

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office J C Watts Federal Building, Room 265 330 West Broadway Frankfort, KY 40601-8670 Phone: (502) 695-0468 Fax: (502) 695-1024



In Reply Refer To: Project code: 2022-0085791 Project Name: Cumberland PDI September 15, 2022

Subject: Consistency letter for the 'Cumberland PDI' project indicating that any take of the northern long-eared bat that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o).

Dear Fara Popplewell-Miniard:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on September 15, 2022 your effects determination for the 'Cumberland PDI' (the Action) using the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) key within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. You indicated that no Federal agencies are involved in funding or authorizing this Action. This IPaC key assists users in determining whether a non-Federal action may cause "take"^[1] of the northern long-eared bat that is prohibited under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based upon your IPaC submission, any take of the northern long-eared bat that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Unless the Service advises you within 30 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that the Action is not likely to result in unauthorized take of the northern long-eared bat.

Please report to our office any changes to the information about the Action that you entered into IPaC, the results of any bat surveys conducted in the Action area, and any dead, injured, or sick northern long-eared bats that are found during Action implementation.

If your Action proceeds as described and no additional information about the Action's effects on species protected under the ESA becomes available, no further coordination with the Service is required with respect to the northern long-eared bat.

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat **does not** apply to the following ESA-protected species that also may occur in your Action area:

• Cumberland Bean (pearlymussel) Villosa trabalis Endangered

- Cumberlandian Combshell Epioblasma brevidens Endangered
- Fanshell Cyprogenia stegaria Endangered
- Fluted Kidneyshell Ptychobranchus subtentus Endangered
- Gray Bat *Myotis grisescens* Endangered
- Indiana Bat Myotis sodalis Endangered
- Littlewing Pearlymussel Pegias fabula Endangered
- Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Candidate
- Orangefoot Pimpleback (pearlymussel) Plethobasus cooperianus Endangered
- Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) Lampsilis abrupta Endangered
- Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica Threatened
- Ring Pink (mussel) Obovaria retusa Endangered
- Rough Pigtoe Pleurobema plenum Endangered
- Spectaclecase (mussel) Cumberlandia monodonta Endangered

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may cause prohibited take of the animal species listed above.

[1]Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct [ESA Section 3(19)].

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

Cumberland PDI

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Cumberland PDI':

Proposed project includes infrastructure and access road improvements to existing industrial site.

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/</u> <u>maps/@36.79932865000001,-85.3544563857434,14z</u>



Determination Key Result

This non-Federal Action may affect the northern long-eared bat; however, any take of this species that may occur incidental to this Action is not prohibited under the final 4(d) rule at 50 CFR §17.40(o).

Determination Key Description: Northern Long-eared Bat 4(d) Rule

This key was last updated in IPaC on **May 15, 2017**. Keys are subject to periodic revision.

This key is intended for actions that may affect the threatened northern long-eared bat.

The purpose of the key for non-Federal actions is to assist determinations as to whether proposed actions are excepted from take prohibitions under the northern long-eared bat 4(d) rule.

If a non-Federal action may cause prohibited take of northern long-eared bats or other ESA-listed animal species, we recommend that you coordinate with the Service.

Determination Key Result

Based upon your IPaC submission, any take of the northern long-eared bat that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o).

Qualification Interview

1. Is the action authorized, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency?

No

2. Will your activity purposefully Take northern long-eared bats?

No

3. [Semantic] Is the project action area located wholly outside the White-nose Syndrome Zone?

Automatically answered No

4. [Semantic] Is the project action area located within 0.25 miles of a known northern longeared bat hibernaculum?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency

Automatically answered

No

5. [Semantic] Is the project action area located within 150 feet of a known occupied northern long-eared bat maternity roost tree?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency

Automatically answered

No

Project Questionnaire

If the project includes forest conversion, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 1-3.

1. Estimated total acres of forest conversion:

0

2. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from April 1 to October 31

0

3. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes timber harvest, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 4-6.

4. Estimated total acres of timber harvest

0

5. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from April 1 to October 31

0

6. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes prescribed fire, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 7-9.

