

From: [Cindy Schulz](#)
To: [Sumalee Hoskin](#); [Tiernan Lennon](#); [Troy Andersen](#); [Barbara Douglas](#)
Subject: Bat conservation measures for 1:30 pm discussion
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 12:21:37 PM

See emails below. Let's plan on discussing the following 2 measures:

To ameliorate effects to I bats within unknown use spring staging/fall swarming habitat, a 121-acre property was acquired in Braxton County, WV. The parcel contains mature, upland deciduous forest dominated by mostly oak (*Quercus* spp.), hickory (*Carya* spp.), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). There are numerous travel/foraging corridors and snags for bats throughout the property. Approximately 860 ft of the construction ROW crosses the eastern portion of the property. After project completion, approximately 106 acres will remain as interior forest and will be maintained as such in perpetuity. There are a variety of options for I bat habitat enhancement on this property, including but not limited to, erection of artificial roost structures and establishment of a permanent water source (enhancements will be discussed in coordination with the Service). Protection of this property will provide habitat, immediately adjacent to the project area, for bats displaced during construction activities. Due to the property's proximity to the construction ROW, displaced bats will only need to travel a short distance to locate alternative spring staging/fall swarming habitat. It is anticipated that the availability and protection of this property will reduce adverse effects on returning bats; however, protection of this property is not expected to avoid all impacts to individual bats.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the VA and WV state environmental agencies, a mitigation model has been developed for federally listed bats. The mitigation model utilizes interior forest as the benchmark to which habitat impacts are compared. The goal of the model is to identify the quantity of acres required to fully offset forest impacts from the project. Although negotiations with the state agencies are ongoing, Mountain Valley has agreed to place funding in an interest bearing account to fund the purchase of optimal bat habitat that is essential to the recovery of the species, throughout VA and WV. The amount of acreage will be determined in coordination with the Service and applicable state agencies. A Memorandum of Understanding with the agencies is being developed to establish criteria for ensuring that the funds from the conservation escrow account are disbursed in accordance with the final mitigation proposal. While implementation of this mitigation model will likely provide additional conservation for the I bat, its potential beneficial impact was not considered in the above analysis or the below conclusion because the nature and extent of that benefit is not determinable at this time.

From: Hoskin, Sumalee [mailto:sumalee_hoskin@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Tiernan Lennon; Cindy Schulz; Troy Andersen; Douglas, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: NLEB question

Tiernan,

I saw your comment regarding adding the conservation site to the NLEB section. Based on this email below it doesn't appear as if MV will be pursuing the Braxton Co. site.

Cindy is going to set up a call for this afternoon so we can discuss.
Sumalee

Sumalee Hoskin
US Fish & Wildlife Service
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stahl, Megan D.** <MStahl@eqt.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 30, 2017 at 9:54 AM
Subject: RE: NLEB question
To: "Hoskin, Sumalee" <sumalee_hoskin@fws.gov>

Sumalee,

We do not have a particular site chosen. In the voluntary conservation measures section of the BA we suggested two measures for bat mitigation:

1. A site in Braxton County, WV, but Tiernan wanted more information (such as a detailed habitat assessment) before accepting that site for bat mitigation. Due to her uncertainty we are not pursuing that site at this time.
2. MVP will work with state agencies in West Virginia and Virginia to identify opportunities for enhancement to public lands including wildlife management areas or preserves. For this measure MVP is using the HEA model to provide funding for bat mitigation derived from the quantity of service acres translated into dollars, with inclusion of a typical land management multiplier. We are pursuing this measure with each, but chosen sites will likely be at their discretion.

Let me know if you would like to discuss further.
Megan

From: Hoskin, Sumalee [mailto:sumalee_hoskin@fws.gov]
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 6:32 PM
To: Stahl, Megan D. <MStahl@eqt.com>
Subject: NLEB question

Hi Megan,
Can you send me a figure of where the bat/forest conservation site is in relation to where the pipeline tree removal will occur?
Thanks
Sumalee

Sumalee Hoskin

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[6669 Short Lane](#)
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