



# WHAT WE HEARD FROM DISTRICTS AND DIVISIONS

## THE TOOLS WE HAVE DEVELOPED AND PLAN TO DEVELOP BASED ON WHAT WE HEARD



# Engagement Goals and Objectives



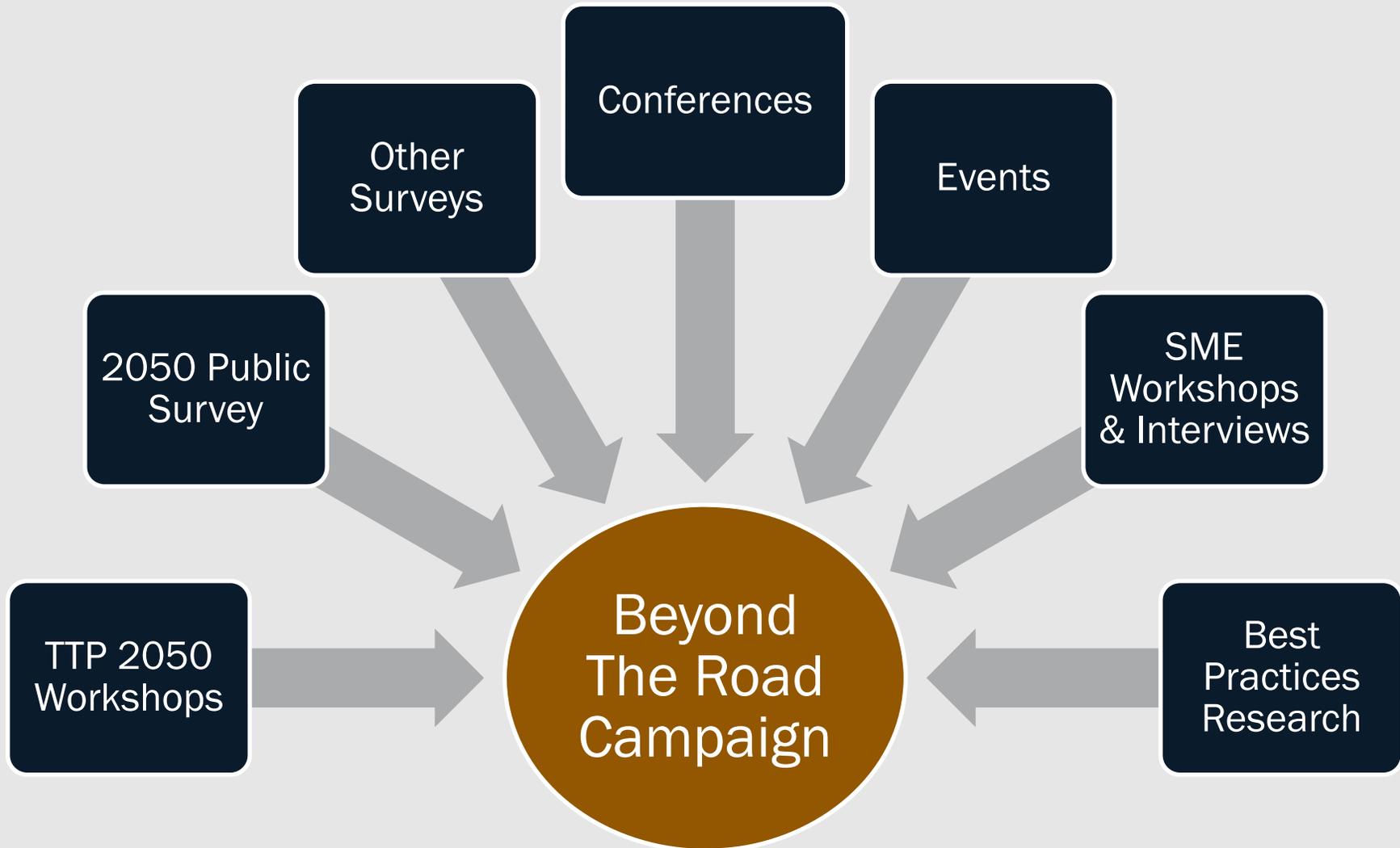
Supporting Divisions and Districts in project delivery through early, continuous, and productive stakeholder and public engagement

Improving project delivery and fulfilling regulatory requirements through early, continuous, and productive consultation

Streamlining and improving environmental processes through training and guidance in order to deliver projects more effectively

Increasing public and stakeholder participation in TxDOT's project delivery process and environmental reviews

