

Information Need No. TE-18 ER Section 2.4.1.2.2

Request:

Provide a knowledgeable person to describe the core boundaries of the Important Bird Area (#50) and how it overlaps with the Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve and the construction footprint. Also describe the relationships and existing commitments (if any), including conservation plans, that have been developed between the land owner and the Audubon Society of America.

Knowledgeable Expert:

A knowledgeable expert was provided.

Response:

A knowledgeable person will be available at the audit meeting to discuss Important Bird Area (IBA) No. 50. IBA #50 was discussed in the ER Section 2.4.1.2.2.

The boundary of IBA #50 Susquehanna Riverlands is described by Audubon (2009a) as having a core boundary consisting of a 2,111-acre private recreation and natural park owned by PPL on both sides of the Susquehanna River in western Luzerne County, extending just northeast of the City of Berwick to the northern side of Gould Island.

The attached figure overlays the IBA # 50 boundary with the BBNPP OCA and the boundary of PPL's Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve (Riverlands). Although the description above from the Audubon website implies that the IBA boundary is contiguous with the boundary of Riverlands, in fact the IBA boundary includes some 2,111 acres in contrast to Riverlands which comprises approximately 1,200 acres, at least half of which is on the eastern side of the Susquehanna River. The IBA boundary and Riverlands are for the most part contiguous east of Route 11 but the IBA boundary includes some areas which are now part of the BBNPP OCA to the west of Route 11.

The IBA program in Pennsylvania confers no regulatory requirements or obligations on the part of the landowner. In fact, the boundaries are chosen without discussion with the landowner. A conservation plan does exist for IBA #50. According to Audubon (2009b), the Phase I Conservation Plan for IBA #50 is a preliminary document to: 1) catalogue the natural resources and built environment for each Important Bird Area, 2) identify site boundaries, 3) document the criteria for which it was selected, 4) describe the birds and wildlife habitat which occur on the site with special reference to the species for which the site was selected as an IBA, 5) identify any conservation issues or threats to the site, and 6) provide recommendations for conservation actions to conserve or enhance habitat for bird populations, especially for those species for which the site was selected as an IBA. This Phase I Conservation Plan is intended to augment and expand the one-page site report contained in "A Guide to Critical Bird Habitat in Pennsylvania" (Crossley, 1999). The recommendations are presented from the perspective of bird and wildlife habitat conservation. It is acknowledged that not all the recommendations contained herein may be feasible or affordable. However, the plan is presented as an initial position from which to plan for and implement bird conservation on the site.

A knowledgeable representative of PPL will need to discuss any existing commitments with the Audubon Society.

References:

Public

1. BBNPP COLA ER Section 2.4.1.2.2.

Additional Public Sources

1. Audubon, 2009a. <http://pa.audubon.org/Sitesnotes.htm>, accessed April 18, 2009
2. Audubon, 2009b. http://pa.audubon.org/IBA_Consplans/IBA50.pdf. Accessed April 18, 2009
3. Crossley, 1999. A Guide to Critical Bird Habitats in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Important Bird Area Program, Pennsylvania Audubon Society. Gary Crossley.

Internal

1. None.

Additional Internal Sources

1. Attached figure.

