

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 150<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, WILMINGTON, IL

13 MAY 2011

(Approved at the 151<sup>st</sup> meeting, August 12, 2011)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dan Gooch, Vice-chair Glen Kruse, Secretary John Clemetsen, Ms. Susanne Masi, Dr. Mike Retzer, Mr. John Rogner, Dr. John Taft, Dr. Jeff Walk.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Joyce Hofmann and Ms. Laurel Ross.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. James Herkert and Mr. Joe Kath (Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Resource Conservation); Ms. Kathi Davis ((Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning); and, Ms. Anne Mankowski (Endangered Species Protection Board).

150-1 Call to Order Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Chair Gooch called the 150<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ESPB to order at 10:00 A.M. and asked Secretary Clemetsen to call roll. He then noted that there was a quorum and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

150-2 Adoption of Agenda

Chair Gooch asked if there were any changes to the agenda. None were noted and Dr. Taft **moved** to adopt the agenda, Dr. Walk seconded the motion, and it was **approved** unanimously.

150-3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Chair Gooch asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 149<sup>th</sup> meeting. Secretary Clemetsen **moved** to approve the minutes of the 149<sup>th</sup> meeting, Dr. Taft seconded the motion, and it was **approved** unanimously.

150-4 ESPB Staff Report

Anne Mankowski, Director of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, gave her report (Attachment A).

Chair Gooch added that perhaps instead of a document chronicling roughly 30 years of the List (staff report item #5), he would like Ms. Mankowski to work on a document commemorating 40 years of the Act that would review the effectiveness of the Act and its provisions including accomplishments, successes and challenges. He and Ms. Mankowski agreed that such a summary could be included in an expanded biennial report due in 2012 or as a stand-alone document. Ms. Mankowski advised the Board that she would provide update of progress as she works on the document.

150-5 IDNR Staff Report

Joe Kath, Endangered Species Project Manager with the IDNR Division of Natural Heritage, gave a report (Attachment B).

150-6 INPC Staff Report

Chair Gooch indicated that no representative from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission was able to attend the meeting and referred members to the copy of a report that Mr. Heidorn had submitted to Ms. Mankowski prior to the meeting (Attachment C).

He and Ms. Mankowski reported that there had been some discussion between Ms. Mankowski and INPC Chair Lauren Rosenthal about possibly having a joint meeting between the ESPB and INPC. Ms. Mankowski reviewed aspects of trying to coordinate such to tie-in to the INPC's September 2011 meeting and indicated she would continue working with INPC staff on the matter. Chair Gooch stated that in relation to his earlier comments regarding the 40-year review of the Act, he would like to hear how the Board's listing process and decisions have informed INPC protection efforts and how the INPC thinks things might work in the future.

150-7 Approval of Minutes from the 02/14/11 Strategic Planning Special Meeting

Chair Gooch asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2011 strategic planning meeting. Dr. Walk so **moved**, Ms. Masi seconded the motion and it was **approved** unanimously.

150-8 Board Action to Keep Closed Minutes from Previous Closed-Sessions

Chair Gooch reviewed the requirement under the Open Meetings Act for the Board to semi-annually review and approve keeping closed the minutes from previous closed-sessions. The Board is required to make a determination that (1) the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes or (2) that the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.

Ms. Mankowski provided a list of all closed sessions that indicated all closed sessions had been held to review personnel matters. Chair Gooch reminded that Board that discussion of personnel matters is allowed under closed session and allowed to remain closed because the need for confidentiality still exists. He then asked for a motion to keep closed-session minutes closed. Vice-chair Kruse so **moved**, Secretary Clemetsen seconded the motion and it was **approved** unanimously.

150-9 Board Self Evaluation

Chair Gooch reviewed that according to the Board's Policy Manual, each year, preferably at the February meeting, the Board must do a self evaluation for the previous 12 months, analyze the results and then set goals for the following year. It is not stated whether the "12 months" refers to the fiscal or calendar year. In addition to those tasks, the Board must also review its operations manual. He and Ms. Mankowski noted that the Board has reviewed its Policy and Operations Manual once in each of the last two years and Chair Gooch suggested that that exercise and the self evaluation should probably be a biennial, rather than annual, effort.

Ms. Mankowski reviewed that the Board agreed at the 142<sup>nd</sup> meeting in May 2009, to consider the Board's statutory requirements when conducting a self evaluation. She then reviewed the Board's accomplishments toward its statutory requirements:

ESPB Statutory Requirements:

The *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act (520 ILCS 10/)* requires that the Board:

1. Exist (Accomplished)
2. Update and maintain the List of Illinois Endangered and Threatened Species at

least every 5 years (Accomplished – 2010 and 2011 updates);

3. Hold a public hearing when making revisions to the List (not applicable during this reporting period);

4. Advise the IDNR on methods of assistance, protection, conservation and management of endangered and threatened species and their habitats, and on related matters (Accomplished – ongoing duty of staff);

5. Hold quarterly meetings (Accomplished); and,

6. Produce a report of accomplishments, biennially (Accomplished).

7. The Board conducts business under requirements of the *Open Meetings Act* (5 ILCS 120/). (Accomplished)

8. The *Administrative Rule on Incidental Taking of Endangered or Threatened Species* (17 ILL ADM CODE, CH. I, SEC. 1080) requires that the IDNR seek advice from the Board and provide written response to any Board comments prior to authorizing an incidental taking of a listed species. (Accomplished – ongoing duty of staff)

Chair Gooch suggested that the Board also review a list he had found for self evaluation criteria of a non-profit board. Chair Gooch reviewed the Board's accomplishments toward those criteria:

1. Define mission and purpose. (Since the Board operates under the ESPA, Chair Gooch suggested that it is more appropriate for the Board, perhaps with the assistance of legal counsel, to interpret the mission and purpose of the ESPA itself. Chair Gooch stated that he felt the Board had accomplished this item.)

2. Select a chief executive. (Accomplished)

3. Provide support and guidance for, and evaluate, chief executive (Accomplished and ongoing.)

4. Ensure effective planning (Accomplished with annual strategic planning exercise and ongoing.)

5. Monitor and strengthen programs and services (Accomplished with annual strategic planning exercise and ongoing.)

6. Ensure adequate financial resources are in place for function (The Board develops and requests a budget from IDNR and under the arrangement where the Board's budget is a line item in the IDNR budget, the Board has limited control over this. Chair Gooch suggested that after upcoming planned review of ESPB accomplishments and challenges during 40 years of the ESPA, the Board may choose to also seek outside funding to support its function.)

7. Protect and provide oversight of assets and ensure responsible financial

reporting (Not applicable during this reporting period.)

8. Make recommendations to build a competent board (Accomplished and ongoing.)

9. Ensure legal and ethical integrity (Accomplished via annual ethics training for IL Boards and Commissions and review of contracting protocol.)

10. Enhance organization's public standing (Accomplished via updates to the website, but it is noted that the Board used to do much more in this capacity with the publication of posters and informational brochures.)

11. Additional member responsibilities (The Board has not identified such.)

The Board agreed that the review was sufficient to meet the requirements of a self evaluation. The Board then discussed whether to vote to revise the Policy Manual to make the self evaluation a biennial, rather than annual, exercise. Ms. Masi so **moved**, Secretary Clemetsen seconded the motion, and it was **approved** unanimously.

#### 150-10      ESPB Budget

The Board's FY12 Budget request was included in the IDNR Budget request and in the Governor's *FY2012 State Budget Book*. Ms. Mankowski continues working with IDNR on details of the FY11 and FY12 budgets. The IDNR engages in somewhat frequent budget exercises, including budget reduction scenarios, spending plans, and mandate reviews. Ms. Mankowski coordinates with the IDNR to provide information relative to the Board's budget.

#### 150-11      Board Appointments

Chair Gooch opened this agenda item by acknowledging the decision by Dr. Mike Retzer to resign from the Board. Dr. Retzer stated that since he had changed employment he now had much less flexibility in scheduling and believed he could not continue to meet the responsibilities of Board membership. Chair Gooch thanked Dr. Retzer for his service and made a recommendation that the Board adopt a resolution (Attachment E) recognizing Dr. Retzer's service. Dr. Walk made a **motion** that the Board adopt the resolution, it was seconded by Secretary Clemetsen, and **approved** unanimously.

Ms. Mankowski then reviewed the process for appointments and reappointments, noting that the Board makes recommendations to IDNR Director Miller and asks for his endorsement of nominees and conveyance of such to the Governor's office. The Board's nomination process is a supplement to the required self-nomination web-tool at [Appointments.Illinois.Gov](http://Appointments.Illinois.Gov) administered by the Governors Office of Executive Appointments. Board-recommended nominees for appointment and reappointment must also complete the on-line self-nomination process.

She reviewed that the Board currently has full membership. Terms expire May 15, 2011 for Susanne Masi, Dr. Retzer, and Dr. Taft. At the Board's 149th meeting held February 25, 2011, the Board voted to recommend reappointment for Dr. Taft and Ms. Masi, who had both expressed interest in continuing service, and for Dr. Retzer if he expressed the same interest. Subsequent to the 149<sup>th</sup> meeting, Dr. Retzer indicated to Ms. Mankowski that he will no longer be able to serve on the Board and would resign at the end of his term. Chairman Gooch authorized Ms. Mankowski to reconvene the most recent Board member nominating committee (Chairman Gooch, Dr. Walk, and Mr. Rogner - that recommended the appointment of Laurel

Ross) to recommend a nominee to fill the vacancy that will be created by Dr. Retzer’s resignation, for the Board to forward to IDNR Director Miller and Governor Quinn. Members who are interested in reappointment and individuals seeking appointment are required to nominate themselves via the [Appointments.Illinois.gov](http://Appointments.Illinois.gov) web portal.

Statutorily required composition of at least two zoologists, one botanist, and two ecologists.

Member	Qualification	Term Expires
John Clemetsen	Citizen Activist	May 15, 2013
Dan Gooch	Ecology/Botany/Natural Lands Manager	May 15, 2012
Dr. Joyce Hofmann	Zoology – Mammalogy	May 15, 2012
Glen Kruse	Ecologist	May 15, 2012
Susanne Masi	Botany	May 15, 2011
Dr. Mike Retzer	Zoology - Ichthyology	May 15, 2011
Laurel Ross	Ecology/Conservation Planning	May 15, 2013
Dr. John B. Taft	Botany	May 15, 2011
Dr. Jeffery Walk	Zoology – Ornithology, Avian Ecology	May 15, 2013
John Rogner	Designee of Marc Miller, Director IDNR	No Term

Chair Gooch then asked Ms. Mankowski to review the recommendation from the nominating committee for a new Board member. Ms. Mankowski explained that the nominating committee considers individuals for whom it has information describing professional experience and expertise; if individuals express interest in Board membership, but do not provide to the Board at least a resume/CV and letter of interest, the Board does not have the information it needs to consider that individual. She reported that after considering multiple individuals, the committee had agreed upon a nomination of Dr. Brooks Burr, recently retired from Southern Illinois University. She reviewed Dr. Burr’s extensive CV outlining considerable expertise and experience with relevant subject matter and noted that Dr. Burr has been a Fish ESTAC member since the first listing effort. She indicated that she had spoken with Dr. Burr and reviewed primary functions of the Board and how Board membership differs from ESTAC membership and that he was interested in membership and had completed his self-nomination at the [Appointments.Illinois.Gov](http://Appointments.Illinois.Gov) website.

Chair Gooch asked if there was a motion to make recommendation to IDNR Director Miller and Governor Quinn for the appointment as a Board member of Dr. Brooks Burr. Dr. Walk so **moved**, Ms. Masi seconded the motion, and it was **approved** unanimously.

Ms. Mankowski stated that following the 149<sup>th</sup> meeting she had sent letters recommending the reappointments of Ms. Masi and Dr. Taft and would now send a letter of recommendation for Dr. Burr.

150-12 ESPB Research and Strategic Funding Program

Ms. Mankowski gave her report (Attachment D). The Board discussed that the list of research and strategic funding priorities would be used for Board funded and partner efforts and that consideration would be given to conducting projects outside of priority order as opportunities arose. Vice-chair Kruse **moved** to adopt Ms. Mankowski’s list of priorities as a general guideline to be reviewed once each year at the May meeting, Dr. Retzer seconded the motion, and it was **approved** unanimously.

150-13 Species Updates

Items 1 – 14 were included in Ms. Mankowski’s written report submitted to the Board prior to the meeting. Items 15 – 21 were submitted by Joe Kath (IDNR) and are presented as received. Item 22 was reported by Dr. Jim Herkert (IDNR).

(Items 1 – 14 are reported by Anne Mankowski, ESPB)

**1. Species listings and status changes that have already received preliminary approval by the Board – keeping this entry in Species Updates as an earmark.** A public hearing and consideration of comments received is required prior to the Board making a final approval of a listing recommendation for a state-listed species. As discussed at the 147<sup>th</sup> meeting, due to the administrative burden associated with conducting a public hearing and making amendments to Ad Rules, the Board agreed to wait until after it had an opportunity to review the IDNR’s forthcoming *Peregrine Falcon Post-delisting Management and Monitoring Plan* (see #5) and re-evaluate that species before scheduling public hearings and how to proceed with any proposed interim list changes. Species status changes for which the Board has already made preliminary approval include:

***Penstemon brevisepalus* (Short-sepaled Beard Tongue)** – proposed to be de-listed.

***Mentzelia oligosperma* (Stickleaf)** – proposed as endangered.

***Utricularia subulata* (Hair Bladderwort)** – proposed as endangered.

Additionally, in 2009 the Board de-listed ***Isotria medeoloides* (small whorled pogonia)**. Based on a review of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and Ad Rule for the list of Illinois endangered and threatened flora, it appears the Board does not actually have the authority to remove a federal species from the Illinois list. Board staff recommends the species is re-listed as Illinois endangered when the Board proceeds with other plant list changes. This action does not require a public hearing by the Board.

2. Ms. Mankowski continues working with the USFWS Rock Island Field Office, IDNR, and several other partners on a draft of a ***Decurrent False Aster* (*Boltonia decurrens* – federally and IL threatened) Conservation Agreement/Management Agreement for Managed Lands in the Illinois River and Mississippi River Floodplains**.

3. Bob Edgin, INPC Natural Areas Preservation Specialist in Newton, Illinois provided an update on recovery activities for the **Royal Catchfly (*Silene regia*)** at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area noting that although still early in the program, results have been encouraging. Bob reported that Dr. Janice Coons and colleagues from EIU did the initial 2011 monitoring of 324 (108 on each of three tracts) plants that were introduced to Prairie Ridge in May of 2010. He indicated that 301 (93%) survived their first year and many have elongated stems that are already 4 to 6 inches tall with multiple pairs of leaves and a few may flower this year. An October 2009 planting (90 plants on each of the tracts) didn't fare as well, with only 207 of 270 (76%) plants surviving the first year. Bob indicated that the early fall was unusually hot and dry so the ground was very hard at planting time and that plants were impacted by animal browsing (two tracts with 87% survival in the first year) and animal trampling (one tract with 56% survival in the first year). The May planting was not watered at any time and the October planting was watered at planting time and one week later at the rate of 5 gallons/square meter. Aside from fencing the plots to keep deer out, no other aftercare was given to the plants.

4. Ms. Mankowski distributed to the Plant ESTAC a recent publication (Oberle and Schaal 2011) regarding genetic assessment of three species of *Dodecatheon*: *D. amethystinum* (Jeweled

Shooting-Star); *D. meadii* (Shooting-Star); and, *D. frenchii* (**French's Shooting-Star**). The research outlines that *D. meadii* and *D. frenchii* are not genetically distinct. *D. frenchii* is currently listed as threatened in Illinois while *D. meadii* has two varieties and is more common. Ms. Mankowski indicated that based on the research, she would recommend the de-listing of *D. frenchii* for preliminary approval by the Board and asked the ESTAC for comments on the paper. ESTAC members broadened the comment group and numerous comments were received (copies of emails are appended beginning page 24 of Board member packet for Board review). Based on comments received, there does not appear to be consensus regarding the conclusions of the paper other than that it may be premature to determine that *D. frenchii* is not a distinct species. In the interest of the Board possibly funding research to resolve the issue, Ms. Mankowski queried the group for specifications of what research would be necessary to satisfy specific concerns, but has not received honed feedback to date. A couple of respondents indicated that the debate is also taking place in a broader botanical discourse, so another authority may render a consensus/taxonomic nomenclature change prior to the Board formally addressing the issue. Ms. Mankowski will attempt to monitor the status of the issue.

5. As outlined in several 2009 and 2010 Board meetings minutes, the Board and IDNR are working together to develop and coordinate materials necessary to re-evaluate the listing status of the **Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*). At the request of the Board, the IDNR is preparing a *Post de-listing management and monitoring plan for the peregrine falcon*. The Board agreed that it would await finalization and Board approval of the plan prior to reconsidering the listing status of the peregrine falcon. As of this writing, the IDNR has not completed a draft of the plan.

6. Ms. Mankowski continues project management of an IDNR SWG grant for the recovery of the **barn owl** (*Tyto alba*) in Illinois (T-35-P-1). In 2009 and 2010, the recovery team (Dr. Jeff Walk, Terry Esker, Maggie Cole, Mark Alessi, and Anne Mankowski) checked over 59 nesting occurrences/boxes and placed 38 new boxes. Surveys during 2010 resulted in documenting 21 active nests in 17 counties. Dr. Walk also drafted an article about the project the IDNR magazine "Outdoor Illinois". The recovery team held an annual plan of work meeting to schedule activities for CY2011, which will include working with IDNR Natural Heritage staff in Regions 4 and 5. Bob Bluett, IDNR Division of Wildlife, is assisting the team with field work and is pursuing Fish and Wildlife federal aid funding for out-year activities. The recovery team is also coordinating CY2011 efforts with a volunteer group in southwestern Illinois and another volunteer group in central Illinois led by researchers from Illinois Wesleyan University and Illinois State University.

7. The Illinois Audubon Society issued results from the 2011 Illinois Mid-Winter **Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Survey that includes the Mississippi, Illinois, Kaskaskia and Wabash rivers with additional survey points at Crab Orchard Lake, Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area and Carlyle Lake. The survey, conducted between the dates of December 29 and January 15 and coordinated by Illinois Audubon Society, consists of 45 survey points and requires the dedicated help of dozens of volunteers. The total count was 2,108 eagles, up from 2009 (1,216 reported). While conditions were reported as harsh, the weather was typical of January and ice cover was about normal unlike the high water and snowy roads in 2009. 2011 also recorded a rise in the numbers of immature eagles, up from 32% in 2009 to 37% in 2010. The largest percentage of the population observed (73%) were found along the Mississippi River, 21% were counted on the Illinois River, and 6% were sighted along the other survey points. Surveyors reported that 60% of the total eagles counted were adults, 37% were immature, and 3% were un-aged.

8. Scott Simpson, Natural Heritage Biologist at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Bob, shared good news of initial results for **Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)** surveys in Jasper County. Scott reported 42 males on morning in March, up from 36 last year, which represented the first increase in numbers since 2007. Scott indicated he would provide updated survey results later in the season.

9. Ms. Mankowski and IDNR Wildlife Resources Regional Administrator, Dan Ludwig, began planning for development of a recovery planning team and hiring a contractor to prepare an Illinois Recovery Plan for **Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)**. The production of a recovery plan will follow the IDNR ORC recovery planning process with a final plan being approved by the IDNR and ESPB.

10. Bob Bluett, IDNR Wildlife Diversity Program Manager, is coordinating a team of field researchers, computer-mapping specialists and others who are trying to develop a statistically sound way to monitor populations of the **Illinois Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris illinoensis*)** in Mason County. This work is part of a multi-year IDNR SWG project that includes land protection efforts with Wetlands smaller than an acre and large as 25 acres have been protected so far this year.

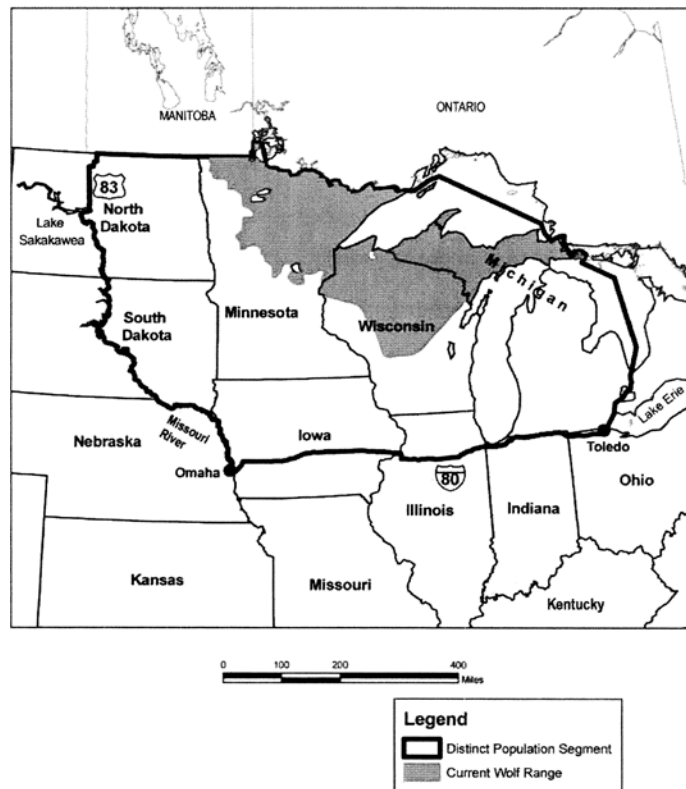
11. In an agency news release dated April 15, 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced a proposal to remove gray wolves in the Western Great Lakes (WGL) area – which includes Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin – from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife because wolves have recovered in this area and no longer require the protection of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Wolves in the WGL area have exceeded recovery goals and continue to thrive. Wolf numbers total more than 4,000 animals in the three core recovery states. Minnesota's population is estimated at 2,922 wolves; there are an estimated 557 wolves in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and another 690 in Wisconsin. Each state has developed a plan to manage wolves once federal protection is no longer needed.

The proposal identifies the WGL Distinct Population Segment (DPS) (see Figure 1) of wolves, which includes a core area of Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, as well as parts of adjacent states that are within the range of wolves dispersing from the core recovery area. After reviewing the latest available scientific and taxonomic information, the Service now recognizes the presence of two species of wolves in the WGL: the **gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)**, the wolf species currently listed under the ESA, and the **eastern wolf (*Canis lycaon*)**, with a historical range that includes portions of eastern Canada and the northeastern U.S. Recent wolf genetic studies indicate that what was formerly thought to be a subspecies of gray wolf (*Canis lupus lycaon*) is actually a distinct species (*Canis lycaon*). To establish the status of this newly recognized species, the Service is initiating a review of *Canis lycaon* throughout its range in the U.S. and Canada. The Service is seeking information on threats, population size and trends, and other data that could affect the long-term survival of the WGL DPS of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). The Service is also seeking information on the status of the eastern wolf (*Canis lycaon*) throughout its range in the U.S. Canada.

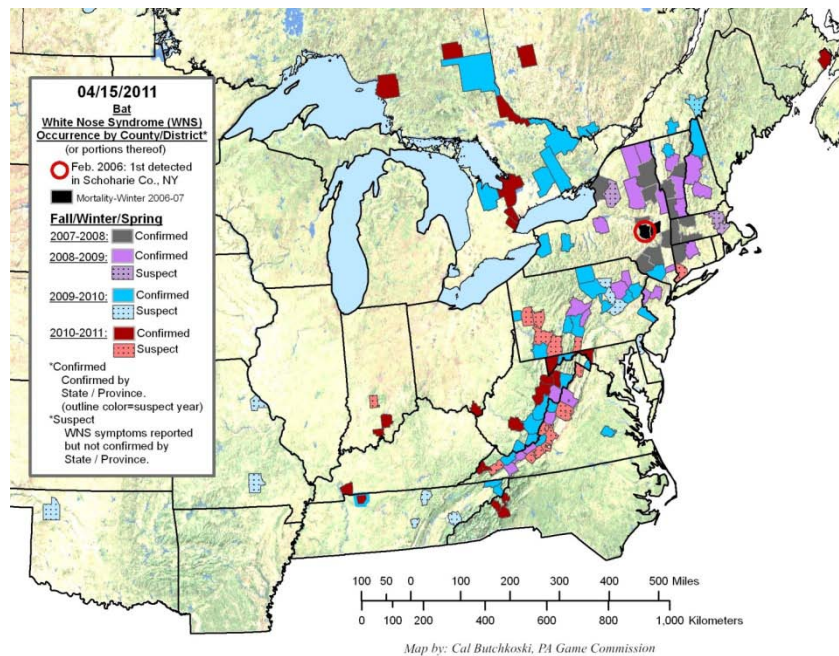
**Figure from: Federal Register** /Vol. 74, No. 62 /Thursday, April 2, 2009 /Rules and Regulations pg. 15077



Figure 1. Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment

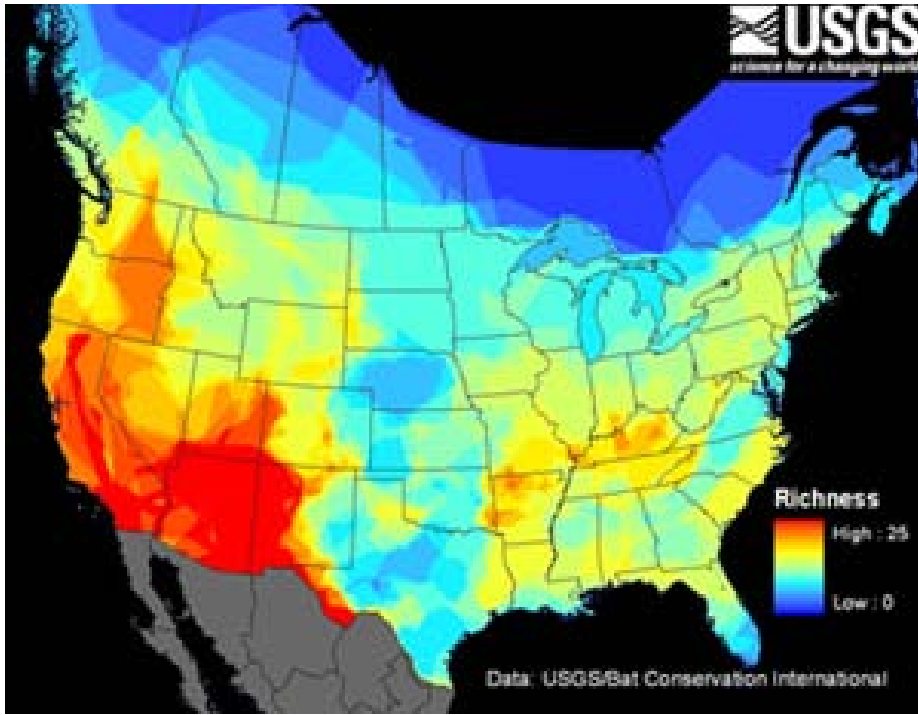


12. White Nose Syndrome update information. I'm simply providing figures copied from respective websites. The most recent advance was noted by positive detection in western Kentucky in early April 2011. The following figure is from the USFWS website at [http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/maps/WNSMap\\_041511\\_300dpi\\_DS.jpg](http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/maps/WNSMap_041511_300dpi_DS.jpg)

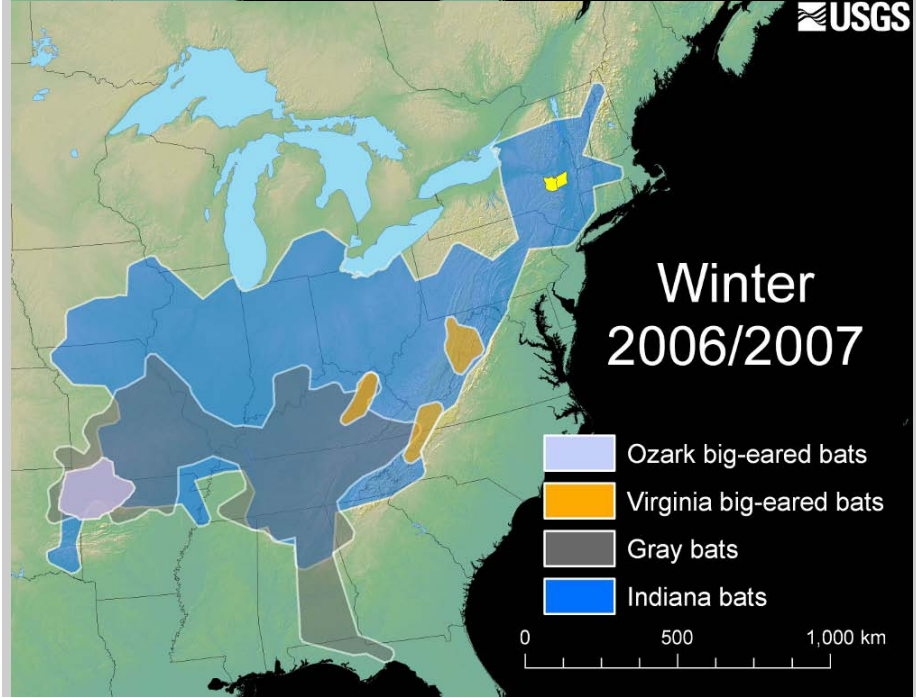
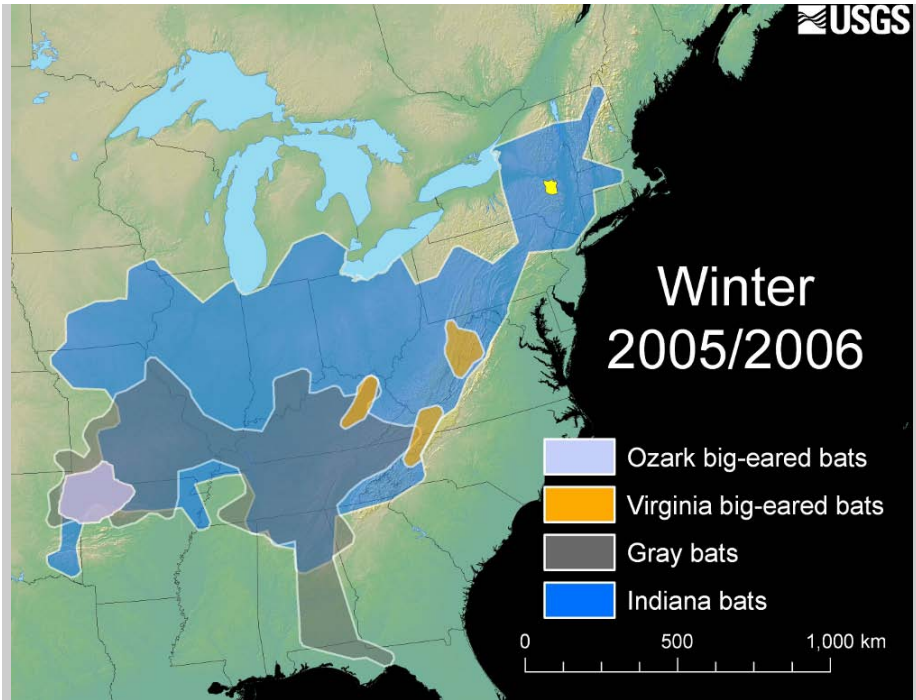


The following figures are from USGS website at <http://www.fort.usgs.gov/wns/>

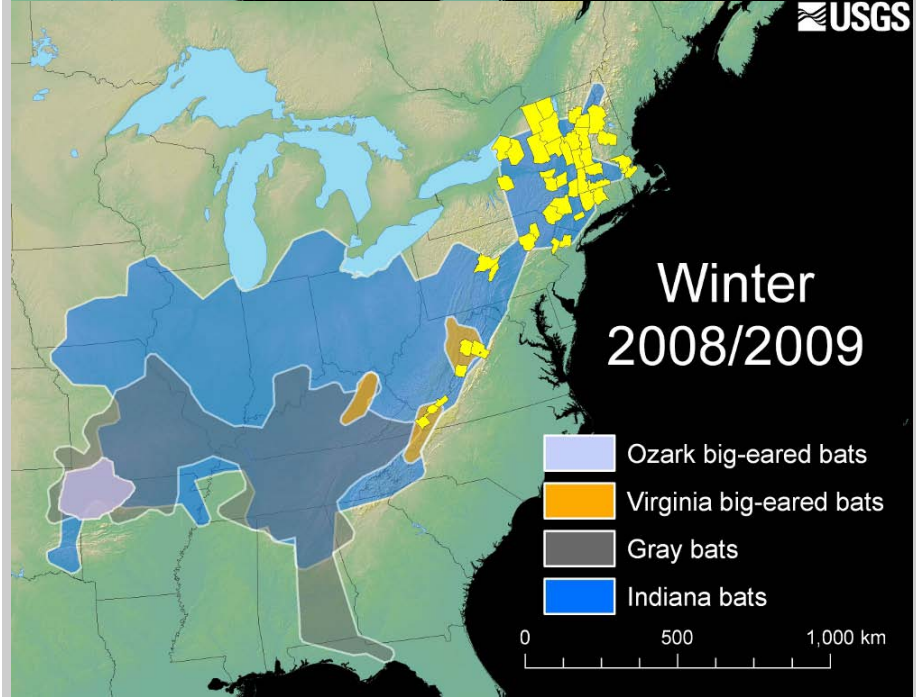
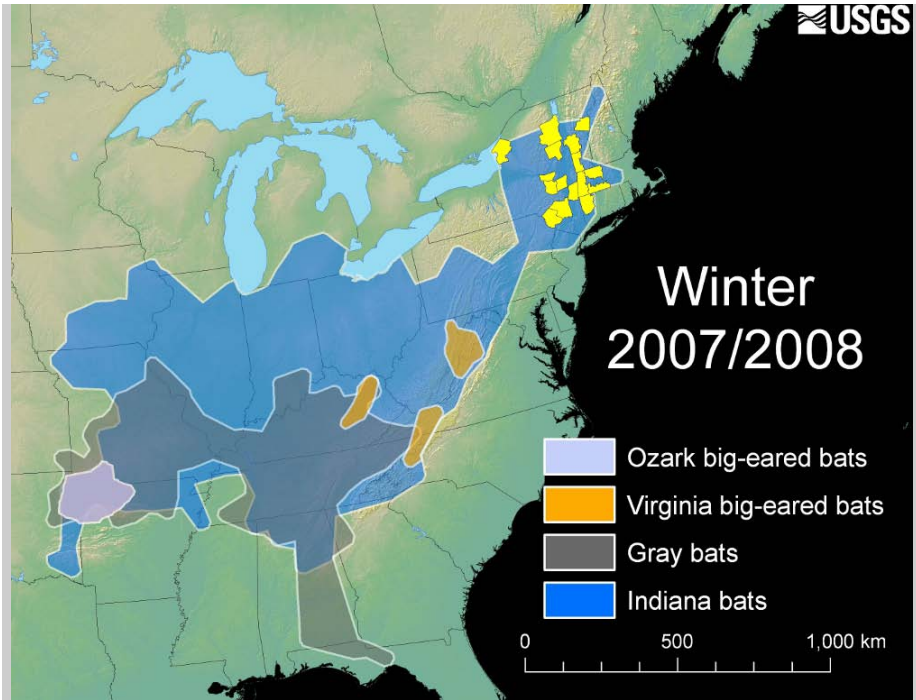
### Hibernating Bat Species Richness

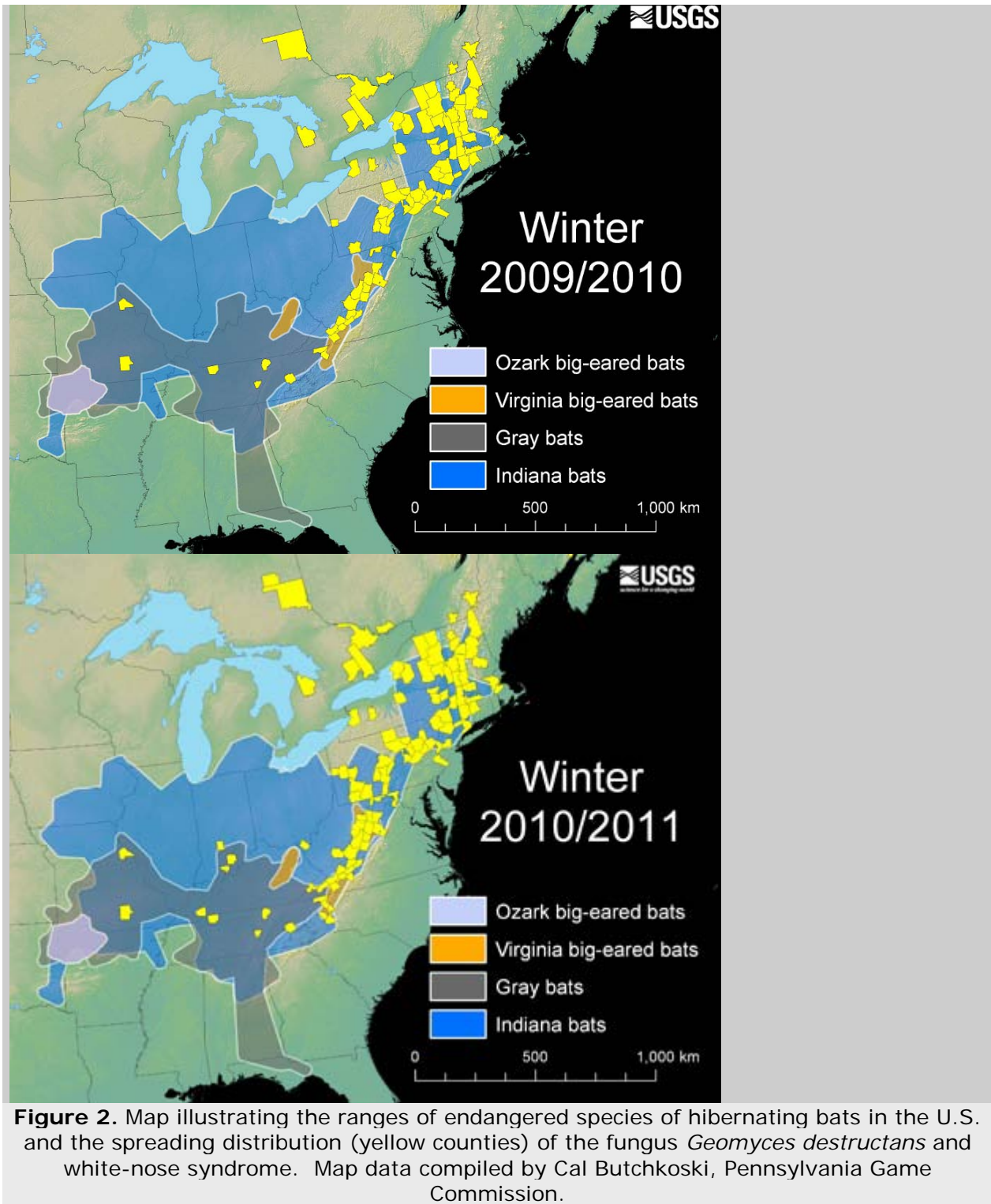


**Figure 1.** Maps illustrating the overlapping ranges of non-hibernating (left) and hibernating (right) species of U.S. bats.









