Natural Resources Impact Review
SV CSG Sun Trust Solar, LLC
Kane County, Illinois

Prepared for:

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INTRODUCTION

Area M Consulting (Area M) was contracted to conduct a Natural Resource Impact Report for the SV CSG Sun Trust 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 approximately 43.5 acres, is located 1.0 miles west of Gilberts, IL in Section 23, T42N:R7E (Study Area) (Appendix A). The Project includes a flat, agricultural landform bounded by Tyler Creek to the south, narrow treed fence lines and open agricultural fields to the east and west, and Higgins Rd. to the north. The entirety of the Study Area is cultivated annually with corn planted in 2025. The surrounding landscape is dominated by infrastructure associated with the City of Gilberts and small developed suburban lots to the east, with interspersed cropland, drainageways (including Tyler Creek), riparian woodlands, and farmsteads dominating to the west, south and north. The entire Study Area is private property.

METHODS

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), was queried on August 16, 2025. 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 also evaluated through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (if noted in the IPaC Official Species List) to reach effect determinations for both species. The IDNR Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT) (For state species) was queried on August 16, 2025. 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 May 29, 2025. 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, **six** 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]
Blanding's turtle	*Emydoidea blandingii*	Reptile	SE	Yes	No	MANLA
Whooping crane	*Grus americana*	Bird	EXPA	No	No	NE
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	Insect	FPT	No	No	NE
Rusty patched bumble bee	*Bombus affinis*	Insect	FE	No	No	NE
Western regal fritillary	*Argynnis idalia occidentalis*	Insect	FPT	No	No	NE
Eastern prairie fringed orchid	*Platanthera leucophaea*	Plant	FT	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, 2024; IDNR, 2025a
[3] Effect Determination: NE – No effect; MANLA – May affect, not likely to adversely affect; May affect

- IPaC review
    - Three 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, 2025b).
- EcoCAT
    - The EcoCAT information request and letter from the IDNR has concluded that adverse effects to protected species are unlikely (Appendix C).
    - Therefore, consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is terminated.
    - IDNR recommends establishing pollinator-friendly habitat wherever feasible.
    - IDNR recommends fencing have a 6-inch gap along the bottom to prevent wildlife movement restriction.
    - IDNR recommends tree clearing between November 1 and March 31.
- Field Review
    - Suitable nesting habitat for the Blanding's turtle is present
    - No suitable habitat for other protected species is present.
    - No T&E species observed during the field survey

Blanding's turtle

The Blanding's turtle is medium-sized turtle with a bright yellow chin and throat native to the eastern and central portions of the United States. This species uses a wide range of wetland habitats, but prefers calm, shallow waters with vegetation and a mud bottom (IDNR, 2025c). Adjacent sandy uplands fields with friable soils are required for nesting; this includes uplands which are cropped annually. Due to the proximity of wetlands and presence of friable soils within the Study Area, suitable nesting and overwintering habitat for the Blanding's turtle is present. In the unlikely event that Blanding's turtles are found on site, relocate turtles in imminent danger by hand to safety. Note that the Illinois Natural Heritage dataset does contain records of this species within the Project vicinity and Area M has determined the Project May Affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect the Blanding's turtle.

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, 2025b). This species is large and conspicuous, with bright orange and black wings with white markings (USFWS, 2025c). 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. Furthermore, the entirety of the Study Area is cultivated annually. 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.

Rusty patch bumble bee

The Rusty patched bumble bee is a federally endangered bee with a black head and reddish patch on its back (males and workers) (USFWS, 2019a). Populations have declined precipitously in the past 20 years, resulting in the rusty patched bumble bee only inhabiting 5% of its historic range. The Study Area is fully contained within the mapped HPZ on the USFWS habitat connectivity model (USFWS, 2025d). This species prefers natural habitats with appropriate pollen and nectar availability; cultivated cropland is not considered suitable habitat (USFWS, 2019b). Due to the lack of natural or semi-natural vegetation within the Study Area, Area M has determined the Project will have No Effect on the Rusty Patch bumble bee

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. 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, 2024c). 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. The IPAC query showcases the following MBTA-protected species of particular concern within the Project vicinity, which represents birds with the highest conservation priorities (Birds of Conservation Concern).