7. Estimated total acres of prescribed fire

0

8. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from April 1 to October 31

0

9. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes new wind turbines, report the megawatts of wind capacity below. Otherwise, type '0' in question 10.

10. What is the estimated wind capacity (in megawatts) of the new turbine(s)?

0

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency:County of CumberlandName:Fara Popplewell-MiniardAddress:PO Box 1570City:Russell SpringsState:KYZip:42642Emailfpopplewellminiard@gmail.comPhone:2708664200

Lead Agency Contact Information

Lead Agency: County of Cumberland

Name: Elijah Wilson

- Email: emwils3@uky.edu
- Phone: 2704592009



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In Reply Refer To: Project code: 2022-0085791 Project Name: Cumberland PDI September 15, 2022

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'Cumberland PDI' for specified threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location consistent with the Kentucky Determination Key (DKey)

Dear Fara Popplewell-Miniard:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on **September 15, 2022** your effect determination(s) for the 'Cumberland PDI' (Action) using the Kentucky (DKey) within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The Service developed this system in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

You have agreed to the following conservation measures:

• The project proponent will complete all excavation and grading and put BMPs in place to stabilize all excavated and graded areas within 1 month.

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Kentucky DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Cumberland Bean (pearlymussel) (Villosa trabalis)	Endangered	No effect
Cumberlandian Combshell (Epioblasma brevidens)	Endangered	No effect
Fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>)	Endangered	No effect
Fluted Kidneyshell (Ptychobranchus subtentus)	Endangered	No effect
Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens)	Endangered	No effect
Littlewing Pearlymussel (Pegias fabula)	Endangered	No effect
Orangefoot Pimpleback (pearlymussel) (<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>)	Endangered	No effect
Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>)	Endangered	No effect
	0	
Rabbitsfoot (Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica)	Threatened	No effect
Ring Pink (mussel) (Obovaria retusa)	Endangered	No effect

Rough Pigtoe (Pleurobema plenum)	Endangered	No effect
Spectaclecase (mussel) (Cumberlandia monodonta)	Endangered	No effect

Consultation Status

No Effect Determinations: Species with No effect determinations are those for which you determined the proposed Action would have "no effect" on the species. There is no statutory requirement for the federal action agency to request concurrence with that determination; however, the federal action agency should document the supporting information for this determination in their files. This documentation would typically demonstrate a lack of suitable habitat within the action area, show that no impacts to suitable habitat would occur, or provide information that the species is not reasonably certain to occur in the action area even though suitable habitat is present.

Coordination with the Kentucky Ecological Services Office is complete. Thank you for considering Federally listed species during your project planning.

The Service recommends that your agency contact the Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office or re-evaluate the Action in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Action changes, 2) new information reveals the Action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat, or 3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional consultation with the Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office should take place before project changes are final or resources committed.

The following species and/or critical habitats may also occur in your project area and **are not** covered by this conclusion:

- Indiana Bat Myotis sodalis Endangered
- Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Candidate
- Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis Threatened

To address effects to other federally listed or proposed species and/or their designated critical habitat, you can request project-specific review by following the instructions in the "Next Steps" section of your species list letter, or you may use another determination key, if available.

Additional Coordination

To request additional technical assistance or consultation, please email your request to KentuckyES@fws.gov and include relevant site-specific information. The Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office will respond within 30 days of your submittal.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

Cumberland PDI

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Cumberland PDI':

Proposed project includes infrastructure and access road improvements to existing industrial site.

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/</u> <u>maps/@36.79932865000001,-85.3544563857434,14z</u>



Qualification Interview

1. Will the proposed Action involve Federal funding, permitting, or authorization, or will it be carried out by a Federal Agency?

No

 [Hidden Semantic] Does the action area intersect critical habitat? Automatically answered

No

- 3. Will the proposed Action involve construction or operation of wind turbines? *No*
- 4. Will the proposed Action involve blasting (other than a fireworks display)? *No*
- 5. Will the proposed Action involve a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

No

- 6. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g. leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)? *No*
- 7. Will the proposed Action include the removal, replacement, repair and/or maintenance of an existing bridge or culvert?

