



## **Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology**

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The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) is writing to express its concern regarding the proposed wind turbine development in the Wild Creek Watershed, Carbon County.

The conservation and protection of wild birds in Pennsylvania is an important part of our mission statement and we feel the proposed project will be detrimental to the native birds of the area. Forest fragmentation will alter the habitat required by interior forest birds by creating open areas in the forest, effectively chopping up the closed canopy interior forest birds require. The wind turbines are a danger to migrating birds of prey that use the ridgetops as corridors while migrating to their wintering grounds. There are several species of concern that nest in the area including Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Wood Thrush and Golden-winged Warbler. Disruption of their habitat will result in population reduction of these vulnerable species.

In addition plant communities in the area will also be affected by the construction. This will disrupt the life cycles of insects, mammals and other organisms that will ultimately affect the birds that rely on insects, mammals and plant seeds and fruits as a source of food. The roadsides will also act as a vector for invasion of non-native species that can out compete native species.

The impact on humans must also be taken into consideration. The Penn Forest Reservoir near the site risks sedimentation from soil runoff that will be increased by removing large tracts of forest. There is also potential for contamination from fuel and oil spills that will affect thousands of local residents. Given the recent landslides due to heavy rain, the removal of sections of forest has the potential to compromise the stability of the earth itself, putting residents in danger of property damage and personal safety, contamination of water resources and agricultural damage.

While we recognize the benefits of clean, renewable energy sources, this is associated with environmental destruction which is counter intuitive.

Respectfully submitted,

The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology