



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Maine Field Office – Ecological Services
1168 Main Street
Old Town, ME 04468
(207) 827-5938 Fax: (207) 827-6099

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/Region5/ES/MEFO

May 30, 2006

Dana Valleau
TRC
249 Western Avenue
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Mr. Valleau:

Thank you for your letter dated May 5, 2006 requesting information or recommendations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This letter provides the Service's response pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661-667d).

Project Name/Location: TransCanada transmission corridor – Kibby Twp. to Wyman Substation

Log Number: 06-306

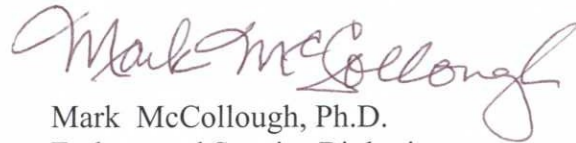
Based on the information currently available to us, no federally-listed species under the jurisdiction of the Service are known to occur in the project area, with the exception of occasional, transient bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). As we have discussed previously, the Service recommends that ½ mile on either side of the transmission corridor route be surveyed for bald eagle nests. Optimal timing for surveys is April or May early in the incubation period. TransCanada and TRC conducted a survey in the spring of 2006 and a new eagle nest was located near the Wyman Substation. New eagle nests could be established in the future. We recommend that an eagle nest survey be completed prior to construction of transmission corridor to ensure that construction activities do not adversely affect nesting eagles. Accordingly, no further action is required under Section 7 of the ESA, unless: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered in this review; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

The rock vole, a state special concern species is located on several ridges in Kibby Township. See the enclosed map for further details. Please contact Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 689 Farmington Road, Strong, ME 04983 Phone:207 778-3324 for more information.

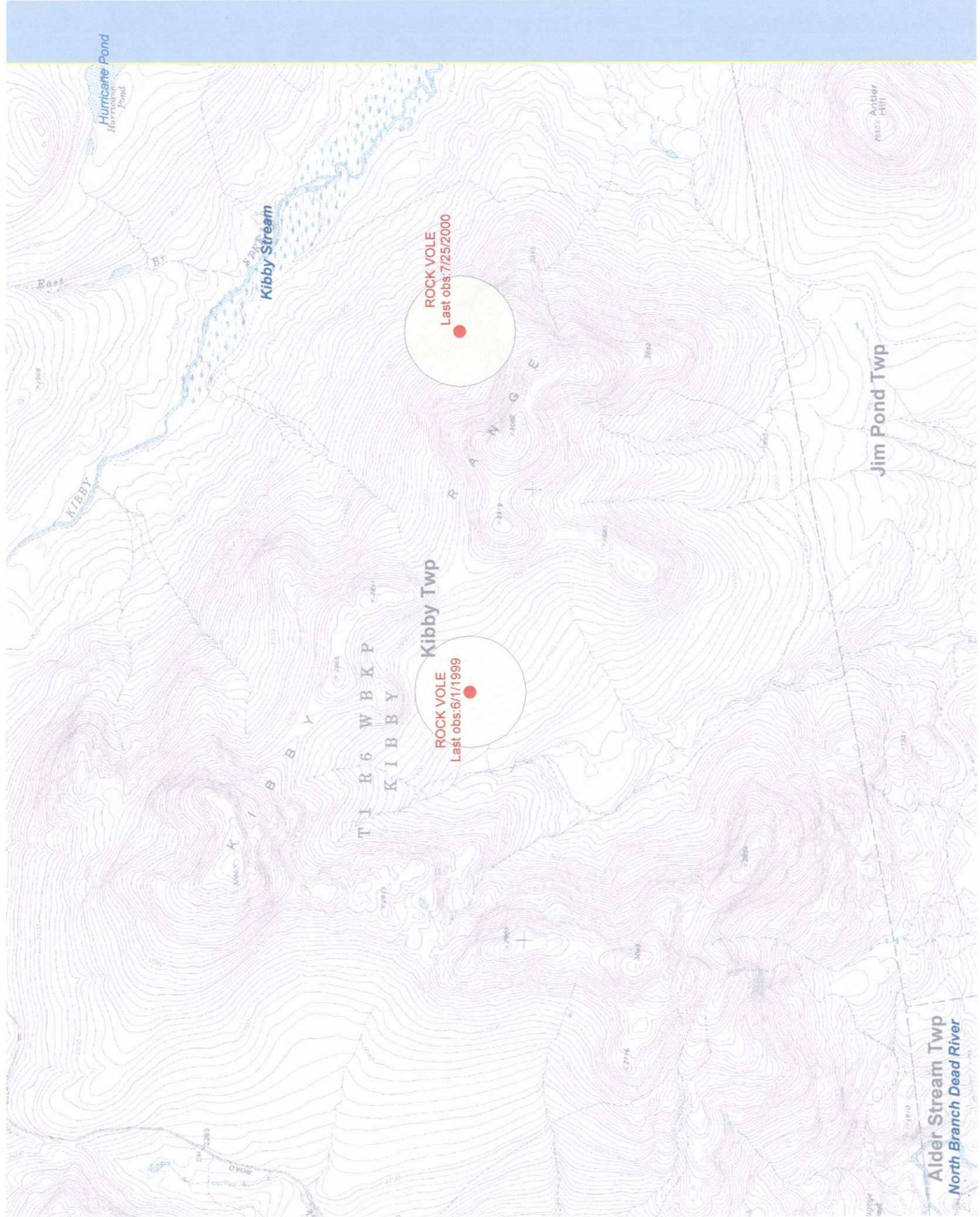
Please contact the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Maine Natural Areas Program for an up to date account of state-listed species in the project area.

If you have any questions, please call me at (207) 827-5938.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark McCollough". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mark McCollough, Ph.D.
Endangered Species Biologist



Hurricane Pond
Hurricane Pond

Kibby Stream

ROCK VOLE
Last obs: 7/25/2000

Kibby Twp

ROCK VOLE
Last obs: 6/1/1999

Jim Pond Twp

Alder Stream Twp
North Branch Dead River