No

8. Will the proposed Action involve perennial stream loss that would require an individual permit under 404 of the Clean Water Act?

No

- 9. Will the proposed Action involve discharge of sediment into a stream? *No*
- 10. Does the Action Area contain any caves (including their associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), rockshelters, underground quarries, or abandoned mine portals (including associated underground workings)?

No

- 11. [Hidden Semantic] Does the Action Area intersect the Kentucky AOI of the gray bat? Automatically answered Yes
- 12. Will the proposed Action involve drilling or boring?

Yes

13. Prior to the drilling or boring, will the project proponent conduct appropriate preliminary evaluations to ensure that proposed drilling or boring is unlikely to encounter karst voids or other voids?

Yes

- 14. Will the project proponent contact the Field Office if potentially suitable gray bat hibernacula or roosting habitat is encountered during drilling or boring? *Yes*
- 15. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the gray bat.

What is your effect determination for the gray bat?

Note:*IPaC* will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. *IPaC* will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

- 1. "No effect"
- 16. Will the proposed Action involve a new point source discharge into a stream or change an existing point source discharge (e.g., outfalls; leachate ponds)? *No*
- 17. Will the proposed Action include any activities that would alter stream flow, such as hydropower energy production, impoundments, intake structures, diversion structures, and/ or turbines?

No

18. Will the proposed Action involve dredging or in-stream gravel mining?

No

19. Will the proposed Action involve resource extraction (e.g., mining, oil/gas, logging), including exploration activities?

No

20. Will the proposed Action involve stream impacts (perennial or intermittent) that would require an individual permit under 404 of the Clean Water Act?

No

21. Will the proposed Action involve activities that would contribute measureable nonpoint source pollution to streams (e.g., sediment, nutrients, etc.)? *See the following EPA webpage for more examples of nonpoint source pollution and activities that can produce it: <u>https://www.epa.gov/nps/basic-information-about-nonpoint-source-nps-pollution</u>*

No

- 22. Will the proposed Action involve new or increased use of public recreational OHV trails? *No*
- 23. Will the proposed Action disturb the channel or bank of a perennial or intermittent stream? *No*
- 24. Will the proposed Action disturb the channel or bank of an ephemeral stream? *No*
- 25. Will the proposed Action involve vegetation removal within 200 feet of a perennial stream bank?

No

26. Will the proposed Action involve excavation or grading, including for the construction or improvement of an access road?

Yes

27. Are all areas proposed for excavation or grading situated more than 200 feet from the banks of perennial and intermittent streams?

Yes

28. Are any areas proposed for excavation or grading located in or partly in a "special flood hazard area" as designated by FEMA? You can determine this by searching for your project area at the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (<u>https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home</u>. For technical assistance please contact the Field Office listed in the letterhead of your project's official species list.

No

29. Will the excavation or grading create new water bars or ditches that will channel stormwater into a stream?

No

30. Will the project proponent complete all excavation and grading activities and subsequent soil stabilization measures within 1 month?

Yes

31. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the Cumberland bean? Automatically answered *Yes* 32. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the Cumberland bean.

What determination do you want to make for the **Cumberland bean**:

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

1. "No effect"

33. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the Cumberlandian combshell?

Automatically answered Yes

34. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the Cumberlandian combshell.

What determination do you want to make for the **Cumberlandian combshell**:

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

1. "No effect"

35. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*)?

Automatically answered Yes 36. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the fanshell.

What is your effect determination for the **fanshell**:

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

1. "No effect"

37. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the orangefoot pimpleback (*Plethobascus cooperianus*)?

Automatically answered *Yes*

38. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the orangefoot pimpleback.

What is your effect determination for the **orangefoot pimpleback**:

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

1. "No effect"

39. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*)?

Automatically answered Yes 40. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the pink mucket.

What is your effect determination for the **pink mucket**:

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

1. "No effect"

41. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the rabbitsfoot (*Theliderma* (= *Quadrula*) *cylindrica*)?

