION

Open wetland habitats preferred by the eastern massasauga appear to be rare and fragmented within the Project area, and the majority of the wetland areas within the Project area are forested. Eastern massasaugas have been documented to use forests (e.g., in Pennsylvania, the eastern massasaugas use some woodlands adjacent to grasslands, with all areas having a shrub component (Reinert and Kodrich 1982); therefore, there is some potential for eastern massasaugas to occur in forested wetlands that contain openings or have adjacent grassland/shrub communities.

Patches of potential eastern massasauga habitat detected in the project area were relatively small (maximum 0.619 km²) and were isolated from other patches by roads, developed areas, and row crop agriculture. Johnson et al. (2000) suggested that the value of suitable habitat patches for eastern massasaugas is reduced by isolation and fragmentation, and Durbian et al. (2008) recommended 1 km² (247.11 ac) as the minimum patch size for managers interested in restoring a viable population of this species.

Desktop assessments are limited based on the scale of available landcover data; open areas preferred by eastern massasauga could be present within the forested wetlands documented in the Project area; however, patch size and patch distribution, as well as the fact that the species is not known to occur in Seneca County, suggest that it is unlikely to occur. Nonetheless, avoiding impact to potentially suitable habitat is recommended to ensure impact avoidance.

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

DAVID MUSTINE DIRECTOR

Figure 1. Survey effort map with revised boundary for Nordex's proposed Republic project.

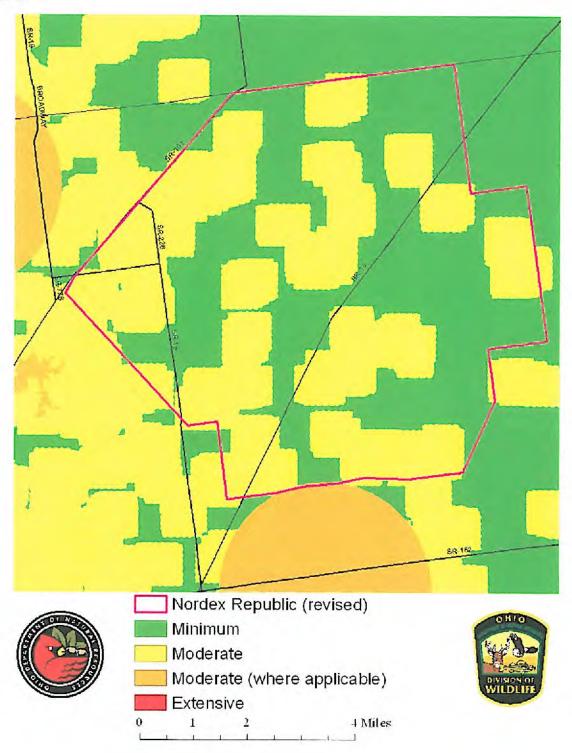
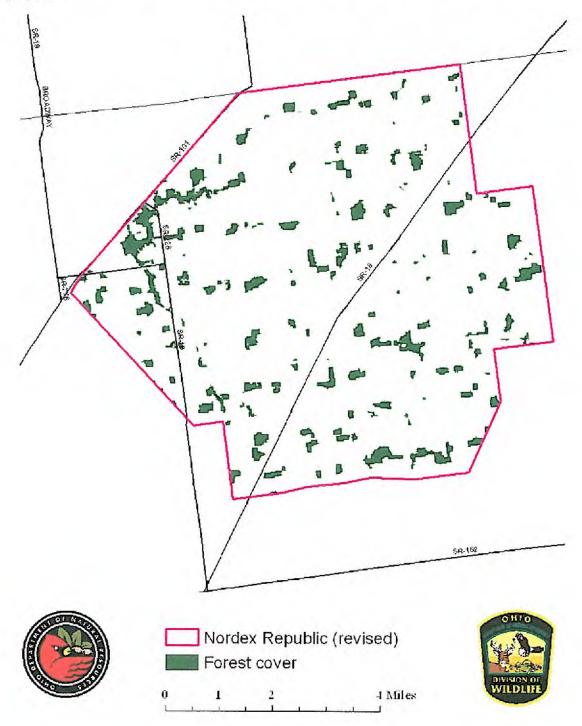


Figure 2. Forest cover map with revised boundary for Nordex's proposed Republic project.





Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

DAVID MUSTINE, DIRECTOR

Ohio Division of Wildlife

Vicki J. Mountz, Acting Chief 2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G Columbus, OH 43229-6693 Phone: (614) 265-6300

February 16, 2011

To all interested parties,

Based upon the updated project boundary map received on 8 February 2011, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife (DOW) has prepared these revised survey recommendations for Nordex's proposed project located in Seneca County.

