

**APPENDIX D**  
**AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE**



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

The Honorable Lisa Subeck  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
Room 113 North, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708  
Email: rep.subeck@legis.wisconsin.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Assemblywoman Subeck:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

USGS established the NWHC in 1975 as the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains the only national center devoted to advancing wildlife health science for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment. A growing challenge to performing the NWHC's mission, however, is the age and space limitations associated with the current center. The result is a need to develop a new facility thereby ensuring that the NWHC continues to successfully advance wildlife health science.

Planning for a new NWHC began in 2011 and continued to 2020, from which emerged a plan to develop a modern and efficient facility. The new NWHC would serve current and future needs and allow USGS to better address issues of wildlife health science which also impacts public health and domestic animal health. USGS is proposing to develop the new NWHC on the grounds of the present NWHC in Madison.

Development and operation of a new NWHC is considered to be an action with the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, USGS intends to prepare an EIS to ensure that the environmental consequences of the proposed action are thoroughly documented and that compliance is achieved with NEPA and other environmental statutes including the Clean Air Act of 1974; the Clean Water Act and Amendments, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA); the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966; and the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA), among others. Preparation of NEPA documentation is being conducted to demonstrate that USGS has considered the potential environmental impacts during the decision-making process and to provide opportunities for the public, elected and appointed officials, regulatory agencies, and others to voice their interest and provide input and comments concerning the proposed action.

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Following publication of the NOI and throughout the NEPA process we will keep you informed of our progress as we move forward. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me using the contact information provided below. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Sizemore".

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch  
efishburne@usgs.gov  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch  
msmith@usgs.gov  
Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
jsleeman@usgs.gov  
Michael D. Bonds, Environmental Program Coordinator USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
mbonds@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
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Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Charles Wooley, Regional Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Midwest Region  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Email: ckoeppel@achp.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Director Wooley:

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Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

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jsleeman@usgs.gov  
Michael D. Bonds, Environmental Program Coordinator USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
mbonds@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Benjamin Rhodd  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Forest County Potawatomi Community  
5320 Wensaut Lane, P.O. Box 340  
Crandon, WI 54520  
Email: Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Rhodd:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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Sincerely,

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Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

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Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch  
msmith@usgs.gov  
Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
jsleeman@usgs.gov  
Michael D. Bonds, Environmental Program Coordinator USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
mbonds@usgs.gov

From: Benjamin Rhodd <Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov>  
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:11 AM  
To: Sizemore, Jordan D  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of USGS National Wildlife Health Center

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Mr. Sizemore,

Pursuant to consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966 as amended) the Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC), a Federally Recognized Native American Tribe, reserves the right to comment on Federal undertakings, as defined under the act.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) staff has reviewed the information you provided for the project. Upon review of the data and supplemental cultural history within our Office, the FCPC THPO is interested in the development of this EIS and seeks to remain as a consulting party for this proposed project.

As a standard caveat sent with each proposed project reviewed by the FCPC THPO, the following applies. In the event an Inadvertent Discovery (ID) occurs at any phase of a project or undertaking as defined, and human remains or archaeological materials are exposed as a result of project activities, work should cease immediately, and the Tribe(s) must be included with the SHPO in any consultation regarding treatment and disposition of the find.

Thank you for protecting cultural and historic properties and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the email or number listed below.

Respectfully,

Ben Rhodd, MS, RPA Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Forest County Potawatomi  
Historic Preservation Office  
8130 Mish ko Swen Drive, P.O. Box 340, Crandon, Wisconsin 54520  
P: 715-478-7354 C: 715-889-0202 Main: 715-478-7474  
Email: [Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov)  
[www.fcpotawatomi.com](http://www.fcpotawatomi.com)

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From: Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>  
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 6:44 PM  
To: Benjamin Rhodd <[Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov)>  
Subject: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of USGS National Wildlife Health Center

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Evening Benjamin Rhodd,

Please see the attached notification letter regarding United States Geological Survey's (USGS) intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

We look forward to hearing from your office if you have any questions, comments or concerns throughout our Environmental Review Process.

Very Respectfully,



Jordan Sizemore

*Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Environmental Management Branch  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
603-730-7743  
[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)*

**FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center Madison, Wisconsin**

Forbes, Jessica &lt;Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com&gt;

Fri 1/6/2023 2:32 PM

To: Forbes, Jessica &lt;Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com&gt;

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**From:** Benjamin Rhodd <[Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov)>**Sent:** Tuesday, December 27, 2022 1:02 PM**To:** Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center Madison, Wisconsin

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Mr. Sizemore,

Pursuant to consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966 as amended) the Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC), a Federally Recognized Native American Tribe, reserves the right to comment on Federal undertakings, as defined under the act.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) staff has reviewed the information you provided for this project. Upon review of site data and supplemental cultural history within our Office, the FCPC THPO is pleased to offer a finding of No Historic Properties affected of significance to the FCPC, however, we request to remain as a consulting party for this project.