Automatically answered Yes

42. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the rabbitsfoot.

What is your effect determination for the **rabbitsfoot**:

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

- 1. "No effect"
- 43. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the ring pink (*Obovaria retusa*)?

Automatically answered Yes 44. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the ring pink.

What is your effect determination for the **ring pink**:

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

1. "No effect"

45. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the rough pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*)?

Automatically answered Yes

46. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the rough pigtoe.

What is your effect determination for the **rough pigtoe**:

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

- 1. "No effect"
- 47. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the spectaclecase (*Margaritifera* (= *Cumberlandia*) *monodonta*)?

Automatically answered Yes 48. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the spectaclecase.

What is your effect determination for the **spectaclecase**:

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

1. "No effect"

49. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the fluted kidneyshell?Automatically answered

Yes

50. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the fluted kidneyshell.

What determination do you want to make for the **fluted kidneyshell**:

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

1. "No effect"

51. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project area intersect the AOI of the littlewing pearlymussel? Automatically answered

Yes

52. Based on the responses you have provided, we believe that the proposed Action is consistent with the type of Actions programmatically evaluated by the Service's Kentucky Field Office under the standing analyses that support this determination key. These Actions typically conclude with "no effect" or "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the littlewing pearlymussel.

What determination do you want to make for the littlewing pearlymussel

Note: IPaC will not provide a concurrence for "no effect" determinations, because there is no statutory requirement to request concurrence from the Service. IPaC will provide concurrence for "May affect – not likely to adversely affect" determinations. If you choose "May affect – likely to adversely affect" or "Unsure," additional coordination with the Service is recommended.

1. "No effect"

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency:County of CumberlandName:Fara Popplewell-MiniardAddress:PO Box 1570City:Russell SpringsState:KYZip:42642Emailfpopplewellminiard@gmail.comPhone:2708664200

Lead Agency Contact Information

Lead Agency: County of Cumberland

Name: Elijah Wilson

- Email: emwils3@uky.edu
- Phone: 2704592009



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In Reply Refer To: Project code: 2022-0085791 Project Name: Cumberland PDI September 15, 2022

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'Cumberland PDI' for the endangered Indiana bat and its critical habitat in the proposed project location, pursuant to the Indiana Bat Determination Key (DKey)

Dear Fara Popplewell-Miniard:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on **September 15, 2022** your effect determination(s) for the 'Cumberland PDI' using the Indiana Bat DKey within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The Service developed this system in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Indiana Bat DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Indiana Bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	NLAA

Consultation Status

The information in this letter is provided to you as technical assistance in your planning. Species with NLAA determinations are consistent with the programmatic evaluation in the standing analysis of proposed Actions the Service has identified that typically do not result in significant adverse effects to that species.

Coordination with the Service is complete. Thank you for considering Federally listed species during your project planning.

The Service recommends that your agency contact the Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office or re-evaluate the Action in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Action changes, 2) new information reveals the Action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat, or 3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional consultation with the Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office should take place before project changes are final or resources committed.

In addition to the Indiana bat, the following species and/or critical habitats may also occur in your project area and **are not** covered by this conclusion:

- Cumberland Bean (pearlymussel) Villosa trabalis Endangered
- Cumberlandian Combshell Epioblasma brevidens Endangered
- Fanshell Cyprogenia stegaria Endangered
- Fluted Kidneyshell Ptychobranchus subtentus Endangered
- Gray Bat *Myotis grisescens* Endangered
- Littlewing Pearlymussel *Pegias fabula* Endangered
- Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Candidate
- Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis Threatened
- Orangefoot Pimpleback (pearlymussel) Plethobasus cooperianus Endangered
- Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) Lampsilis abrupta Endangered
- Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica Threatened
- Ring Pink (mussel) Obovaria retusa Endangered
- Rough Pigtoe Pleurobema plenum Endangered
- Spectaclecase (mussel) Cumberlandia monodonta Endangered

To address effects to other federally listed or proposed species and/or their designated critical habitat, you can request project-specific review by following the instructions in the "Next Steps" section of your species list letter, or you may use another determination key, if available.

