

Natural Resources Impact Report
SV CSG Welter Road Solar, LLC
Kane County, Illinois



Prepared for:

SV CSG Welter Road Solar, LLC
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Prepared by:

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April 2026

AREAM

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INTRODUCTION

Area M Consulting (Area M) was contracted to conduct a Natural Resource Impact Report for the SV CSG Welter Road Solar, LLC (Project) located within Kane County, Illinois. The Project, a 1-5-megawatt community solar garden, will be comprised of ground-mounted solar panels, fencing, access and maintenance roads, equipment pads, and vegetative screening. Potential Project impacts to federal and state threatened and endangered (T&E) species, critical habitat, birds, and other protected features (hereafter, “Sensitive Resources”) were evaluated by Area M using United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) databases. Area M conducted a subsequent field survey to assess T&E species habitat and opportunistically identify species present at the time. Each Sensitive Resource identified as potentially occurring with the Project was then designated an effects determination based on the desktop analysis and field survey. This study has been conducted to assist the client with site planning, risk assessment, and to provide best-practice recommendations to mitigate impacts on Sensitive Resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK

Sensitive wildlife species, their associated habitats, and rare natural features are protected in Illinois under a range of federal and state laws, regulated by the USFWS, IDNR, and other agencies. Imperiled wildlife species, or those at risk of extinction either globally or locally (T&E species), migratory birds, native birds, game birds, and bald and golden eagles, are generally protected from “Take,” defined as any action that harms, pursues, hunts, shoots, wounds, kills, traps, captures, or collects a species. These Sensitive Resources are protected under the following laws:

- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA)
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA)
- Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act (IESPA)

Although this Project does not have a state or federal nexus based on the provided information, “Take” remains prohibited and enforced by the relevant agencies.

PROJECT SETTING

The Project, encompassing 46.0 acres, is located 1.0 miles southwest of Lily Lake in Section 24, T40N:R6E (Study Area) (Appendix A). The Study Area is located on a flat landform sloping slightly to the west. The entirety of the Study Area is cropped annually and was planted with soybeans in 2025. Open agricultural land forms the east, northern and southern boundaries, with a wetland as the western boundary. The surrounding landscape is dominated by cropland, with interspersed wetlands, and residential lots. All Project components are proposed to avoid trees, uncropped wetlands, and native vegetation. The entire Study Area is private property.

METHODS

Prior to fieldwork, Area M staff conducted a desktop assessment and database review to identify potential Sensitive Resources within and near the Study Area. The USFWS Information for Planning and

Consultation (IPaC) tool (for federal species), IDNR Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT) (For state species) were queried on April 29, 2026. The IPaC tool was used to request an official Species List of T&E species with the potential to occur within the Study Area and query Critical Habitat, Migratory Bird, and Bald and Goden Eagle information. The Project was submitted through the EcoCAT portal to determine if T&E species or protected areas have been recorded within the Project vicinity and to request mitigation recommendations.

Area M conducted a pedestrian field survey within the Study Area to document Sensitive Resources and associated habitats on April 7, 2026. The field survey aimed to summarize on-site habitat, document species present, and opportunistically identify Sensitive Resources. This survey was not intended as a substitute for species-specific surveys required or recommended for detecting targeted species.

These components were synthesized to identify potential Project impacts to Sensitive Resources. Area M has included an effects determination for each identified Sensitive Resource (Table 1). Aquatic species (e.g., mussels, fish) have been omitted from this review due to aquatic resource avoidance and the use of erosion/runoff mitigation. State species of Special Concern and state-protected plant species are omitted from this review due to their lack of protection on private land, unless the EcoCAT letter documented records within the Project vicinity.

RESULTS

Based on the desktop review and field survey, **five** terrestrial Sensitive Resources are known to occur within the Project vicinity (Table 1, Appendix A). Additionally, bald eagles and native birds may be present within or near the Study Area. Each identified Sensitive Resource is described in relation to the habitat found within the Study Area. Field photos of representative habitat are provided in Appendix D.

Table 1. T&E Species identified through the IPaC and EcoCAT.

Species	Scientific Name	Group	Status ¹	Known Record ²	Potential Habitat	Effect determination ³
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Bird	SE	Yes	No	NE
Whooping crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	Bird	EXPA	No	No	NE
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Insect	FPT	No	No	NE
Western regal fritillary	<i>Argynnis i. occidentalis</i>	Insect	FPT	No	No	NE
Eastern prairie fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Plant	FT/SE	No	No	NE

¹ FT-Federal Threatened; FE – Federal Endangered; EXPA – Federal Experimental/non-essential; FC – Federal Candidate; FPE – Federal Proposed Endangered; FTE – Federal Proposed Endangered; ST – State Threatened; SE-State Endangered; SC-State Concerned

² Based on EcoCAT response USFWS, 2026; IDNR, 2026³ Effect Determination: NE – No effect; MANLA – May affect, not likely to adversely affect

- IPaC review
 - Two federally protected terrestrial species are known to occur within the Project vicinity (Appendix B).
 - Two proposed or candidate species are known to occur within the Project vicinity (Appendix B)
 - No Critical Habitat within the Study Area.
- IDNR Threatened and Endangered Species
 - 75 state-listed species in Kane County (IDNR, 2025).

