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ES-18870



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New York Field Office
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: (607) 753-9334 Fax: (607) 753-9699
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo>



Project Number: 90633

To: Rachel D. Campbell, Director

Date: Feb 8, 2012

Regarding: Interim Trail Use, Walkway over the Hudson - Docket No. AB 565 (Sub-No. 17X)

Town/County: City and Town of Poughkeepsie / Dutchess County

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) New York Field Office has received your request for information regarding occurrences of Federally-listed or proposed threatened and endangered species within the vicinity of the above-referenced project/property. In an effort to streamline project reviews, we have shifted our species list request responses to our website at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm>. Please go to our website and print the appropriate portions of our county list of endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species, and the official list request response for your files. Step-by-step instructions are also found on our website.

As a reminder, Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits unauthorized taking* of listed species and applies to Federal and non-Federal activities. Additionally, Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires Federal agencies, in consultation with the Service, to ensure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. An assessment of the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts is required for all Federal actions that may affect listed species. For projects not authorized, funded, or carried out by a Federal agency, consultation with the Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA is not required. However, no person is authorized to "take"* any listed species without appropriate authorizations from the Service. Therefore, we provide technical assistance to individuals and agencies to assist with project planning to avoid the potential for "take," or when appropriate, to provide assistance with their application for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA.

Project construction or implementation should not commence until all requirements of the ESA have been fulfilled. If you have any questions or require further assistance regarding threatened or endangered species, please contact the Endangered Species Program at (607) 753-9334. Please refer to the above project number in any future correspondence.

Endangered Species Biologist: Robyn A. Niver *Robyn A. Niver*

*Under the Act and regulations, it is illegal for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to *take* (includes harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect; or to attempt any of these), import or export, ship in interstate or foreign commerce in the course of commercial activity, or sell or offer for sale in interstate or foreign commerce any endangered fish or wildlife species and most threatened fish and wildlife species. It is also illegal to possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, or ship any such wildlife that has been taken illegally. "Harm" includes any act which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife, and case law has clarified that such acts may include significant habitat modification or degradation that significantly impairs essential behavioral patterns of fish or wildlife.