

October, 2 2013

NE09349

TO: Michelle Koch
Analyst Supervisor
Game and Parks Commission

FROM: Tim Gokie, P.E.
Dam Safety, Chief
Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Consultation Concerning Endangered or Threatened Species
Platte River Basin

Enclosed is a location map and copy of the pertinent plan sheets for the project referenced below for your review pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 37-807*. Please note your recommendation below as to whether granting this application will "jeopardize the continued existence of such endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or modification of habitat for such species which is determined by the commission to be critical" by indicating (1) no effect or (2) may affect. Please provide a statement supporting your recommendation of may affect (2). Please sign and date at the bottom and return to the Department of Natural Resources at your earliest convenience.

Recommendation

Description of Application/Petition

_____ | P-18673 is for the construction of a flood control dam, PCUL 1, in Section 10, Township 10 North, Range 13 West of the 6th P.M. in Buffalo County.

12-13-13
Date

Michelle R Koch
Game and Parks Commission

Enclosure(s)

PS 12172013-9349-9DC
Department of Natural Resources

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DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

2200 N. 33rd St. • P.O. Box 30370 • Lincoln, NE 68503-0370 • Phone: 402-471-0641 • Fax: 402-471-5528

December 13, 2013

Tim Gokie
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: P-18673 Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Flood Control Dam, PCUL 1, Buffalo County, NE

Dear Mr. Gokie:

Please make reference to your letter dated October 2, 2013. Additional information about this project was provided on December 13, 2013. This letter is in response to your request for a review of this project's potential impacts to endangered and threatened species in Buffalo County, Nebraska. As we understand it, the project involves construction of a dry dam, which will temporarily impound water during precipitation events. We have completed our review of the proposed sites under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 37-807 (3) of the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act and we offer the following comments.

This project is within the range of the state and federally listed endangered whooping crane (*Grus americana*). There are records of this species within five miles of the project area. However, given the existing site conditions and lack of habitat for whooping cranes within ½ mile of the project area, and the fact that this will be a dry dam and will not permanently impound water, we have determined this project will have "No Effect" on state-listed endangered or threatened species. We made this determination based on a review of the material you sent, aerial photographs, topographic maps and our Nebraska Natural Heritage Database.

Based upon the submitted information, we have no objection to the proposal as currently planned. If the proposed project is changed or new information regarding endangered or threatened species becomes available, then this determination is no longer valid and further consultation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will be necessary.

All federally listed endangered or threatened species are also state listed. For an assessment of potential impacts on federally listed, candidate or proposed endangered or threatened species, please contact John Cochnar, Nebraska Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 203 W. Second St., Grand Island, NE 68801.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (402) 471-5438 or michelle.koch@nebraska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle R. Koch".

Michelle R. Koch
Environmental Analyst Supervisor
Environmental Services Division

ec: USFWS (John Cochnar, Eliza Hines, Jeff Runge)