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From: "Leonard Hess" <lnlhess@kiski.net>
To: "PABIODIV" <pabiodiv@webmail.upb.pitt.edu>
Subject: PABIODIV: Fw: Mammal habitats worth saving

The article below is in regard to the Important Mammal Area Project in Pennsylvania, which is based on the Important Bird Area concept. What the article doesn't tell you is that to nominate a site, you should contact the IMAP office at 717-232-3480 or imap@pa.net, 2426 North Second St. Harrisburg, PA 17110. The FAX number is 717-231-3480.

The project is being conducted jointly by the National Wildlife Federation, Pa. Wildlife Federation, Pa. Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Pa. Game Commission, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Mammal Technical Committee of the Pa. Biological Survey, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

This project is worthy of our support. If you know of a site that might qualify, please contact IMAP.

Len Hess
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Saltsburg, PA

----- Original Message -----
From: "Monica Willett (Sierra Club)" <sierra.activist@paonline.com>

Mammal habitats worth saving

By MARK E. JOLLY
Thursday, January 2, 2003
Doylestown Intelligencer

Pennsylvania is hosting the first effort in the country to identify important mammal areas, and officials coordinating the project are looking for help from anyone who spends time outdoors, whether as a Scout leader, hunter or hiker.

A little more than halfway through its initial stage of gathering nominations and data on sites around the state, the Important Mammal Areas Project is making good progress, according to its coordinator, Alana Hartman.

So far, she has received 56 nominations from more than 50 counties, including a site in Upper Bucks. More nominations can only help lead to a more complete list of areas when the nominations are winnowed down to the most significant sites in September.

"That land will be in a database as, basically, a place that has good habitat for mammals, and therefore it will get some more attention," Hartman said. "It is important to make sure people know it doesn't carry any regulatory aspect to it. It doesn't mean that if somebody owns that land they have to automatically do something different."

Sharon Yates, vice president of planning at the Heritage Conservancy, said the list could help conservation organizations and state agencies rank projects.

"Because there is so much work to be done, we all have to be looking for ways to prioritize," she said. "It helps us to make decisions."

The Heritage Conservancy has made one nomination, of the Durham Mine in Upper Bucks because of its large numbers of five different species of bats. Yates said the group would be interested in nominating more if it learns of other areas in the county that fulfill the IMA criteria.

Hartman said the basic guideline for nominations is that an area should fall into one or more of five categories.

They are:

- It supports diverse or unique mammal communities;
- It has a high-density population of a certain species;
- It has mammals listed as endangered or threatened by Pennsylvania;
- It is a candidate species for Pennsylvania protection or is vulnerable nationally;
- It is important for public education about mammals.

The state has 64 species of wild mammals, according to Hartman, with about 20 that are either listed as endangered or candidates to be listed by the state. (Only one species, the Indiana bat, is considered endangered by the federal government, Hartman said.)

Nominations for important mammal areas can come from anyone, though most to this point have been from scientists, either in university settings or working for the state. Some have come from private citizens, however, and a few sites have been nominated by environmental education organizations.

Biologists from universities and government agencies will meet in September to decide which nominations deserve designation as Important Mammal Areas. The IMA project is patterned after an Important Bird Areas project run by the Audubon Society. It has identified nearly 80 areas in Pennsylvania and more than 1,200 across the country.

Mark E. Jolly can be contacted via e-mail at mjolly@phillyburbs.com.

Article's URL: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/article.cfm?id=16393>

The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Listserve encourages open discussion about biodiversity issues in the state. It is hosted by the Allegheny Institute of Natural History, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and is moderated by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership. The opinions expressed in messages are those of the authors and NOT the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership.