

Appendix G



Indiana bat
Indiana DNR; Rich Fields Photo

ESA Section 7 Consultation

INTRA-SERVICE SECTION 7 BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FORM

Originating Person: Nancy McGarigal, Refuge Planner

Telephone Number 413-253-8562

Date: October 12, 2005

I. Region: Region 5

II. Service Activity (Program): National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS)

III. Pertinent Species and Habitat:

A. Listed species and/or their critical habitat within the action area
Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*; Federal endangered species)

B. Proposed species and/or proposed critical habitat within the action area
None documented

C. Candidate species within the action area:
None documented

IV. Geographic area or station name and action:

Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge (NWR); Development of a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA); implementation of Alternative B (Service-preferred alternative)

V. Location (attach map):

A. Ecoregion Number and Name: #37, Hudson River/New York Bight

B. County and State: Ulster County, New York

C. Section, township, and range (or latitude and longitude):
41° 38' 10.54" north latitude
74° 12' 36.85" west longitude

D. Distance (miles) and direction to nearest town: 10 miles northeast to New Paltz, New York

E. Species/habitat occurrence: Of the 566 total refuge acres, 400 acres are in old fields or grasslands dominated by Kentucky bluegrass and invasive plants, including purple loosestrife and Phragmites; 30 acres are in asphalt or concrete runway and taxiway; and, 136 acres are in successional mixed oak-hardwood forest dominated by red, white, pin and/or black oak, and red maple. The refuge

is known for its breeding and wintering grassland bird species, some of which are state-listed. Breeding grassland birds of note include: northern harrier, upland sandpiper, grasshopper sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, savannah sparrow, vesper sparrow, eastern meadowlark, and bobolink. Wintering grassland birds of note include: short-eared owl, and northern harrier, eastern meadowlark, and horned lark.

There is no documentation that Indiana bat occur on the refuge; however, it is also true that no surveys have been conducted. It is possible they could be present due the proximity of the refuge to known roost sites (pers. comm. with Laury Zicary, NYFO) and the presence on the refuge of trees in excess of 5 inches dbh.

VI. Description of proposed action (attach additional pages as needed): The Draft CCP, and accompanying EA, for Shawangunk Grasslands NWR evaluates 3 alternative scenarios for managing the refuge over the next 15 years. The CCP Planning Team and NWRS Senior Leadership have identified Alternative B as the Service-preferred alternative. The primary biological emphasis of this alternative is enhancing the existing grasslands, including the removal and restoration of the runways and taxiways. We also propose to restore the natural stream hydrology on the refuge to the extent it does not impact our grassland management objectives. No habitat conversions are proposed. We are seeking informal consultation on Alternative B. The Draft CCP/EA document is an attachment to this biological evaluation form.

VII. Determination of effects:

- A. Explanation of effects of the action on species and critical habitats in items III. A, B, and C (attach additional pages as needed):** We predict no adverse impacts on Indiana bats with implementing Alternative B for several reasons: 1) we do not plan to convert, or otherwise disturb, the 136 acres of woodland forest which could potentially serve as summer roosting or maternity colonies; 2) the old field/grasslands management identified in the plan would maintain foraging habitat; 3) the proposed restoration of the asphalt runways and the plans to improve natural hydrology would increase preferred foraging habitat; 4) the old field/grassland management activities (e.g. mowing, haying, grazing, etc) would primarily occur between July 15 and October 31, the exception being burning, which would occur during February and April (re: NYFO Fact Sheet, August 2005); and 5) there are no mines or caves on the refuge.
- B. Explanation of actions to be implemented to reduce adverse effects:** N/A

VIII. Effect determination and response requested: [* optional]

A. Listed species/critical habitat:

Determination

Response requested

no effect
(species: _____)

___*Concurrence

is not likely to adversely affect
(species: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*))

XX_Concurrence
___*Formal Consultation

is likely to adversely affect
(species: _____)

___Formal consultation

B. Proposed species/proposed critical habitat:

Determination

Response requested

no effect
(species: _____ No species known _____)

___*Concurrence

is not likely to adversely affect
(species: _____)

___ Concurrence

is likely to adversely affect
(species: _____)

___ Informal conference

is likely to jeopardize/adverse modification of
critical habitat
(species: _____)

___ Conference

C. Candidate species:

Determination

Response requested

no effect
(species: _____ No species known _____)

___*Concurrence

is likely to jeopardize
(species: _____)