# Research Methodology



# Identified Needs



Public-oriented materials on project delivery and environmental processes

District-specific environmental resource information

Stakeholder, organization and community leader contact lists

Internal and external training on project delivery and environmental review processes

## Identified Needs (cont'd)



Case studies and other materials demonstrating benefits of public and stakeholder participation

Online tools for stakeholder and public engagement

Simplify and improve guidance and manuals currently part of TxDOT's Environmental Compliance Toolkit

## Currently Available Tools



- Public-oriented materials on:
  1. NEPA
  2. Section 106
  3. Project Delivery
- Outreach materials on regional environmental issues and topics
- Additional Beyond The Road public outreach, engagement, and marketing tools
- Project case studies/stories

## NEPA, Section 106, and Project Delivery Materials

Some of the issues and concerns raised by TxDOT staff that led to developing these tools:

- Need to provide clear and concise information about the project delivery process, and NEPA, and Section 106 reviews
- Find ways to communicate complex environmental concepts in easy to understand terms



## NEPA, Section 106, and Project Delivery Materials

- People do not understand the need to consider environmental issues early in project planning and development
- Need information visually showing the steps and timing for all the various environmental and project delivery processes



# Regional Environmental Materials



Some of the issues and concerns raised by TxDOT staff that led to developing these tools:

- Environmental issues vary greatly across the state and across Districts
- Districts have few resources when it comes to environmental staff and rely heavily on ENV for specialty areas



## HARVESTER ANTS

### AVOID HARVESTER ANT MOUNDS IN THE SELECTION OF PROJECT SPECIFIC LOCATIONS (PSLs)

Harvester ants (*Pogonomyrmex barbatus*) can be found on many TxDOT construction sites. Contractors and crew members should strive to maintain their habitat undisturbed as these represent a major source of food for the state-listed threatened Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).



Harvester ants can be easily identified from other ants by their large size; they can grow to as much as a one-half inch. A single colony can house approximately 10,000 ants. Each colony contains three types of individuals: the queen, "slates" or "reproductives" (males and females that will leave the colony to reproduce) and sterile female workers.



## TEXAS TORTOISE

The Texas tortoise (*Gopherus berlandieri*) is one of the four species of tortoises found in North America, and the only one living in Texas. It can be found throughout southern Texas and northeastern Mexico. Texas tortoises are characterized by a small shell size which reaches 5½ inches, cylindrical and columnar hind legs, and by the yellow-orange scutes (plates) on its carapace (upper shell). Unfortunately, Texas tortoises face many threats that affect their survivorship, including habitat loss, illegal collection, roadside mortalities, predation and exotic pathogens. As a result, the Texas tortoise is a state-listed threatened species protected by Texas law, making it illegal to collect, possess, or harm a Texas tortoise. Violators may be subject to fines of \$273.50 per tortoise.



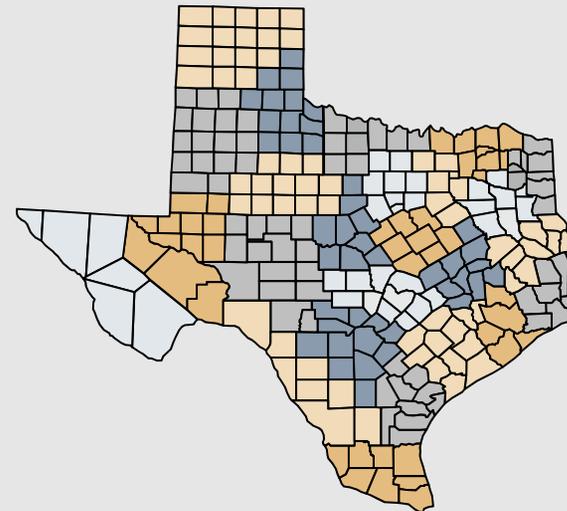
## MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

**What is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act?**  
A Federal Act passed in 1918 to control over hunting and poaching that supplied the enormous demand for feathers to adorn women's hats. State-level hunting laws were not working and bird populations were being decimated. This Act was a result of a treaty between the United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada), to protect migratory birds. The Treaty has been amended numerous times over the years to strengthen the protective provisions and Japan, Russia, and Mexico are now Treaty signatories.

**What does the Act provide?**  
The Act and subsequent laws makes it a federal crime to "take" birds or bird parts, including feathers, or to kill birds without permission from the Secretary of Interior.

**What are the penalties for violations of the Act?**  
Violations of the Act can be criminal or civil. Criminal violations are treated as misdemeanors and carry a penalty of a maximum of \$10,000 or imprisonment up to 6 months or both. Civil penalties are determined by the court. The Act also allows seizure of all guns, traps, nets and equipment, vessels and vehicles used in the violation.