- EcoCAT
 - The EcoCAT information request and letter from the IDNR contains two records of Sensitive Resources in the project vicinity (Appendix C).
 - Lily Lake Marsh INAI Site
 - Common moorhen
 - **The IDNR has evaluated this information and concluded that adverse effects are unlikely. Therefore, consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is terminated.**
 - IDNR recommends:
 - Establishing pollinator-friendly habitat wherever feasible.
 - The site should be de-compacted before planting.
 - Fencing should have a 12-inch gap along the bottom to prevent wildlife movement restriction.
- Field Review
 - No suitable habitat for T&E species in the Study Area.
 - No T&E species observed during the field survey.

SENSITIVE RESOURCES

Common moorhen

The common moorhen is a medium sized wetland dwelling bird. It has a red bill that extends to a red plate between the eyes, a yellow bill tip, and a white stripe along the sides of its body. The common moorhen is a migrant and summer resident in northern Illinois. The common moorhen lives in marshy areas and lakes seeking the plants, seeds, aquatic macroinvertebrates and amphibians that it eats (IDNR 2025a). Due to the absence of appropriate wetland habitats within the Study Area, Area M has determined the Project will have No Effect on the Common moorhen.

Whooping crane

The whooping crane, the tallest bird in North America, is a large, long-legged bird with snow white plumage and black wing tips (Urbanek and Lewis, 2020). This species is known for recovery efforts to bring it back from the brink of extinction. The whooping crane prefers extensive wetland systems, localized to only a handful of locations in the United States. Migration habitat includes a variety of cropland and adjacent shallow, open water wetlands. Heavily vegetated wetlands are not generally used. Due to the absence of open wetland habitats within the Study Area, Area M has determined the Project will have No Effect on the whooping crane.

Monarch butterfly

The monarch butterfly is likely the most well-known butterfly species in North America, ranging throughout the majority of the continental USA with famous overwintering sites in California and Mexico (USFWS, 2025). This species is large and conspicuous, with bright orange and black wings with white markings (USFWS, 2025a). The monarch utilizes a diverse suite of habitats during its life cycle but is obligated to lay its eggs on milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*), which the larvae feed and use as substrate until after metamorphosis. Nearby flowering plants are used as nectar sources during the summer. Although this species is not offered any official protection under the ESA or IESPA, it may be listed as Threatened under the ESA in the future. During the field survey, no milk weed was identified. Due to the lack of observed

milk weed and current agricultural land use, Area M has determined the Project will have No Effect on the monarch butterfly.

Western regal fritillary

The Western regal fritillary is a brush-footed butterfly with large, orange and black wings. Regal fritillary butterflies live in tall-grass prairie and other open and sunny locations such as damp meadows, marshes, wet fields, and mountain pastures and is primarily threatened by the loss and fragmentation of native prairie grasslands due to agricultural conversion and development (USFWS 2026a). Due to the lack of grassland habitat and the current agricultural land use within the Study area, Area M has determined the Project will have No Effect on the Western regal fritillary.

Eastern prairie fringed orchid

The eastern prairie fringed orchid is a plant with a single stalk and white flowers native throughout Illinois (USFWS, 2024). This species occurs in mesic to wet tallgrass prairies and meadows but are also known to grow in roadside ditches and old fields. Due to the absence of appropriate habitat within the Study Area, Area M has determined the Project will have No Effect on the eastern prairie fringed orchid.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act – Native bird species

A total of 457 bird species have been officially documented within Illinois, as observed by the Illinois Ornithological Society (American Ornithologists' Union, 1998). Of these species, the majority are federally protected under the MBTA, a Treaty signed in 1918 to ensure the sustainability of populations of all migratory bird species. Notably, the MBTA protects species that are migratory and non-migratory; a total of 1,106 native bird species are protected by the USFWS under the MBTA

Species protected under the MBTA utilize a diverse range of habitats ranging from old growth forests to short-grass prairie to urban landscapes. Furthermore, nesting substrates for protected species include traditional trees, bare-ground, commercial structures, and cut banks. The comprehensive nesting season for Illinois birds is long, ranging from January for some species to as late as November for others, though the typical nesting period is 1-2 months. This combination of diverse nesting habitats and wide-ranging nesting phenology creates difficulties in designing universal mitigation strategies for birds, specifically because mitigation strategies are most effective during nesting.

Generally, Area M recommends avoiding grading, earth-moving, and tree-removal May 15 - August 15, when the majority of bird species nest. If nesting birds are documented during Project activities, Area M recommends stopping construction activity near the nest and contacting USFWS or Area M for further guidance, which would likely include stopping work within a designated buffer until the nest either fledges or fails. Pre-construction nesting bird surveys can be performed as an alternative, to effectively clear the Project landscape prior to ground-disturbing activities or tree-removal.

