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October 29, 2010

Laura Darnell
Redwing Ecological Services, Inc.
1139 South Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203

Data Request 11-053

Dear Ms. Darnell:

This letter is in response to your data request of October 27, 2010 for the Ky Hwy 32 Reconstruction project. We have reviewed our Natural Heritage Program Database to determine if any of the endangered, threatened, or special concern plants and animals or exemplary natural communities monitored by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission occur near the project area on the Ault, Bruin, and Haldeman USGS Quadrangles, as shown on the map provided. Please see the attached reports for more information, which reflect analysis of the project area with three buffers applied:

- 1-mile for all records – 10 records
- 5-mile for aquatic records – 12 records
- 5-mile for federally listed species – no records
- 10-mile for mammals and birds – 23 records

Laurel Creek Gorge is a significant ecological site which harbors several rare aquatic and terrestrial species. The Ed Mabry-Laurel Gorge Wildlife Management area contains a portion of the site, but most is privately owned land. Efforts should be made to avoid impacts to this area.

Several occurrences of rare aquatic organisms are known to occur in area waters. These include: *Alasmidonta marginata* (Elktoe, KSNPC threatened, federal species of management concern), *Ichthyomyzon fossor* (Northern brook lamprey, KSNPC threatened), and *Percopsis omiscomaycus* (Trout-perch, KSNPC Special Concern, federal species of management concern). Aquatic species and habitats in the area are sensitive to increased turbidity, sediment, and other adverse influences on water quality. A written erosion control plan should be developed that

includes stringent erosion control methods (i.e., straw bales, silt fences and erosion mats, immediate seeding and mulching of disturbed areas), which are placed in a staggered manner to provide several stages of control. All erosion control measures should be monitored periodically to ensure that they are functioning as planned. Our data are not sufficient to guarantee absence of endangered, threatened or sensitive species from the sites of proposed construction disturbance. We recommend that impacted streams be thoroughly surveyed by a qualified biologist prior to any in-stream disturbance.

Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk, KSNPC special concern) can be found in a variety of habitats from semi-open farmland to woodland openings and borders. This species typically nests in areas of extensive forest, especially areas with some evergreen trees.

Corynorhinus rafinesquii (Rafinesque's big-eared bat, federal species of management concern, KSNPC special concern), *Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus* (Virginia big-eared bat, federally listed endangered, KSNPC endangered), *Myotis leibii* (Eastern small-footed myotis, federal species of management concern, KSNPC threatened), *Myotis grisescens* (Gray myotis, federally listed endangered, KSNPC threatened), and *Myotis sodalis* (Indiana myotis, federally listed endangered, KSNPC endangered) are known to occur within ten miles of the proposed project. A thorough survey for these species should be conducted by a qualified biologist if suitable habitat will be disturbed. The survey should include a search for potential roost and winter sites, and a mistnetting census at numerous points within the proposed corridor, particularly in preferred summer habitat. Summer foraging habitats include upland forests, bottomland forests and riparian corridors. Suitable roost and winter sites include sandstone and limestone caves, rockhouses, cliffhines, auger holes, and abandoned mines. In order to avoid impacts to bats, bottomland forests and riparian corridors, particularly near caves, should not be disturbed.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the terms of the data request license, which you agreed upon in order to submit your request. The license agreement states "Data and data products received from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, including any portion thereof, may not be reproduced in any form or by any means without the express written authorization of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission." The exact location of plants, animals, and natural communities, if released by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, may not be released in any document or correspondence. These products are provided on a temporary basis for the express project (described above) of the requester, and may not be redistributed, resold or copied without the written permission of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission's Data Manager (801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601. Phone: (502) 573-2886).

Please note that the quantity and quality of data collected by the Kentucky Natural Heritage Program are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Kentucky have never been thoroughly surveyed, and new plants and animals are still being discovered. For these reasons, the Kentucky Natural Heritage Program cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of biological elements in any part of Kentucky. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known to the Kentucky Natural Heritage Program at the time of the request regarding the biological elements or locations in

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question. They should never be regarded as final statements on the elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. We would greatly appreciate receiving any pertinent information obtained as a result of on-site surveys.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sara Hines
Data Manager

SLD/SGH

Enclosures: Data Report and Interpretation Key