Currently the project falls within regions that DOW has identified as needing extensive monitoring efforts. If the developer decides to amend the boundaries or based upon DOW site visit, the DOW will revise our survey recommendations.

The table below was created based upon a review of the project maps provided and summarizes the types and level of effort recommended by the DOW. Results from these studies will help the Department of Natural Resources assess the potential impact these turbines may pose, and influence our recommendations to the Ohio Power Siting Board. Monitoring should follow those criteria listed within the "On-shore Bird and Bat Pre-Construction Monitoring Protocol for Commercial Wind Energy Facilities in Ohio."

For additional ODNR comments, including information on the potential presence of threatened and endangered species within or adjacent to your project area, please contact Brian Mitch at (614) 265-6378 or brian.mitch@dnr.state.oh.us

Project					
Survey type					
Breeding bird	Breeding bird surveys should be conducted at all sites. The number of survey points may be based on the amount of available habitat, or twice the maximum number of turbines proposed for the site. Because agricultural land is not considered to be suitable nesting habitat for most species of bird, turbines placed within these types of habitat are exempt of this recommendation.				
Raptor nest searches	Nest searches should occur on, and within a 1-mile buffer of the proposed facility.				
Raptor nest monitoring	There is 1 eagle nest located on or within the 2 miles of the proposed project; as well 2 additional nests are just past the 2 mile buffer. The pair within the 2 mile radius should be monitored to assess their daily movement patterns. Should any additional nests of a protected species of raptor be located during nest searches, monitoring should commence as outlined within the on-shore protocols.				



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DAVID MUSTINE, DIRECTOR

Bat acoustic monitoring	To be conducted at all meteorological towers.
Passerine migration (# of survey points)	11
Diurnal bird/raptor migration (# of survey point)	1
Sandhill crane migration (same points as raptor migration)	NS
Owl playback survey points	NS
Barn owl surveys	NS
Bat mist-netting (# of survey points)	22
Nocturnal marsh bird survey points	NS
Waterfowl survey points	NS
Shorebird migration points	NS
Radar monitoring locations	1

NS = Not required based on the lack of suitable habitat.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Jennifer Norris, Wind Energy Wildlife Biologist Olentangy Wildlife Research Station Ohio Division of Wildlife 8589 Horseshoe Road Ashley, OH 43003

Office phone: 740-747-2525 x 26

Cell: 419-602-3141 Fax: 740-747-2278

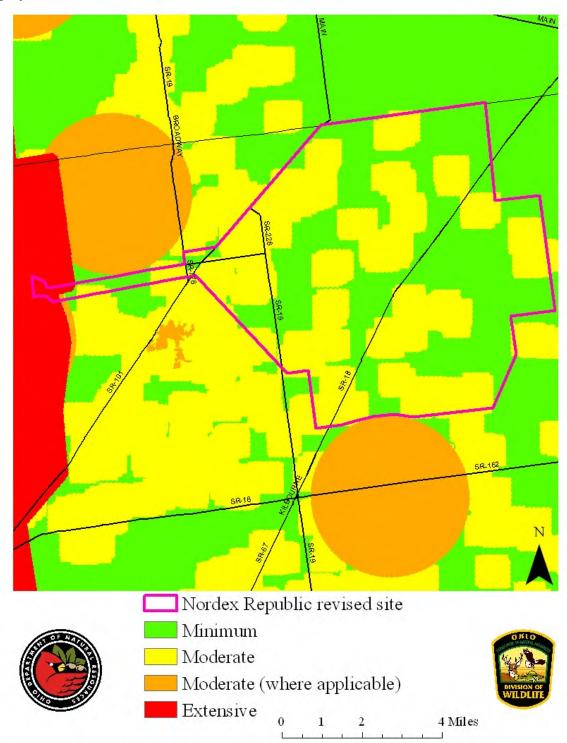
cc: Mr. Stuart Siegfried, Ohio Power Siting Board

Ms. Megan Seymour, United States Fish and Wildlife Service Mr. Brian Mitch, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

DAVID MUSTINE, DIRECTOR

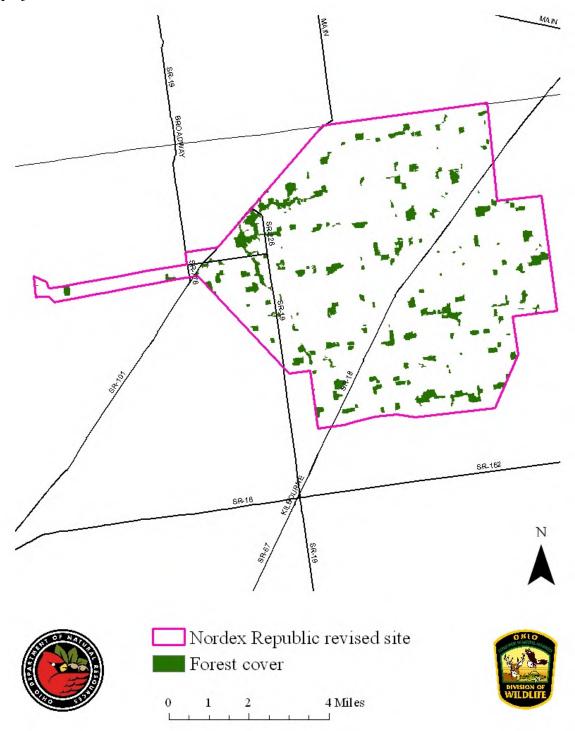
Figure 1. Survey effort map with revised boundary for Nordex's proposed Republic project.



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DAVID MUSTINE, DIRECTOR

Figure 2. Forest cover map with revised boundary for Nordex's proposed Republic project.





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services 4625 Morse Road, Suite 104 Columbus, Ohio 43230 (614) 416-8993 / FAX (614) 416-8994

March 18, 2011

TAILS: 31420-2011-TA-0502

Laura Caspari 300 S. Wacker Drive Suite 1500 Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Nordex Republic Wind Project, Seneca County

Dear Ms. Caspari:

This letter is in response to a meeting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on January 31, 2011 regarding the proposed wind power project in Seneca County, Ohio. The proposed project area appears to be a mix of agricultural land with scattered forested areas throughout. The proposed project is approximately 3 miles east of the Sandusky River Important Bird Area (IBA), which is located on the Sandusky River. However, it does appear that the proposed transmission line does extend approximately 1 mile into this IBA and ends right next to the Sandusky River. The proposed project also has a very large number of karst features throughout the project area, particularly on the east and northeast side of proposed project boundary. These areas could provide potential wintering habitat for bats. We understand the proposed project is approximately 200 MW including approximately 83 turbines. In addition, you have provided the Service and ODNR with a revised project boundary that included a proposed location of an approximate 4 mile transmission line that extends directly west of the central portion of the project. According to a revised letter from the Ohio Division of Natural Resources (ODNR) dated February 16 2011, the Division of Wildlife (DOW) has determined that the proposed facility would be classified as "extensive" site under the current monitoring protocols based upon the location of the transmission line. We understand that field surveys are planned for 2011.

The following comments are being provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956. This information is being provided to assist you in making an informed decision regarding wildlife issues, site selection, project design, and compliance with applicable laws. The Service has been working closely with ODNR Division of Wildlife to develop recommended survey protocols and site evaluations that will satisfy both state and federal wildlife statutes, and this letter describes these measures, in part. The protocols, "On-Shore Bird and Bat Pre- and Post-Construction Monitoring Protocol for Commercial Wind Energy Facilities in Ohio" are available on ODNR's website at:

http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/wild_resourcessubhomepage/ResearchandSurveys/WildlifeWind/tabid/21467/Default.aspx

We encourage and appreciate your early coordination with both ourselves and ODNR, and recommend continued collaboration on this project to ensure wildlife issues are fully and appropriately addressed.

The Service supports the development of wind power as an alternative energy source, however, wind farms can have negative impacts on wildlife and their habitats if not sited and designed with potential wildlife and habitat impacts in mind. Selection of the best sites for turbine placement is enhanced by ruling out sites with known, high concentrations of birds and/or bats passing within the rotor-swept area of the turbines or where the effects of habitat fragmentation will be detrimental. In support of wind power generation as a wildlife-friendly, renewable source of power, development sites with comparatively low bird, bat and other wildlife values, would be preferable and would have relatively lower impacts on wildlife.

WATER RESOURCE COMMENTS:

The Service recommends that impacts to streams and wetlands be avoided, and buffers surrounding these systems be preserved. Streams and wetlands provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife resources, and the filtering capacity of wetlands helps to improve water quality. Naturally vegetated buffers surrounding these systems are also important in preserving their wildlife-habitat and water quality-enhancement properties. Furthermore, forested riparian systems (wooded areas adjacent to streams) provide important stopover habitat for birds migrating through the region. The proposed activities do not constitute a water-dependent activity, as described in the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, 40 CFR 230.10. Therefore, practicable alternatives that do not impact aquatic sites are presumed to be available, unless clearly demonstrated otherwise. Therefore, before applying for a Section 404 permit, the client should closely evaluate all project alternatives that do not affect streams or wetlands, and if possible, select an alternative that avoids impacts to the aquatic resource. If water resources will be impacted, the Buffalo Corps of Engineers should be contacted for possible need of a Section 404 permit.

ENDANGERED SPECIES COMMENTS:

Because of the potential for wind power projects to impact endangered bird, bat, or other listed species, they are subject to the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544) section 9 provisions governing "take", similar to any other development project. Take incidental to a lawful activity may be authorized through the initiation of formal consultation if a Federal agency is involved; or if a Federal agency, Federal funding, or a Federal permit are not involved in the project, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA may be obtained upon completion of a satisfactory habitat conservation plan for the listed species. However, there is no mechanism for authorizing incidental take "after-the-fact."

The proposed project lies within the range of the **Indiana bat** (*Myotis sodalis*), a federally listed endangered species. Since first listed as endangered in 1967, their population has declined by nearly 60%. Several factors have contributed to the decline of the Indiana 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. During the winter Indiana bats hibernate in caves and abandoned mines. 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.

Indiana Bat Maternity Habitat

There are no positive records for Indiana bat captures within Seneca County and in addition, there are no records within 10 miles of the proposed project boundaries. According to the interim Indiana bat and wind guidance, if both of the following conditions are true for the proposed project, Indiana bat presence is very unlikely within and near the project area during the summer period, and it is unlikely that Indiana bats will be exposed to wind facility operations during the summer.

- 1. No suitable foraging or roosting habitat is in the project area or within 1,000 feet of the project area boundary
- 2. Commuting habitat (in the project area or within 1,000 feet of the project area boundary) is isolated from (i.e., more than 1000 feet), or if connected more than 2.5 miles from, suitable roosting or foraging habitat.

If both of these conditions are <u>not</u> met, further analysis is required to determine whether Indiana bats exposure is likely. The project areas appear to be a mix of agricultural land with scattered forested areas throughout, with a number of forested areas exceeding 100 acres. It appears that suitable summer foraging and roosting habitat for the Indiana bat likely exists within the project area.

Mist Net Surveys: Based on ODNR's On-Shore Bird and Bat Pre- and Post-Construction Monitoring Protocol for Commercial Wind Energy Facilities in Ohio, a total of 22 mist not surveys have been requested for the proposed project boundary. The Service agrees that is an appropriate level of effort for the proposed project boundary. The surveys must be conducted by a permitted surveyor (see attached list) and be designed and conducted in coordination with the Endangered Species Coordinator for this office. Survey effort should follow ODNR's protocols, which exceed the Service's standard protocol. The highest quality Indiana bat habitat areas within the project area should be selected for mist netting. Mature woodlots greater than 100 acres in size with permanent water sources should be the primary focus of mist net surveys. Service biologists would be happy to aid in identification and selection of suitable mist net sites, if necessary. We recommend that any Indiana bats captured, especially reproductively active females, be monitored through radio-tracking to determine roost locations and foraging patterns. If an Indiana bat is captured, this office shall be notified within 24 hours, or by the next business day.

Radio Transmitters: Up to four Indiana bats should be fitted with radio transmitters and tracked to roost site(s) and foraging areas until daily activity patterns are fairly well established, or as long as the transmitter remains attached and activated. Preference shall be given to tracking female bats, though one male Indiana bat may be tracked if captured prior to capturing four female Indiana bats. Please see the ODNR's protocols for additional information on radio tracking non-Indiana bats.

Acoustic Surveys: Acoustic Surveys: But acoustic monitoring is to be conducted at all meteorological towers within the project area. We recommend regular inspection of the AnaBat detectors throughout the survey period to ensure proper functioning.

The results of all bat surveys should be coordinated with this office prior to initiation of any work. Based on the results of the mist net survey, we will evaluate potential impacts to the Indiana bat from the proposed project. If sufficient information is not provided to document that take is unlikely, authorization of incidental take either through Section 7 or Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, will be necessary.

Hibernacula Habitat

The project area lies within an area primarily underlain with Silurian and Devonian carbonate bedrock, indicating that the presence of caves is possible, and several identified karst areas are found within the project area. Please see the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey Ohio

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in

Case No(s). 17-2295-EL-BGN

Summary: Application Exhibit J Part 18 of 33 electronically filed by Teresa Orahood on behalf of Dylan F. Borchers