



November 1, 2022

IN REPLY REFER TO

SIR# 56955

Clyde Braun
111 Short Road
Markleysburg, Pennsylvania 15459

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 771067_1
Patton Township Forest Management Plan--Grays Woods Preserve and Park
Halfmoon Township, Patton Township: CENTRE County**

Dear Mr. Braun:

This responds to your inquiry about a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Internet Database search “potential conflict” or a threatened and endangered species impact review. These projects are screened for potential conflicts with rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission jurisdiction (fish, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates only) using the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) database and our own files. These species of special concern are listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code (Chapter 75), or the Wildlife Code.

Based on records maintained in the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) database and our own files, the following rare or protected species are known from the vicinity of the project site:

Common Name (Scientific Name, PA Status)

Eastern Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*, Threatened)

The Eastern Spadefoot is an elusive toad species with a rather unusual life history. This toad species prefers sandy or other soft loamy, pliable soils that it uses for burrowing. Unlike the American Toad and Fowler’s Toad, the Eastern Spadefoot is a sporadic breeder, breeding in temporary pools only when the proper environmental conditions develop (steep barometric drops accompanied by heavy rainfall). Breeding may span several years (up to six) before the proper conditions take place. Eggs hatch in as little as two days and tadpole larvae may fully metamorphose within two weeks. Eastern Spadefoot are threatened by habitat alteration and pollution.

Eastern Spadefoot are known to occur on the subject tract and likely use some of the seasonal pool habitats for breeding. These pools are also known to support a diverse array of salamander, frog, toad and invertebrate species. We recommend implementation of the Best Management Practices in the enclosed document in any forest management plan for the site. Any earth disturbance plans or more intensive management plans should be sent to this office for a more detailed review of potential impacts to the Eastern Spadefoot.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data and our files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded species information does not necessarily imply species absence. Our data files and the PNDI system are continuously being updated with species occurrence information. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered, and consultation shall be re-initiated.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Kathy Gipe at 814-359-5186 or kgipe@pa.gov and refer to the SIR # 56955. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher A. Urban". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher A. Urban, Chief
Natural Diversity Section

CAU/KDG/dn