



Smith, Kimberly <kimberly_smith@fws.gov>

FW: Mountain Valley Pipeline - Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly

2 messages

Valerie Clarkston <VClarkston@envsi.com>

Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 8:54 AM

To: "Kimberly_Smith@fws.gov" <Kimberly_Smith@fws.gov>

Cc: "troy_andersen@fws.gov" <troy_andersen@fws.gov>, Daniel Judy <djudy@envsi.com>, Taina Pankiewicz <TPankiewicz@envsi.com>, "mneylon@eqt.com" <mneylon@eqt.com>, "Sparks, Sean" <Sean.Sparks@tetrattech.com>

Hi Kim,

As you suggested, I contacted VDCR-DNH for more information on qualified surveyors for Mitchell's satyr butterfly and any known occurrences of the species within the MVP Project area. Based on Dr. Roble's response to my inquiry (below), this species is not likely to occur in Montgomery or Franklin counties and the VDCR-DNH does not maintain a list of qualified surveyors.

Please advise on how you would like MVP to proceed with surveys for this species.

Thanks,

Valerie

Valerie Clarkston

Scientist

Environmental Solutions & Innovations, Inc.

4525 Este Avenue

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Office 513.451.1777

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From: Hypes, Rene (DCR) [mailto:Rene.Hypes@dcir.virginia.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 4:17 PM
To: Valerie Clarkston
Cc: Daniel Judy; Taina Pankiewicz; Rob Jean
Subject: RE: Mountain Valley Pipeline - Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly

Valerie,

Please find below Dr. Roble's response to your questions about Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly.

"Mitchell's Satyr has only been documented in a limited portion of Floyd County despite numerous surveys in adjacent, and even more distant, counties, as well as many other wetlands in Floyd. We have checked a handful of sites in both Franklin and Montgomery counties, including the one known bog turtle site in Franklin Co., but did not find the species there. Except for an unconfirmed (but potentially reliable) report of a bog turtle sighting near the Va. Tech campus in Blacksburg about 75 years ago, there are no records for this turtle in Montgomery Co. I suppose it's possible that Mitchell's Satyr could occur in another county in VA, but that isn't very probable considering all of our negative surveys to date.

Aerial photos often can be used to identify potential satyr habitat, especially infrared images. DCR has also developed a habitat model for Mitchell's satyr in Virginia that may include low potential sites in Franklin and Montgomery counties.

The USFWS website reporting that Mitchell's Satyr occurs in Patrick Co. is incorrect. St. Francis' satyr only occurs in North Carolina (confined to wetlands on Fort Bragg).

DCR does NOT maintain a list of qualified Mitchell's Satyr surveyors but does regularly conduct surveys for this species."

Let us know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

S. Rene' Hypes
Project Review Coordinator
Department of Conservation and Recreation

Division of Natural Heritage

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Conserving VA's Biodiversity through Inventory, Protection and Stewardship www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage

[Virginia.gov/natural_heritage](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage) Virginia Natural Heritage Program on Facebook

From: Valerie Clarkston [<mailto:VClarkston@envsi.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Hypes, Rene (DCR)
Cc: Daniel Judy; Taina Pankiewicz; Rob Jean
Subject: RE: Mountain Valley Pipeline - Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly

Thank you Rene. I look forward to corresponding with Dr. Roble.

Valerie Clarkston

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From: Hypes, Rene (DCR) [<mailto:Rene.Hypes@dcr.virginia.gov>]

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 1:22 PM

To: Valerie Clarkston

Cc: Daniel Judy; Taina Pankiewicz; Rob Jean

Subject: RE: Mountain Valley Pipeline - Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly

Hi Valerie,

Our inventory staff has conducted surveys for the Mitchell's satyr butterfly (*Neonympha mitchelli mitchelli*). According to the information currently in our files, we have 11 occurrences documented in Floyd County. Several of our conservation sites for this butterfly also support Bog turtle. Below is general information about this resource.