For solar projects such as this, the USFWS recommends burying or installing collector lines beneath PV panels, co-locating generation tie lines with existing infrastructure, and limiting new generation tie lines to a maximum of two miles can help minimize bird collisions. Additionally, fence marking is a cost-effective measure that can be beneficial for certain bird species. The USFWS recommends that all new power lines

incorporate avian-safe pole designs to reduce the risk of electrocution. Whenever possible, vegetation management should be scheduled outside of the nesting season.

Bald and golden eagles

Bald and golden eagles, the only two resident eagle species in North America, are provided further protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Protections for these species extend to unoccupied nests. Only bald eagles are common in this region.

The Study Area does contain appropriate eagle nesting substrate, due to the presence of large, mature trees in the southwestern and northern portions of the study area. IDNR did not provide any additional location data on known eagle nests. Area M recommends avoiding and minimizing disturbance near eagle nests, whenever practicable, if observed. No eagle nests were identified from within the Study Area during the field survey.

DISCUSSION

The natural heritage dataset includes records of five Sensitive Resources within the Project vicinity. Additionally migratory bird species are present within the Project vicinity and will be nesting on the landscape from April - September. The USFWS, IDNR, and Area M have determined the Project will have "No Effect" on these Sensitive Resources provided tailored mitigation during key roosting, nesting or breeding seasons where risks remain is followed.

One State-listed T&E species has been documented in the vicinity of the Project, however, appropriate habitat is not located within the Study Area. The Illinois Natural Heritage Database also contains one record of an Illinois Natural Area Inventory site within the vicinity of the Project. IDNR has reviewed the project and concluded that adverse effects to these resources are unlikely. Area M recommends, when feasible, conducting construction work outside of bird nesting season to mitigate for potential Take of species protected under the MBTA.

This assessment is based on project plans provided by the Client. Area M understands that the Project is entirely on Private land, does not receive federal funding, and does not require permitting through the USFWS or IDNR. If the Project requires Environmental Species Act (ESA) Section 7/10 consultation through the USFWS, additional clearance surveys or further mitigation efforts may be required. Any alterations to project plans should be reviewed for impacts on potential Sensitive Resources. If any Sensitive Resources are observed during Project activities, Area M advises the Client to contact the IDNR and USFWS for further guidance.

REFERENCES

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IDNR. 2025. Illinois Threatened and Endangered Species by County. Illinois Natural Heritage Database. Retrieved from <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/ESPB/Documents/ET%20List%20Review%20and%20Revision/Illinois%20Threatened%20and%20Endangered%20Species%20by%20County.pdf>

IDNR. 2025a. Common Moorhen. Retrieved from: <https://dnr.illinois.gov/education/wildaboutpages/wildaboutbirds/wildaboutbirdsrails/wabcommongallinule.html>

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USFWS. 2025. Monarch species overview. Retrieved from: <https://www.fws.gov/species/monarch-danaus-plexippus>

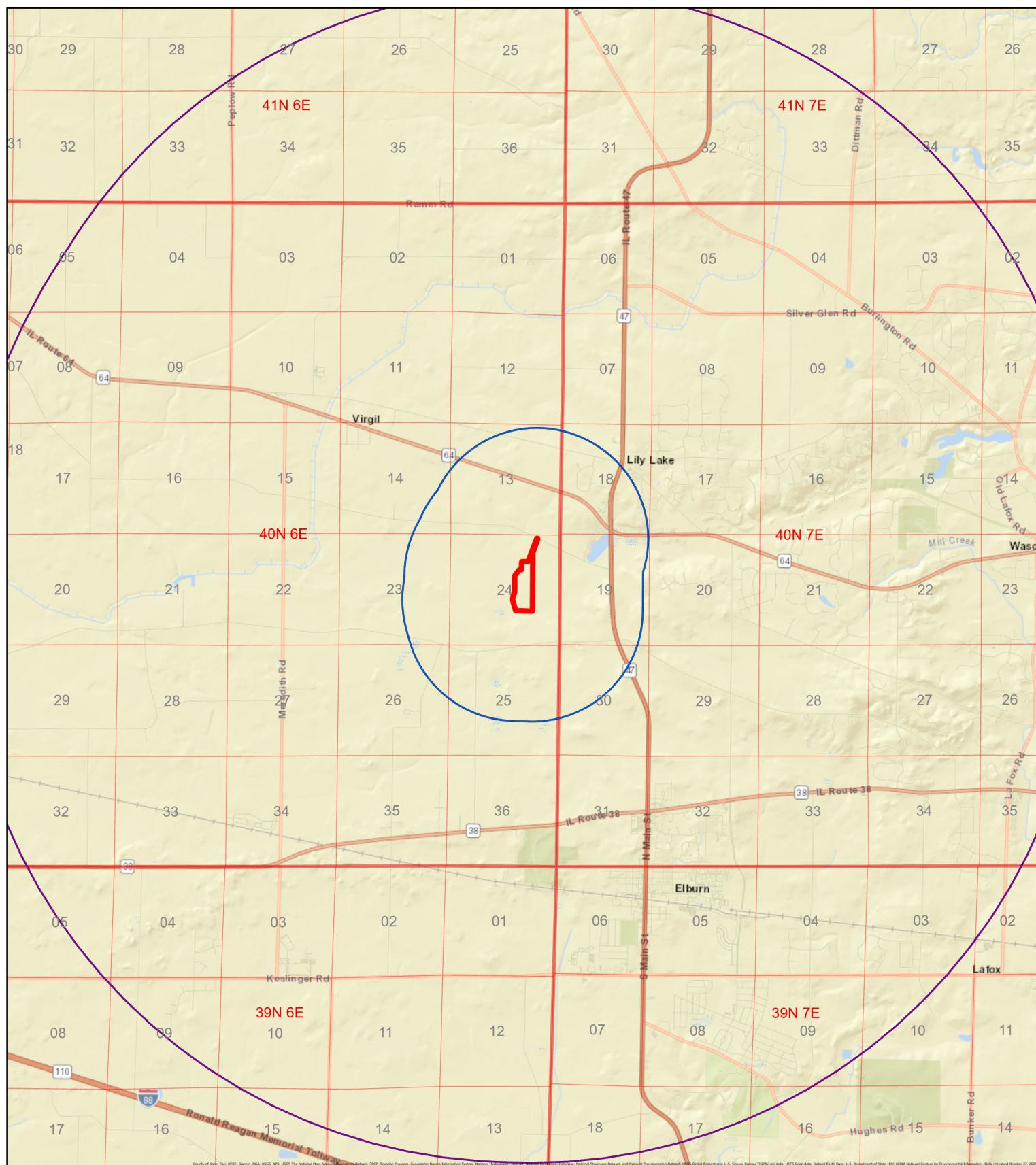
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USFWS. 2024. Eastern prairie fringed orchid fact sheet. Midwest Region Endangered Species. Retrieved from <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/plants/prairief.html>

Urbanek, R. P. and J. C. Lewis (2020). Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (A. F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.whocra.01>

Appendix A:

Maps

**SV CSG Welter Road Solar, LLC**

Kane County, IL

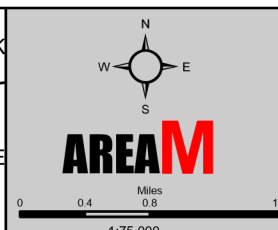
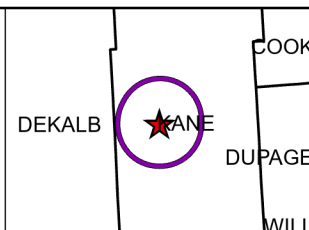
S24 T40N:R6E