13. Debbie Bruce, IDNR Private Lands and Watersheds Division Chief, shared an USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service news release highlighting the February 2011 stopover of migrating **Whooping Cranes** (*Grus americana*) in a Lawrence County, Illinois wetland that was constructed under an NRCS program via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The story also related the additional use of the wetland by numerous other species including mallard, teal, shoveler, and pintail ducks. Since 1992, under several NRCS voluntary programs such as the Wetlands Reserve Program and the Emergency Watershed Protection program-

Floodplain Easement, Illinois has enhanced or restored almost 100,000 acres dedicated to wetlands throughout the state.

**From Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership website**

([http://www.bringbackthecranes.org/recovery/wc\\_nos\\_02to10.html](http://www.bringbackthecranes.org/recovery/wc_nos_02to10.html))

**WHOOPING CRANE NUMBERS 2002 thru 2010**

<b>Wisconsin Migratory Population</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Young</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Adult Pairs</b>
September 30, 2010	94	25	119	12
October 31, 2009	77	29	106	11
September 30, 2008	69	22	91	11
October 29, 2007	51	27	78	4
April 1, 2006	41	23	64	2
March 22, 2005	32	13	45	0
February 29, 2004	20	16	36	0
March 31, 2003	5	16	21	
March 1, 2002	0	5	5	

<b>Aransas/Wood Buffalo National Park Wild Population</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Young</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Adult Pairs</b>
September 30, 2010	242	21 <sup>A</sup>	263 <sup>B</sup>	78
October 31, 2009	247	0	247	72
September 30, 2008	227	39	266	72
October 29, 2007	236	?	236	69
April 1, 2006	189	25	214	69
March 22, 2005	182	33	215	67
February 29, 2004	169	25	194	64
March 31, 2003	169	15	184	
March 1, 2002	160	14	174	
<sup>A</sup> In 2009, 52 chicks hatched in Canada but only 22 fledged. All 22 completed the migration, but one died at Aransas in January, 2010.				
<sup>B</sup> The Aransas-Wood Buffalo population is currently estimated at 263 birds. Young shown are from 2009 for the AWBP. In 2010, a record 74 pairs nested and fledged 46 chicks. These young are not added to the population until they reach Aransas and are not shown in the table.				

<b>Florida Non-migratory Population</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Young</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Adult Pairs</b>
September 30, 2010	24	1	25	9
October 31, 2009	28	1	29	8
September 30, 2008	30	0	30	12
October 29, 2007	40	1	41	17
April 1, 2006	58	0	58	14
March 22, 2005	61	5	66	13
February 29, 2004	64	18	82	17
March 31, 2003	84	11	95	
March 1, 2002	85	18	103	

14. Dan Ludwig, IDNR Wildlife Resources Regional Administrator, shared information about **Piping Plovers** (*Charadrius melodus*) in northeastern Illinois. Apparently, three banded plovers were recently reported from a beach area in Waukegan. Three plovers were reported from the same area in 2010. Information about the 2010 birds indicates that one of them was an animal that had been captive-reared following a nest abandonment at Illinois Beach State Park in 2009. Also, a 2009 Illinois Beach breeding male paired with a female in 2010 in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

(Items 15 – 21 were submitted by Mr. Joe Kath, IDNR, and are presented as submitted.)

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Natural Heritage  
Species Report to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board  
at the 150<sup>th</sup> meeting, May 13, 2011**

**15. \*Blackball Mine Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) radio-telemetry study: LaSalle County**

In early April, 2011 a massive radio-telemetry project was undertaken at Blackball Mine by the following agencies: Invenergy Wind LLC, Vesper Consulting, USFWS (Rock Island Office), and the IDNR. This project was part of a mitigation package proposed by Invenergy who has many large wind farms in central Illinois and wishes to construct more – several within the vicinity of Blackball Mine. As of the week of May 9, 2011, limited ground crews are still tracking animals to their respective summer roost trees. No other State has ever accomplished a study of this scope and magnitude and the information being collected will be used (and cited) by scientists for decades to come. Final data analysis and report writing will begin in late May. In the interim, please see the following project scope below.

**a. Study Area:** The Blackball Mine is located 3.7 km (2.3 miles) east of the contiguous communities of Peru and La Salle (combined population of roughly 20,000 animals of 5 species – approximately 1,800 to 2,300 hibernating Indiana bats) in LaSalle County, Illinois. It

is an abandoned limestone mine with approximately 30 entrances and multiple passages, all with ceilings low enough to make hibernating bats easily available to researchers. The mine is a few hundred yards north of the Illinois River floodplain, The river and its floodplain is roughly 2.8 km (1.8 miles) wide near the mine, with further forested extensions associated with low bluffs and modestly sculpted tributaries.

**b. Cooperators (and lead investigators):**

Invenergy LLC (John Martin), US Fish and Wildlife Service (Matt Sailor) Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Joe Kath), Vesper Environmental LLC (Alan Hicks).

**c. Project Goals**

1. Substantially expand our understanding of the spring migratory behavior of reproductive female Indiana bats that winter in the Blackball Mine with an emphasis on determining their daily and final destinations and the importance of landscape and cover features when selecting a route of travel.
2. Develop or refine methodologies that will make future spring migration tracking investigations more cost effective.

**d. Project Objectives (Illinois - Spring migration 2011).**

1. Maximize the quality and quantity of data per unit effort from each monitored animal.
2. Collect, process and release a representative sample of reproductive females from the winter colony
3. Determine if animals from the same source cluster migrate to the same summer colony.
4. Minimize disturbance, and stress, and the possibility of WNS transmission to the bats.
5. Document the initial direction of dispersal of at least 50 reproductive female Indiana bats.
6. Determine if the direction of migration can be determined solely by monitoring animals from the release point.
7. Determine if dispersal is influenced by the presence of small urban areas.
8. Determine the proportion of migrants that travel using use corridors of contiguous cover.
9. Determine the feasibility of using ground based mobile crews to get within acoustical detection range of migrating individuals.
10. Locate the first day roost of at least 50 radio tagged animals.
11. Locate the final destination of at least 20 radio tagged animals.
12. Determine if there are mortalities among transmittered bats that pass though existing turbine fields.
13. Prepare a final report detailing the study findings.

**Measureable products**

1. The direction of travel within 0.8 km (0.5 miles) of the release point via ground monitoring.
2. The direction of travel of detected animals at roughly 5 km (3 miles) from the release point via air monitoring.
3. The proportion of monitored individuals that are using the longest corridors of cover available to them in the release area.
4. The location of the first day roost of at least 50 reproductive female Indiana bats.

From 1-4 above we will (hopefully) know:

- a. How closely the initial bearings at 0.8 and 5 km correspond to one another and to the bearing to the first day roost.
- b. The proportion of Indiana bats that are using major corridors of cover during



migration.

5. The second day roosts of however many bats can be detected and tracked (animals tracked via fixed wing aircraft, helicopter, and mobile ground crews)
6. The maternity colony location of these tracked bats (enough to suggest that the bearing to the first day roost is, or is not, representative of the bearing to the destination).

#### **16. \*Emergency Eastern Massasauga rescue effort at Carlyle Lake: Clinton County**

On Thursday, May 5, partners from IDNR, INPC, INHS, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) conducted the following effort at Carlyle Lake: As you know the flooding in the Midwest has become a serious concern. With that, the lake level of Carlyle could soon reach one foot (1') below the 100 year flood mark if an additional four (4) inches of rain falls in the basin. Given this threat, the COE has recently enacted some emergency measures which includes mowing the saddle dams to facilitate inspections. Aside from the longer-term mortality from habitat loss, at Saddle Dam III there will be the potential for immediate eastern massasauga mortality. With the need to mow the saddle dam for safety inspections the only viable method to avert most of the potential for mortality is an organized search ahead of the mower to ensure all or as many individuals as possible are removed from the path. I am pleased to report that between 15 and 20 biologists searched the entire area and successfully retrieved one (1) adult male massasauga and two (2) gravid females.

Considering the current known population at Carlyle is only around 30 animals, this was a tremendous step towards conservation of this species. After the mowing was conducted a follow up search of the entire area was conducted to assess any mortality. Although one (1) blue racer, one (1) prairie king snake, and one (1) eastern box turtle were mortally wounded by the mower, no injured or deceased massasaugas were discovered. The three (3) massasaugas were all worked up by INHS and IDNR staff and appeared healthy.

#### **17. \*Carlyle Lake South Shore (Proposed) Emergency Action Plan for Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes: Clinton County**

Under the direct leadership of Dr. Mike Dreslik with the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS), a contingency plan was recently proposed for eastern massasauga rattlesnakes at the South Shore site of Carlyle Lake. This plan has been reviewed by both the COE and various staff from IDNR (ORC) and the INPC. Essentially, if the lake levels rise high enough to flood the main hibernacula at South Shore State Park, the following actions should and will be taken:

- 1. EXTEND THE AMOUNT OF ROADS CLOSED OR POTENTIALLY CLOSE THE PARK.** This action will minimize road mortality risk of EMRs moving to higher elevations when crossing roads.
- 2. ESTABLISH A "PORTABLE" DRIFT FENCE ALONG THE NORTH EDGE OF THE ROAD ON TOP OF SADDLE DAM III.** This action will minimize the potential for increased human-snake interactions by restricting snakes from moving into the subdivision to the South of the saddle dam. Because a fence cannot be dug into the saddle dam this option for a rapidly deployable fence should suffice.
  - a. The drift fence should be constructed with silt fencing, posts on a pedestal, and a heavy duty logging chain or similar item(s). Such construction will afford no movement of snakes across the saddle dam into the subdivision.
  - b. In addition, the INHS will supply funnel traps to capture snakes moving along the fence.
- 3. MONITORING ALONG SADDLE DAM III FOR EMRS –** Because the COE will have mowed the highest ground in the park any EMRs moving to the mowed area will be subject to increased

predation because of a lack of cover. EMRs can then be temporarily removed from the site until the flood recedes.

- a. Crews will walk the mowed area on the north slope of the saddle dam.
- b. Additionally crews will maintain the fence and monitor the funnel traps.
- c. The actions should be done 3-4 times a day.
- d. INHS will assemble the crew.

**4. ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY HOLDING FACILITY FOR “RESCUED” EMRs.** – This action is necessary because if water floods the main hibernacula snakes will have no cover or other resources. In addition, the habitat will be void of most cover for some time after the flood.

- a. INHS will contribute holding containers and expertise.
- b. Snakes will require husbandry and feeding so INHS will supply that expertise as well.
- c. The temporary facility must have climate and lighting control.

**5. ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR MONITORING CREW(S).** – This action will be necessary if the INHS is to provide the expertise and support for these efforts because there will be no way to reach the new trailers at South Shore.

**6. RAPID POST FLOOD HABITAT ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION.** – This action will be necessary because most if not all EMR hibernacula habitat north of the saddle dams will have suffered substantial damage.

- a. Post flood assessment conducted by the IDNR, COE, and INHS to be completed no longer than one-week after flood waters have receded.
- b. Purchase of plants, seed mixes, etc. to re-vegetate hibernacula habitat.
- c. One-month assessment of vegetation composition after seeding/planting and release of temporarily held EMRs.

**18. \*Joe Kath (IDNR-ORC) to attend 2011 White Nose Syndrome Symposium: May 17-19, 2011 in Little Rock, Arkansas**

This meeting will provide extensive research updates to funded projects over the past two (2) years. Members of the general public are invited to visit the USFWS WNS website (<http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/>) to view archived web conference materials prior to attending the meeting to acquire background information and overview of WNS work to date.

The goal of the symposium is to advance WNS research and management through communication, facilitated discussion, and collaboration. During this meeting, the following formal WNS Working Groups will discuss past progress and outline future goals:

- Communications and Outreach
- Data Management
- Diagnostics
- Disease Management
- Etiology and Epidemiological Research
- Disease Surveillance
- Conservation and Recovery

**19. \*Proposed management of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in the mines of southern Illinois – a collaborative, experimental study between the IDNR, Ball State University, Western Michigan University, and BHE Environmental, Inc.**

During the summer of 2011, biologists from the above Agencies plan to enter two (2) small mines that historically contain between 50-200 bats and samples of *Geomyces pannorum* (a surrogate for *G. destructans* – the fungus that causes WNS) in petri dishes will be placed

throughout the mines. One (1) mine will be chosen at random for treatment with an anti-fungal agent (new proprietary agent being proposed by researchers at WMU. Treatment of the experimental mine will be completed during the maternity season when bats are not present. Petri dishes will be collected and the mines surveyed during the hibernation season following treatment (i.e. early January, 2012) to assess treatment efficacy and treatment effects to the bats. Specific details such as the treatment agent and treatment method (backpack sprayer, aerosol, etc.), as well as procedures and methods have not been determined at this time and will be developed with input from leading experts very familiar with *G. destructans/pannorum*.

This process could be replicated in two ways. Replicates could be additional small test-hole mines containing historic winter populations of 50-200 bats. Alternately, replicates could be 4 - 6 room sections of a larger mine that has historic bat use. Treatment and control groups would be assigned at random and treatment procedures would be identical to whole mine treatments. A larger mine would only be appropriate using a treatment method that would allow for a controlled application of the anti-fungal agent. Treatment involving an aerosolized anti-fungal agent may possibly drift between experimental and control sections. However, that could also be tested and perhaps controlled for by examining the fungal samples from the petri dishes and knowing their locations relative to control and experimental sections.