**What is a migratory bird?**  
Any bird occurring in the United States that is considered migratory, i.e., moves seasonally to multiple locations during the day, month and year (usually more pronounced with the seasons). However, many birds protected under the Act are not in fact truly migratory. An example might be a neighborhood mockingbird. Species that are not protected as migratory birds include non-native house sparrows, and European starlings. Native, wild turkeys are not considered migratory birds. Furthermore, some migratory birds like mourning doves and ducks are not protected year-around in most states as there is an exception for seasonal hunting.





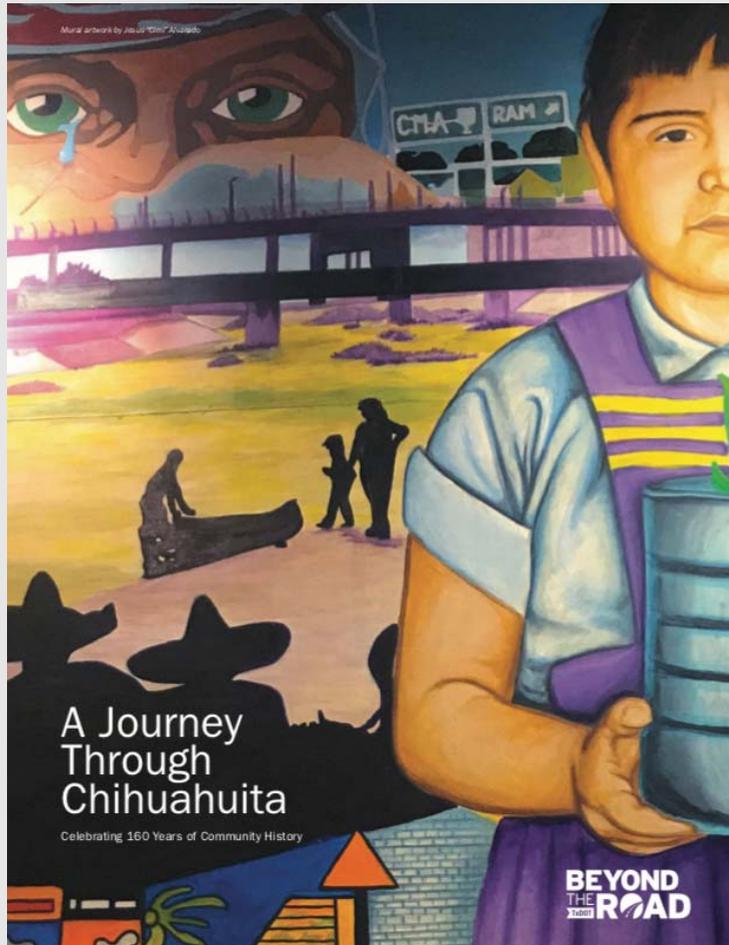
# Case Studies

Some of the issues and concerns raised by TxDOT staff that led to developing this tool:

- Stories can demonstrate how public input is incorporated into the TxDOT process, resulting in better project outcomes
- Case studies showcase Districts' success stories to the public and internally within the Department
- Case studies promote TxDOT's positive image to stakeholders and the public



# Case Studies



Sharing accomplishments with stakeholders, the public, and all TxDOT staff is important to promote positive outcomes.

## **Possible Future Tools to be Developed for Early, Continuous and Productive Stakeholder and Public Outreach**

Guidance on tool use  
for all potential users

Tools to educate  
public about  
mitigation and their  
role in mitigation

Increased Use of  
Beyond The Road  
products

System for soliciting  
and capturing  
stakeholder and  
public comments, and  
providing feedback

# Example Public and Stakeholder Engagement Tool

## Public Involvement Management Application (PIMA)



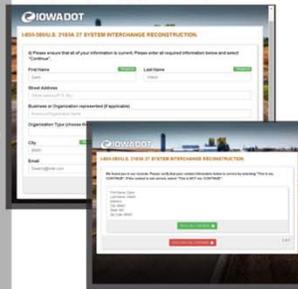
### Improving engagement



The Iowa Department of Transportation focuses on developing smarter, simpler, customer-driven solutions like PIMA - the Public Involvement Management Application.