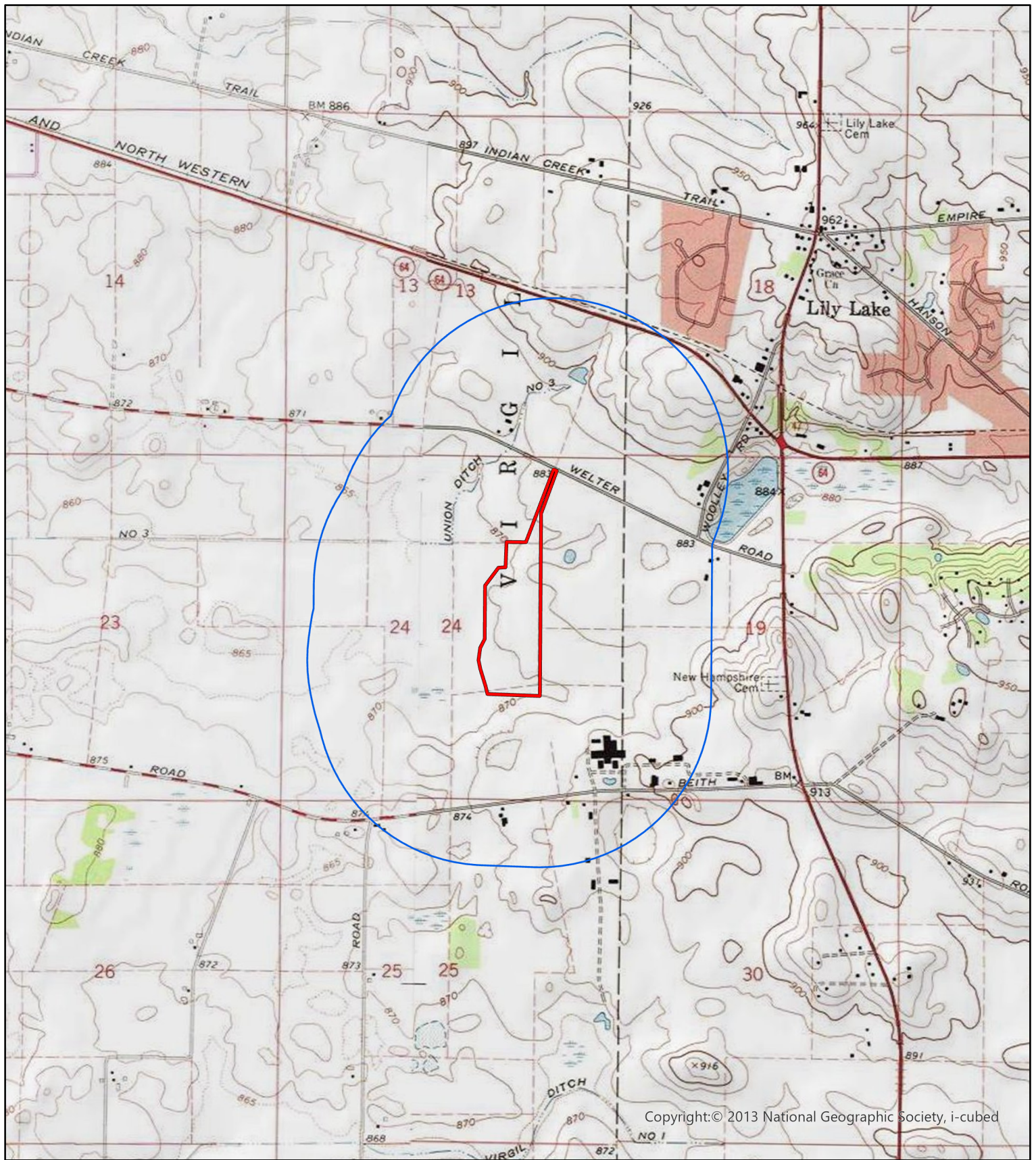
46.0 Acres

41.931856 Lat

-88.494848 Long

-  Study Area
  Section Line
 Project Location
  Township Line
 1-Mile Buffer
  County Line
 5-mile Buffer





SV CSG Welter Road Solar, LLC

Map 2. 1:24,000 Topographic

Kane County, IL



Study Area



0.5-Mile Buffer



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0 0.13 0.25 0.5
Miles
1:24,000



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Kane County/Kucera, Vantor

SV CSG Welter Road Solar, LLC

Map 3. Aerial Map

Kane County, IL

-  Study Area
-  USFWS Critical Habitat
-  Rusty patched bumble bee High Potential Zone



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0 155 310 620 feet
1:6,000

Appendix B:
IPaC Report



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Illinois-Iowa Ecological Services Field Office
Illinois & Iowa Ecological Services Field Office
1511 47th Ave
Moline, IL 61265-7022
Phone: (309) 757-5800 Fax: (309) 757-5807

In Reply Refer To:

04/29/2026 14:51:23 UTC

Project Code: 2026-0083109

Project Name: SV CSG Welter Road Solar, LLC

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached species list identifies federally threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project or may be affected by your proposed project. The list also includes designated critical habitat, if present, within your proposed project area or affected by your project. This list is provided to you as the initial step of the consultation process required under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, also referred to as Section 7 Consultation.

Under 50 CFR 402.12(e) (the regulations that implement Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act) **the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days**. This verification can be completed formally or informally. You may verify the list by visiting the ECOSPHERE Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov> at regular intervals during project planning and implementation and completing the same process you used to receive the attached list.

Section 7 Consultation

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by Federal agencies not jeopardize federally threatened or endangered species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. To fulfill this mandate, Federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representative) must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) if they determine their project "may affect" listed species or designated critical habitat. Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action may affect endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have no effect on threatened or endangered species or their respective designated critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service.

Note: For some species or projects, IPaC will present you with *Determination Keys*. You may be able to use one or

more Determination Keys to conclude consultation on your action.

Technical Assistance for Listed Species

1. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain information on the species life history, species status, current range, and other documents by selecting the species from the thumbnails or list view and visiting the species profile page.

No Effect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If there are *no* species or designated critical habitats on the Endangered Species portion of the species list: conclude "no species and no critical habitat present" and document your finding in your project records. No consultation under ESA section 7(a)(2) is required if the action would result in no effects to listed species or critical habitat. Maintain a copy of this letter and IPaC official species list for your records.
2. If any species or designated critical habitat are listed as potentially present in the **action area** of the proposed project the project proponents are responsible for determining if the proposed action will have "no effect" on any federally listed species or critical habitat. No effect, with respect to species, means that no individuals of a species will be exposed to any consequence of a federal action or that they will not respond to such exposure.
3. If the species habitat is not present within the action area or current data (surveys) for the species in the action area are negative: conclude "no species habitat or species present" and document your finding in your project records. For example, if the project area is located entirely within a "developed area" (an area that is already graveled/paved or supports structures and the only vegetation is limited to frequently mowed grass or conventional landscaping, is located within an existing maintained facility yard, or is in cultivated cropland conclude no species habitat present. Be careful when assessing actions that affect: 1) rights-of-ways that contains natural or semi-natural vegetation despite periodic mowing or other management; structures that have been known to support listed species (example: bridges), and 2) surface water or groundwater. Several species inhabit rights-of-ways, and you should carefully consider effects to surface water or groundwater, which often extend outside of a project's immediate footprint.
4. Adequacy of Information & Surveys - Agencies may base their determinations on the best evidence that is available or can be developed during consultation. Agencies must give the benefit of any doubt to the species when there are any inadequacies in the information. Inadequacies may include uncertainty in any step of the analysis. To provide adequate information on which to base a determination, it may be appropriate to conduct surveys to determine whether listed species or their habitats are present in the action area. Please contact our office for more information or see the survey guidelines that the Service has made available in IPaC.

May Effect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If the species habitat is present within the action area and survey data is unavailable or inconclusive: assume the species is present or plan and implement surveys and interpret results in coordination with our office. If assuming species present or surveys for the species are positive continue with the may affect determination process. May affect, with respect to a species, is the appropriate conclusion when a species might be exposed to a consequence of a federal action and could respond to that exposure. For critical habitat, 'may affect' is the appropriate conclusion if the action area overlaps with mapped areas of critical habitat and an essential physical or biological feature may be exposed to a consequence of a federal action and could change in response to that exposure.
2. Identify stressors or effects to the species and to the essential physical and biological features of critical habitat that overlaps with the action area. Consider all consequences of the action and assess the potential for each life stage of the species that occurs in the action area to be exposed to the stressors. Deconstruct the action into its component parts to be sure that you do not miss any part of the action that could cause effects to the species or physical and biological features of critical habitat. Stressors that affect species' resources may have consequences even if the species is not present when the project is implemented.
3. If no listed or proposed species will be exposed to stressors caused by the action, a 'no effect' determination may be appropriate – be sure to separately assess effects to critical habitat, if any overlaps with the action

area. If you determined that the proposed action or other activities that are caused by the proposed action may affect a species or critical habitat, the next step is to describe the manner in which they will respond or be altered. Specifically, to assess whether the species/critical habitat is "not likely to be adversely affected" or "likely to be adversely affected."

4. Determine how the habitat or the resource will respond to the proposed action (for example, changes in habitat quality, quantity, availability, or distribution), and assess how the species is expected to respond to the effects to its habitat or other resources. Critical habitat analyses focus on how the proposed action will affect the physical and biological features of the critical habitat in the action area. If there will be only beneficial effects or the effects of the action are expected to be insignificant or discountable, conclude "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" and submit your finding and supporting rationale to our office and request concurrence.
5. If you cannot conclude that the effects of the action will be wholly beneficial, insignificant, or discountable, check IPaC for species-specific Section 7 guidance and conservation measures to determine whether there are any measures that may be implemented to avoid or minimize the negative effects. If you modify your proposed action to include conservation measures, assess how inclusion of those measures will likely change the effects of the action. If you cannot conclude that the effects of the action will be wholly beneficial, insignificant, or discountable, contact our office for assistance.
6. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

For additional information on completing Section 7 Consultation including a Glossary of Terms used in the Section 7 Process, information requirements for completing Section 7, and example letters visit the Midwest Region Section 7 Consultations website at: <https://www.fws.gov/office/midwest-region-headquarters/midwest-section-7-technical-assistance>.

You may find more specific information on completing Section 7 on communication towers and transmission lines on the following websites:

- Incidental Take Beneficial Practices: Power Lines - <https://www.fws.gov/story/incidental-take-beneficial-practices-power-lines>
- Recommended Best Practices for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Maintenance, and Decommissioning. - <https://www.fws.gov/media/recommended-best-practices-communication-tower-design-siting-construction-operation>

Tricolored Bat Update

On September 14, 2022, the Service published a proposal in the Federal Register to list the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Service has up to 12-months from the date the proposal published to make a final determination, either to list the tricolored bat under the Act or to withdraw the proposal. The Service determined the bat faces extinction primarily due to the rangewide impacts of white-nose syndrome (WNS), a deadly fungal disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across North America. Because tricolored bat populations have been greatly reduced due to WNS, surviving bat populations are now more vulnerable to other stressors such as human disturbance and habitat loss. Species proposed for listing are not afforded protection under the ESA; however, as soon as a listing becomes effective (typically 30 days after publication of the final rule in the Federal Register), the prohibitions against jeopardizing its continued existence and "take" will apply. Therefore, if your future or existing project has the potential to adversely affect tricolored bats after the potential new listing goes into effect, we recommend that the effects of the project on tricolored bat and their habitat be analyzed to determine whether authorization under ESA section 7 or 10 is necessary. Projects with an existing section 7 biological opinion may require

reinitiation of consultation, and projects with an existing section 10 incidental take permit may require an amendment to provide uninterrupted authorization for covered activities. Contact our office for assistance.

Other Trust Resources and Activities

Bald and Golden Eagles

Although no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act, be aware that bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as are golden eagles. Projects affecting these species may require measures to avoid harming eagles or may require a permit. If your project is near an eagle nest or winter roost area, please contact our office for further coordination. For more information on permits and other eagle information visit our website <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management>. We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

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:

Illinois-Iowa Ecological Services Field Office

Illinois & Iowa Ecological Services Field Office

1511 47th Ave

Moline, IL 61265-7022

(309) 757-5800

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2026-0083109

Project Name: SV CSG Welter Road Solar, LLC

Project Type: Power Gen - Solar

Project Description: 1-5 MW community solar garden, planned for construction in 2026.
Project will include fencing around site, solar panels and racking, and supporting infrastructure.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.93375815,-88.4947044601908,14z>



Counties: Kane County, Illinois

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 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 Fisheries¹, 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.

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: Eastern Migratory NEP - U.S.A. (AL, AR, FL, GA, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, OH, SC, TN, VA, WI, WV) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non-Essential

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened
Western Regal Fritillary <i>Argynnis idalia occidentalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/12017	Proposed Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid <i>Platanthera leucophaea</i> Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/601	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Oct 15 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

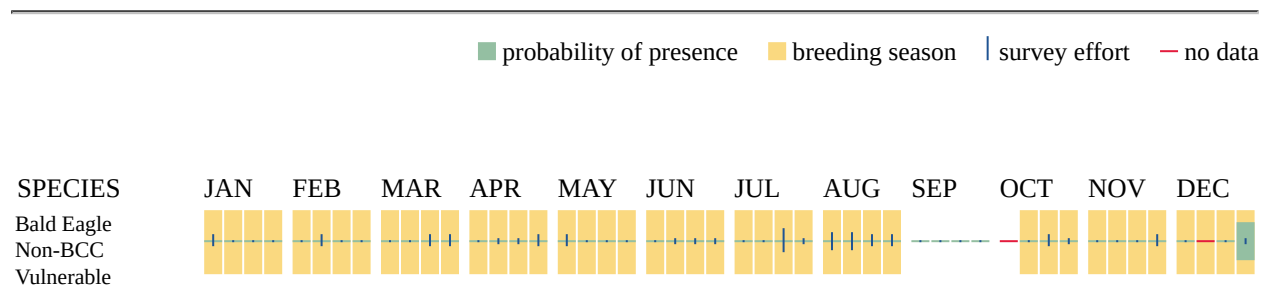
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>

- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

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1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Golden-plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10561	Breeds elsewhere
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Oct 15 to Aug 31
Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561	Breeds elsewhere
Prairie Loggerhead Shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8833	Breeds Feb 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478	Breeds elsewhere
Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9603	Breeds elsewhere
Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480	Breeds elsewhere
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

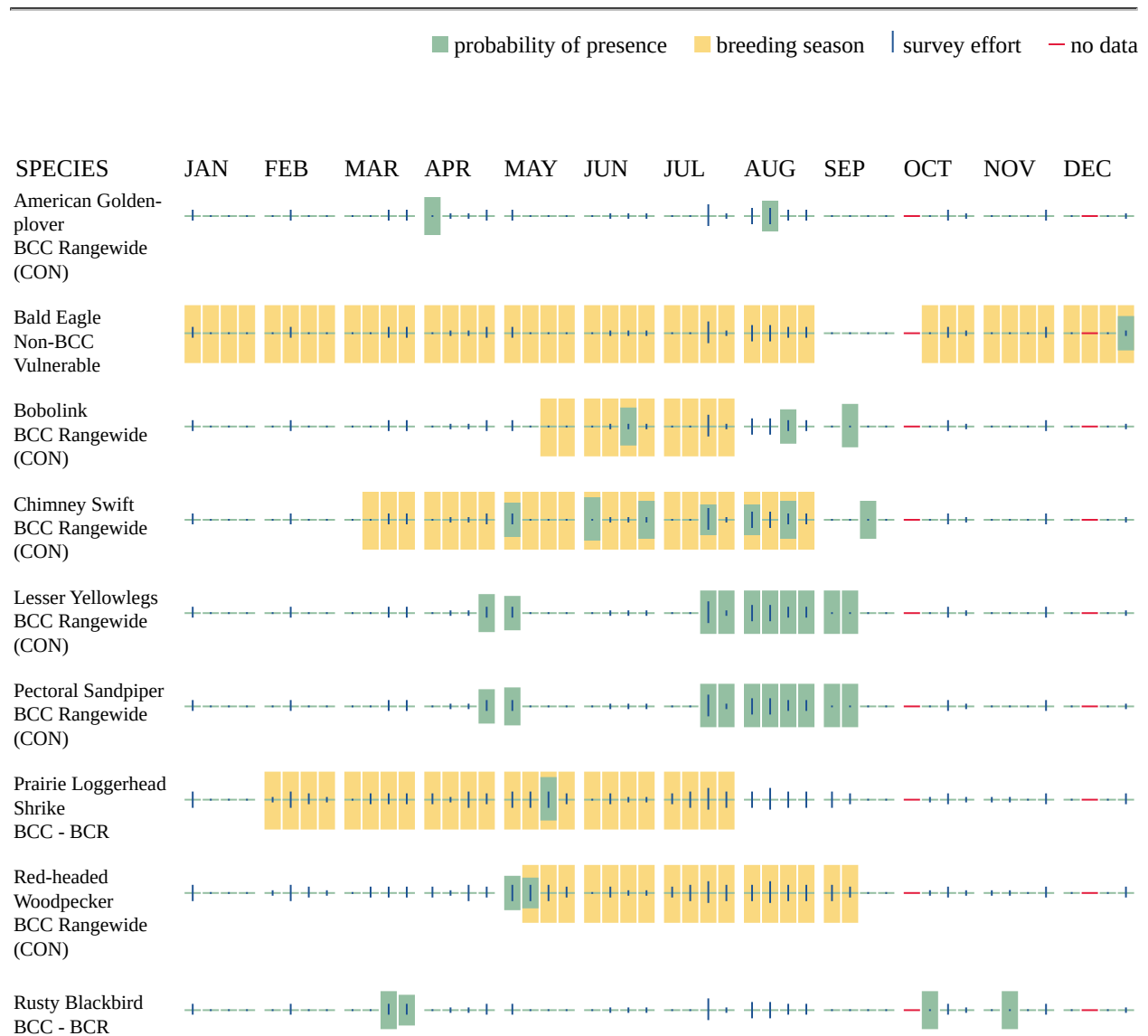
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

