



## Appendix B.

### Agency Correspondence

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# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New York Ecological Services Field Office  
3817 Luker Road  
Cortland, NY 13045-9385

Phone: (607) 753-9334 Fax: (607) 753-9699

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm>

In Reply Refer To:

April 20, 2018

Consultation Code: 05E1NY00-2018-SLI-1857

Event Code: 05E1NY00-2018-E-05600

Project Name: Saratoga Airport Master Plan Phase I Projects

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). This list can also be used to determine whether listed species may be present for projects without federal agency involvement. New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list.

Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC site at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list. If listed, proposed, or candidate species were identified as potentially occurring in the project area, coordination with our office is encouraged. Information on the steps involved with assessing potential impacts from projects can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>)

[eagle\\_guidance.html](#)). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the Services wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the ESA. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**New York Ecological Services Field Office**

3817 Luker Road

Cortland, NY 13045-9385

(607) 753-9334

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 05E1NY00-2018-SLI-1857

Event Code: 05E1NY00-2018-E-05600

Project Name: Saratoga Airport Master Plan Phase I Projects

Project Type: DEVELOPMENT

Project Description: Airport improvement projects consisting of partial-parallel taxiway, Taxiway C improvements, glider run-up/staging turf area, perimeter fence replacement, hangar/office building and associated parking, mowing plan improvements, land easement acquisition and vegetation obstruction removal off-airport.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.05028499936548N73.86316357994285W>



Counties: Saratoga, NY

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## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Threatened

### Insects

NAME	STATUS
Karner Blue Butterfly <i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6656">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6656</a> Species survey guidelines: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/guideline/survey/population/420/office/52410.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/guideline/survey/population/420/office/52410.pdf</a>	Endangered

### Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

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**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
**Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources**  
**New York Natural Heritage Program**  
625 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Albany, New York 12233-4757  
**Phone:** (518) 402-8935 • **Fax:** (518) 402-8925  
**Website:** [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)



September 09, 2016

Aimee Rutledge  
McFarland Johnson  
60 Railroad Place, Suite 402  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Re: Master Plan Phase I Projects, Saratoga County Airport and Vicinity  
Town/City: Milton. County: Saratoga.

Dear Aimee Rutledge:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the above project.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities that our database indicates occur, or may occur, on your site or in the immediate vicinity of your site.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our database. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

Our database is continually growing as records are added and updated. If this proposed project is still under development one year from now, we recommend that you contact us again so that we may update this response with the most current information.

The presence of the plants and animals identified in the enclosed report may result in this project requiring additional review or permit conditions. For further guidance, and for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), please contact the appropriate NYS DEC Regional Office, Division of Environmental Permits, as listed at [www.dec.ny.gov/about/39381.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/39381.html).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Chaloux". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrea Chaloux  
Environmental Review Specialist  
New York Natural Heritage Program



**The following state-listed animals have been documented  
in the project area, and in its vicinity.**

The following list includes animals that are listed by NYS as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; and/or that are federally listed or are candidates for federal listing.

**For information about any permit considerations for your project, contact the Permits staff at the NYSDEC Region 5 Office. For information about potential impacts of your project on these species, and how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any impacts, contact the Wildlife Manager.**

**A listing of Regional Offices is at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html>.**

**The following species have been documented in the project area, and within 0.5 mile.**

<i>COMMON NAME</i>	<i>SCIENTIFIC NAME</i>	<i>NY STATE LISTING</i>	<i>FEDERAL LISTING</i>
<b>Butterflies</b>			
<b>Frosted Elfin</b>	<i>Callophrys irus</i>	Threatened	2977
<b>Karner Blue</b>	<i>Plebejus melissa samuelis</i>	Endangered	Endangered 6952

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted, and we cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the listed animals in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at [www.guides.nynhp.org](http://www.guides.nynhp.org), and from NYSDEC at [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html).



**The following rare plants, rare animals, and significant natural communities have been documented in the project area.**

We recommend that potential onsite and offsite impacts of the proposed project on these species or communities be addressed as part of any environmental assessment or review conducted as part of the planning, permitting and approval process, such as reviews conducted under SEQRA. Field surveys of the project site may be necessary to determine the status of a species at the site, particularly for sites that are currently undeveloped and may still contain suitable habitat. Final requirements of the project to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts are determined by the lead permitting agency or the government body approving the project.

**The following animals, while not listed by New York State as Endangered or Threatened, are of conservation concern to the state, and are considered rare by the New York Natural Heritage Program.**

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS
<b>Butterflies</b>			
<b>Mottled Duskywing</b>	<i>Erynnis martialis</i>	Special Concern	Critically Imperiled in NYS and Globally Uncommon
Saratoga County Airport, 1999-07-28: The butterflies were observed in the fields of the airport containing New Jersey tea. <span style="float: right;">11148</span>			

**The following plants are listed as Endangered or Threatened by New York State, and/or are considered rare by the New York Natural Heritage Program, and so are a vulnerable natural resource of conservation concern.**

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS
<b>Vascular Plants</b>			
<b>Mock-pennyroyal</b>	<i>Hedeoma hispida</i>	Threatened	Imperiled in NYS
Saratoga County Airport, 1992-07-25: Mowed airport apron. <span style="float: right;">769</span>			

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted, and we cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the rare animals and plants in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at [www.guides.nynhp.org](http://www.guides.nynhp.org), from NatureServe Explorer at [www.natureserve.org/explorer](http://www.natureserve.org/explorer), and from USDA's Plants Database at <http://plants.usda.gov/index.html> (for plants).

Information about many of the natural community types in New York, including identification, dominant and characteristic vegetation, distribution, conservation, and management, is available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at [www.guides.nynhp.org](http://www.guides.nynhp.org). For descriptions of all community types, go to [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/97703.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/97703.html) for Ecological Communities of New York State.

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## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New York Ecological Services Field Office  
3817 Luker Road  
Cortland, NY 13045-9385

Phone: (607) 753-9334 Fax: (607) 753-9699

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm>

In Reply Refer To:

April 13, 2018

Consultation Code: 05E1NY00-2018-SLI-1748

Event Code: 05E1NY00-2018-E-05345

Project Name: Saratoga County Airport

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). This list can also be used to determine whether listed species may be present for projects without federal agency involvement. New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list.

Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC site at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list. If listed, proposed, or candidate species were identified as potentially occurring in the project area, coordination with our office is encouraged. Information on the steps involved with assessing potential impacts from projects can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>)

[eagle\\_guidance.html](#)). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the Services wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the ESA. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
-

## Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**New York Ecological Services Field Office**

3817 Luker Road

Cortland, NY 13045-9385

(607) 753-9334

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 05E1NY00-2018-SLI-1748

Event Code: 05E1NY00-2018-E-05345

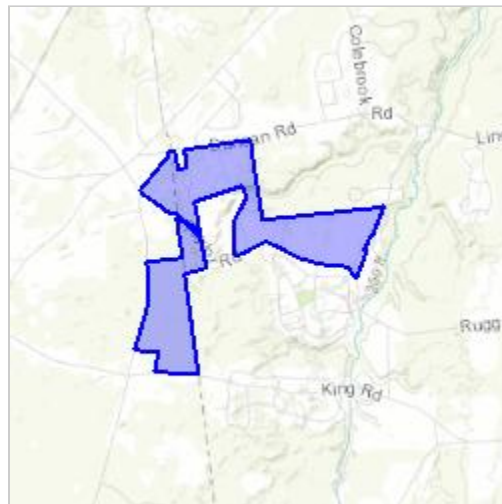
Project Name: Saratoga County Airport

Project Type: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Project Description: off-airport mitigation sites

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.142771214931976N73.67657491808504W>



Counties: Saratoga, NY

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## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Threatened

### Insects

NAME	STATUS
Karner Blue Butterfly <i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6656">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6656</a> Species survey guidelines: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/guideline/survey/population/420/office/52410.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/guideline/survey/population/420/office/52410.pdf</a>	Endangered

### Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

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# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, New York Natural Heritage Program

625 Broadway, Fifth Floor, Albany, NY 12233-4757

P: (518) 402-8935 | F: (518) 402-8925

www.dec.ny.gov

May 3, 2018

Aimee Rutledge  
McFarland Johnson  
60 Railroad Place, Suite 402  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Re: Saratoga County Airport Improvement Project -- Mitigation Sites  
County: Saratoga Town/City: Northumberland, Wilton

Dear Ms. Rutledge:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the above project.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities that our database indicates at the project site or in its vicinity.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our database. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

Our database is continually growing as records are added and updated. If this proposed project is still under development one year from now, we recommend that you contact us again so that we may update this response with the most current information.

The presence of the plants and animals identified in the enclosed report may result in this project requiring additional review or permit conditions. For further guidance, and for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), please contact the NYS DEC Region 5 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at [dep.r5@dec.ny.gov](mailto:dep.r5@dec.ny.gov), (518) 623-1286.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Conrad  
Information Resources Coordinator  
New York Natural Heritage Program



**The following state-listed animals have been documented at or in the vicinity of the three mitigation sites.**

The following list includes animals that are listed by NYS as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; and/or that are federally listed or are candidates for federal listing.

For information about any permit considerations for your project, please contact the Permits staff at the NYSDEC Region 5 Office at [dep.r5@dec.ny.gov](mailto:dep.r5@dec.ny.gov), (518) 623-1286. For information about potential impacts of your project on this species, and how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any impacts, contact the Region 5 Wildlife staff at [Wildlife.R5@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Wildlife.R5@dec.ny.gov), (518) 623-1241.

**The following species have been documented on and adjacent to the North Site, adjacent to the East Site, and within 0.2 mile of the South Site.**

<i>COMMON NAME</i>	<i>SCIENTIFIC NAME</i>	<i>NY STATE LISTING</i>	<i>FEDERAL LISTING</i>	
<b>Butterflies</b>				
<b>Karner Blue</b>	<i>Plebejus melissa samuelis</i>	Endangered	Endangered	5450
<b>Frosted Elfin</b>	<i>Callophrys irus</i>	Threatened		15243

**The following species has been documented within 0.4 mile of the South Site. Individual animals may travel 0.8 mile from documented locations.**

<i>COMMON NAME</i>	<i>SCIENTIFIC NAME</i>	<i>NY STATE LISTING</i>	<i>FEDERAL LISTING</i>	
<b>Blanding's Turtle</b>	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Threatened		10714

**The following significant natural community has been documented in the vicinity of the project site.**

<i>COMMUNITY NAME</i>	<i>HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS</i>
<b>Appalachian Oak-Pine Forest</b>	High Quality Occurrence

Saratoga Sandplains, including across Ruggles Road from the South and North Sites, and adjacent to the north side of the East Site: This Appalachian oak-pine matrix forest is in good condition and occurs in large patches in the landscape.

13565

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the listed animals in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at [www.guides.nynhp.org](http://www.guides.nynhp.org), and from NYSDEC at [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html).



# Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner

November 21, 2016

Ms. Aimee Rutledge  
Senior Environmentalist  
McFarland Johnson  
60 Railroad Place  
Suite 402  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Re: FAA  
Saratoga County Airport Master Plan Phase I Projects EA  
16PR07302

Dear Ms. Rutledge:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include potential environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

Based upon this review, the New York SHPO has determined that no historic properties will be affected by this undertaking.

If further correspondence is required regarding this project, please be sure to refer to the OPRHP Project Review (PR) number noted above.