- Black-billed Cuckoo *(Coccyzus erythropthalmus)*
- Bobolink *(Dolichonyx oryzivorus)*
- Chimney Swift *(Chaetura pelagica)*
- Eastern Whip-poor-will *(Antrostomus vociferus)*
- Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus)*
- Henslow's Sparrow *(Centronyx henslowii)*
- Lesser Yellowlegs *(Tringa flavipes)*
- Pectoral Sandpiper *(Calidris melanotos)*
- Prothonotary Warbler *(Protonotaria citrea)*
- Red-headed Woodpecker *(Melanerpes erythrocephalus)*
- Rusty Blackbird *(Euphagus carolinus)*
- Semipalmated Sandpiper *(Calidris pusilla)*
- Wood Thrush *(Hylocichla mustelina)*

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 not contain appropriate eagle nesting substrate, due to the lack of large, mature trees. The 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 USFWS, IDNR, and Area M have largely determined the Project will have "No Effect" on most species, with tailored mitigation like avoiding key nesting or breeding seasons where slight risks remain. The natural heritage dataset includes records of six Sensitive Resources within the Project vicinity. However, Area M has determined that the Project, as communicated, May Affect, not likely to adversely affect or have No Effect on these species due to the absence of habitat, a lack of impacts, or a lack of official observations within the Project vicinity. However, migratory bird species are present within the Project vicinity and will be nesting on the landscape from April - September.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains records of one State-listed T&E species, and no dedicated Illinois Natural Preserves, or registered Land and Water reserves within the vicinity of the Project. Blanding's turtles have been document occurring in the vicinity of the project, however, due to a lack of impacts to this species, IDNR has terminated consultation for this Project with the following additional recommendations: establishing pollinator-friendly habitat wherever feasible, fencing should have a 6-inch gap along the bottom to prevent wildlife movement restriction and tree clearing should occur between November 1 and March 31. Additionally, 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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USFWS. 2025c. Monarch Butterfly. Environmental Conservation Online System. Retrieved from: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

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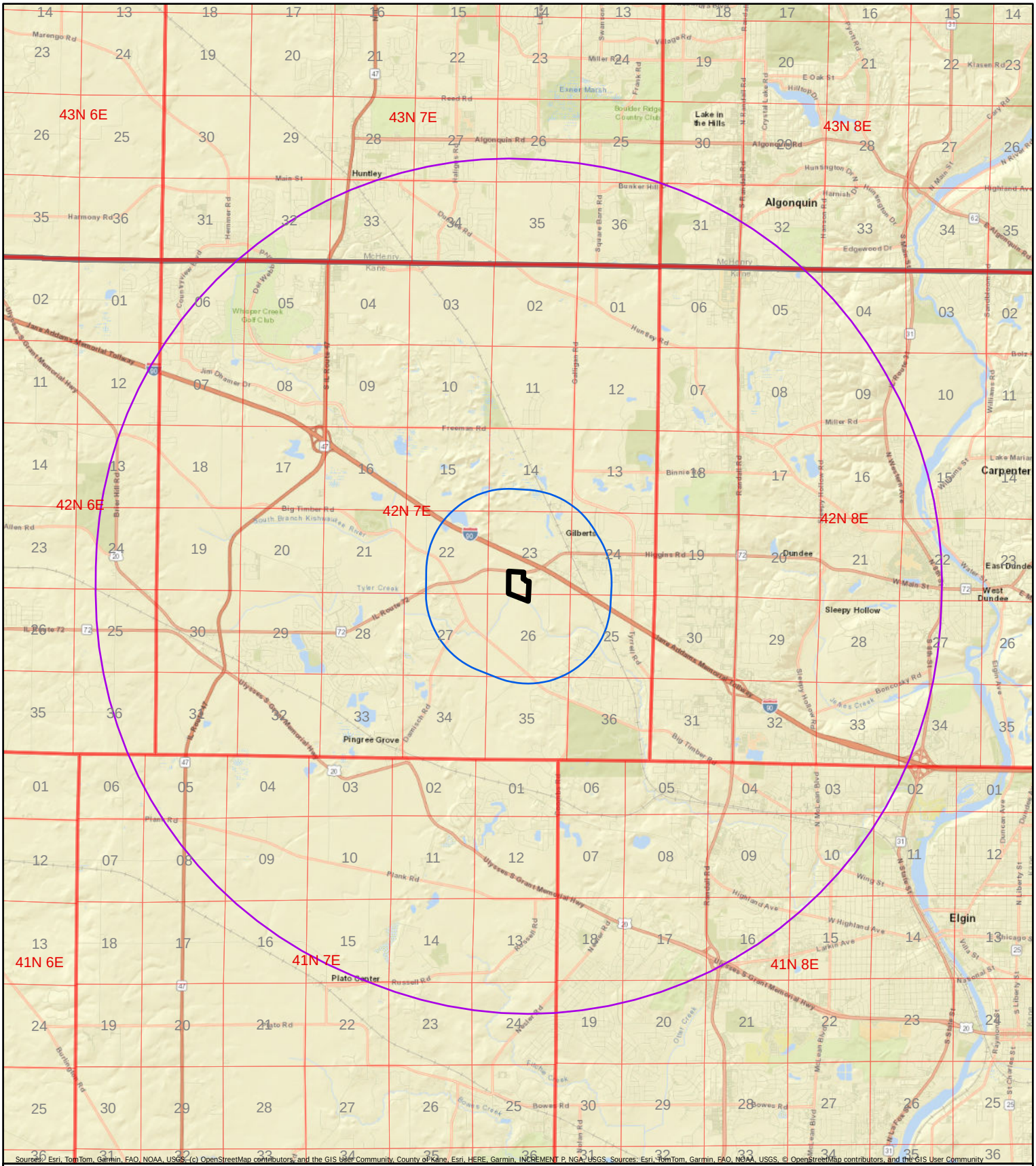
Urbanek, R. P. and J. C. Lewis (2020). Whooping Crane (Grus americana), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A. F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.whocra.01

