

Wildlife Habitats and Protected Species

Regulatory agencies are diligent in protecting natural habitats and endangered species—requiring environmental clearance for underground pipelines, overhead and underground transmission line routing, transportation corridors, and new development projects. GAI Consultants, working closely with clients and regulatory agencies, assesses the positive and negative impacts of altering habitats. We provide practical solutions for projects that affect terrestrial and aquatic biota, and threatened/endangered plant and animal species.

Dedicated environmental specialists and a history of success in obtaining environmental clearances means projects move forward seamlessly.

GAI evaluates wildlife habitats following standard habitat evaluation procedures developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and other agencies. We assess the existing and after-project quality of area habitats for representative species and prepare mitigation plans as needed. Our

professionals have surveyed thousands of acres, gaining the experience and insight to address protected species issues on any size project.

GAI's certified plant surveyors conduct presence/absence plant surveys utilizing federal and state survey protocols. Our habitat assessments and rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) plant and animal species surveys support management plans that identify occupied habitat, degree of anticipated impact, and the appropriate steps for meeting regulatory requirements.

With a long history of helping clients successfully navigate RTE species consultation and critical issues analyses, GAI's solid reputation in environmental consulting is supported by a proven ability to conduct initial siting and red flag analyses, field habitat evaluations, presence/absence surveys, GIS mapping and spatial analyses, avoidance or mitigation planning, and agency coordination. We keep projects on schedule by successfully helping clients avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to species and habitats in the vicinity of proposed projects.



gai consultants®

Service Profile



GAI's environmental studies and ecological surveys cover a broad range of RTE species, and our bat studies are conducted by in-house certified bat specialists. During USFWS project reviews across the eastern U.S., the federally-endangered Indiana bat is one of the most frequently found species, and bat species protected by individual states are often considered for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act. Our bat professionals identify, count, and photograph bats when conducting species surveys for client projects.

In Florida, GAI's environmental specialists develop management plans for the Florida black bear,

Florida scrub jay, bald eagle, Florida mouse, sand skink, gopher tortoise, and Eastern indigo snake. We understand the ecology of each species and the regulatory requirements of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) and USFWS.

Guiding clients through the permitting processes of regulatory agencies assigned to preserve native species habitats can be cumbersome without the guidance of the dedicated ecologists, biologists, scientists, and environmental specialists at GAI.

Wildlife Habitats and Protected Species Services

- Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) species surveys
- State and federal agency coordination
- Environmental permitting
- Critical issues analyses
- Field habitat evaluations
- Presence/absence surveys
- GIS mapping and spatial analyses
- Avoidance or mitigation planning
- Species-specific evaluations
- Habitat assessments
- Protected species management plans
- Capture and relocation

GAI Services Summary

- Airport Planning and Design
- Bridge and Structure Inspection and Design
- Coal Combustion Residuals Management
- Construction Inspection and Management
- Cultural Resources Management
- Economic Analyses and Strategies
- Electric Transmission Design and Siting
- Environmental Engineering
- Environmental Studies, Species Studies, Permitting
- Gas Pipeline Surveying and Mapping
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Geotechnical Engineering and Geology
- Impoundment and Landfill Permitting and Design
- Land Development Engineering
- Landscape Architecture and Design
- Master Planning and Urban Design
- Mechanical, Electrical, Structural Engineering
- Natural Gas FERC Certification and Permitting
- Nuclear Energy Engineering Support
- Right of Way and Appraisal Support
- Land Surveying and Mapping
- Transportation Planning and Design
- Utility Management Consulting
- Water, Stormwater, Wastewater Management

The scope of professional services that are provided by or offered out of each GAI office including, but not limited to, engineering and surveying services, is governed by the professional and business licensing requirements of each individual State or jurisdiction in which the GAI office is located and whether GAI has the requisite professional and business licenses for that State or jurisdiction. Nothing on GAI's Web Site or marketing materials is intended to be interpreted or construed as offering to perform professional licensed services where prohibited unless the licensing requirements have been met. Engineering services are not offered out of GAI's Northern Kentucky (Florence) office location. Surveying services are not offered out of GAI's Illinois location or by our New York subsidiary.