- It helps us more effectively.
- Improve customer service
- Manage stakeholder outreach
- Strengthen project decision-making

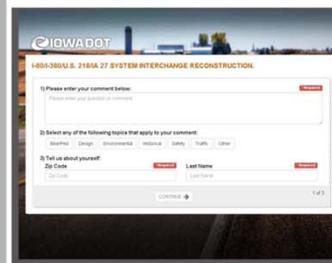
### Simplifying participation



Stakeholders electronically register their interest in projects at our website, public meetings or face-to-face consultations. Electronic registration triggers benefits such as:

- Faster meeting sign-ins
- Better tracking and handling of questions and comments
- More accurate PI documentation during decision-making
- Easier production of documents used to meet NEPA and other regulatory requirements

### Focusing on what matters



PIMA gives stakeholders more control over helping us understand what they value. When they comment on a program or project, they can:

- Categorize their input by topics
- Indicate their level of support
- Tell us whether and how they want a response to their comments

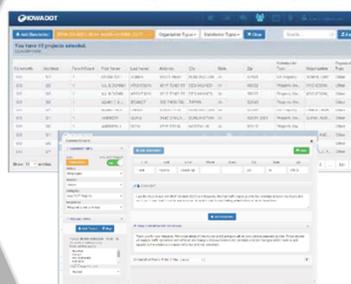
### Analyzing and using data



PIMA can summarize stakeholder data in ways that enable decision makers to:

- Track public input and support in real time
- Visualize and respond to stakeholder feedback and support trends
- Analyze the effectiveness of ongoing engagement and communication efforts
- Make better, more stakeholder-responsive project decisions

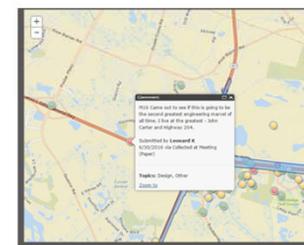
### Committing to real dialog



PIMA helps us manage and document sustained stakeholder discussions that can be:

- Distributed internally for messaging reviews and approval
- Used as models for producing consistent responses to common questions
- Shared by stakeholders with others to increase transparency in project decision making

### Visualizing feedback



When stakeholders fill out their electronic comment forms, they are able to "pin" - or locate - their comments. Combined with other PIMA tools, project teams can visualize where there are:

- Known or emerging concerns
- Concentrations of similar levels of project support
- Linkages between feedback and project boundaries, demographics or other information for which data layers can be created

**Technology for more transparent decision making and better stakeholder relations**

## **Possible Future Tools to be Developed for Streamlining and Improving Environmental Processes**

Guidance on  
effectively considering  
environmental issues  
during early project  
development

Tools for effectively  
identifying and  
engaging underserved  
communities

On-line training  
modules

On-line environmental  
screening tool

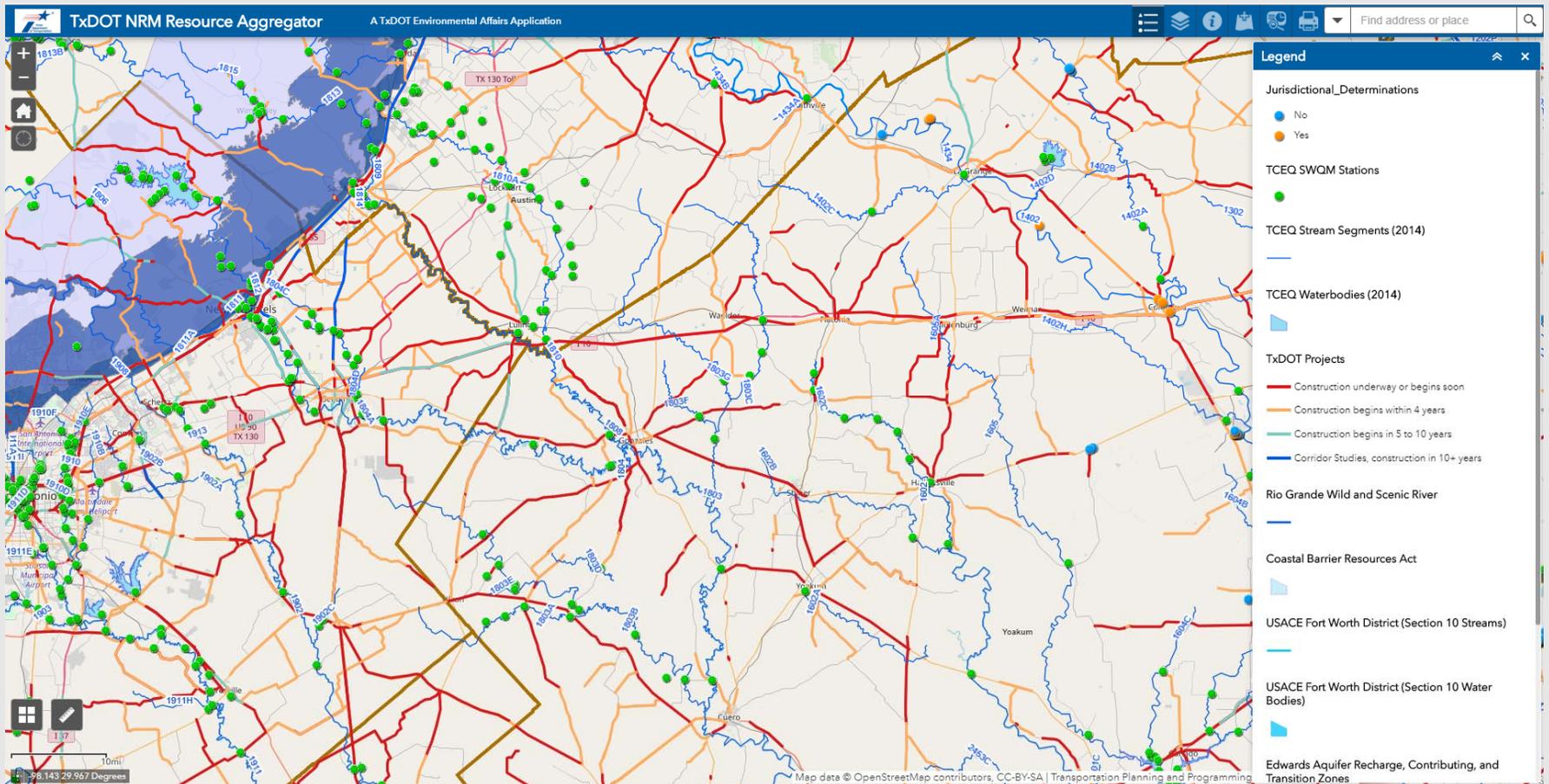
## Example On-line Training Modules

### “The Nuts and Bolts of TxDOT Cultural Resources Management”

- Module 1: What is Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Why Does TxDOT Have to Comply with Section 106?
- How Does TxDOT Do Section 106?
- How Does Section 106 Relate to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act?
- Who Are the Public and Section 106 Consulting Parties?
- How and When Should We Consult with the Consulting Parties and the Public?
- Section 106 and Public Involvement Case Study
- Pitfalls and Problems: How to Identify and Avoid Them.



# TxDOT Natural Resources Management Resource Aggregator



# Example Environmental Review/Screening Tools

Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources Project Search ID: PNDI-106  
 PNDI Receipt: [project\\_report\\_prahls\\_island\\_test\\_1556\\_2652.pdf](#)

## 1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: **Prahls Island Test**  
 Date of Review: **3/31/2015 09:19:03 AM**  
 Project Category: **Timber harvesting and Vegetation Management, Control of invasive or exotic plant species**  
 Project Area: **9.15 acres**  
 County(s): **Bucks**  
 Township/Municipality(s): **TINICUM**  
 ZIP Code: **18947**  
 Quadrangle Name(s): **LUMBERVILLE**  
 Watersheds HUC 8: **Middle Delaware-Musconetcong**  
 Watersheds HUC 12: **Paunacussing Creek-Delaware River**  
 Decimal Degrees: **40.445256 N, -75.067982 W**  
 Degrees Minutes Seconds: **40° 26' 42.9232" N, 75° 4' 4.7337" W**

## 2. SEARCH RESULTS

Agency	Results	Response
PA Game Commission	<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>FURTHER REVIEW IS REQUIRED, See Agency Response</b>
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
PA Fish and Boat Commission	<b>Conservation Measure</b>	<b>No Further Review Required, See Agency Comments</b>
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED, See Agency Response</b>

As summarized above, Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) records indicate there may be potential impacts to threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. If the response above indicates "No Further Review Required" no additional communication with the respective agency is required. If the response is "Further Review Required" or "See Agency Response," refer to the appropriate agency comments below. Please see the DEP Information Section of this receipt if a PA Department of Environmental Protection Permit is required.

## **Possible Future Tools to be Developed for Streamlining and Improving Environmental Processes, Continued**

Process review and guidance  
on integration of NEPA and  
Section 106 public  
involvement

Process review and  
guidance on effectively  
considering environmental  
issues during planning

On-line training modules  
for and working sessions  
with local governments

# CASE STUDY: How Would These Tools Have Helped?



## Things To Do When Reading Case Study

- ✓ Summarize in a list the things that went wrong on the project.
- ✓ Be ready to present your list to the larger group.