Additional Coordination

To request additional technical assistance or consultation, please contact the Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office . When you contact the office, please provide all relevant site-specific information regarding the proposed Action. The Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office will respond within 30 to 60 days of your submittal.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

Cumberland PDI

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Cumberland PDI':

Proposed project includes infrastructure and access road improvements to existing industrial site.

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/</u> maps/@36.79932865000001,-85.3544563857434,14z



Qualification Interview

1. Will the proposed action involve Federal funding, permitting, or authorization, or will it be carried out by a Federal Agency?

No

2. [Semantic] Is the Action Area within 1/2-mile of a known Indiana bat hibernaculum?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact the Field Office listed in the letterhead of this letter.

Automatically answered No

3. If you have determined that the Indiana bat is unlikely to occur to within your project's Action Area or that your project is unlikely to have any potential impacts on the Indiana bat, you may wish to make a "No Effect" determination for the Indiana bat. Would you like to make a No Effect determination for the Indiana bat?

Note: A "No Effect" determination does not require concurrence from the Service; however, you should document the supporting information for this determination in your files. This documentation would typically demonstrate a lack of suitable habitat within the action area, show that no impacts to suitable habitat would occur, or provide information that the species is not reasonably certain to occur in the action area even though suitable habitat is present. If you believe the Indiana bat may be affected by your project or if you would like assistance in making a determination, please answer "no" and continue through the key.

No

4. Will the proposed Action involve construction or operation of wind turbines?

No

- 5. Will the proposed Action involve blasting, other than a fireworks display? *No*
- 6. Will the proposed Action involve a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

No

- 7. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)? *No*
- 8. Will the proposed Action include the removal, replacement, repair and/or maintenance of an existing bridge?

No

9. Will the proposed Action involve perennial stream loss that would require an individual permit under 404 of the Clean Water Act?

No

- 10. Will the proposed Action involve discharge of sediment into a stream? *No*
- 11. Does the Action Area contain any caves (including their associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), rockshelters, underground quarries, or abandoned mine portals (including associated underground workings)?

No

12. Will the proposed project result in the removal of trees? *No*

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency:County of CumberlandName:Fara Popplewell-MiniardAddress:PO Box 1570City:Russell SpringsState:KYZip:42642Emailfpopplewellminiard@gmail.comPhone:2708664200

Lead Agency Contact Information

Lead Agency: County of Cumberland

Name: Elijah Wilson

- Email: emwils3@uky.edu
- Phone: 2704592009

IPaC

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.

Project information

NAME

Cumberland PDI

LOCATION

Cumberland County, Kentucky



DESCRIPTION

Some(Proposed project includes infrastructure and access road improvements to existing industrial site.)

Local office

Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office

└ (502) 695-0468**i** (502) 695-1024

J C Watts Federal Building, Room 265 330 West Broadway Frankfort, KY 40601-8670

JTFORCONSULTATIO

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. Log in to IPaC.
- 2. Go to your My Projects list.
- 3. Click PROJECT HOME for this project.
- 4. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the <u>Ecological Services Program</u> of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact <u>NOAA Fisheries</u> for <u>species under their jurisdiction</u>.

- Species listed under the <u>Endangered Species Act</u> are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the <u>listing status page</u> for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
- 2. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, 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
 Gray Bat Myotis grisescens Wherever found This species only needs to be considered if the following condition applies: The project area includes potential gray bat habitat. 	Endangered
No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329	40.
 Indiana Bat Myotis sodalis Wherever found This species only needs to be considered if the following condition applies: The project area includes 'potential' habitat. All activities in this location should consider possible effects to this species. There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. 	Endangered
<u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</u>	
 Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis Wherever found This species only needs to be considered if the following condition applies: The specified area includes areas in which incidental take would not be prohibited under the 4(d) rule. For reporting purposes, please use the "streamlined consultation form," linked to in the "general project design guidelines" for the species. 	Threatened
No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	