As a standard caveat sent with each proposed project reviewed by the FCPC THPO, the following applies. In the event an Inadvertent Discovery (ID) occurs at any phase of a project or undertaking as defined, and human remains or archaeologically significant materials are exposed as a result of project activities, work should cease immediately. The Tribe(s) must be included with the SHPO in any consultation regarding treatment and disposition of an ID find.

Thank you for protecting cultural and historic properties and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the email or number listed below.

Respectfully,

Ben Rhodd, MS, RPA, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Forest County Potawatomi  
Historic Preservation Office  
8130 Mish ko Swen Drive, P.O. Box 340, Crandon, Wisconsin 54520  
P: 715-478-7354 C: 715-889-0202 Main: 715-478-7474  
Email: [Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov)  
[www.fcpotawatomi.com](http://www.fcpotawatomi.com)

---

**From:** Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2022 1:47 PM  
**To:** Benjamin Rhodd <[Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center Madison, Wisconsin

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Rhodd,

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is initiating the Section 106 process pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3, because the above-referenced project may have a potential impact on historic properties. Enclosed for your review is a document containing the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC), located in Madison, Wisconsin. The evaluation was prepared in support of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared in advance of the proposed undertaking to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

We are requesting consultation and comment on the proposed undertaking and the attached documentation. We appreciate your interest and look forward to hearing from you. Should you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to me using the contact information provided below.

Thank you

Very Respectfully

*Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Environmental Management Branch  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
603-730-7743  
[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)*



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

David Grignon  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
The Ho-Chunk Nation, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135  
Email: dgrignon@mitw.org

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Grignon:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

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Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Michael LaRonge  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Sokaogon Chippewa Community  
3051 Sand Lake Road  
Crandon, WI 54520  
Email: michael.laronge@scc-nsn.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. LaRonge:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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October 4, 2022

Edith Leoso  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Post Office Box 39  
Odanah, Wisconsin 54861  
Email: THPO@badriver-nsn.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Ms. Leoso:

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Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
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mbonds@usgs.gov



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October 4, 2022

Nathan Allison  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians  
N8476 Mo He Con Nuck Road  
Bowler, Wisconsin 54416  
Email: thpo@mohican-nsn.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Allison:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Sizemore".

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch  
efishburne@usgs.gov  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch  
msmith@usgs.gov  
Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
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Michael D. Bonds, Environmental Program Coordinator USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
mbonds@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Stacie Cutbank  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin  
1250 Packerland Drive, Cottage 3, Side B  
Green Bay, WI 54304  
Email: [sdanfor3@oneidanation.org](mailto:sdanfor3@oneidanation.org)

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Ms. Cutbank:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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mbonds@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Sarah Thompson  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
P.O. Box 67  
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538  
Email: [ldfthpo@ldftribe.com](mailto:ldfthpo@ldftribe.com)

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Ms. Thompson:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Louis Taylor, Chairman  
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
13394 West Trepania Road  
Hayward, WI 54543  
Email: louis.taylor@lco-nsn.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Chairman Taylor:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Ned Daniels, Chairman  
Forest County Potawatomi Community, Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 340  
Crandon, Wisconsin 54520  
Email: ned.danielsjr@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Chairman Daniels:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Ron Corn, Chairman  
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135  
Email: chairman@mitw.org

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Chairman Corn:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Wanda McFaggen  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
St. Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
24663 Angeline Avenue  
Webster, WI 54893  
Email: wandam@stcroixojibwe-nsn.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Ms. McFaggen:

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Grant Foster, Common Council Member  
City of Madison  
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Room 417  
Madison, WI 53703  
Email: district15@cityofmadison.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Council Member Foster:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Heather Stouder, Director  
City of Madison Planning Division  
215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 130  
Madison, WI 53703  
Email: [planning@cityofmadison.com](mailto:planning@cityofmadison.com)

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Director Stouder:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Sizemore".

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch  
efishburne@usgs.gov  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch  
msmith@usgs.gov  
Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
jsleeman@usgs.gov  
Michael D. Bonds, Environmental Program Coordinator USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
mbonds@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

James Skibo  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706  
Email: askshpo@wisconsinhistory.org

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Skibo:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Daina Penkiunas  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706  
Email: askshpo@wisconsinhistory.org

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Ms. Penkiunas:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Keith Furman, Common Council President  
City of Madison  
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Room 417  
Madison, WI 53703  
Email: district19@cityofmadison.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Council President Furman:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Gail Good, Division Administrator  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Management Division  
101 S. Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707  
Email: Gail.Good@wisconsin.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Ms. Good:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
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Tel: 916-606-7460  
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Cc:

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Keith Warnke, Division Administrator  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Fish, