

Threats from STAMP: Ecology, Biodiversity, and Conservation

Ecology and Biodiversity

- Scientists from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry have documented an unusually high diversity of plants and animals on the Nation territory nearest to the STAMP site.
- Some of these species are endangered and threatened, including the Short-Eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*, Endangered in NY), Northern Harrier (*Chordeiles inornatus*, Threatened in NY).
- The Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*, Endangered) has been observed near STAMP.
- Grassland birds documented on STAMP site also include the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Species of Greatest Conservation Need – High Priority), Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*, Species of Greatest Conservation Need – High Priority), and Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*, Common Birds Steep Decline watchlist).
- Rare plant community types on the STAMP site include Rich Mesophytic Forest and Floodplain Forest (S2S3).
- Heart-leaf Plantain (*Plantago cordata*; Threatened in NY) and Shellbark Hickory (*Carya laciniosa*; Threatened in NY) are among the rare plants found on the site. This population of Heartleaf Plantain is the only one [occurring outside the Hudson River area](#).
- American Gromwell (*Lithospermum latifolium*, Threatened), occurs in abundance on neighboring territory of Tonawanda Seneca Nation, located immediately to the west of STAMP site.
- STAMP would destroy nearly 700 acres of occupied habitat for these species.

Local and Regional Conservation

- The STAMP project is sited in the center of a cluster of protected areas including the Tonawanda Seneca Nation territory, the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area and John White Wildlife Management Area (NY Department of Environmental Conservation), & the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (US Fish and Wildlife Service, part of the Department of the Interior).
- According to the Western NY Land Conservancy, these lands should be viewed - and valued - [as a connected greenway](#). The Nature Conservancy also recognizes this value, assigning these areas a high ranking in its Resilient Landscapes mapping tool.

- Industrial development in this region would irreparably damage one of the largest wetland complexes in NY state.
- Industrial development in this region would compromise the last remaining opportunity for large-scale conservation in north-western NY. Habitat fragmentation poses a major threat to critical conservation efforts in the region.
- Three high-ranking wetlands on the STAMP site are located in close proximity to the Nation territory.
- The STAMP site plan locates the largest, and potentially the most damaging, manufacturing facility immediately adjacent to the highest-quality habitats located on the Tonawanda Seneca Nation territory.

Water

- The site plan for STAMP fails to account for the pollution impacts from an estimated daily increase of 600 diesel trucks per day on a rural country road and a wastewater pipeline discharging up to 6 million gallons daily (MGD) of effluent through the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge into Oak Orchard Creek.
- Current STAMP tenant Plug Power proposes to implement a wastewater "purification" process that would raise local in-stream water temperatures, concentrate minerals and other impurities in wastewater by at least 15x, and use 135,000 gallons per day of municipal grade water.
- Runoff from the STAMP site flows west toward high-quality wetlands on the Tonawanda Seneca Nation.
- Runoff from STAMP site parking lots will contain de-icing salts during winter months, causing the salinization of nearby waterways and conditions likely to result in the replacement of biodiverse plant communities with monocultures of salt tolerant competitors such as Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).
- Whitney Creek, which flows through the STAMP site, currently earns the highest Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) score based on riparian area quality, fish and aquatic invertebrate habitat, hydrologic alteration, and canopy cover. This Creek, site of highest water quality for flowing streams in the areas, is also planned as the location for the site's most intensive manufacturing operations.

Runoff from the STAMP site will significantly impair local and regional waterways. Climate change impacts have not been analyzed.