Sincerely,

Ruth L. Pierpont

Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

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# Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner

May 07, 2018

Ms. Aimee Rutledge  
Senior Environmental Analyst  
McFarland Johnson  
60 Railroad Place  
Suite 420  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Re: FAA  
Off-Airport Habitat Mitigation  
TAYLOR ROAD at COLEBROOK, NORTHUMBERLAND, NY  
18PR02335

Dear Ms. Rutledge:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include potential environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

Based upon this review, the New York SHPO has determined that no historic properties will be affected by this undertaking.

If further correspondence is required regarding this project, please be sure to refer to the OPRHP Project Review (PR) number noted above.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Lynch, P.E., AIA  
Director, Division for Historic Preservation

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U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Eastern Region, Airports Division

1 Aviation Plaza, Room 516  
Jamaica, NY 11434-4809

T: (718) 553-3330  
F: (718) 995-5615

January 18, 2016

Mr. Thomas A. Speziale  
Deputy Commissioner of Public Works/Highway Division  
Saratoga County Department of Public Works  
3654 Galway Road  
Ballston Spa, New York 12020-2517

**Re: Saratoga County Airport Wildlife Hazard Management Plan Review**

Dear Mr. Speziale,

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has reviewed the Wildlife Hazard Management Plan (WHMP) dated November 2015 for the Saratoga County Airport prepared by McFarland Johnson. We have no additional comments to offer and the document has been accepted.

Please coordinate with the New York Airport District Office (ADO) before implementing any project identified in the plan that may be subject to FAA approval and/or be eligible for AIP funding. Any development project regardless of whether or not it is federally funded may be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); therefore, early coordination with the ADO is prudent.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (718) 553-2511 or via email at [andrew.brooks@faa.gov](mailto:andrew.brooks@faa.gov) or Sukhbir Gill (NY ADO) at (718) 995-5773 or at [sukhbir.gill@faa.gov](mailto:sukhbir.gill@faa.gov).

Sincerely,

Andrew Brooks  
Environmental Program Manager  
FAA Eastern Region Airports Division

cc: S. Gill, NY ADO  
E. Martinez, NY ADO  
D. Fish, AEA-610  
A. Anderson, AAS-300

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## Draft Environmental Assessment Section 4(f) Supporting Documentation

### Saratoga County Airport

The following supporting documentation has been prepared to address 49 U.S.C §303 and 23 U.S.C. §138 (commonly referred to as Section 4(f), which protects publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and public and private historic sites. If a constructive or physical use of a Section 4(f) property is involved, the potential impacts and alternatives to the use must be evaluated. In this case Saratoga County owned forest land being proposed as the location for off-airport habitat mitigation. The proposed airport improvement projects evaluated under the EA would impact approximately 77 acres of Karner blue butterfly (KBB) habitat. Off-airport habitat mitigation of approximately 180 acres is proposed to take place on three separate sites located 15 miles northeast of the Airport. The three sites are located on six separate parcels within a complex of County owned conservation/recreation lands that total approximately 350 acres. Additional recreation lands are located adjacent to and in the vicinity of the mitigation sites. The mitigation sites and recreation lands in the vicinity are located within the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park (WWPP), which is a non-profit entity dedicated to conservation, environmental education, and outdoor recreation in the Saratoga Sandplains. The WWPP works in partnership with the Town of Wilton, Saratoga County, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

The County owned parcels proposed for mitigation are protected under the New York County Law, CNT Section 219, Forested Lands. The land is currently being used for timber harvesting by the County and known public uses include hiking and hunting. Section 219 provides that the land shall be “forever devoted” to the aforementioned purposes including recreation. The proposed habitat mitigation would continue to support recreational purposes, such as hiking and hunting. The land is protected for recreational use; accordingly, no conservation easements are required as part of the project.

The County routinely harvests timber, through private timber sales, on County owned parcels on and within the vicinity of the mitigation site, within the WWPP. Similarly, the County will harvest the timber on the mitigation site prior to construction of the mitigation, and will relinquish future timber harvesting within the mitigation site boundaries for the benefit of the proposed butterfly habitat. NYSDEC and TNC also conducted successful butterfly habitat enhancement programs in close proximity to the proposed mitigation site.