#### **Possible Outcomes:**

Target Outcome:

- a) Effectively reduce fungal loads within hibernacula with no adverse effects to mine use by bats.

Negative Outcomes:

- b) The treatment does not reduce the fungal loads, and likely will not reduce *G. destructans* fungal loads enough to reduce bat mortality from WNS.
- c) Effectively reduce fungal loads within hibernacula, however adverse impacts occur as a result of treatment. Effects may include direct (mortality due to toxicity) or indirect (habitat loss).
- d) A combination of both results above (b+c).

#### **Management Implications:**

Currently (May, 2011), WNS has not impacted southern Illinois including the Unimin complex. However, there is no reason to suggest that WNS will not impact Southern Illinois in the near future. The Unimin complex of mines currently houses over 40,000 Indiana bats (10%+ of North American population) and perhaps another 20,000 – 50,000 bats of other species. There are numerous mines with large populations of bats. There are also many larger mines that have small bat populations due to the lack suitable microclimate to support large populations. If an effective treatment can be used to manage WNS in these mines, we would not only be able to support existing populations but it would pave the way to justify future modifications of existing non-suitable mines to create more hibernacula. If successful, this project may lead to the establishment of a refuge where bats may be able to hibernate successfully with minimal effects from WNS.

#### **20. \*April, 2011 – Whooping Crane update for Illinois**

Stopover locations for Illinois during the above period (April, 2011) are noted below. In general, a maximum size of the eastern migratory population at the end of the report period was 105 birds (54 males and 51 females). These values reflect exclusion of male no. 27-09 (CH), not detected since April, 2010. They do not include a male from the non-migratory Florida population and currently in Wisconsin. As far as reproduction, note that 19 pairs were confirmed incubating or with eggs during the report period.

Spring Migration: Illinois occurrences only

a. Nos. 29-09 (CH), 1-10 (SM), and 8-10 (SM): GPS PTT readings for no. 1-10 indicated a stopover location NW of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, on 5 April after a stopover NW of Etoile, Barren County, Kentucky, on 26 March. They had completed migration by the night of 7 April when PTT readings indicated a roost location at Meadow Valley Flowage, Juneau Co, Wisconsin.

b. HY2010 nos. 3\*, 9\*, and 17 began migration from the Chassahowitzka NWR pensite on 4 April. PTT readings for no. 9\* indicated roosts at the following locations: W of Dawson, Terrell County, Georgia, on the night of 4 April; NW of Eclectic along the Elmore/Tallapoosa County line, Alabama, on the night of 5 April; S of Charleston, Clark County, Indiana, on the night of 6 April; S of Chatsworth, Livingston County, Illinois, on the nights of 9 and 10 April; SW of Amboy, Lee County, Illinois, on the night of 12 April; and NW of Merrimac, Sauk County, Wisconsin, on the night of 13 April. They were confirmed still all together at this location on 15 April and stayed there through the night of 23 April. On 24 April, they moved south to W of Browntown along the Green/Lafayette County, Wisconsin border where they stayed for the remainder of the report period.

c. HY2010 nos. 5\*, 6\*, and 10\* began migration from the St. Marks NWR pensite on 3 April. PTT readings indicated roost locations at the following locations: NE of Ashville, St. Clair County, Alabama, on the night of 3 April; S of Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky, on the night of 5 April; W of Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana, on the night of 6 April; on and near LaSalle FWA, Newton County, Indiana, on the night of 7 April (all three were observed at this location on 7 and 8 April); SW of Woodstock, McHenry Co, Illinois, on the night of 9 April; and along the Wisconsin River, NW of Mazomanie, Dane County, Wisconsin on the night of 12 April. Nos. 5\* and 6\* were confirmed at this last location on 15 April and stayed there until completing migration to the Necedah NWR on 29 April. No. 10-10\* was detected in flight in southern Wisconsin during an aerial survey on 12 April [and in flight in southern Wisconsin during an aerial survey on 4 May].

**21. \*Incidental Take Authorization Process – update through April, 2011**

The following Incidental Take Authorization projects are currently being reviewed and processed by IDNR staff:

-Arenzville Rural Water Cooperative – Phase I: Cass County. Construction of community water distribution system (Phase I) with potential impacts to the Illinois Chorus Frog.

-Lowell Eels Property – streambank stabilization of North Fork of Vermilion River: Vermilion County. Streambank stabilization efforts impacting several state listed mussels as well as possibly the Federally listed clubshell mussel. This project is in the discussion phase as many aspects of the proposal are under scrutiny. Currently, the USFWS (Rock Island Field Office), USACOE (Indiana), NRCS, IDNR, IEPA, and IDOA are involved.

-Dresden Island Hydroelectric Project on the Illinois River: Will County. This project involves the construction of a new powerhouse at the existing USACOE Dresden Island Lock and Dam. Three (3) state listed fish species may potentially be impacted.

-University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Allerton Park bridge replacement and road improvements north of Allerton Road in Monticello: Piatt County. The subject project will involve the demolition and reconstruction of a bridge and resurfacing of 1.2 miles of road in Allerton Park which is owned and operated by UIUC. This project may impact both the eastern massasauga rattlesnake and the Kirtland's water snake.

-Oil-Dri corporation (2011 Update): After six years (project began in 2005), the Oil-Dri Corporation now has new management staff and new legal counsel and they wish to revisit the open ITA they have with the IDNR regarding mining a known dusky salamander site in Pulaski County, Illinois. A final e-mail was sent by IDNR's legal counsel the week of May 2, 2011 stating our terms and conditions for mitigation. Oil-Dri has confirmed receipt of this message – no other news to report as of May 10, 2011.

Item 22 was reported by Dr. Jim Herkert.

22. Dr. Herkert reported that he had assisted with recent Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) surveys at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and they had documented at least 10 nests for the site, which was a new high and represented a very stable local population for a species that is experiencing declines elsewhere. He also reported that early information about the Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) surveys at Midewin indicated that species' numbers continued to be down at the site.

The Board recessed from 11:58 to 12:10 to set up a projector.

150-14 Presentations: “Adapting Conservation to a Changing Climate: an Update to the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan” and “Illinois Birds: a Century of Change”

Dr. Walk made his presentations about the two projects he has been working on. They were informational for the Board and no action was requested.

150-15 Next Meeting Information (Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, August 12, 2011)

150-16 Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

There were none.

150-17 Other Business

There was none.

150-18 Adjournment

Secretary Clemetsen **moved** to adjourn, Dr. Taft seconded the motion, and the Board **approved** it unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 P.M.

**Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board staff report  
for the 150th Meeting, May 13, 2011**

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board currently has only one staff, its Director. All activities were conducted by the ESPB Director, unless otherwise noted. Because the Board has reduced staff and had been without any fulltime staff from 2002-2007 and then without any staff from 2007-2008, Ms. Mankowski has not been able to complete all required work in the course of a 37.5-hour work week. Since the last staff report, Ms Mankowski has donated the following overtime hours toward ESPB and IDNR duties: February = 27.0; March = 16.25. April = 5.25.

**1. ESPB Letters of Support for State Wildlife Grant Funding**

Ms. Mankowski wrote and sent to Senators Durbin and Kirk ESPB letters of support for SWG funding.

**2. ESPB Memberships**

Ms. Mankowski conducted follow-up with current Board members to confirm interest in continuing service and completion of on-line self-nominations at [Appointments.Illinois.gov](http://Appointments.Illinois.gov). She completed administration necessary to request IDNR Director endorsement and Governor approval of reappointment for current members that expressed interest and completed the on-line self-nomination. She also coordinated Board member nominating committee review of additional interested candidates.

**3. ESPB Budget**

Ms. Mankowski continues working with IDNR on details of the FY11 and FY12 budgets. The IDNR engages in somewhat frequent budget exercises, including budget reduction scenarios, spending plans, and mandate reviews. Ms. Mankowski coordinates with the IDNR to provide information relative to the Board's budget.

**4. ESPB Research/Strategic Projects Program**

Ms. Mankowski met several times with IDNR Procurement staff to discuss the Board's research program and contracting process as it relates to procurement rules under SB51.

**5. ESPB Status and Distribution and Thirty Years of the Illinois List Publications**

Ms. Mankowski posted to the Board's webpage the recently completed *Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution – Volume 4 – 2009 and 2010 Changes* document. Ms. Mankowski continues working on compiling information for a publication that would review roughly thirty years of the Illinois List. Instead of a developing a separate publication, this additional information may be incorporated into the next editions of the status and distribution publications due to competing workload priorities and timing.

**6. Initial Preparation of Materials for List Review and Revision ending in 2014**

Ms. Mankowski is using work described in item #5 above to update and improve the ESPB files on species status and distribution and the history of species listings as part of the initial preparation of materials for the next List review.

### **7. Meetings, Presentations, and other Publications**

Ms. Mankowski participates in IDNR ORC twice-monthly and Natural Heritage monthly administrative meetings.

Ms. Mankowski attended an April 14, 2011 meeting of the Chicago Wilderness Wildlife Task Force at Brookfield Zoo to review plans for developing an Illinois Recovery Plan for Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) and answer questions from stakeholders.

Ms. Mankowski attended the May 3, 2011 meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in Alton, Illinois, and presented a report on activities of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.

Ms. Mankowski coordinated with ORC Director, Jim Herkert, to meet on May 12, 2011 with staff of the Shedd Aquarium to discuss opportunities for partnership involving endangered and threatened aquatic animal monitoring and recovery.

### **8. Coordination with IDNR and INPC:**

Ms. Mankowski coordinated with the Endangered Species Program ORC, Division of Wildlife ORC, Impact Assessment Section OREP, Office of Land Management, Office of Law Enforcement, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Public Services, Media Relations, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on multiple matters, including:

- Coordinated with IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, Tara Kieninger, in developing contracts and proposals for projects intended to update historic endangered and threatened animal element occurrence records in the database.
- Assisted IDNR Chief Legal Counsel in preparing a presentation regarding Illinois endangered and threatened species law and information regarding individual species.
- Provided assistance to IDNR Office of Legal Counsel in responding to a FOIA request for ESPB 2009 public hearing materials.
- Assisted IDNR Chief Legal Counsel in preparing materials for OLC correspondence regarding potential project impacts upon the Spotted Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus conanti*).
- Continued project management of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) recovery planning and implementation State Wildlife Grant project (T-35-P-1).
- Coordinated with IDNR and INPC staff, in reviewing a proposed IDOT IL Rt 22 project involving an Illinois Nature Preserve and a population of Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*).
- Met with IDNR ORC Director, Jim Herkert, to review ESPB/IDNR coordination of endangered and threatened species work.
- Provided IDNR Office of Public Services with review of two articles for the Outdoor Illinois magazine; one about the Rice Rat (*Oryzomys palustris*) and one about the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*).
- Provided recommendations to IDNR regarding proposed head-starting and translocation of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrepenne ornata*) by USFWS staff relative to the ESPB Policy for Translocation of Endangered and Threatened Animals.
- Provided recommendations to IDNR regarding proposed head-starting of Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) by Forest Preserve District of DuPage County staff.
- In coordination with IDNR Wildlife Resources Regional Administrator, Dan Ludwig, began planning for development of a recovery planning team and hiring a contractor to prepare an Illinois Recovery Plan for Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*). The production of a recovery plan will follow the IDNR ORC recovery planning process with a final plan being approved by the IDNR and ESPB.
- Assisted IDNR Natural Heritage field staff with questions regarding management and potential related take of rock chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*).

- Provided assistance to Natural Heritage staff regarding bald eagle population and de-listing information for use in planning for an USACE project at Rice Lake SFWA.
- Assisted IDNR with review of Wildlife Preservation Fund project proposals.
- No incidental take authorizations were submitted by the IDNR to the Board for review and comment during the last quarter.
- Fielded and referred 15 requests to IDNR for E&T consultation, incidental take, data, permits, etc.
- Directly responded to 68 requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies.

## **9. Coordination with other Agencies**

- Ms. Mankowski continues working with the USFWS Rock Island Field Office, IDNR, and several other partners on a draft of a *Decurrent False Aster (Boltonia decurrens – federally and IL threatened) Conservation Agreement/Management Agreement for Managed Lands in the Illinois River and Mississippi River Floodplains*.
- Ms. Mankowski met with Illinois Department of Transportation, INPC, and IDNR staff to discuss a proposed IDOT IL Rt 22 project involving an Illinois Nature Preserve and a population of Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*). Ms. Mankowski will coordinate review and recommendations with the INPC.
- Ms. Mankowski provided feedback to Forest Preserve District of Dupage County staff about information necessary in preparing a proposal for translocating Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) relative to the *ESPB Policy for Translocation of Endangered and Threatened Animals*.
- Ms. Mankowski met with Illinois Natural History Survey staff to discuss Board involvement in the IDNR Incidental Take Authorization process.
- Ms. Mankowski provided recommendations to IDNR/INHS/USFWS regarding potential propagation and translocation of Illinois listed mussel species.

