

**Threatened and Endangered  
Species Habitat Assessment**  
South Dort Highway Industrial Land  
Grand Blanc Township, Michigan

**Prepared For:**

Detroit Regional Partnership, RACER Trust,  
and RACER Properties LLC

Project No. 2501089  
April 2026

**Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment  
Dort Highway Industrial Land  
South Dort Highway, Grand Blanc Township  
Genesee County, Michigan**

**20 Acres of Vacant Property  
Parcel No. 12-09-300-006**

**Prepared for:  
Detroit Regional Partnership  
Detroit, Michigan**

**RACER Trust  
RACER Properties LLC  
Detroit, Michigan**

**April 15, 2026  
Project No. 2501089**

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### List of Abbreviations/Acronyms

AOI	Area of Investigation
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
EMR	Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAC	Facultative
FACU	Facultative Upland
FACW	Facultative Wetland
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
MDNR	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
MNFI	Michigan Natural Features Inventory
NLEB	Northern Long-Ear Bat
No.	Number
OBL	Obligate
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
UPL	Upland
U.S.	United States
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

## Introduction

Fishbeck completed a threatened and endangered (T&E) species habitat assessment to determine the likelihood of protected species occurring within the Dort Highway Industrial Land described below. In Michigan, T&E species are protected by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

On November 18, 2025, Fishbeck staff conducted a meander survey of approximately 20 acres of vacant land on Parcel No. 12-09-300-006 (the Area of Investigation [AOI]) in Grand Blanc Township, Genesee County, Michigan, for the presence of T&E species' habitats. The AOI is in Section 9, Township 6 North, Range 7 East. The AOI is bound by a private drive to a General Motors plant to the north and east, an undeveloped lot to the south, and South Dort Highway to the west, with small areas of turf to the north and west before the roadways. The Location Map is included as **Figure 1**. Based on the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment prepared by Fishbeck, dated March 17, 2026, in 2009 the General Motors Company removed approximately 4 feet of soil from the entirety of the AOI (approximately 130,000 cubic yards of material). The entire AOI has been historically disturbed by earth moving activities.

The T&E Species evaluation included a rare species review by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) and a review of the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website. Fishbeck staff also inspected the AOI in the field to identify plant communities and habitats and compared this data with the required habitats for the listed species identified by the MNFI and USFWS.

## Database Review

The MNFI reviewed their database for known occurrences of protected species within 1.5 miles of the AOI.

**Appendix 1** contains documentation received from the MNFI. This documentation includes a response letter dated November 3, 2025, summarizing all known occurrences of legally protected and special concern species within 1.5 miles of the AOI. It also includes Section 7 comments, dated November 3, 2025, to assist with consultation needs pursuant to Section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Fishbeck consulted the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website for an unofficial list of federally protected species that could occur in the AOI. **Appendix 2** contains the USFWS's IPaC unofficial species list, downloaded on November 4, 2025.

**Table 1** summarizes the federal and state T&E species listed in the IPaC unofficial species list and the MNFI rare species review, as well as the required habitat for the noted species. The table's last column evaluates the likelihood that site development will impact these species, based upon whether the known occurrences are historic and if appropriate habitat for these species was present. The MNFI Section 7 comments listed more federal species than the IPaC report, because the MNFI search criteria extended beyond the AOI. The additional species are not provided in **Table 1**.

## Species Listed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory

The MNFI rare species review identified one state-listed T&E species with a record of occurrence within 1.5 miles of the AOI: *Isotria verticillata* (whorled pogonia), state threatened. The MNFI had no concerns due to this species' historical occurrence.

In addition to state-listed species, two special concern species were identified to have occurred within 1.5 miles of the AOI: *Cambarunio iris* (rainbow mussel) and *Venustaconcha ellipsiformis* (ellipse mussel). The MNFI identified these special concern species as being "far-removed from the project area, no concerns." The Michigan designation of "Special Concern" indicates declining or relict species in the state. While not protected by law, the MNFI recommends efforts to minimize impacts on these species.

## Species Listed by the USFWS

The USFWS's IPaC listed four federally protected species and one proposed, which have a known range that overlaps with the AOI: *Myotis sodalist* (Indiana bat), endangered; *Myotis septentrionalis* (Northern long-eared bat or NLEB), endangered; *Sistrurus catenatus catenatus* (Eastern massasauga rattlesnake or EMR), threatened; *Platanthera leucophaea* (Eastern prairie fringed orchid), threatened; and *Danaus Plexippus* (monarch butterfly), proposed threatened.

The MNFI provided comments on the Indiana bat, *Oarsima Poweshiek* (Poweshiek skipperling), NLEB, and EMR. Of these species, the MNFI indicated that suitable habitat appeared to be present within 1.5 miles of the AOI for the Indiana bat and NLEB.

## State and Federal Regulations

The Michigan Endangered Species Act (ESA), part of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL 324.36501-07), protects species indigenous to the state that are listed as endangered or threatened. It prohibits taking, possessing, transporting, or selling these species unless permitted by the DNR.

Federally listed T&E species are protected by the "take" prohibitions under Section 9 of the ESA of 1973. Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the unpermitted "take" of threatened or endangered species. The term "take" means to harass, hunt, shoot, capture, trap, kill, collect, wound, harm, or pursue the protected species, or to significantly degrade habitat to the extent where the noted activities may occur.

Proposed endangered or proposed threatened species are in danger of extinction; however, they are not yet protected by the take prohibitions stipulated under Section 9 of the ESA. Under Section 7(a)(4) of the ESA, federal agencies or projects with federal funding must confer with the USFWS if actions may jeopardize the continued existence of proposed endangered or proposed threatened species. Candidate species are not yet listed or proposed for listing. Consultation with the USFWS under Section 7 of the ESA is not required for candidate species.

Bald and golden eagles are not species protected under the Federal ESA; however, birds and their nests are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940. This Act prohibits the unpermitted take and disturbance of eagles. With regards to eagles, "Take" is defined as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest, or disturb." "Disturb" is defined as "to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause based on the best available scientific information, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in its productivity by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior" (USFWS; 16 U.S.C. 668-668d). Suitable habitat for eagles consists of forested areas near bodies of water. Specifically, they prefer the tops of tall mature trees or tall snags that provide extensive viewsheds, as birds of prey rely heavily on their line-of-sight.

## Site Investigation

Fishbeck staff conducted a meander survey and characterized the plant communities in the AOI. The AOI topography was undulating, with the highest portion in the middle and eastern half. Culverts were observed associated with a ditch that sloped southward to a poorly-drained area. Additional stormwater management structures were observed in the southern half of the AOI, surrounded by *Phragmites australis* subspecies *australis* (common reed), *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife), *Juncus torreyi* (Torrey's rush), and *Populus deltoides* (Eastern cottonwoods). The majority of the site was an herbaceous field with evidence of historical disturbance, with various weedy vegetation species observed. The periphery of the AOI was a planted *Thuja occidentalis* (arborvitae) and various *Pinus* (pine) species tree line with occasional *Juglans nigra* (black walnut) and *Ulmus*

*americana* (American elm), with *Rhamnus cathartica* (common buckthorn) shrubs in the understory. Representative photographs of the AOI are included in **Appendix 3**.

An inventory of plant species was completed for the AOI and is provided in **Table 2**. **Table 2** also notes whether observed plants are native or nonnative and their wetland indicator status. Species with indicator statuses of obligate wetland (OBL), facultative wetland (FACW), and facultative (FAC) are considered wetland species. Species with indicator statuses of facultative upland (FACU) and upland (UPL) are considered upland species. Facultative species are also commonly present in upland plant communities.

## Potential Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species

The AOI contained cottonwoods and American elms with a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) >3 inches. Cottonwoods and American elms are known to be utilized by protected bat species, and the trees are within 1,000 feet of the forest to the southwest. There were also additional mature deciduous trees in the tree line that bats may use.

*Asclepias syriaca* (Common milkweed) was observed as two isolated plants in the AOI, which are unlikely to be used by monarch butterflies due to their low numbers.

No eagles or eagle nests were observed during the field survey. According to Cornell's online eBird Species Mapper (citizen observations), there are no recorded observations of bald or golden eagles within the vicinity of the AOI. The nearest bald eagle observation was over 4,800 feet (0.91 mile) away.

## Wildlife Observations

Wildlife species were not directly observed in the AOI; however, tracks of *Odocoileus virginianus* (white-tailed deer) and *Meleagris gallopavo* (wild turkey) were observed, as were *Sciurus* (squirrel) species nests. In addition, *Spizelloides arborea* (American tree sparrows) and *Cyanocitta cristata* (blue jays) were heard.

## Conclusions

The AOI is predominantly a disturbed field with nonnative invasive shrub recruits and occasional stands of Eastern cottonwood saplings. The AOI generally contains many weedy species. No T&E species were observed in the AOI. The absence of T&E species observed during field surveys does not preclude their future presence within the AOI.

**Table 1** summarizes T&E species known to be present in the vicinity of the AOI, their habitat descriptions, and determinations of the effect on these species resulting from site development. **Table 1** concludes No Effect for all the listed species besides the bat species, which concludes **May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect**. The AOI does not overlap USFWS modeled bat habitat, does not contain more than 10 acres of suitable bat habitat, or would result in a loss of connectivity among other forest patches 5 acres or more in size. To not likely adversely affect bat species, the following best management practices should be implemented:

- For trees larger than 3 inches DBH, conduct tree-clearing activities from August 1 through May 31. Do not clear trees greater than 3 inches DBH from June 1 through July 31.
- For new or replacement of lights, use downward-facing, full cut-off lens lights, or the BUG system.

# Figures

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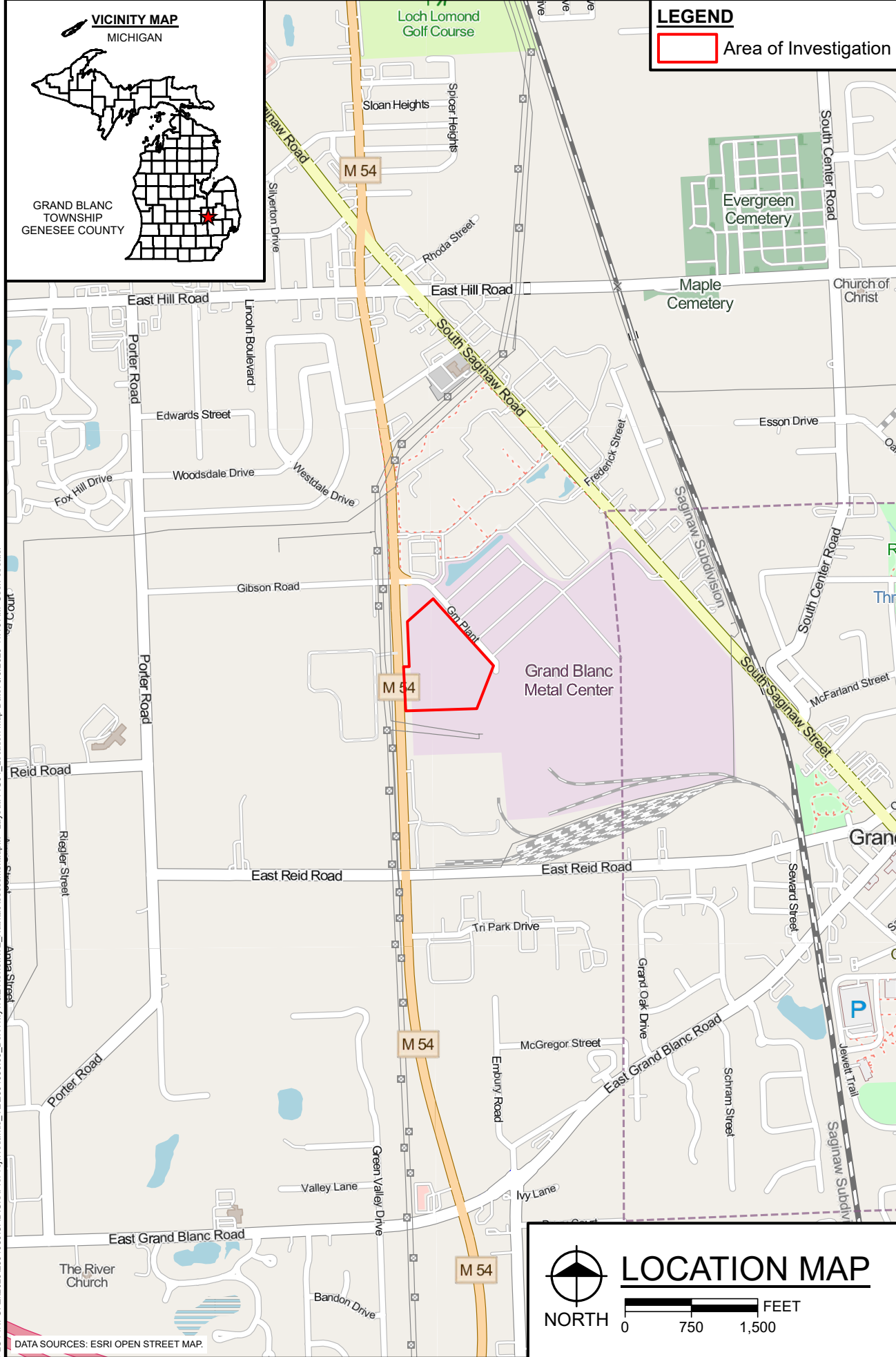
**LEGEND**