WWPP lands, including County owned lands, in the vicinity of the off-airport habitat mitigation sites are shown on Figure 5-2, Off-Airport Habitat Mitigation – Vicinity Map. Other County owned recreation lands in the vicinity include approximately 190 acres located west 1.5 miles (as the crow flies), 233 acres located to the south 1.2 miles, and 130 acres located 1.3 miles to the north. Land to the west consists of a mixture of open butterfly habitat, forested areas, and wetlands with trails. Lands to the north and south consist of mostly forested with trails on the property to the south.

The proposed habitat mitigation is not expected to result in negative impacts to the WWPP, but is instead aligned with the mission of the WWPP and would meet the goals of the WWPP and the KBB Saratoga Sandplains Recovery Unit. The Executive Director of WWPP has reviewed the proposed mitigation and is supportive of increasing the habitat within the WWPP. Early coordination with the USFWS and NYSDEC have included multiple conference calls, airport site visit with the NYSDEC, USFWS, and FAA, and a site walkover with the NYSDEC. USFWS approached the County with the concept for off-airport habitat mitigation at the proposed sites. The proposed



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creation of 180 acres of habitat would meet the USFWS acreage goal of 320 acres in the Saratoga Sandplains Recovery Unit for the KBB.

In accordance with Section 5.3.1 of FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, there would be no physical taking of the properties as a result of the proposed habitat mitigation. The properties would still remain protected under NY CNT Section 219 for the purpose of recreation. In addition, portions of the parcels outside of the mitigation areas would continue to be harvested for timber. Upon completion of the mitigation, the project area would remain available for recreational uses as currently occurs (hiking, mountain biking, etc.).

Based on the above, it has been determined that the proposed mitigation would have a “*de minimis*” impact and would not adversely affect the features, recreation, or protection of the land under Section 4(f).



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As the official with jurisdiction over County owned forest land, I hereby concur with the recommendation of the project proponents that the use and impacts associated with the off-airport habitat mitigation, will not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jason Kemper", written over a horizontal line.

**Jason Kemper, Director of Planning**  
Saratoga County

A handwritten date "6/13/18" written over a horizontal line.

**Date**

## Aimee N. Rutledge

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**From:** Margo Olson <mbolson@wiltonpreserve.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 13, 2018 10:11 PM  
**To:** Aimee N. Rutledge  
**Subject:** Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park Support of Airport Habitat Mitigation Plan

Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1996 with a mission of conserving ecological systems and natural settings while providing opportunities for environmental education and conservation. We do not own any of the 2,400 acres of protected land, but we work closely with our partners at NYS DEC, the Town of Wilton, Saratoga County, and The Nature Conservancy to help them meet their goals in our mission-areas of conservation, education, and recreation.

Establishing additional Karner butterfly habitat in the County Forest Lands is in keeping with our mission. We are excited at the opportunities that having this additional habitat will bring to the Preserve & Park. When the habitats were established at other locations, the access roads and logging trails were then converted into passive-use recreation trails. This has allowed for increased recreational use for trail runners, nature and bird watchers, snow-shoers, and cross country skiers. Families will have additional places to go for walks, and we will have additional locations for our educational programs. We also will be able to engage our volunteer corps to assist as they do in other habitat areas. Our volunteers help with seed picking of the wild blue lupine, butterfly milkweed, and other important nectar species. Our volunteers also support a number of citizen science efforts including a spring woodcock survey. These new habitat areas will be another area for volunteer and public involvement in support of this critical conservation effort.

We can really think of no negative outcomes that would result from creating Karner blue butterfly habitat on the County Forest Lands that have been identified for the project.

We are looking forward to supporting our partners as they move ahead with this mitigation project.



Margo Olson  
Executive Director

Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park  
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[www.wiltonpreserve.org](http://www.wiltonpreserve.org)

"Conserving ecological systems and natural settings while providing opportunities for environmental education and outdoor recreation."



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