Appendix A:

Maps



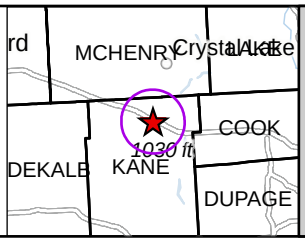
SV CSG Sun Trust Solar, LLC

Map 1. Location Map

Kane County, IL
S23&26 T42N:R7E
43.5 Acres
NAD 83 Zone 16

385327 N
4661569 E

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



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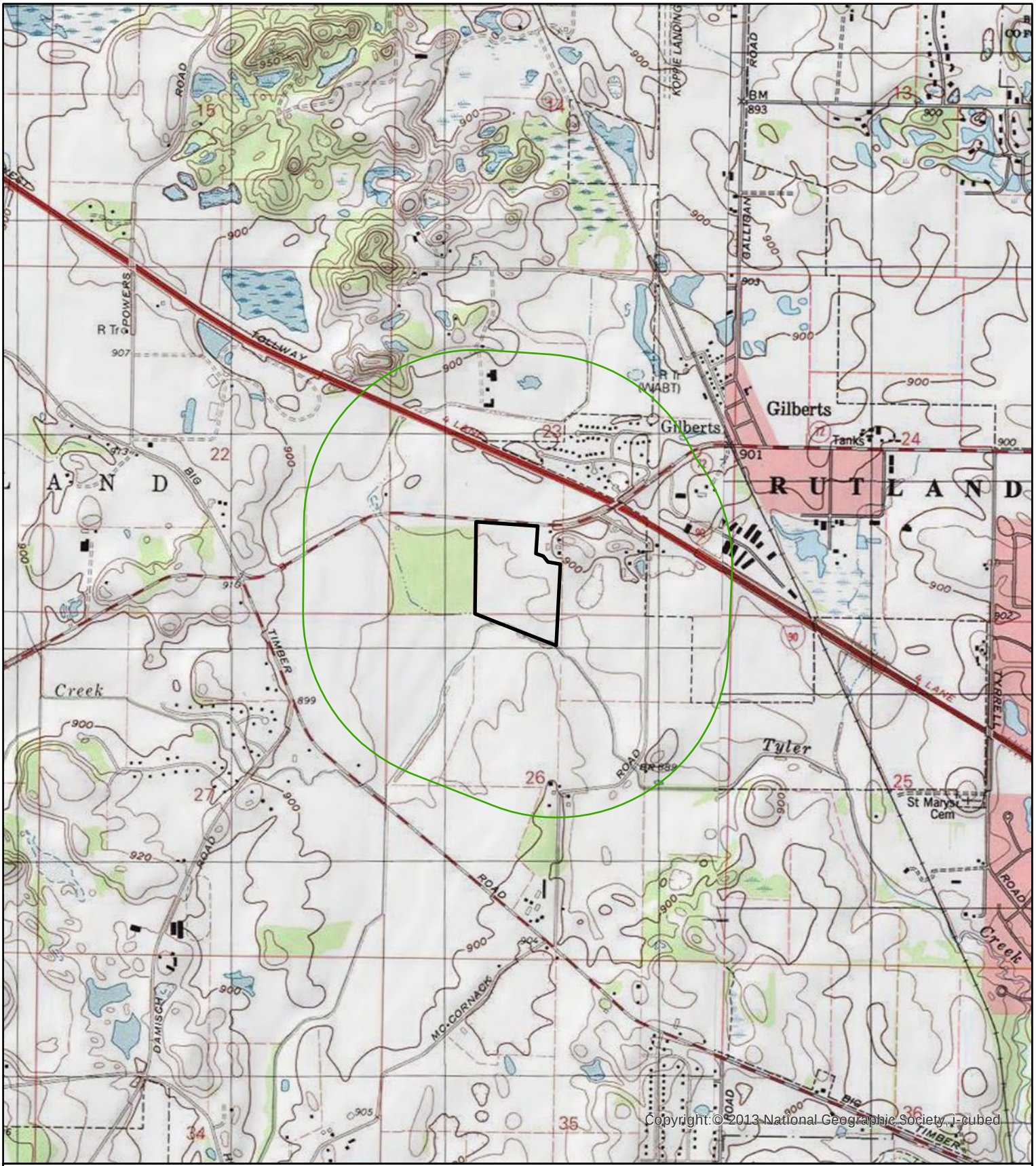

SV CSG Sun Trust Solar, LLC

Map 2. 1:24,000 Topographic

Kane County, IL

Study Area

0.5-mile Buffer

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AREA M

Miles

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1:24,000

SV CSG Sun Trust Solar, LLC

Map 3. Aerial Map

Kane County, IL

Study Area
NWI Wetland
NHD Flowline
NHD Waterbody
FWS Crit. Habitat
FWS Crit. Habitat

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0 100 200 400 Feet
1:3,850

Appendix B:

IPaC Report

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Project information

NAME

SV CSG Sun Trust Solar, LLC

LOCATION

Kane County, Illinois

DESCRIPTION

Some(5 MW Solar facility proposed for construction in 2026. No wetlands will be impacted. No trees will be removed.)

Local office

Chicago Ecological Service Field Office

(309) 757-5800

1511 47th Ave

Moline, IL 61265-7022

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Log in to IPaC.
2. Go to your My Projects list.
3. Click PROJECT HOME for this project.
4. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

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1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. 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.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Birds

NAME	STATUS

Whooping Crane Grus americana No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	EXPN

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Bombus affinis Wherever found There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9383	Endangered
Western Regal Fritillary Argynnis idalia occidentalis Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	Proposed Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Platanthera leucophaea Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/601	Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

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.

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 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

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.

Review the FAQs
The FAQs below provide important additional information and resources.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON

Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus — Breeds Oct 15 to Aug 31

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

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 (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

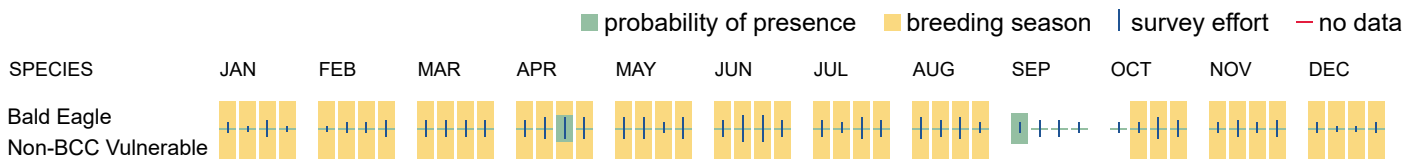
Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are an eagle (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requirements may apply).

Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort line or no data line (red horizontal) means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide you in knowing when to implement avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities or get the appropriate permits should presence be confirmed.

How do I know if eagles are breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your “IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY” at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate 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.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

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).

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

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

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Migratory Bird Impacts

Your IPaC Migratory Bird list showcases birds of concern, including Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), in your project location. This is not a comprehensive list of all birds found in your project area. However, you can help proactively minimize significant impacts to all birds at your project location by implementing the measures in the Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds document, and any other project-specific avoidance and minimization measures suggested at the link Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds for the birds of concern on your list below.

Ensure Your Migratory Bird List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area, 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 document, 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 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.

Review the FAQs

The FAQs below provide important additional information and resources.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus 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
Black-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399	Breeds May 15 to Oct 10
Bobolink Dolichonyx oryzivorus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Grasshopper Sparrow Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus 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/8329	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
Henslow's Sparrow Centronyx henslowii This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941	Breeds May 1 to Aug 31
Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes 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 Calidris melanotos This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere

Prothonotary Warbler Protonotaria citrea This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Rusty Blackbird Euphagus carolinus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere
Semipalmated Sandpiper Calidris pusilla This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere
Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	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 (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

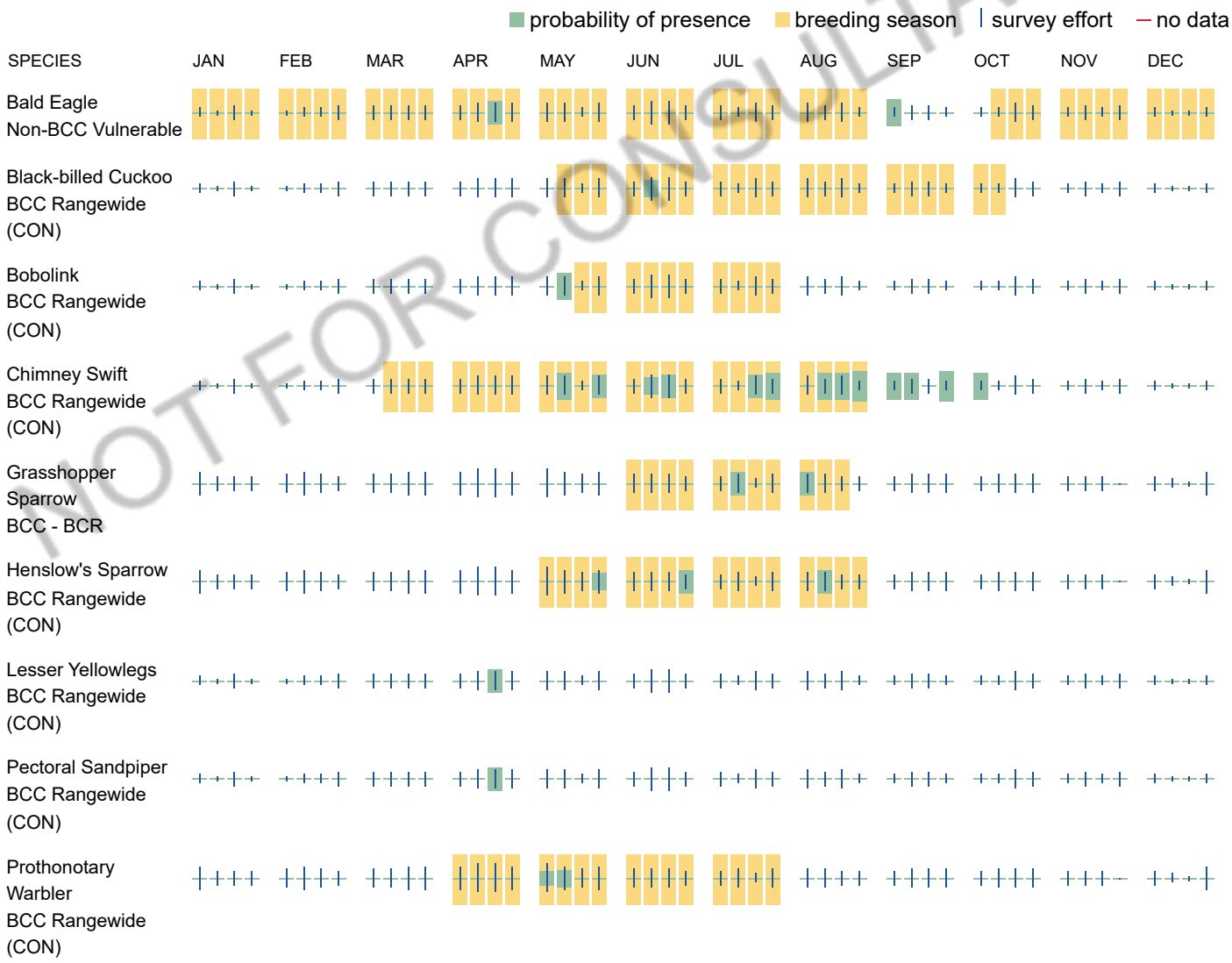
Breeding Season (▪)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

