



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

SEAN D. LOGAN, DIRECTOR

Division of Wildlife

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Columbus, OH 43229-6693
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January 7, 2009

Erin Hollenbacher, Assistant Director
Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council
30 E. Auglaize Street
P.O. Box 1716
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

RE: JRS Site – CR 25A and Short Road
Pusheta Township, Auglaize County

Dear Ms. Hollenbacher:

This is in response to your letter to Becky Jenkins dated December 19, 2008. In that letter you request information regarding threatened or endangered species or habitat that may be impacted by the project referenced above. After reviewing the information provided, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

This project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees: Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), Shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), Bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), Black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), White ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), Slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), Eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and White oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat habitat consists of suitable trees that include dead and dying trees of the species listed above with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees of the species listed above with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. If suitable trees occur within the project area, these trees must be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs on the project area and trees must be cut, cutting must occur between September 30 and April 1. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months of April 2 to September 29, a net survey must be conducted in May or June prior to cutting. Net surveys shall incorporate either two net sites per square kilometer of project area with each net site containing a minimum of two nets used for two consecutive nights, or one net site per kilometer of stream within the project limits with each net site containing a minimum of two nets used for two consecutive nights. If no tree removal is proposed, the project is not likely to impact this species.

This project is also within the range of the lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), a state endangered bird. Due to the land use of the project area and surrounding area, the DOW believes the project is not likely to impact this species.

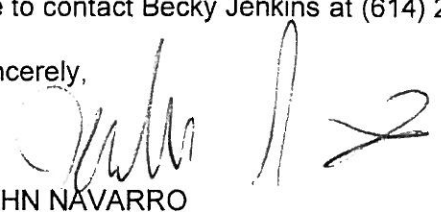


PAGE TWO
Ms. Hollenbacher
January 7, 2009

Otherwise, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, is not aware of any threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of this project. However, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves maintains the Natural Heritage Database, the state's most comprehensive record of Ohio threatened and endangered species. If you have not already done so, it is recommended you contact the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves at (614) 265-6453. To process future projects more efficiently, I recommend you contact the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves prior to contacting the Division of Wildlife. To help expedite the process, please include the results of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves' Natural Heritage Database request when contacting us regarding future projects.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife is available to provide guidance on avoiding or minimizing impacts to any listed fauna and/or their habitat. If you should need further assistance, please feel free to contact Becky Jenkins at (614) 265-6631.

Sincerely,



JOHN NAVARRO
Program Administrator

JN/BJ/al