

CHAPTER 6 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES UPDATE

This chapter summarizes the results of the 2010 summer field survey for Branching Bur-reed (*Sparganium angrocladum*), a Pennsylvania Endangered Species. As presented in Section 4.6.3 of the DEIS, a *Sparganium* species had been observed in several wetlands located along the Western Segment of both the Proposed Action and the Modified Proposed Action. However, due to the critical flowering/fruitletting time period required for precise field identification of this genus, identification down to the species level was not possible before issuance of the DEIS. Therefore, OEA conducted additional field surveys during the 2010 flowering/fruitletting season to make an accurate identification in this SDEIS.

The 2010 field surveys were conducted on July 21, 2010 and September 14, 2010. Samples of the suspect plant were collected from several different wetlands during both field surveys to acquire the appropriate parts of the plant at the right time of year necessary to make a positive identification. Based on a detailed and thorough analysis of the collected specimens, OEA concluded that the suspect plant would be the *Sparganium americanum*, not the endangered *Sparganium angrocladum*. OEA consulted with PA DCNR via submission of a field survey summary report and accompanying botanical field survey form. In its November 29, 2010 correspondence, PA DCNR concurred with OEA's finding, but requested that the same wetlands be re-surveyed prior to submitting the project's Section 404/Chapter 105 waterway encroachment permit application to PA DEP because of a known population of *Sparganium angrocladum* that exists upstream, to ensure that no *Sparganium angrocladum* has spread to the project area. Appendix D contains copies of OEA's field survey summary report, as well as PA DCNR's November 29, 2010 concurrence letter.

Given this finding, and PA DCNR's request for one final pre-permitting survey, OEA has removed VM 20 from RJCP's voluntary mitigation presented in the DEIS and included the following mitigation measure in its recommended mitigation in this SDEIS:

“RJCP shall re-survey the applicable wetland habitats located along the selected alternative prior to Section 404/Chapter 105 permitting by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that no *Sparganium angrocladum* has spread to the project area. If any specimens of *Sparganium angrocladum* are discovered during the re-survey, RJCP shall coordinate with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to implement appropriate mitigation measures during project construction.”

This new mitigation measure has been included in Chapter 7 of this SDEIS.

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