

DILBIT PUTTING U.S. SPECIAL PLACES AT RISK

With more DilBit coming into the United States in pipelines built under conventional oil standards, it is important to understand the water resources, habitat, and wildlife at risk from existing DilBit pipelines throughout the Midwest as well as from the proposed Keystone XL pipeline to Texas.

The information and map featured here are excerpted from the NRDC publication, *Tar Sands Pipelines Safety Risks*. The full report and references can be found at: <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/tarsandssafetyrisks.asp>

1 Great Lakes

© Jimmy Brown



The Great Lakes are the largest source of freshwater in the world, and provide drinking water for 40 million American and Canadian citizens. Enbridge pipelines that sometimes carry DilBit run through the Great Lakes region close to Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and Lake Erie.

2 Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River

© Pete Williamson



The St. Clair River provides drinking water for millions in Southeast Michigan and was threatened by a potentially faulty section of the Enbridge pipeline that runs under the river and is due to be replaced in early 2011. The St. Clair River drains into Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, and Lake Erie.

3 Indiana Dunes

© Tom Gill



Enbridge pipelines run near the biologically rich and recreationally important Indiana Dunes, on the southern shore of Lake Michigan.

4 Deep Fork Wildlife Management Area



In Oklahoma, the proposed Keystone XL pipeline would cut through this 11,900 acre haven for game and non-game species, including Bobwhite Quail, turkeys, bobcats, and Bald Eagles.

5 Native Prairies and the Threatened Topeka Shiner Minnow

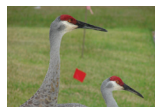
© Joan Kovatch



In Kansas, the proposed Keystone XL pipeline would cross native prairies and may affect critically designated habitat for the federally endangered Topeka Shiner minnow.

6 Whooping Crane and Sandhill Crane Habitat

© Phil Kates



The proposed Keystone XL pipeline would cross the Platte River in Nebraska, an important stop-over site on the migration path of the endangered Whooping Crane. Sandhill Cranes also use the area as a nesting site.

7 Ogallala Aquifer

© Emily Andersen



The proposed Keystone XL pipeline crosses the Ogallala Aquifer, one of the world's largest freshwater aquifers that provides 30 percent of the ground water used for irrigation in the United States, and drinking water for millions of Americans. The aquifer covers areas in South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas.

8 Prairie Potholes and Migratory Birds



In South Dakota, the Keystone XL pipeline route tracks the Central and Mississippi migratory bird flyways, and cuts through the prairie pothole ecosystem that is critically important nesting and migratory staging areas for many ducks, including Pintails and Mallards.

9 Shortgrass Prairie and Mountain Plover

© Bryan Guarante



The South Dakota Shortgrass prairie regions, through which the Keystone pipeline passes and the proposed Keystone XL pipeline would pass, are important habitat for the Mountain Plover, proposed for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

10 Pronghorn Antelope Habitat



The Keystone XL pipeline would traverse pronghorn antelope habitat in Montana, further fragmenting already-threatened migration routes. Pronghorn are a unique American species whose movements are very sensitive to roads and human activity.

SELECT RIVERS THREATENED BY UNITED STATES DILBIT PIPELINES

Missouri River

The longest river on the continent and the route of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Missouri is crossed by pipelines in numerous places, including by Keystone pipeline on the South Dakota-Nebraska border and the Kansas-Missouri border, by Enbridge pipelines in Missouri, and by the proposed Keystone XL pipeline in Montana, near the relatively isolated Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

Yellowstone River

In Montana, the proposed Keystone XL pipeline would cross the Yellowstone River, a major tributary into the Missouri River and the longest undammed river in the lower 48 states. The river is of vital use for fishermen and recreationalists, and is a major irrigation source for farmers and ranchers.

Mississippi River

The Keystone pipeline crosses the Mississippi River in Missouri, near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and terminates just across the river in Illinois. Enbridge pipelines cross the northern part of the Mississippi River in Minnesota.

Kalamazoo River

In Michigan, an Enbridge pipeline crosses the Kalamazoo River which flows into Lake Michigan. A spill from this pipeline has already damaged the river ecosystem and threatened nearby communities and the Great Lakes.

Red River

The Red River serves an important breeding ground for the highly endangered Interior Least Tern, which requires feeding areas with shallow waters and an abundance of small fish. The proposed Keystone XL pipeline would cross the Red River on the Oklahoma-Texas border.

Neches River

The Neches River is the last river in East Texas with abundant wildlife, clean water, scenic river vistas, and forests. The proposed Keystone XL pipeline would cross the Neches River in Texas.

