

Flickertail Solar Project, LLC
Flickertail Solar Project
PU-24-351

Resource	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Commitments
	Land Classifications
Vegetation	- Based on an assessment of the Project Area, no unbroken grassland is present. As a result, the Project will not impact unbroken grasslands. - The Project has been sited to minimize impacts to trees and shrubs to the extent practical. For trees/shrubs removed as a result of Project construction, Flickertail will comply with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) tree and shrub mitigation specifications, subject to a request for approval to clear wider than 50 feet in specified areas. - In coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Richland County Soil Conservation District, and the Richland County Weed Board, Flickertail developed a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP). In accordance with the VMP, disturbed areas will be seeded with native grasses and forb species using seed mixes identified in consultation with the NRCS. Additionally, the VMP outlines measures for preventing and controlling noxious weeds.
Floodplains	- Flickertail identified Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-mapped 100-year floodplains within the Project Area. - Project facilities have been sited to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the 100-year floodplain to the extent practical. Where there is no reasonable alternative, two access roads cross the floodplain, resulting in a permanent impact to the floodplain of 0.23 acre. However, the access roads will have a gravel base and be constructed at grade, so no increase to the base flood elevation is anticipated.
Wetlands and Waterbodies	- Flickertail conducted field surveys to delineate wetlands and waterbodies within the Project area. - Project facilities have been sited to avoid permanent and temporary impacts to wetlands and surface waters. Electrical collection cables intersecting wetlands and waterbodies will be installed via horizontal directional drill/bore under the wetland/waterbody, thereby avoiding impacts. - If temporary impacts to United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional waters were to occur, these activities are anticipated to fall under the impact threshold for coverage under the Nationwide Permit program.

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	Flickertail will implement appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) and obtain coverage under the North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) General Stormwater Permit (GSP), which requires the preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
Wildlife	
Threatened & Endangered Species	- Flickertail coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the USFWS did not identify any specific concerns regarding impacts to federally endangered or threatened species. - A Determination Key review through the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) for potential effects of the Project on the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) resulted in a “may affect, but not likely to effect” finding. - Flickertail designed the Project to minimize tree clearing to the extent practicable, which also minimizes potential impacts to NLEB. Additionally, Flickertail is committed to winter tree clearing between November 1 and April 14, when bats are hibernating or inactive.
Other Wildlife Species	- North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department’s North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory database indicated that no known plant or animal species of concern or significant ecological communities are documented within or immediately adjacent to the Project. - There are no bald or golden eagle nests within the Project Area or a 660-foot buffer. - In coordination with North Dakota Department of Game and Fish (NDGF), Flickertail conducted sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken lek surveys; no active sharp-tailed grouse or greater prairie chicken leks were observed. - Following construction, ground cover under, between, and within the fenced array areas around the solar panels will be seeded with native grasses, forb species, and/or pollinator-friendly habitat. Outside the fenced areas, the current use may continue, or the areas will be seeded with native and/or pollinator-friendly habitat, planted with trees/shrubs, or some combination thereof. Farmed wetlands within the fenced perimeters will be revegetated with wetland species characteristic of the region. Thus, the Project Area is anticipated to provide potential habitat for grassland species. Accordingly, grassland areas and restored wetlands in and around the Project are anticipated

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	to provide potential suitable habitat for grassland species and waterfowl and waterbirds.
Cultural Resources	
Archaeological Resources	• Flickertail conducted a Class I literature search and a Class III cultural resource field inventory for all areas of the Project that will be impacted by Project facilities and construction activities. • One site lead and one site that are unevaluated for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing were identified within the Project Area. The Project facilities have been sited to avoid these two unevaluated sites. • Flickertail prepared an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan outlining the steps to be taken if previously unrecorded cultural resources or human remains are encountered during construction.
Architectural Resources	• Flickertail conducted a Class III architectural history survey of areas within 0.5 mile of the solar arrays. • During the survey, six structures were identified for further assessment for NRHP eligibility. • The Project will not directly impact the six structures. Additionally, due to the presence of the shelterbelts around the structures and the distance between the Project's solar arrays and the structures, the Project is not anticipated to diminish the historical integrity of the structures.