___ Conference

 10/13/2005
Signature and Date
Regional Chief, Division of Conservation Planning and Policy, NWRS

IX. Reviewing ESO Evaluation:

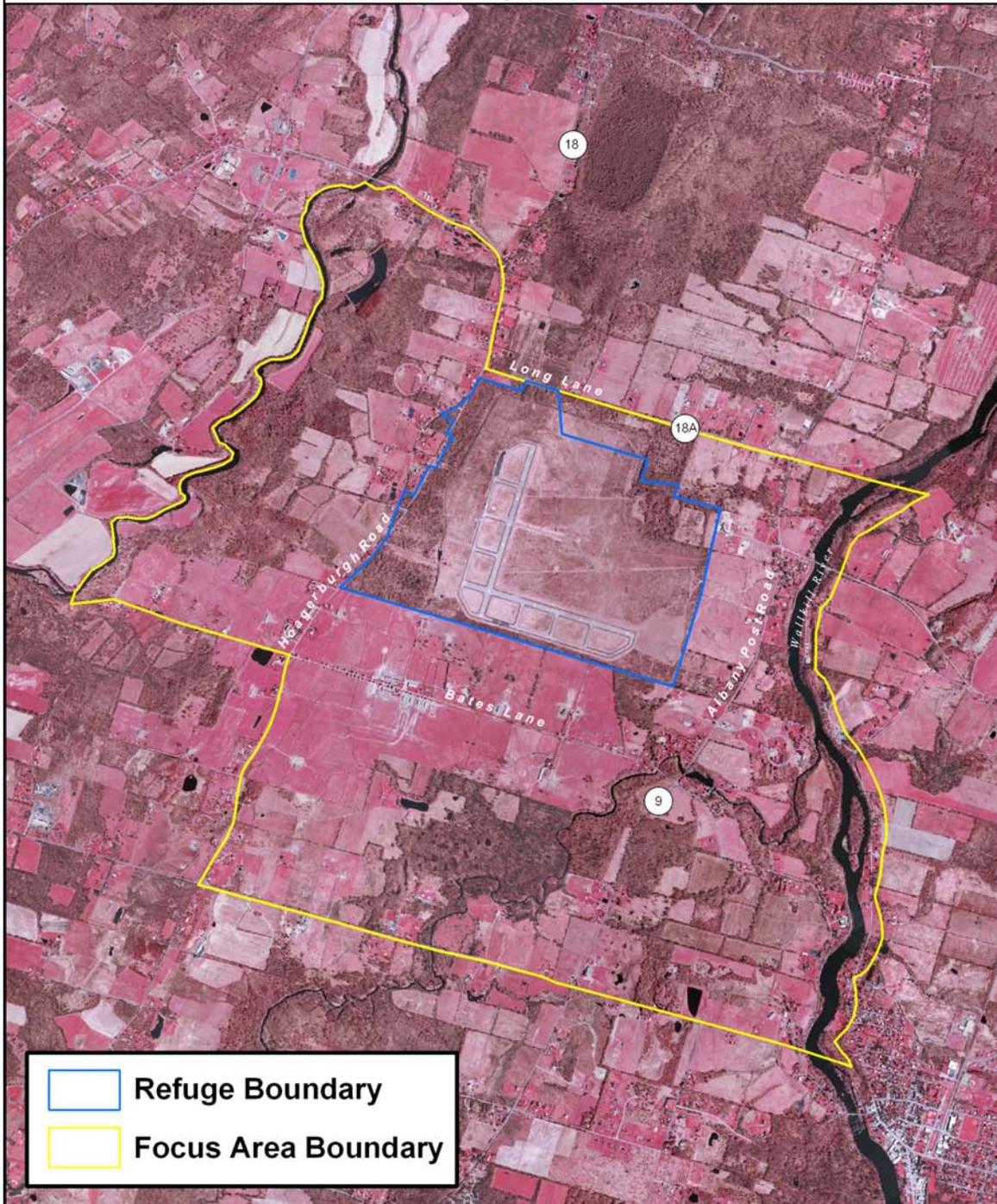
- A. Concurrence X
- B. Formal consultation required _____
- C. Conference required _____
- D. Remarks (attach additional pages as needed):

Robyn Almie
Signature
[Title/office of reviewing official]
End. Sp. Biologist

11-9-05
date

Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge Focus Area

Ulster County, New York



Data Source:
New York State DOGG,
USFWS refuge boundaries & other
refuge information.

Map prepared for Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife
Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan, December 2005.
This map is for planning purposes only.