## **10. Field Work**

- Assisted IDNR Wildlife Resources staff with prescribed burn of 465 acres at Green River SWA in Lee County.
- Planned - perform surveys for Common Striped Scorpion (*Centruroides vittatus*) in Monroe and Randolph Counties.
- Planned - assist USFS with surveys for Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) and Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

## **11. Other General Administration and Clerical Work**

- Prepared and routed Board member and staff travel vouchers.
- Regularly distributed information to Board and ESTAC members via internet and hardcopy mailings.
- Made updates to the ESPB webpage on the IDNR website.
- All aspects of preparation for the May 13, 2011 150<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Completed all paperwork necessary to separate from INHS/UIUC employment and begin employment for IESPB/IDNR.
- Completed required IDNR timekeeping training.
- Completed required IDNR annual ethics training.
- Completed required IDNR disability survey.
- Took two required furlough days. Must take six more before the end of June.
- Completed annual HAZWOPER 8 hr refresher course.
- Completed annual National Wildfire Coordinating Group wildland firefighter 8 hr refresher and physical fitness test.



**Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
report to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board  
at the 150<sup>th</sup> meeting, May 13, 2011**

**Natural Heritage Resident Interns**

Six natural heritage resident interns started work with DNR on May 2. The resident intern is a one-year, paid, full-time position with DNR where students working on a Masters degree in biology gain work experience by assisting Natural Heritage Biologists or Nature Preserves Commission Preservation Specialists in the field. Hannah Kalk will work with Marty Kemper in southwestern Illinois and Michael Blackowics will assist Terry Esker in southeastern Illinois. Christy Ann Troxell will be in the Springfield office working with the endangered species and database programs. Ray Geroff, Stephanie Ervin and Russell Heinrichs will work with Nature Preserves Commission staff Angella Moorehouse, Bob Edgin and John Nelson. There have been 58 resident interns since the program began in 1993. The intern program is funded by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund.

**Invasive Species Awareness Month**

Governor Pat Quinn issued a proclamation declaring May as "Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month" in order to increase public awareness of the problems with invasive species in Illinois. The Invasive Species Awareness Month Committee established a website including a list of invasive species in Illinois, suggestions on what you can do to control the spread of invasives and a calendar of events. Those planning an event can submit details to the Natural Heritage Division for inclusion in the calendar.

**Illinois Natural Areas Inventory**

Five regional ecologists will be in the field again this summer updating the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. A second effort, reassessing the condition of existing Category I (high quality natural community) natural areas, will also continue. The Natural Areas Evaluation Committee (NAEC) will meet in June and again in August to update the Inventory by adding qualifying areas and deleting areas that no longer qualify. Anne Mankowski represents the ESPB on the NAEC.

**To:** Endangered Species Protection Board Members  
**From:** Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, and Randy Heidorn  
**Date:** May 9, 2011  
**Subject:** INPC Report for May 13, 2011 ESPB meeting

**I. Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Operations:**

- A. Deborah Stone resigned as Executive Director of the INPC to take a new position with Cook County. John Rogner, Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), will serve as the liaison between the IDNR and the INPC.
- B. Randy Heidorn and Don McFall of the IDNR conducted interviews of candidates for the Natural Heritage Resident Program. Three INPC residents began May 1, 2011. An additional three will be working with the Division of Natural Heritage. Two additional Natural Heritage Resident positions were not filled, and an additional set of interviews is planned for this spring.
- C. INPC Task Force meetings were held at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago on April 15, 2011 and in conjunction with the regular INPC meeting on Alton on May 2. Discussions centered on creative ways to increase resources to meeting the mission of the INPC. Randy Heidorn, with the assistance of former Executive Director Stone and Chair Rosenthal, prepared documents and staffed the meeting.

**II. Protection Program:** Staff met with landowners and managers to plan and draft protection proposals that are on the agenda of the 208<sup>th</sup> Meeting which was held at the National Great Rivers Museum on May 3, 2011 in Alton, Ill. The following sites were approved for protection:

- A. Land and Waters Reserves (LWR) approved include: White Rock LWR, Monroe Co.: 168.1 acres, High quality limestone glad of the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division and habitat for the State-threatened Missouri coneflower (*Rudbecki missouriensis*) and State endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginose*); owned by CLIFFTOP and the Southwestern Illinois RC&D. This is a portion of the site formerly protected in the time limited Columbia Quarry White Rock LWR which expired when it was sold by the former owner.
- B. Preliminary approval for Dedication as a nature preserve (NP) was granted to the following sites:
  - 1. An addition to Gensburg-Markham NP, Cook Co.: 0.96 acres; mesic sand prairie of the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division; owned by The Nature Conservancy
  - 2. Markham Prairie-East, Cook Co.: 32 acres high and very high quality mesic sand prairie and high quality sedge meadow of the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division; owned by The Nature Conservancy.
  - 3. White Rock, Monroe Co.: 306.5 acres; very high quality loess hill prairie, high quality limestone glad of the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division and habitat for the State-threatened Missouri coneflower and State endangered woolly buckthorn; owned by CLIFFTOP and the Southwestern Illinois RC&D. This is a portion of the site formerly protected in the time limited Columbia Quarry White Rock LWR which expired when it was sold by the former owner.
- C. Final approval for dedication as a NP was granted to the following sites:
  - 1. Buffer addition to Sand Prairie Scrub Oak NP, Mason, Co: 50 acres; degraded dry sand forest; owned by the IDNR
  - 2. Sweetwater Creek Addition and Buffer addition to Boone Creek Fen NP, McHenry Co.: 29 acres; high quality sedge meadow of the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division; private owner.

**III. Inventory and Monitoring:**

- A. John Nelson provided the Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) update team with landowner contact information for sites in Stephenson, Ogle, and JoDaviess counties.
- B. Tom Lerczak :

1. Conducted a red-headed woodpecker survey at Walden West LWR and Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP.
  2. Reviewed nomination packets for an INAI update for Area 5.
- C. Debbie Newman conducted site surveillance and threatened and endangered species monitoring on six sites.
- D. Bob Edgin assisted the INAI update staff with ground surveys in Wayne, Clay and Jefferson counties and woody vegetation sampling on five sites.

#### IV. Land Acquisition:

- A. John Nelson advised the IDNR Division of Realty regarding remaining land acquisition priorities at an INPC site in McHenry County.
- B. Tom Lerczak facilitated communications between an INAI landowner and a non-governmental organization.
- C. Debbie Newman:
1. Facilitated discussion between the owner of an unprotected INAI site in Monroe County and a potential conservation buyer.
  2. Worked extensively with conservation groups, conservation buyers, foundations, and landowners on acquisition projects of four INAI sites, totaling 1010 acres, in Monroe and St. Clair counties.

#### V. Defense Program:

- A. Jenny Skufca:
1. Responded to three reviews for the IDNR's Comprehensive Environmental Review Program (CERP) and 11 reviews for the IDNR's consultation program.
  2. Submitted six Class III Groundwater petition packets to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), including George B. Fell NP, Spring Grove Fen NP, Goose Lake Prairie NP, Trout Park NP, Cotton Creek Marsh NP, and Gladstone Fen NP and INAI (which encompasses Boger Bog NP). She also attended an IDNR's Contract Committee meeting to support the Illinois State Geological Survey's (ISGS) contract for the preparation of future Class III petitions.
- B. Kelly Neal responded to one CERP review.
- C. Angella Moorehouse:
1. Coordinated with Ameren Illinois utility company and the landowner (IDNR – Siloam Springs State Park) regarding the request for brush clearing and herbicide treatment within Fall Creek Gorge LWR and future access to the site for emergency utility repairs.
  2. Assisted site staff in negotiations with adjacent landowners regarding stewardship issues related to the Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Project and a potential development of an inholding within the eastern border of Black Hawk Forest NP.
- D. Tom Lerczak:
1. Investigated the power line right-of-way clearing that allegedly encroached upon Meredosia Hill Prairie NP. The area cleared was within the legal right-of-way. INPC staff are working with electric cooperative staff to coordinate future work.
  2. Provided suggestions for changes to a permanent easement that is part of the Sheridan Road bridge project at Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR.
- E. Mary Kay Solecki worked with IDNR Consultation staff in review of potential impacts from the proposed Allerton Park bridge replacement and grain bin removal work at Upper Sangamon River LWR.
- F. Bob Edgin reported to the landowner and appropriate IDNR Conservation Police Officer an incident of trespass and illegal turkey baiting on an INAI site.
- G. Threats to Sites within INPC programs:
1. **Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County –John Nelson, Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
    - a. Issue: Salt storage. Up to 50,000 tons of road de-icing salt is being stored on property owned by Bluff City Materials (BCM) and located immediately south of the NP.
    - b. Threat: At concentrations above 45 mg/L, chlorides (salt) are a known pollutant that can alter the chemical composition of groundwater that sustains fen wetland systems and are documented to promote a shift from a diverse assemblage of plants to monotypic stands of salt-tolerant plants.
    - c. Status: Ongoing. Based on the threat of surface and groundwater contamination from the salt storage piles, the IEPA submitted a referral to the Attorney General's Office. An Agreed Order was entered in the Circuit Court of Cook County on February 25, 2011, stipulating that BCM must move the salt to a paved area and maintain a cover over it by March 11, 2011. BCM must also build a permanent salt storage facility that will keep the product from being dispersed by wind or water.
  2. **Volo Bog NP, Lake County – John Nelson**
    - a. Issue: A volunteer noticed a foul odor emanating from a specific area on the south side of the NP.
    - b. Threat: Potential contamination suspected from blow-out of a deteriorated drain tile.

- c. Status: New. IDNR staff and INPC staff investigated. A nearby waste-water treatment plant was also visually inspected for possible winter land-based application of lagoon gray water which is possibly in hydrologic connection with drain tile. The IEPA was notified and is investigating.
3. **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
    - a. Issue: The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) intends to widen Route 22. The proposal for dedication of this site provided for this construction. Plans include construction of a berm in order to reduce the width of the road project.
    - b. Threat: Indirect threat posed by sedimentation and subsequent increase in reed canary grass, which threatens the long-term viability of federally-threatened orchid.
    - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff reviewed IDOT’s biological assessment that determined that the road-widening project will impact the orchids. A meeting will be conducted with IDNR, IDOT, INPC, and Endangered Species Protection Board staff to discuss potential for IDOT’s purchase of the NP.
  4. **Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
    - a. Issue: Adjacent landowner, Knollwood Golf Club, dredged a golf course pond and piped sediment into the NP.
    - b. Threat: Direct and indirect impact on aquatic resources/ephemeral ponds in the NP and at Knollwood Golf Club. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that wetlands are “jurisdictional.” The Knollwood Golf Club has prepared a remedial action plan, a portion of which has been implemented.
    - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff attended a meeting co-hosted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the USACE with representatives of LCFPD and Knollwood Golf Club. The Knollwood Golf Club was directed to implement a remedial action plan and begin discussions leading to permanent protection and stewardship of a ten-acre tract owned by the Knollwood Golf Club that is adjacent to the NP.
  5. **Elm Road Woods NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
    - a. Issue: A large sports complex that will require extensive earth-moving is proposed upstream and adjacent to the NP.
    - b. Threat: Site is vulnerable to changes in surface hydrology and sedimentation associated with the project.
    - c. Status: New. IDNR Consultation staff and INPC staff are coordinating with the NP landowner, LCFPD, to identify threats and provide recommendations to eliminate/minimize the threat posed by the project.
  6. **Bliss Woods NP, Kane County – Steven Byers**
    - a. Issue: An unknown amount of lead shot has been deposited in the NP by years of trap/skeet shooting at the nearby Aurora Sportsman’s Club.
    - b. Threat: Lead shot poses a threat to humans and the environment.
    - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Consultation staff and INPC staff will review remediation plans being prepared for both the Aurora Sportsman’s Club and the NP. The intent of this review is to evaluate remediation strategies and to support the intent of the landowner, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, to minimize impact to the NP.
  7. **Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR, Kankakee County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
    - a. Issue: 88 white oak trees were removed from within the LWR.
    - b. Threat: Direct impact to the LWR. Unauthorized removal of trees, over 4,000 feet of up to 18-inch ruts were created throughout the interior of the LWR, and signs were removed.
    - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Conservation Police have completed their investigation. The Nature Conservancy, as landowner, has filed a civil lawsuit. INPC staff is awaiting action by the IDNR Office of Legal Counsel.
  8. **Nenawakwa LWR, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
    - a. Issue: The landowner discovered a grading encroachment within the LWR.
    - b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion into the LWR, including tire ruts and a large graded area leading to the neighbor’s property.
    - c. Status: Ongoing. The INPC’s settlement proposal presented on behalf of the LWR landowner to the McDonough County State’s Attorney, was not accepted by the responsible party. The trial date was set for May 19, 2011.
  9. **Short Fork Seep NP, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
    - a. Issue: The landowner discovered that herbicide associated with power line vegetative maintenance had been used within the NP
    - b. Threat: Direct impact to flora in the NP causing damage to the vegetation and soils within the high quality portion of seep/sedge meadow of the NP.

