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**From:** Douglas, Barbara [[mailto:barbara\\_douglas@fws.gov](mailto:barbara_douglas@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 18, 2012 2:39 PM  
**To:** Facemire, Lovell R; jason workman  
**Subject:** swp - corridor H planning

Hi guys - I have attached my quick list of items to think about when planning alternatives for Corr H/SWP and getting to a NLAA determination. Some of them should be relatively easy to address, a few might take a little more thought. The FS and DNR folks can probably help us flesh out specifics once we get a little more info from your folks about what the design options and constraints are. Give me a call if you have any questions, and hope this helps you and your folks with your efforts. If I don't talk to have a great xams and new years!  
Barb

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**Items to incorporate into project planning to make sure that Corridor H will not adversely affect the small-whorled pogonia:**

- Establish a vertical and horizontal buffer distance from the plant – avoid construction within this distance. The buffer should be large enough to maintain existing canopy cover, sunlight & moisture regimes. It would be helpful to model or develop visuals of how construction of the new bridge alternatives will affect sunlight on the known occurrence of SWP.
- Minimize overall clearing of vegetation in Panther Run watershed – particularly in the valley areas where SWP pops have been found.
- Avoid changes in to the hydrology of the stream & banks (avoid fill in stream or floodplain of Panther Run including at the bridge and any sections of the road upstream in the watershed).
- Avoid increases in sedimentation or erosion at the site (control and minimize cut and fill in areas upslope or upstream of the plant including any sections of the road upstream in the watershed; make sure that disturbed areas downstream of the site don't erode into the floodplain; have a good overall sediment and erosion control plan).
- Minimize the number of piers or design piers to minimize need for cut/fill or potential issues with flood debris.
- Avoid activities that would increase non-native invasive species (garlic mustard, Japanese stiltgrass, etc). Re-seed disturbed areas with native seed mixes (work with the FS and other to develop an appropriate and specific mix of seeds); rinse any construction equipment entering Panther Run area; replant areas not to be maintained as ROW with native woody vegetation.
- Direct run-off or spills from roadway and bridge away from SWP populations and Panther Run.
- Make sure to plan for access roads, and areas to be used for spoil or fill so that the items above are addressed for these aspects of construction as well.
- Survey any new alignments to make sure no other T&E/sensitive species are present in ROW.
- Develop a monitoring plan for plant & habitat conditions (including invasive species) around known populations pre and post-construction.
- Develop plan to monitor contractor so that all conservation measures are implemented as planned.

- Make sure that long-term maintenance activities (spraying, mowing, etc.) will not affect the species.

**From:** Stout, Elizabeth [[mailto:elizabeth\\_stout@fws.gov](mailto:elizabeth_stout@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 8:17 AM  
**To:** Bodnar, David P  
**Cc:** Cummings, Traci L; Facemire, Lovell R; Hark, Ben L; John Schmidt; Barb Douglas;  
[alison.rogers@dot.gov](mailto:alison.rogers@dot.gov)  
**Subject:** Corridor H Kerens-Parsons Small Whorled Pogonia Meeting follow-up

Dave,

The Service would like to thank and compliment DOH for the efforts presented during the Corridor H Kerens-Parsons small whorled pogonia meeting on February 5. The studies on the alignment shifts, shadow modeling, and hydrological studies and mitigation strategy were very well-researched. Based on the information presented to date, we concur with pursuing the shift 3 alignment as the preferred alternative to address SWP concerns. While we recognize that there are many additional details to work out, if you continue to work to resolve these remaining issues with the conscientious approach evident at the meeting, and if the ideas presented in the shift 3 alignment study are carried forward and executed in final design, the Service believes that formal consultation on small whorled pogonia can be likely be avoided.

The Service would also like to compliment the DOH for developing the partnership with the Smithsonian. The Smithsonian's participation helped to gather more data on the populations of small whorled pogonia present at the project site, and to understand how the plant may respond to project-related activities. We hope that the Smithsonian will continue to be able to offer their expertise as this project progresses. Additionally, the Service previously recommended that monitoring on the populations of small whorled pogonia be completed. Monitoring should be conducted using an expert who is familiar with the plant in this region. The Service highly recommends that the Corridor H monitoring efforts be based, at least in part, after the approach the Smithsonian has already developed for other populations in the region. This would allow for comparisons of results across sites and well as the development of collaborative recovery efforts with other partners. Continued monitoring would also be helpful for the overall recovery of the species.

We look forward to continued cooperative efforts on the Corridor H Kerens-Parsons Section project. If you would like to discuss this further, or if you have any future questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

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*\*\*Due to an imposed hiring freeze and the inability to back fill positions, we are significantly delayed in our project review times and response times to phone calls and emails. Please be patient; we will address projects in the order in which they are received.\*\**