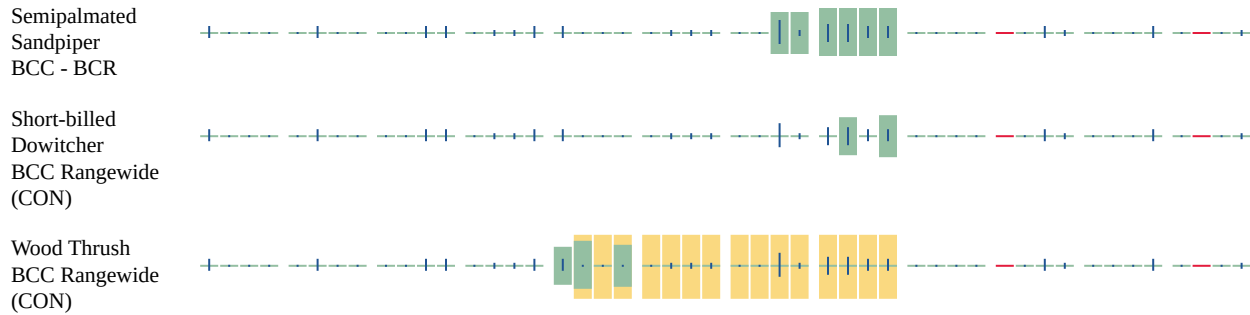
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1Ad

Appendix C:
EcoCAT Letter



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

JB Pritzker, Governor

Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director

April 29, 2026

Jason Spiegel
Jason Spiegel
13585 Freeland Ave N
Hugo, MN 55038

RE: SV CSG Welter Road Solar, LLC
Project Number(s): 2614424
County: Kane

Dear Applicant:

This letter is in reference to the project you recently submitted for consultation. The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT identified protected resources that may be in the vicinity of the proposed action. The Department has evaluated this information and concluded that adverse effects are unlikely. Therefore, consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is terminated.

However, the Department recommends:

Establishing pollinator-friendly habitat as groundcover wherever feasible. Solar Site Pollinator Establishment Guidelines can be found here:
<https://dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/pollinatorscorecard.html>

The site should be de-compacted before planting. Long term management of the site should be planned for prior to development to ensure successful native pollinator habitat establishment and prevent the spread of invasive species throughout the lifetime of this project. An experienced ecological management consultant should be hired to assist with long-term management.

Required fencing, excluding areas near or adjacent to public access areas, should have a 12-inch gap along the bottom to prevent the restriction of wildlife movement. Woven wire or a suitable habitat wildlife friendly fence should be used. Barbed wire should be avoided.



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

JB Pritzker, Governor

Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Adam Rawe

Adam Rawe
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
217-785-5500

Appendix D:

Field Photos



Representative agricultural land along the Study area western boundary viewed to the north from the southern boundary of the Study Area.



Representative agricultural land viewed to the east from the center of the Study Area.



Representative agricultural land, viewed to the south from the center of the Study Area.



Representative agricultural land, viewed to the northeast from the central portion of the Study Area.