

A-33

MICHAEL KOVACS, PWS

- EDUCATION:** *B.S., 1979 - Natural Resource Management
Rutgers University, New Jersey*
- AREAS OF EXPERTISE:** *Aquatic, Wetlands, and Terrestrial Ecology
Threatened and Endangered Species
Wetlands Construction and Restoration
Environmental Impact Assessment and Mitigation Planning
Project Management*
- CERTIFICATIONS:** *Senior Professional Wetland Scientist (SWS)
Wetland Construction and Restoration (WTI)
Qualified Ornithologist (NJDEP)
Habitat Evaluation Procedure (USFWS)
Health and Safety for Hazardous Waste Site Investigation Personnel
(NJ/NY HMWTC)*
- PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:** *Society of Wetland Scientists
New York State Wetlands Forum
American Fisheries Society
New Jersey Audubon Society*

EXPERIENCE:

Mr. Kovacs is a Senior Vice President with EcolSciences, Inc. with over 40 years of experience in the environmental consulting field. His areas of expertise lie in the inventory and evaluation of terrestrial, aquatic, and wetland systems, and with the assessment and mitigation of impacts associated with major development. Mr. Kovacs has directed and has participated in a wide variety of comprehensive ecological field studies providing a high degree of competence in sampling protocols and procedures as well as in the identification and ecology of aquatic/terrestrial vertebrate and invertebrate animal species, particularly threatened and endangered species. Elements of Mr. Kovacs' wetlands-related projects include: the delineation of wetlands through an analysis of soils, hydrology, vegetation and aerial photography; the characterization of wetland type; the evaluation of associated functions and values; assessment of development-related impacts; construction monitoring; impact mitigation; wetlands construction and restoration; and permit acquisition. Mr. Kovacs routinely assesses land use changes and trends through the interpretation of aerial photography and use of Geographic Information System (GIS) software. Mr. Kovacs has provided expert testimony at the Tax Court of New Jersey and numerous municipal planning boards, and has also participated in negotiated settlements on Notices of Violation with Federal and State regulatory agencies.



EcolSciences, Inc.
Environmental Management & Regulatory Compliance

A summary of Mr. Kovacs' project experience includes:

Commercial/Industrial/Residential Studies

- Wetlands delineation, impact assessment, permit acquisition and mitigation planning for more than 2,000 development projects in NY, NJ, PA, CT, ME and NH.
- Preparation of NJ CAFRA, Waterfront Development, and Flood Hazard Area Statements of Compliance/EIS's, and NY SEQRA and CEQR EIS's.
- Preparation of EIS's for major developments for use in submissions to municipalities and the provision of expert testimony.

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Studies

- Numerous field surveys of Federally- and State-listed T&E species in NJ, NY and PA. Surveyed species included, but were not limited to: Swamp Pink, Knieskern's Beaked-rush, Indiana Bat, Blue-spotted Salamander, Long-tailed Salamander, Pine Barrens Treefrog, Cope's Gray Treefrog, Wood Turtle, Bog Turtle, Timber Rattlesnake, Northern Pine Snake, Corn Snake, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and American Bittern.
- A multi-year comprehensive survey of T&E plants and animals on a 1,000± acre site in Ocean County including trapping and radio-telemetry studies of Northern Pine Snake and surveys for the Federally-listed plant Knieskern's Beaked-rush.
- An inventory of various T&E species and other wildlife within a 2,000± acre site in Cumberland County, New Jersey for a sand mining concern.
- A survey of Timber Rattlesnake within the 2,300± acre Tuxedo Reserve site in Orange County, New York.
- An evaluation of eight NJ Superfund sites for the potential occurrence of the Federally-threatened plant species, Swamp Pink and Knieskern's Beaked-rush, for the USEPA, Region II.

Avifaunal and Other Wildlife Studies

- Extensive wildlife studies on a 675-acre former major oil storage facility on Staten Island, NY for a proposed mixed-use redevelopment project, including a NASCAR automobile speedway.
- Intensive avifaunal field and literature studies associated with the preparation and implementation of a Bird Deterrent Plan required by the Federal Aviation Administration for a proposed ash-bypass landfill in Onondaga County, NY.
- Wintering/migratory bird field studies for the proposed redevelopment of Flushing Airport by the NYC Economic Development Corp. (formerly Ports and Trade).
- Seasonal wildlife field surveys associated with a SEQRA EIS for the Bloomingdale Park Eastern Recreational Facilities Program proposed by the NYC Department of Design and Construction.



Landfill Studies

- Aquatic/terrestrial field and literature studies associated with the preparation of a wetlands/shoreline remediation plan for the Fresh Kills Sanitary Landfill on Staten Island, NY.
- Biological studies of the impacts of Folcroft Landfill upon ecological communities of Tinicum National Environmental Center, Philadelphia, PA for the USEPA, Region III.
- Wetland and wildlife studies for the construction of a resource recovery facility and ash landfill for the Hudson County Improvement Authority.

Mining Studies

- Evaluation of the impacts of peat extraction on the functions and values of peatlands in the Pocono Mountain area of PA for the USEPA, Region III.
- Baseline environmental studies conducted for a proposed copper/zinc mine and associated NPDES permit in northern ME for the Superior Mining Company.
- Baseline aquatic surveys of two estuarine marsh systems proposed for phosphate mining for North Carolina Phosphate Company.
- Wetland impact assessment through photo-interpretation for a proposed phosphate mining project in FL for Farmland Industries, Inc.