- c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff is awaiting action by the IDNR Office of Legal Counsel.
- 10. **Carpenter Park NP, Sangamon County – Tom Lerczak, Jenny Skufca**
  - a. Issue: Vandals painted graffiti on the sandstone outcrop and various other natural and unnatural features of the NP.
  - b. Threat: Introduction of material to the NP.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff is working closely with staff of the landowner, Springfield Park District, to repair the damage and to develop strategies to deter future occurrences.
- 11. **Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Champaign County – Mary Kay Solecki**
  - a. Issue: The wind turbine proposed by the University of Illinois on adjacent property will potentially cast shadow flicker on the NP.
  - b. Threat: Shadow flicker and noise have the potential to disrupt communities within the NP.
  - c. Status: Resolved. INPC staff is working with IDNR Consultation staff and the Barnhart Prairie Restoration Board to mitigate impacts of the proposed wind turbine. A field visit was held in association with IDNR Consultation and Illinois Natural History Survey staff to look for possible Franklin ground squirrel burrows. Several potential burrows were located. According to news reports, the U of I will not be building the windmill.
- 12. **DesPain Wetlands LWR, St. Clair County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca**
  - a. Issue: A neighbor to the LWR had a survey done and posted boundaries on the LWR. The neighbor was claiming an additional 30-50' for his property.
  - b. Threat: The neighbor's survey contradicts the LWR landowner's previous survey, suggesting encroachment into a LWR.
  - c. Status: Resolved. The INPC submitted a certified, receipt-requested letter on March 14, 2011, to the neighbor informing him that the survey we hold will serve as legal boundary until such time that the neighbor can provide evidence to the contrary. The correspondence also relayed that any modifications within what we believe to be the legal boundary would be a violation of the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act. Delivery confirmed on March 17, 2011.

## **VII. Stewardship Program:**

- A. Stewardship Planning:
  - 1. Kelly Neal:
    - a. Reviewed 13 management schedules, six unscheduled management activities and three management related CERPs at INPC sites.
    - b. Participated in meetings with the IDNR Office of Resource Conservation (ORC) staff and Office of Strategic Services to plan for an electronic ORC permit management system which would include INPC permitting.
  - 2. Kim Roman met with the new director of the Calumet Memorial Park District, the owner of Superior Street Prairie LWR and other INAI sites in the Calumet region and provided the Friends of the Cook County Forest Preserves a letter of support for Sustain Our Great Lakes funding opportunity for stewardship projects in the Calumet region.
  - 3. Mary Kay Solecki created a management agreement template and management plan template for Grand Prairie Friends.
  - 4. Debbie Newman updated management plans for Horse Creek Glade NHL.
- B. Stewardship project implementation: Staff continued to coordinate and administer stewardship projects, including the Hill Prairie Project, funded by Landowners Incentive Program, State Wildlife Grant, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, an IEPA 319 Grant, the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund, Chicago Wilderness Grants, and INPC operations fund. These projects involve meeting with landowners, securing landowner agreements, preparation of grant applications, preparing bid packages, supervising contractors, and assisting in conducting restoration activities. Contractor work included prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, prescribed burn site preparation, and burn crews. Sites where this kind of work occurred include:
  - 1. Area 1 (Nelson): Purchased native seed mixes for multiple protected sites after brush had been cleared.
  - 2. Area 2 (Byers): Wolf Road Prairie NP, Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie site, and four fen wetlands in Kane and McHenry counties.
  - 3. Area 3 (Roman): Superior Street Prairie LWR, Bonnie's Prairie NP.
  - 4. Area 5 (Lerczak) Ridgetop Hill Prairie NP, Wiegand Hill Prairie NHL, Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR, and Crevecoeur NP.
  - 5. Area 6 (Solecki): Sibley Grove NP.
  - 6. Area 7 (Newman): Eleven INPC sites.
  - 7. Area 8 (Edgin): Lost Creek Marsh NP, Big Creek Woods Memorial NP, and Beadles Barrens NP.

- C. Land management conducted by staff includes site surveillance, prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, coordinating and working with volunteers, prescribed burn site preparation, and participating in or leading prescribed burns. Sites where this kind of work occurred along with additional management related activities include:
1. Area 1 (Nelson):
    - a. Participated in five prescribed burns at protected sites, acting as burn boss at three of those sites.
    - b. Pine Rock NP, Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP, Yonder Prairie NP, Gladstone Fen NP, Boone Creek Fen NP, Harlem Hills NP, and Pistakee Bog NP.
  2. Area 2 (Byers): Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove NP, Hybernia NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP, Forested Fen NHL, and Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie site.
  3. Area 3 (Roman): Participated in prescribed burns at Iroquois County State Wildlife Area LWR (120 acres) and Old Plank Road Prairie NP (10 acres).
  4. Area 4 (Moorehouse): Assisted in prescribed burns at four INPC sites and one state park (potential natural area), totaled 6 burns covering 230 acres.
  5. Area 5 (Lerczak):
    - a. Assisted the IDNR with prescribed burns at Henry Allan Gleason NP and Long Branch Sand Prairie NP and was the burn boss at Wiegand Hill Prairie NHL.
    - b. Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR.
  6. Area 6 (Solecki): Allerton Park INAI site, Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Heartland Pathways, Iroquois County State Wildlife Area LWR, Loda Cemetery Prairie NP, and Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP.
  7. Area 7 (Newman):
    - a. Conducted burns at Salt Lick Point LWR, Blufftop Acres LWR, Buettner Glade/Fults INAI site, Rattlesnake Creek NHL, and assisted with burn at Fults Hill Prairie NP.
    - b. Horse Creek Glade NHL, Columbia Quarry-Sugar Loaf Prairie LWR, Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR, Prairie of the Rock NP, Columbia Quarry-Dupo Prairie LWR, and Salt Lick Point LWR;
  8. Area 8 (Edgin): Led or assisted on 37 burns, totaling 1,331 acres, including: Beall Woods NP, Chauncey Marsh NP, Jasper County Prairie Chicken Sanctuary NP, Marion County Prairie Chicken Sanctuary NP, Ramsey Railroad Prairie NP, Red Hills Woods NP, Robert Ridgway Grasslands NP, Horn Prairie Grove LWR, Lost Creek Marsh LWR, Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR, Prairie Ridge LWR in Jasper and Marion counties, Richard R. and Jean W. Graber Grasslands LWR, Allison Gravel Prairie NHL, Green Prairie NHL, Ramsey Lake State Park, Stephen A. Forbes State Park (two burns 300 acres), Burnside Forest (potential new INAI site), Lawrenceville Airport Wetland (not in an INPC program).

**Report on the ESPB research/strategic funding program to address the status,  
conservation,  
and/or recovery of Illinois endangered or threatened species**

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director  
for the 150th Meeting, May 13, 2011

An important effort of the Endangered Species Protection Board is to gather information that will improve our knowledge of various species in Illinois and help lead toward listing decisions for those species. As per the ESPB Policy Manual, “The Board may conduct, sponsor, or administer research in an effort to gather information, which will improve knowledge of various species in Illinois and help lead toward listing decisions for those species. Board philosophy on the conduct of research is that none will be supported or endorsed unless it clearly provides information pertinent to listing, or generates information important to management strategies that can enhance protection or lead to recovery. The Board will not support/endorse any research that poses threat to listed species.” (ESPB Policy Manual, Section 5.2)

At the Board’s February 24, 2011 strategic planning meeting, the Board confirmed that Board staff should develop and maintain a list of potential funding priorities to include research and other strategic operations that best help the Board address its duties. Subsequent to that meeting, Ms. Mankowski met with IDNR Procurement staff to confirm that the prescribed process, which follows, complies with State of Illinois Procurement Law.

- 1) Board staff will develop and maintain a list of priorities based on experience gained during daily operations of Board business and function, using information about needs garnered from multiple sources including, in no particular order, natural resources agencies, research institutions, conservation organizations, conservation working groups, ESPB ESTACs, and ESPB members.
- 2) Board staff will present a list of recommended priorities for Board review and approval at intervals necessary to accomplish projects or tasks.
- 3) Board staff will be responsible for scoping project specifications. If a request for proposals is necessary, Board staff will work with IDNR to post the RFP as per IDNR practice. The Board will review proposals, rank, and vote for recommendation for/approval of funding (see #4 regarding conflict of interest).
- 4) Board members who may have a real, or perceived, conflict of interest, as defined under State of Illinois Ethics Law, will acknowledge the conflict and recuse themselves from any aspect of Board business that leads to a procurement action - such as discussion, ranking, and/or voting involved with the development, approval, or contracting of projects. A majority of eligible voting members will constitute approval of Board staff recommendations. Board members need to determine for themselves where conflicts may lie – a general direction provided under State of Illinois Ethics Law includes friends, family members, associates, places of employment.

**Currently Funded, FY11 Research Projects**

Contract #	Title	Researcher/ Institution	Award Amount	Start Date	End Date
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RC11E04W	Investigating the role of genetic diversity and pollination biology as potential causes for reproductive failure in <i>Asclepias lanuginosa</i> (wooly milkweed).	Jeremie Fant and David Zaya / CBG and UIC	\$7,632	01/03/2011	02/28/2012
RC11E02W	Gene Flow among Populations of the Four-Toed Salamander, <i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i> .	Abigail J. Maley / INHS/UIUC	\$5,000	03/01/2011	12/31/2011
RC11E03W	Evaluation of Distribution, Movements, and Habitat Use of River Redhorse ( <i>Moxostoma carinatum</i> ) and Greater Redhorse ( <i>Moxostoma valenciennisi</i> ) in the Upper Illinois River Basin.	David H. Wahl / INHS/UIUC	\$8,500	04/01/2011	03/31/2012
RC11E01W	Baseline monitoring and molecular characterization of the state endangered Enigmatic Cavesnail, <i>Fontigens antroecetes</i> (Hubricht 1940)	Steven J. Taylor, Marlis Douglas, Jeremy Tiemann, and Robert Weck / INHS/UIUC and individual	\$2,878	01/03/2011	10/15/2011

## **ESPB Director Recommended Research / Strategic Funding Priorities**

### **1a) Partner with DNH to fund a shared Natural Heritage Database Data Specialist staff position**

This proposes to investigate the feasibility for the ESPB and DNH to jointly fund a shared Data Specialist position which would be hired through the ESPB. The Natural Heritage Database is the primary source of data used by the ESPB for the revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species and the production of all outreach and technical publications and is used by the IDNR to support its endangered and threatened species consultation, incidental take, and permit programs as well as supporting Illinois Natural Areas Inventory and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission programs. This critical service is not without costs. The Database is supported by the NatureServe network and the annual membership for IDNR is currently \$20,000. The Database only has two staff and ESPB data requests represent a significant portion of their workload. The ESPB need for, and use of data, increases significantly during the several years surrounding a List revision and supporting a staff position will mean that ESPB can “carry” some of the workload and help to increase Database support for all program needs.

### **1b) Species Surveys to Update Natural Heritage Database Animal EORs**

This proposes to add ESPB funding to an ongoing IDNR Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund project for surveys to update animal element occurrence records that are greater than 10 years old. The multi-year project began in FY10 and is addressing one region each year. WPF funding is insufficient for complete coverage. Below is a listing of historic animal EORs as of 2010. (Plant updates are being covered under a current Phillippe, et al. project.)

E&T animal occurrences that have not been visited/surveyed in > 10 yrs (as of 2010)

<b>Region</b>	<b>Fish</b>	<b>Inverts</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Mammals</b>	<b>Herps</b>	<b>Totals</b>
1	54	54	14	3	36	161
2	55	30	41	1	49	176
3	49	36	11	3	8	107
4	25	25	18	18	34	120
5	27	95	28	58	32	240
<b>Totals</b>	210	240	112	83	159	804

### **2) Development of Species Recovery Strategies/Recovery Plans**

As per the Board’s policy manual, the Board generally only endorses proposed translocations/reintroductions that are a component of an overall species recovery strategy. For many of the efforts mentioned below there is no species recovery strategy - activities are being conducted in somewhat of a piecemeal approach and it would be good to have overarching recovery plans developed so that all partners are on the same page, following the same guidance, and coordinating efforts. It is probably not practical to attempt to develop these for all listed species.

ESPB/IDNR approved Illinois Recovery Plans:  
River Otter



Eastern Wood Rat  
Greater Prairie-Chicken  
Barn Owl

Illinois Recovery Plans under development:

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake  
Blanding's Turtle

**3) Development of Species Status Review Triggers**

It would be helpful in List reviews and in the development of recovery documents to have ESPB approved species status review triggers; population status and distribution thresholds that would trigger a species listing status review by the ESPB to consider changes between endangered, threatened and de-listed status. It is probably not practical to attempt to develop these for all listed species.

ESPB approved Status Review Triggers:

Peregrine Falcon  
Osprey  
Henslow's Sparrow  
Northern Harrier  
Short-eared Owl  
Greater Prairie-Chicken (as part of recovery plan)  
Barn Owl (as part of recovery plan)  
Wood Rat  
Rice Rat  
Golden Mouse

**4) Establish Eco-toxicological Thresholds for Aquatic Species**

Although general trend data for Illinois suggests that water quality has improved over a decade or two, there have been limited improved status changes for many aquatic species, especially mussels, and far more have been down-graded or de-listed due to extirpation, with water quality is likely a primary factor. It would be informative to establish acute toxicity, LOEL, and NOEL, thresholds for a number of typical water quality constituents for listed mussel species or appropriate surrogate species, if appropriate (in many cases these can be species-specific thresholds). It may also help us refine site selection for reintroductions as part of recovery efforts. The USFWS did this a few years ago for ammonia, which resulted in the USEPA lowering the low-end for allowable ammonia because it was demonstrated that existing levels were actually killing and impairing federally listed mussel species.

