Sullivan, Tim <tim_r_sullivan@fws.gov>

Conservation Measures for impacts to migratory birds

Tim Sullivan <tim_r_sullivan@fws.gov> Wed, Jan 29, 2014 at 11:04 AM
To: Keith Hastie <keith_hastie@fws.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Siani <jennifer_siani@fws.gov>

Keith,

This discussion seems applicable to the Constitution pipeline project. Considering the size of the project and the amount of projected impacts to habitat, it seems that an HEA evaluation may be appropriate. Do you know if this has been a part of any discussions that RO staff have had with Constitution or others? What are your thoughts on this evaluation methodology for this project? Any input would be appreciated.

Thanks

Tim

From: Herrmann, Betsy [mailto:betsy_herrmann@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2014 1:40 PM
To: Robert Krska
Cc: Catherine Liller; Bryon Holt; Emily Teachout; Joe Zisa; Kevin Maurice; Leslie Durham; Mark Robertson; Michelle Bogardus; Paula Levin; Ryan McReynolds; Darren LeBlanc; Dawn Whitehead; George Dennis; Eric Hein; Mike Martinez; Moni Belton; Omar Bocanegra; Pat Clements; Rhonda Spinks; Sean Edwards; Barbara Hosler; Chris Mensing; Elizabeth McCloskey; Heidi Woeber; Jill Utrup; Karen Hallberg; Kraig McPeek; Mary Knapp; Robin McWilliams; Shawn Cirton; Amy Commens-Carson; Bruce Porter; Christopher Coppola; Gary Jordan; Jane Monaghan; Jason Mays; John Griffith; John Wrublik; Marella Buncick; Mary Mittiga; Mitch Wine; Pete Pattavina; Phil DeGarmo; Thomas Davidowicz; Devin Ray; Elizabeth Stout; Jennifer Kagel; Laury Zicari; Maria Tur; Robert Anderson; Sandra Doran; Steve Mars; Tim Sullivan; Troy Andersen; Wende Mahaney; William Hester; Alison Michael; Amy Defreese; Brooke Stansberry; Heidi Riddle; John Cochnar; Kevin Shelley; Michele McNulty; Mike McGrath; Natalie Gates; Nathan Darnall; Susan Blackford; Charleen Veach; Lori Verbrugge; Lynnda Kahn; Steve Brockmann; Carl Benz; Felicia Sirchia; Gregory Schmidt; Jennifer Schofield; Jerry Roe; John Cleckler; John Taylor; Raymond Vizgirdas; Sally Brown; Jeff Gosse; Larry Bright
Subject: Re: Conservation Measures for impacts to migratory birds

All -

Region 6 has had one (that I am aware of) Mig Bird Conservation Plan completed for the Ruby Pipeline (a ~650-mile nat gas pipeline from Wyoming, through Utah and Nevada, to Oregon). I can send this to anyone who would like to see it. Two large transmission line projects from WY thru UT to NV are currently developing them. Habitat Equivalency Analysis was used for Ruby and is being used by the transmission line projects.

So, based on that, I have proposed an HEA be used on the West Davis Corridor a 17-mile new 4-lane highway adjacent to the Great Salt Lake. We haven't used HEAs on transportation projects here before, but the proposed road is immediately adjacent to important shorebird habitats including a big Preserve. The HEA has received good support from the Corps, EPA, and (in premise) from UDOT and FHWA, but the devil is in the details.

Basically an HEA quantifies the injury incurred to a natural resource (in this case migratory bird habitats) from a source (in this case, the new highway). My interest in using it was to quantify the indirect impacts to habitat adjacent to the highway on the premise (shown from the literature) that species richness and abundance declines in the habitats adjacent (and at a substantial distance) from roads. The HEA identifies the baseline habitat services provided (based on habitat quality assessments conducted for the project), and then determines the "injury" to to those habitat services (greater injury close to the road, lesser injury further from the road).

This process actually allows a comparison of the indirect impacts to wildlife habitat for different alternatives, which can help inform the Corps' LEDPA decision. Also, we are hoping (and UDOT is interested) in using it to help inform mitigation.

The Great Salt Lake is a hugely important resource for migratory birds, and a new highway adjacent to its shorelands is a big deal. Fortunately everyone seems to recognize that, in premise. But, as I said, the devil is in the details!

Betsy

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On Fri, Jan 24, 2014 at 10:33 AM, Robert Krska <robert_krska@fws.gov> wrote:

Catherine – yes, the pipeline projects I mentioned [natural gas regulated by FERC (RexEast) and oil not regulated at all (Flanagan South and 6B)] all had conservation measures identified for migratory birds, including mitigation requirements based on our quantification of impacts (habitat lost) based on Habitat Equivalency Analysis (used routinely by our NRDA folks). Depending on what folks think, they may also relate to transportation activities.

We're gathering appropriate documents to share with this group.

While I'm on the topic of mitigation, I suggest we look for opportunities to identify the need to mitigate the loss of migratory bird habitat in our revised Mitigation Policy, specifically for linear projects (highways and pipelines) as a way to notify the development community that the Service will seek (though may not always achieve) mitigation for impacts to bird habitat. Something for us to think about…

From: Liller, Catherine [mailto:catherine_liller@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 4:02 PM
To: Bryon Holt; Emily Teachout; Joe Zisa; Kevin Maurice; leslie_durham; Mark_Robertson; Michelle Bogardus; Paula Levin; Ryan McReynolds; Darren LeBlanc; Dawn Whitehead; George Dennis; Hein, Eric; Mike A Martinez; Moni Belton; Omar Bocanegra; Pat Clements; Rhonda Spinks; Sean Edwards; Barbara Hosler; Chris Mensing; Elizabeth McCloskey; Heidi Woeber; Jill Utrup; Karen Hallberg; Kraig McPeek; Mary M Knapp; Robert Krska; Robin McWilliams; Shawn Cirton; Amy Commens-Carson; Bruce Porter; Christopher Coppola; Gary Jordan; Jane Monaghan; Jason Mays; John Griffith; John Wrublik; Marella Buncick; Mary Mittiga; Mitch Wine; Pete Pattavina; Phil DeGarmo; Davidowicz, Thomas; Devin Ray; Elizabeth Stout; Jennifer Kagel; Laury Zicari; Maria Tur; Robert M Anderson; Sandra Doran; Steve Mars; Tim R Sullivan; Troy Andersen; Wende Mahaney; William Hester; Alison Michael; Amy Defreese; Betsy Herrmann; Brooke Stansberry; heidi_riddle; John Cochnar; Kevin Shelley; Michele McNulty; Mike McGrath; Natalie Gates; Nathan Darnall; Susan Blackford; Charleen Veach; Lori Verbrugge; Lynnda Kahn; Steve Brockmann; Carl Benz; Felicia Sirchia; Gregory Schmidt; Jen Schofield; Jerry D Roe; John Cleckler; John Taylor; Raymond Vizgirdas; Sally Brown
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Attached is a list of CMs for some transportation activities. Per our discussion today, please provide additional CMs that you may have so that we can add to this list, particularly CMs for additional transportation activities. Please provide any additional CMs by February 12, 2014.

Bob, did any of the the pipeline projects you mentioned have CMs associated with them? Maybe they would overlap with transportation activities?

Thanks

-Catherine

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