Transmission Routing Studies

- Environmental inventory, impact assessment, and environmental permit acquisition for multiple overhead and underground power transmission lines through northern NJ for Public Service Electric and Gas Company.
- Environmental inventory, impact assessment and mitigative planning for a power transmission line through CAFRA and Pinelands areas and for a transmission line in Newton, NJ for Jersey Central Power and Light Company.
- Environmental inventory, impact assessment and wetland permitting for a natural gas transmission line through Gloucester County, NJ for South Jersey Gas Company.

Oil Refinery and Port Studies

- Baseline ecological studies for a proposed oil refinery and port in North Carolina for the Brunswick Energy Company.



Special USEPA Studies

- A Status and Trends Analysis of Wetlands of Orange and Rockland Counties, NY through photointerpretation and ground-truthing for USEPA, Region II.
- Field studies and report preparation for the Advance Identification of Wetlands along Moshannon Creek near Philipsburg, PA for the USEPA, Region III.
- Field studies and report preparation for the Advance Identification of Wetlands along Bog Run near Quakertown, PA for the USEPA, Region III.
- Special Study to Evaluate the Impacts of Peat Extraction on the Functions and Values of the Peatlands in the Pocono Region of Pennsylvania for USEPA, Region III.
- An evaluation of wetlands creation for stormwater treatment within a proposed regional sedimentation pond in the Lickinghole Creek Watershed in VA for USEPA, Region III.
- An evaluation of the U.S. Army Corps' Nationwide Permitting process through study of headwater stream systems in northern NJ conducted for the USEPA, Region II.
- Preparation of a draft Advance Identification of Wetlands Technical Procedures Handbook for the USEPA, Region III.

Wetlands Mitigation Studies

- Preparation of a draft manual for USEPA, Region III entitled Creation of Wetland Banks for Mitigation of Impacts from Superfund Sites in New Castle County, DE.
- Preparation of Phase I and Phase II reports for USEPA Headquarters concerning the appropriateness of wetlands mitigation planning at Superfund sites.
- Preparation of wetland mitigation plans and specifications in conjunction with permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and various State agencies.
- Preparation of mitigation plans and specifications for the remediation of wetlands and shoreline areas of the Fresh Kills Sanitary Landfill, Staten Island, NY.

Wastewater Facility Studies

- Preparation of CAFRA EIS's and Freshwater Wetlands Permit applications for Ocean County Utilities Authority's NI-15 and NI-21 County Line Interceptors, Crestwood Interceptor, Ortleigh Beach-Alternate Bay Crossing, Toms River Crossing Relief Interceptor and Mill Creek Relief Interceptor projects.
- An evaluation of the State of Ohio's environmental plans and specification requirements for 201 facilities construction for the USEPA, Region V.
- Environmental compliance inspection of 201 facilities construction for the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority and Ocean County Utilities Authority.
- Wastewater facilities planning for Atlantic Highlands/Highlands Sewerage Authority, Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority, Long Branch Sewerage Authority, Tri-Borough Sewerage Authority, and Tri-Municipal Sewerage Commission.



Michael Kovacs, EcolSciences, Inc.

Background, qualifications, experience:

I am a Senior Vice President with EcolSciences, Inc. an environmental consulting firm located at 75 Fleetwood Drive in Rockaway, NJ that has been in existence since 1973

I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources Management from Rutgers University, with concentrations in Wildlife Biology and Fisheries Science

I have over 40 years in the environmental consulting field

I'm a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists, New York State Wetlands Forum, American Fisheries Society, and New Jersey Audubon Society

I am a certified as a Senior Professional Wetlands Scientist by the Society of Wetland Scientists since 1994. (I am not licensed as a wetlands scientist because there are currently no professional licenses issued for wetlands scientists)

I am qualified as an Ornithologist by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection since 1994

I was a New Jersey/New York Recognized Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyor from 2001-2018

I have performed Advanced Identification of Wetlands for USEPA Region 3.

I taught a section on "Wetlands Regulation in the Coastal Zone" as part of a short course entitled Building, Buying and Selling Coastal and Waterfront Properties for the NJ Institute for Continuing Legal Education in 2004 and 2005

I taught a section on "Threatened and Endangered Species Regulation in NJ" as part of a short course entitled Environmental Law and Regulation for Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education from 2008 through 2011.

I completed Environmental and Ecological Risk Assessment Certificates from Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education in 2003 and 2016

With EcolSciences I direct wetlands and other ecological projects, and I continue to perform field studies to this day.

I have performed over a thousand wetland delineations throughout New Jersey

I have submitted hundreds of wetland permit applications to the NJDEP and US Army Corps of Engineers

I have performed numerous threatened and endangered species field surveys

I have prepared or directed the preparation of hundreds of Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements for projects throughout New Jersey. These projects include residential, commercial, industrial, utility, and mining projects on sites ranging from less than 1 acre to over a thousand acres.

I have provided expert testimony on threatened and endangered species issues at the Tax Court of New Jersey

I have testified before many municipal Boards in New Jersey and have been accepted as an expert in the field of environmental science