Area of Investigation



Hard copy is intended to be 8.5"x11" when plotted. Scale(s) indicated and graphic quality may not be accurate for any other size.

**Dort Highway Industrial Site**  
S. Dort Highway, Grand Blanc Township, Michigan  
**Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment**



**LOCATION MAP**

NORTH

0 750 1,500 FEET

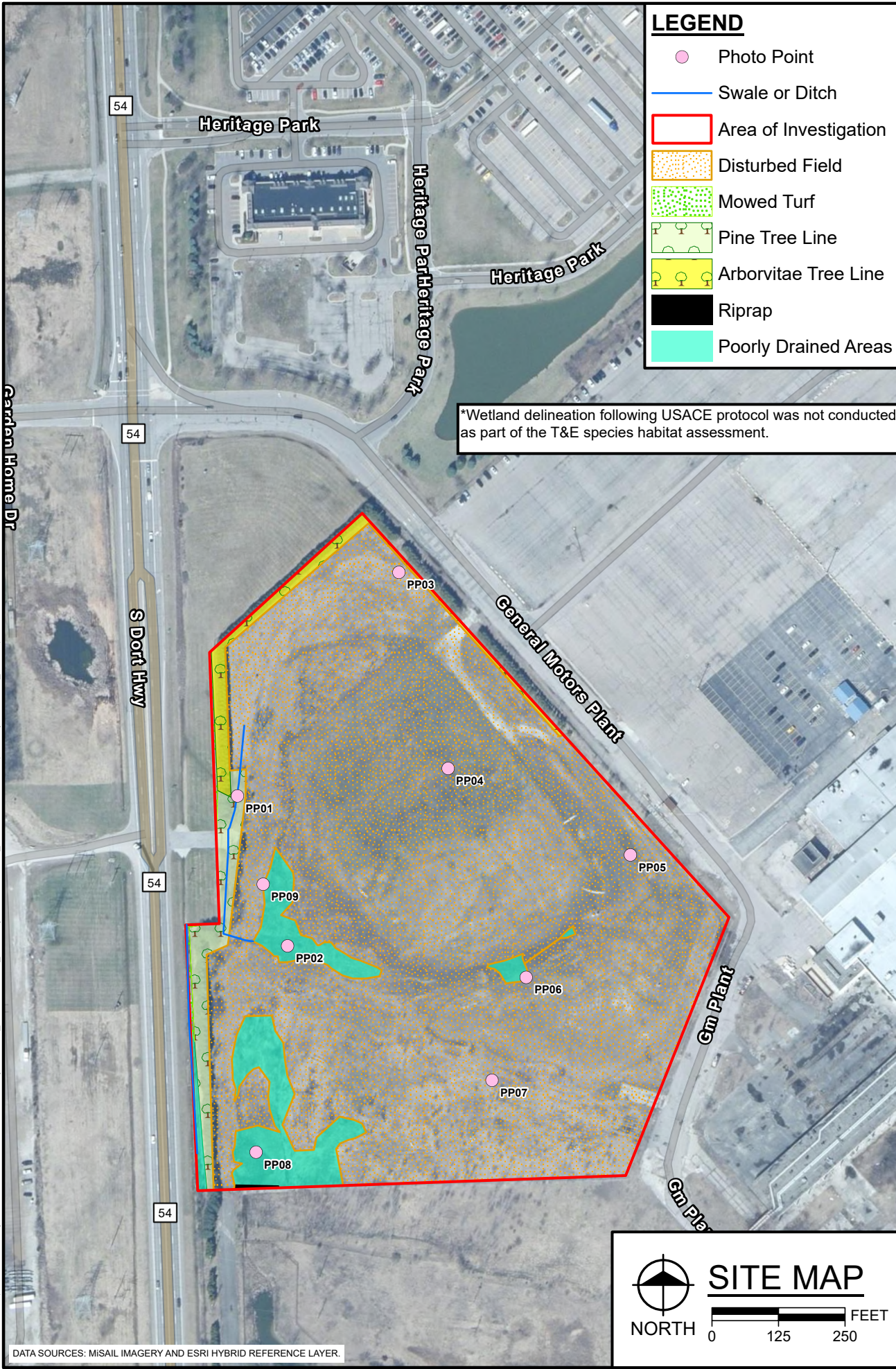
PROJECT NO.  
2501089

FIGURE NO.  
**1**

PLOT INFO: Z:\2025\2501089\CAD\GIS\Proj\Wetlands\_TE\2501089\_08\_Dort Hwy\T&E Review\T&E\_HabitatAssessment.aprx\_Layout: FIG01\_Location Map Date: 3/9/2026 11:13 AM User: crotlier

DATA SOURCES: ESRI OPEN STREET MAP.