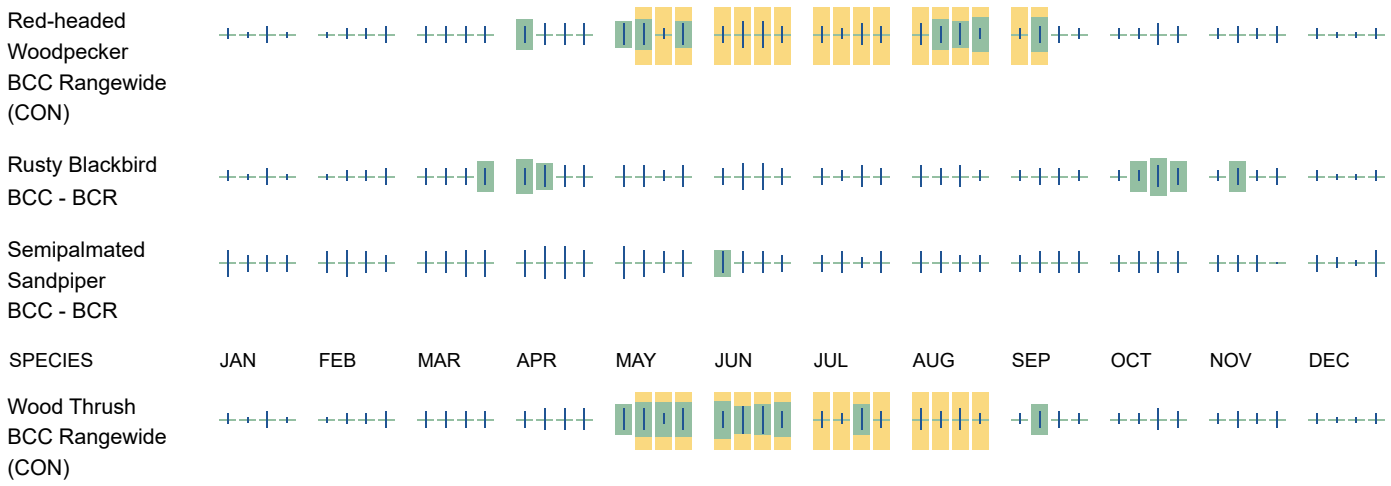
Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.





Migratory Bird FAQs

Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location, such as those listed under the Endangered Species Act or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and those species marked as "Vulnerable". See the FAQ "What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?" for more information on the levels of concern covered in the IPaC migratory bird species list.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) with which your project intersects. These species have been identified as warranting special attention because they are BCC species in that area, an eagle (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, and to verify survey effort when no results present, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

Subspecies profiles are included on the list of species present in your project area because observations in the AKN for **the species** are being detected. If the species are present, that means that the subspecies may also be present. If a subspecies shows up on your list, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if that subspecies may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your “IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY” at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially BCC species. For more information on avoidance and minimization measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts, please see the FAQ “Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds”.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list does not represent all birds present in your project area. It is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about avoidance and minimization measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:
The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate 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.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

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 at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

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.