**5) Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for 2014 List Revision**

This proposes to develop a vulnerability assessment for Illinois endangered and threatened species, that could be used during the List revision ending in 2014. One recently conducted evaluation that can be used by the Board and may provide a good example for conducting further and additional assessments is the IDNR SWG project *Adapting Conservation to a Changing Climate: An Update to the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (2011)*, by Jeff Walk, Sarah Hagen, and Aaron Lange of the Illinois Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. The authors used the NatureServe *Climate Change Vulnerability Index* and reviewed 162 species by natural division and/or watershed, and including summary descriptions by taxonomic group.

**6) Re-survey to update EORs for *Berberis canadensis* (Allegheny Barberry) and *Euphorbia spathulata* (Spurge)**

*Berberis canadensis* (Allegheny Barberry). Ebinger et al (*Ebinger, et. al. 2010. Vascular plant species extirpated or not vouchered as occurring in Illinois. Erigenia, Number*

23, *Winter 2010*, 3-23), consider this species to be extirpated in Illinois and note the last observation as 1987. The Illinois Natural Heritage Database indicates the 1987 last observation and last surveyed in 1988. In March 2010, Ms. Mankowski sent query to the ESPB Plant ESTAC regarding the Ebinger et al (2010) conclusions and indicated her intent to recommend de-listing of the species based on the study. In response, some members of the ESPB Plant ESTAC felt that the non-occurrence information needed to be further verified before being considered extirpated.

*Euphorbia spathulata* (Spurge). Ebinger et al (2010), consider this species to be extirpated in Illinois and note the last observation as 1987. The Illinois Natural Heritage Database indicates the 1987 last observation and last surveyed in 2008. In March 2010, Ms. Mankowski sent query to the ESPB Plant ESTAC regarding the Ebinger et al (2010) conclusions and indicated her intent to recommend de-listing of the species based on the study. In response, some members of the ESPB Plant ESTAC felt that the non-occurrence information needed to be further verified before being considered extirpated.

**Project summaries for FY09 and FY10 ESTAC priorities that were not funded by ESPB and not again recommended as priorities (notes included if subsequently funded otherwise).**

**Barn Owl Survey**

Anecdotal evidence, such as road-killed birds, suggests that barn owls may be more abundant in the southern one-third of Illinois than reflected by documented nest records. Surveys to better describe the abundance of barn owls are needed. The project should include: (1) a compilation of observations by IDNR field staff, published records of the species from all sources, and specimens collected since 2000; (2) a search of barn owl nest boxes installed by IDNR Division of Natural Heritage biologists and other cooperators, to determine if the boxes still exist and search for evidence of barn owl usage; and (3) use of recorded barn owl calls to elicit responses and determine occupancy of barn owls in suitable habitat. – Majority of this project was conducted as part of the ESPB-led IDNR Barn Owl Recovery Plan SWG project.

**Nightjar Survey**

Although there are currently no long-term monitoring projects focused exclusively on nightjar populations in Illinois, evidence from other surveys (such as the Breeding Bird Survey) suggest that populations of Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-wills-widows are in steep decline. Proposals are requested to establish or continue systematic nightjar monitoring throughout Illinois.

**Black-billed Cuckoo Status Survey**

Conduct systematic survey for Black-billed Cuckoo focusing primarily on resurveying areas at which the species has been observed in the past. The project should survey (either through personal efforts, coordination of volunteers or a combination of the two methods) at least 25 areas with former records and document the species presence/absence and breeding evidence (i.e., possible, probable, confirmed nesting). A database of recent locations is available upon request. – This was funded through IDNR Fish and Wildlife Federal Aid Funds.

**Surveys for the Ornate Box Turtle in Illinois**

The Herp ESTAC recommends funding a survey to determine the present occupancy of historic sites and locate new sites of the Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornate*) in Illinois. Surveys could take place anywhere within the species' range in Illinois, but should at least include areas within the Southern Till Plain, Rock River Hill Country, and marginal areas of the Grand Prairie Natural Divisions. These areas all have historic records, though the records indicate that this species is only sporadically encountered in each. Surveys should assess presence and absence, and (where present) begin marking/gathering preliminary data on any encountered individuals for future identification. The actual number of survey locations will vary depending upon how many historic locations there are and their geographic distribution. The applicant should also include habitat assessments of the historic sites. – This was

funded through IDNR Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund funding.

### **Survey and Monitoring of the Smooth Softshell Turtle**

This project aims to determine the present occupancy of historic sites and locate new sites of the Smooth Softshell Turtle (*Apalone mutica*). The survey should initially target historic locations then expand to additional suitable sites as time and money permit. At the best site, a long-term monitoring program should be established.

### **Habitat Suitability and Occurrence of Three Reptile Species of Concern**

This project aims to use historic specimen records to develop GIS-based habitat models for three poorly known Smooth Green Snake (*Ophiodrys vernalis*), Slender Glass Lizard (*Ophisaurus attenuatus*) and Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*). The GIS model should be able to be used to determine the extent of suitable habitat remaining in the state and to choose future surveying locations.

### **Reproduction and Recruitment of the Eastern Narrow-Mouth Toad**

This project aims to determine reproduction in the Eastern Narrow-Mouth Toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*). The project should include drift fence techniques on at least two populations. Focal data should include breeding population size, point counts of calling males, and estimates of larval and breeding adult survivorship. In addition, a subset of individuals should have tissue samples taken and those samples should be archived for future genetic studies.

### **Status and distribution of the bluntnose darter (*Etheostoma chlorosoma* (Hay) and pugnose minnow (*Opsopoeodus emiliae* Hay) in Illinois.**

The bluntnose darter and pugnose minnow are two species with similar habitat preferences and distributions in Illinois. Both species are found in bottomland lakes, - backwaters of larger rivers and also in smaller, slow flowing creeks in southern Illinois. Smith (Fishes of Illinois, 1979) noted that both species had declined in the State. Since that publication, collection records at the Illinois Natural History Survey and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale suggest a significant decline since 1979. Proposals are requested to assess the status and distribution of both species in the state. Additional habitat information is expected to be collected with status and distributional information. The information will be used to evaluate the need to list each of the species as threatened or endangered in Illinois.

### **Status and Distribution of the trout-perch (*Percopsis omiscomaycus*) in Illinois.**

The trout-perch *Percopsis omiscomaycus* (Walbaum) is a small forage fish that occurs sporadically in the Great Lakes and in large rivers and their floodplains. It occurs over sand/gravel and occasionally woody debris, feeds on benthic organisms, and spawns from March to August. The trout-perch appears to be susceptible to environmental disturbances, such as pollution and sedimentation. The fish is rare and its distribution might be declining in Illinois and bordering states. In Illinois, the trout-perch has been collected only a few times in the Lake Michigan and Illinois River basins since 1980, and seems to be extirpated from the Mississippi River. Little is known about the total distribution or habitat requirements for this species in Illinois. This study would define the total distribution, habitat requirements, and status of this fish in Illinois to evaluate it for potential listing and to better understand which streams may need additional protection and restoration.

### **Status of *Ammocrypta clarum* (Western Sand Darter) in the Middle Kaskasia River and *Fundulus catenatus* (Northern Studfish) in Southwestern Illinois.**

A review of historical records for both species in the geographic area discussed will be made. Historic sites will be visited for sampling. Records at the Illinois Natural History Survey Fish Collection, at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and in IDNR stream survey reports will be consulted to determine historic sites and used to qualitatively determine changes in abundance. In addition, at least ten new sites within the area will be sampled. Methods for sampling should be appropriate for the each of the species and the habitats of the collection sties. Methods include but need not be limited to various types of seines, traps, and electroshocking devices. Specimens will be digitally photographed and vouchered at the Illinois Natural History Survey Fish Collection. Individuals that perish during capture will be preserved

and deposited at the Illinois Natural History Survey Fish Collection. We anticipate that this is a one-year study.

### **Predacious Diving Beetle Assessment**

Our knowledge of Illinois' Predacious Diving Beetles (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae), one of the dominant families of water beetles (Coleoptera: Dytiscide) is very limited. In particular, study of the diverse subfamily Colymbetinae, which includes Illinois' largest predacious diving beetles and potentially as many as 120 Illinois species, and the smaller subfamily Dytiscinae (less than 30 species possible in Illinois), which includes taxa with diverse life histories and occurring in a variety of lentic and lotic habitats, could inform management of aquatic resources. There has never been a synthetic Illinois checklist for these beetles in spite of the availability of a large volume of older material in collections (notably large quantities of unsorted material collected by Ross, Sanderson, and Brigham). This older material would be of great historic value in assessing a faunal baseline for the state in comparison to recent collections. An inventory of Illinois museum material supplemented with additional field collections would provide new data on statewide distributions, life history, and ecology of these primarily lentic aquatic organisms. Distributional and biogeographic data suggest that some Illinois species are sensitive to habitat and water quality parameters. A status assessment of Colymbetinae and Dytiscinae is needed. This study should be based both on field collections and examination of museum material, and would allow assessment of the possible need for some taxa to be considered for listing as threatened or endangered at the state level. Because of the large number of species in these two subfamilies, submitted proposals should consider restricting work to one or more ecoregions of the state.

### **Glacial Relict Monitoring**

Ongoing climate changes are predicted to have a dramatic impact on the distribution of forest trees in Illinois (Prasaad et al., 2007, Iverson et al. 2008, Iverson et al. 2009), including a movement of optimal habitat for some species to the north of Illinois. Climate change likely not only effects the potential distribution of trees but also for shrubs and herbaceous species in Illinois. Numerous plant species listed as threatened or endangered by the IESPB reach their southern range limits in the Midwest in northern Illinois (e.g., *Adoxa moschatellina*, *Botrychium multifidum*, *Circaea alpina*, *Clematis occidentalis*, *Cornus canadensis*, *Corydalis aurea*, *Corydalis sempervirens*, *Cyclopteris laurentiana*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Equisetum scirpoides*, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, *Gymnocarpium robertianum*, *Lycopodiella inundata*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, *Lycopodium dendroideum*, *Phegopteris connectilis*, *Primula mistassinica*, *Rosa acicularis*, *Thelypteris phegopteris*, *Trientalis borealis*, *Viola canadensis*, *Woodsia ilvensis*, and *Zigadenus elegans*). In some cases, these species occur in Illinois in relict populations, apparently representing remnants following late Pleistocene or early Holocene distributions. Climate change including warming could be expected to reduce habitat suitability for many of these species. **Research Questions:** Is there a general pattern of decline associated with northern relict species? Are particular plant functional groups or physiognomic groups particularly vulnerable to climate changes? If declines are detected, can the general pattern be attributed to climate changes more so than other factors?

### **Experimental Reintroduction of Species Extirpated from Illinois**

About 55 plant species are considered to be extirpated from Illinois (Post 1991) and more have been added to that list in recent years (e.g., *Equisetum palustre*, *Gaultheria procumbens*, *Lactuca ludoviciana*, *Lathyrus japonicus*, *Milium effusum*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Pycnanthemum albescens*, *Triadenum virginicum*). One means of recovery of this loss of Illinois' botanical diversity could include experimental reintroductions. One excellent example of attempts at re-establishing an extirpated species is with *Cirsium pitcheri* (Bowles et al., 1993, Bell et al. 2002). Illinois genotypes are probably lacking for most if not all of these species, so for experimental re-introductions it is recommended to use stock from the nearest available populations to Illinois. **Research Questions:** Can cause of decline be determined for each species? Does apparently suitable habitat remain in Illinois? What propagation methods are viable for each species?

### ***Polygala incarnata* germination ecology**

*Polygala incarnata* is a myrmecochorous species that seems to appear most reliably following fire events.

The biology of ant dispersal, which can be considered a fire escape mechanism, and interactions with fire in explaining population trends needs to be understood to better manage this species listed as endangered throughout the eastern tallgrass prairie region (considered secure to the southern portions of its range). While all *Polygala* species are considered to be myrmecochorous, it is not known what ant species are involved with *P. incarnata* or what is the effect of ant-dispersal on germination. **Research Questions:** Do ants place seeds into safe sites avoiding fire-related mortality while exposing seeds to heat-stimulated germination (intermediate soil depth)? Are seeds buried at times too deeply for heat stimulation or too shallow to survive fires? Can recruitment be improved with manipulated seeding at particular soil depth? Can seeds be stimulated to germinate with experimental heating (hot water treatments)? Is recruitment in burned sites limited by competition?

Attachment E

**Resolution 150-11**  
**Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board**  
**May 13, 2011**

Whereas **Dr. Michael Retzer** was appointed to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board in 2005 and served as a dedicated, loyal, and highly valued Board member until 2011 - some 6 years; and,

Whereas he served as the Chair of the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee for Fish during the 2009 revision of the List of Illinois Endangered and Threatened Species, and lent thereto his considerable expertise as an ichthyologist and ecologist; and,

During his tenure as an Affiliate Professor at the University of Illinois and as the Manager and Curator of the Collection of Fishes at the Illinois Natural History Survey, he oversaw a collection that included over 859,000 catalogued specimens, representing 175 families and over 2,500 species, and includes specimens from field work reaching back to the late 1800s;

Now therefore, The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board resolves to commend Dr. Michael Retzer and thank him for exemplary service on the Board on behalf of the people of Illinois. The Board further directs that a copy of this resolution and a certificate of recognition and appreciation be transmitted to Dr. Retzer upon its passage.

Passed and approved by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board this Thirteenth day of May, Two Thousand and Eleven.



**Chairman**  
**Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board**