PLOT INFO: \\corp.fishbeck.com\AllProjects\2025\2501089\CAD\GIS\Proj\Wetlands\_T&E\501089\_08\_Dort Hwy\T&E\_Review\TE\_HabitatAssessment.aprx\_Layout: FIG02\_Site Map Date: 3/9/2026 11:22 AM User: crotlier



**LEGEND**

- Photo Point
- Swale or Ditch
- Area of Investigation
- Disturbed Field
- Mowed Turf
- Pine Tree Line
- Arborvitae Tree Line
- Riprap
- Poorly Drained Areas

\*Wetland delineation following USACE protocol was not conducted as part of the T&E species habitat assessment.

**fishbeck**  
 Engineers | Architects | Scientists | Constructors

Hard copy is intended to be 8.5"x11" when plotted. Scale(s) indicated and graphic quality may not be accurate for any other size.

**Dort Highway Industrial Site**  
 S. Dort Highway, Grand Blanc Township, Michigan

**Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment**

**SITE MAP**

**NORTH** FEET  
 0 125 250

PROJECT NO.  
2501089

FIGURE NO.  
**2**

DATA SOURCES: MISAIL IMAGERY AND ESRI HYBRID REFERENCE LAYER.

# Tables

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**Table 1 - Summary of Listed Threatened and Endangered Species**

Dort Highway Industrial Land, Grand Blanc Township, Genesee County, Michigan

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Last Observed	Category	Habitat	Likelihood of Project Impacting Species (Effect Determinations)
<b>Federal and State Listed Species:</b>							
<i>Isotria verticillata</i>	Whorled pogonia		T	1840	Plant	The species occurs in coarse sand or gravel in a small to medium streams.	<b>No Effect</b> - Suitable habitat was not observed within the AOI and the MNFI commented that the occurrence was historical and there is no concern.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch Butterfly	PT			Insect	Open fields and rights-of-ways containing milkweed species. Monarchs rely on their obligate host plant (milkweed, primarily <i>Asclepias</i> spp.) for breeding.	<b>No Effect</b> - Minimal suitable habitat (milkweed spp.) was observed in the AOI as well as a monarch butterfly. However, development is unlikely to significantly impact milkweed or monarch populations.
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Long-eared Bat	E	T		Mammal	Hibernates in caves and mines, swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland and wetland forests during spring and summer. Suitable NLEB roost trees include any tree that is greater than or equal to 3 inches DBH, which contain cracks, crevices, exfoliating bark, or cavities and is within 1,000 feet of a forest/woodlot. Suitable summer roosts can include bridges (if joints, crevices, cracks, cave-like structures, etc. are present) or culverts (a minimum of 4 feet in diameter and 50 feet long) and are located below the third county tier of Michigan and within 1,000 feet of suitable forested habitat.	<b>May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect</b> - The AOI had species of trees known to be used by bat species for summer roosting habitat. Due to the trees being within 1,000 feet of forested areas to the southwest of the AOI, the trees may be used by bat species. MNFI commented that there appears to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the AOI.
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana Bat	E	E		Mammal	Roosts and forms maternity colonies under loose bark or in hollows and cavities of mature trees in the floodplain forest and adjacent savanna and upland forest. Foraging occurs primarily in areas along woodland edges, woodland clearings and over small woodland ponds. Suitable Indiana bat roost trees include any tree that is greater than or equal to 5 inches DBH, which contain cracks, crevices, exfoliating bark, or cavities and is within 1,000 feet of a forest/woodlot. Suitable summer roosts can contain bridges (if joints, crevices, cracks, cave like structures, etc. are present) or culverts (a minimum of 4 feet in diameter and 50 feet long) and are located below the third county tier of Michigan and within 1,000 feet of suitable forested habitat.	<b>May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect</b> - The AOI had species of trees known to be used by bat species for summer roosting habitat. Due to the trees being within 1,000 feet of forested areas to the southwest of the AOI, the trees may be used by bat species. MNFI commented that there appears to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the AOI.
<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid	T	E		Plant	Moist prairie remnants, particularly those associated with lake plains, but it can also occur in open or semi-open bogs and peaty lakeshores.	<b>No Effect</b> - Suitable habitat was not observed within the AOI.
<i>Sistrurus catenatus catenatus</i>	Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake	T	T		Reptile	A variety of wetland habitats containing: open, sunny areas intermixed with shaded areas, presumably for thermoregulation; presence of the water table near the surface for hibernation; and variable elevations between adjoining lowland and upland habitats. Habitats include bogs, fens, shrub swamps, wet meadows, marshes, moist grasslands, wet prairies, and floodplain forest. In warmer months, some snakes move to upland shrubby fields and grasslands, including pastures and hay fields.	<b>No Effect</b> - Suitable habitat does not exist in the AOI due to the historical land disturbance and degraded habits. However, MNFI commented that there does not appear to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the AOI. The AOI falls within EMR range but is outside of Tier 1 and Tier 2 EMR habitat, as designated by the USFWS.

Notes: E=Endangered, T=Threatened, PE=Proposed Endangered, X=Extirpated

**Table 2 – Plant Community Inventory**

Dort Highway Industrial Land, Grand Blanc Township, Genesee County, Michigan

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGNOMY	Native STATUS	WETLAND STATUS
Poorly-drained Areas				
<i>Bidens frondosa</i>	common beggar-ticks	Forb	Native	FACW
<i>Carex granularis</i>	limestone sedge	Sedge	Native	FACW
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	fox sedge	Sedge	Native	OBL
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen-Annes-lace	Forb	Non-Native	UPL
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	common horsetail	Fern	Native	FAC
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	grass-leaved goldenrod	Forb	Native	FAC
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	path rush	Rush	Native	FAC
<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	Torrey's rush	Rush	Native	FACW
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	purple loosestrife	Forb	Non-Native	OBL
<i>Phragmites australis var. australis</i>	common reed	Grass	Non-Native	FACW
<i>Poa compressa</i>	Canada bluegrass	Grass	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky bluegrass	Grass	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	cottonwood	Tree	Native	FAC
<i>Salix exigua</i>	sandbar willow	Shrub	Native	FACW
<i>Solidago altissima</i>	tall goldenrod	Forb	Native	FACU
Uplands				
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	Indian-hemp	Forb	Native	FAC
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	mugwort	Forb	Non-Native	UPL
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	common milkweed	Forb	Native	UPL
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	smooth brome	Grass	Non-Native	UPL
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	spotted knapweed	Forb	Non-Native	UPL
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	chicory	Forb	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	Forb	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	bull thistle	Forb	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen-Annes-lace	Forb	Non-Native	UPL
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	autumn-olive	Shrub	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	wild strawberry	Forb	Native	FACU
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	black walnut	Tree	Native	FACU
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	red-cedar	Tree	Native	FACU
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	ryegrass	Grass	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	birdfoot trefoil	Forb	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	reed canary grass	Grass	Non-Native	FACW
<i>Phragmites australis var. australis</i>	common reed	Grass	Non-Native	FACW
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian pine	Tree	Non-Native	UPL
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	scotch pine	Tree	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	English plantain	Forb	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Poa compressa</i>	Canada bluegrass	Grass	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	cottonwood	Tree	Native	FAC
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	common buckthorn	Tree	Non-Native	FAC
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	curly dock	Forb	Non-Native	FAC
<i>Salix exigua</i>	sandbar willow	Shrub	Native	FACW
<i>Securigera varia</i>	crown-vetch	Forb	Non-Native	UPL
<i>Solidago altissima</i>	tall goldenrod	Forb	Native	FACU
<i>Symphotrichum lateriflorum</i>	calico aster	Forb	Native	FAC
<i>Symphotrichum pilosum</i>	hairy aster	Forb	Native	FACU
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	arbor vitae	Tree	Native	FACW
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover	Forb	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover	Forb	Non-Native	FACU
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm	Tree	Native	FACW
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	common mullein	Forb	Non-Native	UPL

Notes: OBL = Obligate wetland, FACW = Facultative wetland, FAC = Facultative, FACU = Facultative upland, UPL=Upland

# Appendix 1

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Chelsea Trottier  
Fishbeck  
31440 Northwestern Hwy  
Suite 250  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

November 3, 2025

**Re: Rare Species Review #5644 – 20 acres in Grand Blanc Township, Genesee County, MI**

Hello:

The location for the proposed project was checked against known localities for rare species and unique natural features, which are recorded in the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) natural heritage database. This continuously updated database is a comprehensive source of existing data on Michigan's endangered, threatened, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, natural plant communities, and other natural features. Records in the database indicate that a qualified observer has documented the presence of special natural features. The absence of records in the database for a particular site may mean that the site has not been surveyed. The only way to obtain a definitive statement on the status of natural features is to have a competent biologist perform a complete field survey.

Under Act 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, "a person shall not take, possess, transport, ...fish, plants, and wildlife indigenous to the state and determined to be endangered or threatened," unless first receiving an Endangered Species Permit from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Wildlife Division. Responsibility to protect endangered and threatened species is not limited to the lists below. Other species may be present that have not been recorded in the database.



**MSU EXTENSION**  
**Michigan Natural**  
**Features Inventory**

PO Box 13036  
Lansing MI 48901

(517) 284-6200  
Fax (517) 373-9566

mnfi.anr.msu.edu

**Although several at-risk species and/or natural communities have been documented within 1.5 miles of the project location it is unlikely that adverse impacts will occur.** This response reflects a desktop review of the database and MNFI cannot fully evaluate this project without visiting the area. MNFI offers several levels of [Rare Species Reviews](#), including field surveys which I would be happy to discuss with you.

Sincerely,

*Nicolette Sexton*

Nicolette Sexton  
Environmental Review Assistant  
Michigan Natural Features Inventory

### **Comments for Rare Species Review #5644**

It is important to note that it is the applicant's responsibility to comply with both state and federal threatened and endangered species legislation. Therefore, if a state listed species occurs at a project site, and you think you need an endangered species permit, please contact Amy Bleisch at DNR-Wildlife Division, [DNR-StateTEPermit@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-StateTEPermit@michigan.gov) and review details on the [MDNR's Threatened/Endangered Species](#) resource page. If a federally listed species is involved and, you think a permit is needed, please contact Jessica Pruden, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, East Lansing office, 517-351-8316, or [Jessica.Pruden@fws.gov](mailto:Jessica.Pruden@fws.gov).

**NOTE:** Special concern species and natural communities are not protected under endangered species legislation, but efforts should be taken to minimize any or all impacts. Please consult MNFI's [Rare Species pages](#) for additional information on Michigan's rare plants and animals.

**Table 1: Occurrences of Threatened & Endangered Species within 1.5 miles of Project Site**

Element Category	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	G Rank	S Rank	EO Rank	First Observed Date	Last Observed Date
Plant	<i>Isotria verticillata</i>	Whorled pogonia		T	G5	S1	H	1840	1840

### **Comments for Table 1**

The above EO is historical, no concerns.

