



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

May 04, 2016

Jim Hills
Hey and Associates, Inc.
26575 W Commerce Dr.
Suite 601
Volo, IL 60073

RE: Oak Knoll Woodlands Restoration
Project Number(s): 1606342 [15-0325]
County: Lake

Dear Mr. Hills:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for the project noted above, located in Lake County, Township 43 North, Range 12 East, Section 6. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act [520 ILCS 10/11], the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 Illinois Administrative Code Part 1075.

Hey and Associates has been retained to perform restoration activities in the woodlands and wetlands on the property. Activities include selective tree removal, herbicide application, native seeding and plantings.

The Department has completed its review of the project and determined that, with the exception below, the resources identified by EcoCAT in the vicinity are unlikely to be affected.

The project's activities are likely to affect suitable habitat for the state and federally endangered **Northern Long-eared Bat** (*Myotis septentrionalis*). To minimize any impact to this species the Department recommends:

- No potential roost trees should be removed between the dates of April 1 and October 14.
- If restoration activity occurs outside of the recommended timeframe, the Department recommends a potential roost tree survey be performed for these species within the tree removal area. The results of the survey should be forwarded to the Department. Please note, any survey activity that will actually capture or handle endangered or threatened species requires personnel doing so to hold Scientific Collection Permits under Part 520 and Part 1070 of the Department's Rules.
- If species are present, please contact IDNR at 815-675-2386 ext. 216 or 217-557-0483.

Also, the state-endangered **Blanding's Turtle** (*Emydoidea blandingii*) is known to occur in the vicinity of the project area and individual turtles could be affected. These turtles hibernate in wetlands and, depending on the temperature, generally emerge in the spring with upland nesting

occurring in June. They may travel up to one mile in their search for nesting habitat. To minimize impact to this species the Department recommends:

- All personnel working on site should be advised of this species, educated about what juvenile and adult Blanding's look like.
- Crew should avoid wetland disturbance during Blanding's hibernation period (October through March).
- All excavations should be covered each night and checked every morning, before any work resumes, to check for any amphibians or reptiles.
- If Blanding's Turtles are encountered, crews should stop work immediately and contact IDNR at 815-675-2386 ext. 216 or 217-557-0483.

Consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,
Natalia Jones
Impact Assessment Section
217-785-5500
natalia.jones@illinois.gov

cc: Leslie Lowry, IEPA