



MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

August 1, 2018

Wild Creek Watershed Coalition
P. O. Box 1384
Albrightsville, PA 18210

Dear Wild Creek Watershed Coalition:

The Maryland Ornithological Society is very concerned about the two proposed wind power projects in the Wild Creek Watershed. We are motivated to voice these concerns because our members visit Pennsylvania to admire its birdlife, including the Bethlehem area, and several species that grace much of Maryland only in migration, such as the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, breed in the Wild Creek Watershed. The watershed hosts several bird species of conservation concern ranging from state to international level, including Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, Whip-poor-will, Brown Creeper, Wood Thrush, and Golden-winged Warbler.

Two different wind projects are proposed. One would build 37 turbines, clear 292 acres of forest, and create up to 16 miles of impervious surface roads, fragmenting 24% of the Wild Creek Watershed. The other project would build 28 turbines, clear 203 acres, and up to 14 miles of impervious road, fragmenting 20% of the watershed.

Forest fragmentation will create more edge habitat, exposing forest interior birds to predators and nest parasites, and creating openings for invasive plants. Forest Interior Dwelling Species, such as Scarlet Tanager and Wood Thrush require large expanses of unbroken forest to successfully breed. The placement of turbines on the ridge tops also threaten migrating raptors, who follow ridge lines to use the orographic uplift created when winds hit upslopes.

Cumulative effects must also be considered. One or two projects might kill only a few individual birds, but as wind turbines spread over the landscape, the cumulative totals will mount.

MOS would like to see the unbroken forest of Wild Creek Watershed preserved, and not fragmented by this ill-considered wind project.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Kurt R. Schwarz
Conservation Chair
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