**Table 2: Occurrences of Special Concern Species and Natural Communities within 1.5 miles of Project Site**

Element Category	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	G Rank	S Rank	EO Rank	First Observed Date	Last Observed Date
Animal	<i>Cambarunio iris</i>	Rainbow		SC	G4G5	S3	E	2019-07-19	2019-07-19
Animal	<i>Venustaconcha ellipsiformis</i>	Ellipse		SC	G4	S3	E	2019-07-17	2019-07-17

### **Comments for Table 2**

The above EOs are far removed from the project area, no concerns.

## **Codes to accompany table**

### **State Protection Status Code Definitions**

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

SC = Special concern

### **Federal Protection Status Code Definitions**

LE = listed endangered

LT = listed threatened

LELT = partly listed endangered and partly listed threatened

PDL = proposed delist

E(S/A) = endangered based on similarities/appearance

PS = partial status (federally listed in only part of its range)

C = species being considered for federal status

### **Global Heritage Status Rank Definitions (G RANK)**

The priority assigned by [NatureServe](#)'s national office for data collection and protection based upon the element's status throughout its entire world-wide range. Criteria not based only on number of occurrences; other critical factors also apply. Note that ranks are frequently combined.

G1 = critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences range-wide or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.

G2 = imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

G3 = Either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range (e.g. a single western state, a physiographic region in the East) or because of other factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range; in terms of occurrences, in the range of 21 to 100.

G4 = Apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

G5 = Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

Q = Taxonomy uncertain

### **State Heritage Status Rank Definitions (S RANK)**

The priority assigned by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory for data collection and protection based upon the element's status within the state. Criteria not based only on number of occurrences; other critical factors also apply. Note that ranks are frequently combined.

S1 = Critically imperiled in the state because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation in the state.

S2 = Imperiled in state because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state.

S3 = Rare or uncommon in state (on the order of 21 to 100 occurrences). S4 = apparently secure in state, with many occurrences.

S5 = demonstrably secure in state and essentially ineradicable under present conditions.

SX = apparently extirpated from state.

## EO Rank Codes

Element Occurrence (EO) ranks refer to the viability or ecological integrity of the occurrence; they provide an assessment of the likelihood that if current conditions prevail the EO will persist for a defined period of time, typically 20-100 years.

- A - Excellent estimated viability/ecological integrity
- A? - Possibly excellent estimated viability/ecological integrity
- AB - Excellent or good estimated viability/ecological integrity
- AC - Excellent, good, or fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
- B - Good estimated viability/ecological integrity
- B? - Possibly good estimated viability/ecological integrity
- BC - Good or fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
- BD - Good, fair, or poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
- C - Fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
- C? - Possibly fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
- CD - Fair or poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
- D - Poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
- D? - Possibly poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
- E - Verified extant (viability/ecological integrity not assessed)
- F - Failed to find
- F? - Possibly failed to find
- H - Historical
- H? - Possibly historical
- X - Extirpated
- X? - Possibly extirpated
- U - Unrankable
- NR - Not ranked

**Section 7 Comments for Rare Species Review #5644**  
**20 acres in Grand Blanc Township, Genesee County, MI**

Chelsea Trottier  
Fishbeck  
31440 Northwestern Hwy  
Suite 250  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

November 3, 2025

**For projects involving Federal funding or a federal agency authorization**

The following information is provided to assist you with Section 7 compliance of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA directs all Federal agencies "to work to conserve endangered and threatened species. Section 7 of the ESA, called "Interagency Cooperation," is the means by which Federal agencies ensure their actions, including those they authorize or fund, do not jeopardize the existence of any listed species."

The project falls within the range of the following federally listed/proposed/candidate species which have been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to occur in Genesee County, Michigan:

**Federally endangered**

**Indiana bat** – there does appear to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the project. Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) are found only in the eastern United States and are typically confined to the southern three tiers of counties in Michigan. Indiana bats that summer in Michigan winter in caves in Indiana and Kentucky. This species forms colonies and forages in riparian and mature floodplain habitats. Nursery roost sites are usually located under loose bark or in hollows of trees near riparian habitat. Indiana bats typically avoid houses or other artificial structures and typically roost underneath loose bark of dead elm, maple and ash trees. Other dead trees used include oak, hickory and cottonwood. Foraging typically occurs over slow-moving, wooded streams and rivers as well as in the canopy of mature trees. Movements may also extend into the outer edge of the floodplain and to nearby solitary trees. A summer colony's foraging area usually encompasses a stretch of stream over a half-mile in length. Upland areas isolated from floodplains and non-wooded streams are generally avoided.

*Management and Conservation:* Every March, the USFWS publishes [survey guidelines](#) to assist project proponents (both Federal and non-Federal) with conservation planning for Federally listed bats in Michigan. We strongly encourage project managers and their designated representatives to use the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) online planning tool [Information for Planning and Consultation](#) (IPaC) to evaluate potential effects of proposed activities on listed bats and other Federally listed species in Michigan. Projects that complete consultation or coordination through IPaC automatically adhere to the recommendations provided in these guidelines and are not required to implement any additional conservation measures for listed bats.

**Poweshiek skipperling** – there does not appear to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the project. The state threatened and federally endangered poweshiek skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek*) has been known to occur near the project area. In Michigan, the poweshiek skipperling inhabits alkaline wetlands known as fens. This habitat is characterized by scattered tamaracks, poison sumac, and dogwood clones with a ground cover of sedges and other herbaceous species. The poweshiek skipperling has a single generation each year. Egg laying is believed to occur on sedges and rushes. Eggs are laid sometime around early July; larvae (caterpillar stage) hibernate through the winter on the underside of the blade of grass on which they have been feeding on. In early April, they resume feeding. Adult flight dates occur late June through the first three weeks of July.

