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Subject: MVP Virginia Spiraea Information
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 3:49:28 PM
Attachments: [MVP USFWS VirginiaSpiraea Request](#)
[Virginia spiraea habitat photographs](#)

Tiernan,

Here is the information that you requested for Virginia Spiraea. Please review and let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Megan

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USFWS Virginia Spiraea Habitat Request

Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (MVP) surveyed for the federally threatened Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*) at three river crossings along the proposed alignment. These crossings included the Gauley, Greenbrier, and Meadow Rivers.

Virginia spiraea is known to occur along flood-scoured river banks and bars in all three of these rivers (USFWS 1992; Weakley et al. 2013; Strausbaugh and Core 1977). Surveys were conducted along the proposed Project crossings in August 2015. No potentially suitable habitat was identified at the Greenbrier or Meadow River crossings (Photographs 1 and 2, respectively). At these sites, the water is slow moving and there were no rocky scoured out areas with shrubs or small trees which would provide suitable habitat. Instead, water extends up to the bank of the river. In some portions of the crossings, the banks are eroded with no vegetation. One parcel (denied access) has not been surveyed at the Greenbrier River crossing; however, based on surrounding habitat and visual observations from adjacent parcels, no suitable habitat is present.

In contrast, the Gauley River does have some rocky flood-scoured river banks and bars with shrubs and small trees (including sycamore [*Platanus occidentalis*], river birch [*Betula nigra*], red maple [*Acer rubrum*], eastern cottonwood [*Populus deltoids*], black willow [*Salix nigra*], smooth alder [*Alnus serrulata*], and silky dogwood [*Cornus amomum*]; Photograph 3). While the habitat was suitable for the species, no individuals were found during the surveys.

Literature Cited

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1992. Virginia Spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana* Britton) Recovery Plan. Newton Corner, Massachusetts. 47 pp.

Strausburgh, P.D. and E.L. Core. 1977. Flora of West Virginia, 2nd edition. Seneca Books, Inc., Grantsville, WV. 1079.

Weakley, A.S., J.C. Ludwig, J.F. Townsend. Flora of Virginia. BRIT Press, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas. 155 pp.