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Appendix C:

EcoCAT Query

EcoCAT
Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Applicant: Area M Consulting
Contact: Jonathan Knudsen
Address: 2023 Alameda Street
Roseville, MN 55113

Project: SV CSG Sun Trust Solar, LLC
Address: 39 IL-72, Gilberts

IDNR Project Number: 2603586
Date: 08/16/2025

Description: 5MW solar facility comprosed of I-beams supporting the array, an access road, vegative screening, various equipment pads, and an infiltration pond.

Natural Resource Review Results

Consultation for Endangered Species Protection and Natural Areas Preservation (Part 1075)

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Blanding's Turtle *(Emydoidea blandingii)*
Mottled Sculpin *(Cottus bairdii)*

An IDNR staff member will evaluate this information and contact you to request additional information or to terminate consultation if adverse effects are unlikely.

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Kane

Township, Range, Section:
42N, 7E, 23
42N, 7E, 26

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact
Adam Rawe
217-785-5500
Division of Ecosystems & Environment

Government Jurisdiction
Kane County
Kane County
719 S. Batavia Ave, Bldg A
Geneva, Illinois 60134

Disclaimer

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database cannot provide a conclusive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of natural resources in Illinois. This review reflects the information existing in the Database at the time of this inquiry, 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, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations is required.

Terms of Use

By using this website, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to these terms. These terms may be revised by IDNR as necessary. If you continue to use the EcoCAT application after we post changes to these terms, it will mean that you accept such changes. If at any time you do not accept the Terms of Use, you may not continue to use the website.

1. The IDNR EcoCAT website was developed so that units of local government, state agencies and the public could request information or begin natural resource consultations on-line for the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act, Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, and Illinois Interagency Wetland Policy Act. EcoCAT uses databases, Geographic Information System mapping, and a set of programmed decision rules to determine if proposed actions are in the vicinity of protected natural resources. By indicating your agreement to the Terms of Use for this application, you warrant that you will not use this web site for any other purpose.

2. Unauthorized attempts to upload, download, or change information on this website are strictly prohibited and may be punishable under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986 and/or the National Information Infrastructure Protection Act.

3. IDNR reserves the right to enhance, modify, alter, or suspend the website at any time without notice, or to terminate or restrict access.

Security

EcoCAT operates on a state of Illinois computer system. We may use software to monitor traffic and to identify unauthorized attempts to upload, download, or change information, to cause harm or otherwise to damage this site. Unauthorized attempts to upload, download, or change information on this server is strictly prohibited by law.

Unauthorized use, tampering with or modification of this system, including supporting hardware or software, may subject the violator to criminal and civil penalties. In the event of unauthorized intrusion, all relevant information regarding possible violation of law may be provided to law enforcement officials.

Privacy

EcoCAT generates a public record subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Otherwise, IDNR uses the information submitted to EcoCAT solely for internal tracking purposes.

EcoCAT
Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoCAT Receipt

Project Code 2603586

APPLICANT	DATE
Area M Consulting Jonathan Knudsen 2023 Alameda Street Roseville, MN 55113	8/16/2025

DESCRIPTION	FEE	CONVENIENCE FEE	TOTAL PAID
EcoCAT Consultation	$ 125.00	$ 2.81	$ 127.81

TOTAL PAID $ 127.81

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
217-785-5500
dnr.ecocat@illinois.gov

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

August 19, 2025

Jonathan Knudsen
Area M Consulting
2023 Alameda Street
Roseville, MN 55113

RE: SV CSG Sun Trust Solar, LLC
Project Number(s): 2603586
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 6-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.

Trees should be cleared between November 1st and March 31st. All night lighting should follow IDA guidance.

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.

Isabella Newingham

Isabella Newingham
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
217-785-5500

Appendix D:

Field Photos

Representative agricultural landscape in the center of the Study Area, viewed to the northeast.

Representative agricultural landscape, viewed to the east from the northwestern boundary of the Study Area.

Representative agricultural landscape viewed to the south from the western boundary of the Study Area.

Representative agricultural landscape, viewed to the southeast from the west central boundary of the Study Area.