



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

March 12, 2015

Donald Henne
Pearson Brown & Assoc., Inc.
1850 W. Winchester Road

Suite 205
Libertyville, IL 60048

RE: Route 137 Bull Creek Connector Trail
Project Number(s): 1509202
County: Lake

Dear Applicant:

This letter is in reference to the project you recently submitted for consultation involving the construction of approximately 3000 linear feet of 10-foot wide trail for public use on property owned by the Libertyville Township. Boardwalks will also be installed over wetland areas using pilings. Construction is proposed to occur from early summer to late fall, 2015.

The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT identified protected resources in the vicinity of the proposed action. The Department has evaluated this information and makes the following recommendations:

Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve

The project is adjacent to the Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed trail will connect to an existing trail on the south end of the Nature Preserve. Approval should be obtained from the Nature Preserves Commission (NPC) for this project. Please contact Kelly Neal (kelly.neal@illinois.gov) with the NPC for further action on this issue.

State-listed plants

The state-threatened plant slender bog arrowgrass (*Triglochin palustris*) is known to occur in the project vicinity. This plant can be found in moist, open sites, and especially fens and lakeshores. The optimal identification period for this species is during its blooming and fruiting period in July and August. The Department recommends a qualified biologist search the project area for this plant prior to construction. If

found, impacts can be mitigated by translocation, seed collection, or stockpiling and replacing the surface soils containing the seed bank. Further, be aware that written permission from the landowner should be obtained from contractors to disturb or relocate a listed plant in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11]. Listed plants are property of the landowner.

Wetland Birds

Records of the state-listed black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), and yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) occur in the project vicinity. Due to the installation of boardwalks in wetland areas, the Department recommends no disturbance activities be conducted in close proximity to wetlands during April 1st through July 31st to avoid the nesting season of these birds. If this time period restriction cannot be observed, a biological survey for the presence of these species would be justified and an application for Incidental Take Authorization from the Department would be recommended if the species are found utilizing the wetlands in the project area. Construction of the trail north of the Bull Creek boardwalk crossing could likely commence during the recommended time restriction with low risk of impact to these species.

Given these recommendations are adopted, the Department has no objection to issuance of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. Please notify the Department if you plan to modify the proposed action to accommodate these recommendations or proceed as originally planned.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.



Nathan Grider
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
217-785-5500

cc: Kelly Neal – INPC
Steven Byers - INPC
Michael Murphy – USACE, Chicago District