The Mitchell's satyr (*Neonympha mitchellii*, G1G2/S1/LE/LE) butterfly has a spotty distribution across its range to include areas of Alabama and Mississippi, and Michigan and Indiana (NatureServe, 2009). It occupies early succession wet meadows in the Southern Blue Ridge in Virginia. These sedge-dominated meadows are maintained not by beaver activity or fire, but by grazing, mowing or chemical or mechanical removal of woody vegetation. Most documented occurrences of this species in Virginia were found at sites with a stream actually running through the meadow and Woodland bulrush (*Scirpus expansus*) was associated with all sites.

Threats to the Mitchell's satyr are wetland loss and alteration, fire suppression, collection pressures and the use of herbicides and pesticides (Tuberville, 2001). Please note that Mitchell's satyr is currently classified as endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).

Literature Cited

NatureServe. 2009. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: April 15, 2010).

Tuberville, T. 2001. DCR-DNH Technical Report 01-18. Conservation Plan for the Saint Francis' Satyr (*Neonympha mitchelli francisci*) in Virginia.

I have also forwarded your email to Dr. Steve Roble, DCR zoologist who can provide more information about the butterfly and potential surveyors. He is currently out of the office so it may be next week before he responses.

Regards,

Rene'

S. Rene' Hypes
Project Review Coordinator
Department of Conservation and Recreation

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dcv.virginia.gov [natural_heritage](#) Virginia Natural Heritage Program on [F](#) [acebook](#)

From: Valerie Clarkston [<mailto:VClarkston@envsi.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 9:28 AM
To: Hypes, Rene (DCR)
Cc: Daniel Judy; Taina Pankiewicz; Rob Jean
Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline - Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly

Hi Rene,

In their formal comments (attached), the VA USFWS requested MVP to perform habitat assessments for Mitchell's satyr butterfly (*Neonympha mitchelli mitchelli*) in Franklin and Montgomery counties. Wetlands have been delineated in these counties, and we intend to focus on these areas to determine if they meet requirements for suitable satyr butterfly habitat. The USFWS requested that a qualified surveyor make these determinations. However, when asked for a list of qualified surveyors, the USFWS pointed me to the VDCR-DNH. The USFWS mentioned VDCR-DNH actively conducts surveys for this species and maintains a list of qualified surveyors. Could you provide us with more information so we can prepare a study plan (if necessary) and begin field habitat assessment surveys?

Also, publically available information listing documented populations of Mitchell's satyr butterfly do not include Franklin or Montgomery counties, but the species is known from Floyd and Patrick counties (according to USFWS ECOS web page). The Mitchell's satyr butterfly is mostly known from Michigan and Indiana. There is also a closely related butterfly, the St. Francis satyr butterfly (*Neonympha mitchelli francisi*), known mostly from two counties in North Carolina but populations have recently been discovered in Virginia. Could you confirm/clarify which subspecies is most likely present within the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project area, if any? I do not believe VDCR-DNH identified this butterfly in their formal comments as a concern within the Project area, only USFWS.

I appreciate any info you can provide. As always, please feel free to call me at any of the numbers listed below.

Thanks!

-Valerie



Valerie Clarkston

Scientist

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Smith, Kimberly <kimberly_smith@fws.gov>

Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 9:50 AM

To: Valerie Clarkston <VClarkston@envsi.com>

Cc: "troy_andersen@fws.gov" <troy_andersen@fws.gov>, Daniel Judy <djudy@envsi.com>, Taina Pankiewicz <TPankiewicz@envsi.com>, "mneylon@eqt.com" <mneylon@eqt.com>, "Sparks, Sean" <Sean.Sparks@tetrattech.com>

Hi Valerie,

Based on recent discussions between the Service and the Department of Conservation and Recreation - Division of Natural Heritage, the Service has revised the information provided through ECOS and IPaC for the Mitchell's satyr butterfly (*Neonympha mitchellii mitchellii*). We are currently recommending surveys for this species within appropriate habitat in Floyd County, Virginia. This will be reflected on your Official Species List in IPaC. Based on the latest alignment for this project, it appears that no impacts will occur within Floyd County and therefore, surveys for this species are no longer recommended. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kim

[Quoted text hidden]

—

Kimberly Smith
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
6669 Short Lane
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10/2/2015

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - FW: Mountain Valley Pipeline - Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly

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