NAME

Clams

Cumberland Bean (pearlymussel) Villosa trabalis No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6061</u>	Endangered
Cumberlandian Combshell Epioblasma brevidens There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3119</u>	Endangered
Fanshell Cyprogenia stegaria Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4822</u>	Endangered
Fluted Kidneyshell Ptychobranchus subtentus Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1397</u>	Endangered
Littlewing Pearlymussel Pegias fabula Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2572</u>	Endangered
Orangefoot Pimpleback (pearlymussel) Plethobasus cooperianus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1132	Endangered
Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) Lampsilis abrupta Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7829	Endangered
Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165</u>	Threatened

Endangered
Endangered
Endangered
STATUS
Candidate

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.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act^{1} and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act^{2} .

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described <u>below</u>.

^{1.} The <u>Migratory Birds Treaty Act</u> of 1918.

2. The <u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <u>https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species</u>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <u>https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds</u>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <u>https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf</u>

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the <u>E-bird data mapping tool</u> (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found <u>below</u>.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON				
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus 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. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</u>	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31				
Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25				

range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Field Sparrow Spizella pusilla This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Mar 1 to Aug 15
Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

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 and understand the FAQ "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.

			p	probability of presence		breeding season			survey effort		— no data	
SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bald Eagle Non-BCC Vulnerable			-59	2.1					-			-
Chimney Swift BCC Rangewide (CON)		X										
Field Sparrow BCC - BCR			-									
Prairie Warbler BCC Rangewide (CON)												
Red-headed Woodpecker BCC Rangewide (CON)	e											

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

<u>Nationwide Conservation Measures</u> describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the

locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. <u>Additional measures</u> or <u>permits</u> 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 USFWS <u>Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC)</u> and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge</u> <u>Network (AKN)</u>. The AKN data is based on a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science</u> <u>datasets</u> 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 a BCC species in that area, an eagle (<u>Eagle Act</u> 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, please visit the <u>Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool</u>.

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 <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. This data is derived from a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and</u> <u>citizen science datasets</u>.

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 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 year-round), you may query your location using the <u>RAIL Tool</u> and look at 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 migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, 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 <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (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 <u>Eagle Act</u> 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 try 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 eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

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 <u>Northeast Ocean Data</u> <u>Portal</u>. 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 <u>NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird</u> <u>Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf</u> project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the <u>Diving Bird Study</u> and the <u>nanotag studies</u> or contact <u>Caleb Spiegel</u> or <u>Pam Loring</u>.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to <u>obtain a permit</u> to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

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 also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). 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 is not perfect; 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 helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Coastal Barrier Resources System

Projects within the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) may be subject to the restrictions on federal expenditures and financial assistance and the consultation requirements of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). For more information, please contact the local Ecological Services Field Office or visit the CBRA Consultations website. The CBRA website provides tools such as a flow chart to help determine whether consultation is required and a template to facilitate the consultation process.

There are no known coastal barriers at this location.

Data limitations

The CBRS boundaries used in IPaC are representations of the controlling boundaries, which are depicted on the <u>official CBRS maps</u>. The boundaries depicted in this layer are not to be considered authoritative for in/out determinations close to a CBRS boundary (i.e., within the "CBRS Buffer Zone" that appears as a hatched area on either side of the boundary). For projects that are very close to a CBRS boundary but do not clearly intersect a unit, you may contact the Service for an official determination by following the instructions here: <u>https://www.fws.gov/service/coastal-barrier-resources-system-property-documentation</u>

Data exclusions

CBRS units extend seaward out to either the 20- or 30-foot bathymetric contour (depending on the location of the unit). The true seaward extent of the units is not shown in the CBRS data, therefore projects in the offshore areas of units (e.g., dredging, breakwaters, offshore wind energy or oil and gas projects) may be subject to CBRA even if they do not intersect the CBRS data. For additional information, please contact <u>CBRA@fws.gov</u>.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the <u>National Wildlife Refuge</u> 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

Impacts to <u>NWI wetlands</u> 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**.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands: ;ONS'

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

Palustrine

RIVFRINF

Riverine

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

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 tuberficid 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.

TEORCO