*Management and Conservation:* the primary threat to the continued survival of this species is habitat loss and modification. Many of the wetland complexes occupied currently have been altered or drained for agriculture or

development. Wetland alteration also can lead to invasion by exotic plant species such as glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), and the common reed (*Phragmites australis*). In addition, landscape-scale processes that may be important for maintaining suitable poweshiek habitat and/or creating new habitat, such as wildfires, fluctuations in hydrologic regimes, and flooding from beaver (*Castor canadensis*) activity, have been virtually eliminated or altered throughout the species' range.

**Northern long-eared bat** – Northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*) numbers in the northeast US have declined up to 99 percent. Loss or degradation of summer habitat, wind turbines, disturbance to hibernacula, predation, and pesticides have contributed to declines in Northern long-eared bat populations. However, no other threat has been as severe to the decline as White-nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS is a fungus that thrives in the cold, damp conditions in caves and mines where bats hibernate. The disease is believed to disrupt the hibernation cycle by causing bats to repeatedly awake thereby depleting vital energy reserves. This species was federally listed in May 2015 primarily due to the threat from WNS.

Although no known hibernacula or roost trees have been documented within 1.5 miles of the project site, this activity occurs within the designated WNS zone (i.e., within 150 miles of positive counties/districts impacted by WNS). Also, there does appear to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the project.

Also called northern bat or northern myotis, this bat is distinguished from other *Myotis* species by its long ears. In Michigan, northern long-eared bats hibernate in abandoned mines and caves in the Upper Peninsula; they also commonly hibernate in the Tippy Dam spillway in Manistee County. This species is a regional migrant with migratory distance largely determined by locations of suitable hibernacula sites.

Northern long-eared bats typically roost and forage in forested areas. During the summer, these bats roost singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities or in crevices of both living and dead trees. Roost trees are selected based on the suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices. Common roost trees in southern Lower Michigan include species of ash, elm and maple. Foraging occurs primarily in areas along woodland edges, woodland clearings and over small woodland ponds. Moths, beetles, and small flies are common food items. Like all temperate bats this species typically produces only 1-2 young per year.

*Management and Conservation:* Every March, the USFWS publishes [survey guidelines](#) to assist project proponents (both Federal and non-Federal) with conservation planning for Federally listed bats in Michigan. We strongly encourage project managers and their designated representatives to use the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) online planning tool [Information for Planning and Consultation](#) (IPaC) to evaluate potential effects of proposed activities on listed bats and other Federally listed species in Michigan. Projects that complete consultation or coordination through IPaC automatically adhere to the recommendations provided in these guidelines and are not required to implement any additional conservation measures for listed bats.

### **Federally threatened**

**Eastern massasauga rattlesnake (EMR)** – there does not appear to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the project. The project falls outside Tier 1/Tier 2 EMR habitat as designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). The federally threatened and state special concern Eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*) is Michigan's only venomous snake and is found in a variety of wetland habitats including bogs, fens, shrub swamps, wet meadows, marshes, moist grasslands, wet prairies, and floodplain forests. Eastern massasaugas occur throughout the Lower Peninsula but are not found in the Upper Peninsula. Populations in southern Michigan are typically associated with open wetlands, particularly prairie fens, while those in northern Michigan are better known from lowland coniferous forests, such as cedar swamps. These snakes normally overwinter in crayfish or small mammal burrows often close to the groundwater level and emerge in spring as water levels rise. During late spring, these snakes move into adjacent uplands they spend the warmer months foraging in shrubby fields and grasslands in search of mice and voles, their favorite food.

Often described as “shy and sluggish”, these snakes avoid human confrontation and are not prone to strike, preferring to leave the area when they are threatened. However, like any wild animal, they will protect themselves from anything

they see as a potential predator. Their short fangs can easily puncture skin and they do possess potent venom. Like many snakes, the first human reaction may be to kill the snake, but it is important to remember that all snakes play vital roles in the ecosystem. Some may eat harmful insects. Others like the massasauga consider rodents a delicacy and help control their population. Snakes are also a part of a larger food web and can provide food to eagles, herons, and several mammals.

*Management and Conservation:* protection of extant populations and suitable wetland and adjacent upland habitats is crucial for successful conservation of the Eastern Massasauga. Maintaining or restoring open habitat conditions is critical for this species. Fragmentation of suitable wetland-upland habitat complexes by roads or other barriers should be avoided or minimized. Land management practices such as timber harvesting, mowing, disking or prescribed burning should be conducted in such a manner so as to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to massasaugas (e.g., conducting management activities during the snakes' inactive season (November through early March) or on days when snakes are less likely to be active on the surface during the active season). Protecting suitable hibernation sites also is critical.

USFWS Section 7 Consultation Technical Assistance can be found at:

<https://www.fws.gov/service/esa-section-7-consultation>

The website offers step-by-step instructions to guide you through the Section 7 consultation process with prepared templates for documenting "no effect" as well as requesting concurrence on "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" determinations.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Nicolette Sexton  
Environmental Review Assistant  
Michigan Natural Features Inventory

# Appendix 2

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# IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

## Location

Genesee County, Michigan



## Local office

Michigan Ecological Services Field Office

☎ (517) 351-2555

📠 (517) 351-1443

2651 Coolidge Road Suite 101

East Lansing, MI 48823-6360

# Endangered species

**This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.**

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species<sup>1</sup> and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries<sup>2</sup>).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

1. Species listed under the [Endangered Species Act](#) are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the [listing status page](#) for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

## Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> Wherever found There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</a>	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Endangered

## Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Massasauga (=rattlesnake) <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> Wherever found This species only needs to be considered if the following condition applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For all Projects: Project is within EMR Range</li></ul> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2202">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2202</a>	Threatened

# Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> Wherever found There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Proposed Threatened

# Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid <i>Platanthera leucophaea</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/601">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/601</a>	Threatened

## Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

## Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <sup>2</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup>. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

### Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

### Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

### Review the FAQs

The FAQs below provide important additional information and resources.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<b>Bald Eagle</b> <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

## Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is  $0.25/0.25 = 1$ ; at week 20 it is  $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$ .
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

### Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

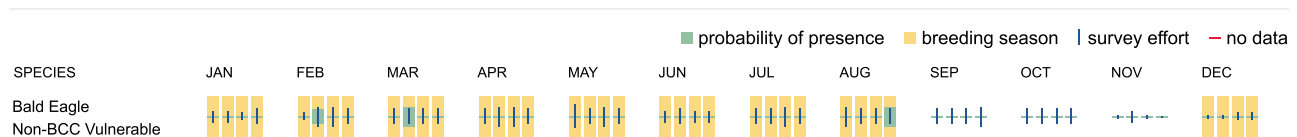
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

### No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

### Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



## Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

### What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are an eagle ([Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) requirements may apply).

### Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort line or no data line (red horizontal) means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide you in knowing when to implement avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities or get the appropriate permits should presence be confirmed.

### How do I know if eagles are breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

### Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

#### **How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:**

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is  $0.25/0.25 = 1$ ; at week 20 it is  $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$ .

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

#### **Breeding Season ()**

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

#### **Survey Effort ()**

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

#### **No Data ()**

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

#### **Survey Timeframe**

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

## Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup> prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

### Measures for Proactively Minimizing Migratory Bird Impacts

Your IPaC Migratory Bird list showcases [birds of concern](#), including [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#), in your project location. This is not a comprehensive list of all birds found in your project area. However, you can help proactively minimize significant impacts to all birds at your project location by implementing the measures in the [Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds](#) document, and any other project-specific avoidance and minimization measures suggested at the link [Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds](#) for the birds of concern on your list below.

### Ensure Your Migratory Bird List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

### Review the FAQs

The FAQs below provide important additional information and resources.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p><b>Bald Eagle</b> <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i></p> <p>This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a></p>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
<p><b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b> <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399</a></p>	Breeds May 15 to Oct 10
<p><b>Bobolink</b> <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
<p><b>Canada Warbler</b> <i>Cardellina canadensis</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
<p><b>Cerulean Warbler</b> <i>Setophaga cerulea</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2974">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2974</a></p>	Breeds Apr 22 to Jul 20
<p><b>Chimney Swift</b> <i>Chaetura pelagica</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
<p><b>Golden-winged Warbler</b> <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
<p><b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> <i>Tringa flavipes</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p><b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris melanotos</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p><b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
<p><b>Rusty Blackbird</b> <i>Euphagus carolinus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p><b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris pusilla</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p>	Breeds elsewhere



Lesser Yellowlegs BCC Rangewide (CON)	-----	+++	++++	++++	++++	-----	-----	++++	-----	-----	++++	
Pectoral Sandpiper BCC Rangewide (CON)	-----	+++	++++	++++	++++	-----	-----	++++	-----	-----	++++	
Red-headed Woodpecker BCC Rangewide (CON)	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	
Rusty Blackbird BCC - BCR	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	
Semipalmated Sandpiper BCC - BCR	-----	+++	++++	++++	++++	-----	-----	++++	-----	-----	++++	
SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Short-billed Dowitcher BCC Rangewide (CON)	-----	+++	++++	++++	++++	-----	-----	++++	-----	-----	++++	
Wood Thrush BCC Rangewide (CON)	-----	+++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	-----	++++	

## Migratory Bird FAQs

**Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.**

[Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

**What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?**

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location, such as those listed under the Endangered Species Act or the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) and those species marked as "Vulnerable". See the FAQ "What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?" for more information on the levels of concern covered in the IPaC migratory bird species list.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) with which your project intersects. These species have been identified as warranting special attention because they are BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, and to verify survey effort when no results present, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

**Why are subspecies showing up on my list?**

Subspecies profiles are included on the list of species present in your project area because observations in the AKN for **the species** are being detected. If the species are present, that means that the subspecies may also be present. If a subspecies shows up on your list, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if that subspecies may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

**What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?**

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

**How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?**

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

**What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?**

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially BCC species. For more information on avoidance and minimization measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts, please see the FAQ "Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

#### **Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects**

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

#### **Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report**

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list does not represent all birds present in your project area. It is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about avoidance and minimization measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

#### **Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs**

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

#### ***How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:***

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is  $0.25/0.25 = 1$ ; at week 20 it is  $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$ .

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

#### **Breeding Season ()**

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

#### **Survey Effort ()**

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

#### **No Data ()**

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

#### **Survey Timeframe**

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

## Facilities

### National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

### Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

# Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

**NOTE:** This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

## Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

## Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

## Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

# Appendix 3

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PP01, Facing Northeast



PP01, Facing Southwest

Ditch



PP02, Facing North



PP02, Facing East



PP02, Facing South



PP02, Facing West

**Within Poorly-Drained Areas with a Stormwater Management Feature**



PP03, Facing Northeast



PP03, Facing Northwest



PP03, Facing Southeast



PP03, Facing Southwest

**Arborvitae Tree Line and Disturbed Field**



PP04, Facing Northeast



PP04, Facing Northwest



PP04, Facing Southeast



PP04, Facing Southwest

**Disturbed Field**



PP05, Facing Northeast



PP05, Facing Northwest



PP05, Facing Southeast



PP05, Facing Southwest

**Disturbed Field**



PP06, Facing North



PP06, Facing East



PP06, Facing South



PP06, Facing West

**Disturbed Field and Poorly-Drained Area**



PP07, Facing North



PP07, Facing East



PP07, Facing South



PP07, Facing West

**Disturbed Field**



PP08, Facing North



PP08, Facing East



PP08, Facing South



PP08, Facing West

**Poorly-Drained Area and Riprap along South Boundary**



PP09, Facing North



PP09, Facing East



PP09, Facing South



PP09, Facing West

**Arborvitae Tree Line and Poorly-Drained Area with Eastern Cottonwood Saplings**