ENVIRONMENTAL & BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT & MITIGATION PLAN - DES MOINES WASTEWATER RECLAMATION AUTHORITY - DES MOINES, IOWA

SCOPE OF PROJECT

Barker Lemar was retained by the Des Moines Wastewater Reclamation Authority (DMWRA) to delineate wetlands, develop a forested wetland mitigation plan, and assess the Indiana bat habitat along the six-mile North River interceptor sewer line.

Barker Lemar staff worked along the North River identifying wetlands and evaluating and documenting potential Indiana bat habitat along the six-mile pipeline route and along the 100-foot construction corridor. Barker Lemar was also retained to evaluate the construction zone for habitat that might contain other federal and state endangered or threatened plant and animal species. Time was a critical component of this project ,as some seasonal plants were entering the end of their blooming season, and some mammals were approaching the acceptable season to capture them.

IMPLEMENTATION

Barker Lemar quickly identified the time-critical nature of this project. In the late summer, some plants are not readily identified in the field and the Indiana bat is not often captured after mid-August. Barker Lemar initiated communication with regulatory agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Understanding the specific species to look for and their preferred habitats was critical in determining appropriate field work. Barker Lemar performed an evaluation of habitat, then developed a team of field biologists with specific experience searching for, identifying, and capturing the threatened and endangered species that regulatory agencies asked to be addressed. Barker Lemar developed a two-acre forested wetland mitigation plan for DMWRA to mitigate some lost forested wetlands.

SERVICES

Barker Lemar performed a wetland delineation, an evaluation of habitat specific to threatened and endangered species, contracted biologists with unique experience, special skills, equipment, and the required state and federal permits, and designed the forested wetland mitigation area.

TIMELINE

Project Start Date: Summer 2006
Project Completed: 2007