

**Appendix C. Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Species Investigation**



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TO: Marion Conover, Chief, DNR Fisheries Bureau  
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SUBJ: Evaluation of Lost Grove Lake Project  
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### Introduction

Lost Grove Lake is a 350-acre reservoir which is planned for construction by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide fishing and other water-based recreation in eastern Scott County, Iowa. In October 1995, the Fisheries Bureau requested that we conduct a site survey of public land at the Lost Grove Lake site for the purpose of identifying the presence of state or federally threatened or endangered species as well as sensitive environments such as natural prairies and woodlands. This report contains the results of our investigations.

### Methods

Prior to a field visit, we examined an aerial photograph and soil map of the entire Lost Grove Lake project area for indications of remnant prairies, blocks of forest, and unusual soils such as peat, deep sand, or bedrock outcroppings. None were detected. On June 5, 1996, we conducted a site reconnaissance, consisting of a four hour walking and driving survey of the project area. Walking surveys were conducted at two locations. The first area walked was a grassy area and conifer planting on the Baetke Hills Farm Tract (SW 1/4 of Section 2). The second area covered by a pedestrian survey was a 15 acre former pasture on the Holst Tract (NW1/4 of Section 2).

### Results

The area has been in intensive rowcrop agriculture with the result that there are essentially no areas remaining uncultivated other than a thin line of trees along Lost Creek, the grass/conifer area on the Baetke tract, and the former Holst pasture. No part of the project area contained suitable habitat for state or federally listed plant species. Northern Wild Monkshood (the only federally threatened "forest" plant species in Iowa) requires alfic talus slopes or cool, moist cliffs; neither are present in the project area. Although the Baetke and Holst tracts contained grassy areas, both were dominated by introduced forage and hay species such as smooth brome, red clover, alfalfa, and orchard grass; the area next to the creek in the Holst tract was dominated by reed canary grass. This habitat is not suitable for the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, Western Prairie Fringed Orchid, Mead's Milkweed, or Prairie Bushclover (the four federally threatened "prairie" plants species in Iowa).

The riparian tree strip is dominated by boxelder, elm, and cottonwood species; it does not provide suitable summer habitat for the Indiana bat as the amount of wooded habitat is less than 5% of the project area. The only other possible habitat for state listed animals is the Holst tract. Due to the small size of this area it is not considered suitable nesting habitat for species, such as Northern Harrier or Henslow's Sparrow. Both of these species require larger grasslands for nesting.

#### Conclusions and Recommendations

No further surveys for listed species are recommended due to the lack of any suitable habitats. It is recommended that any tree clearing required for construction of the dam be done after September 1 and before April 1 to protect nesting nongame birds.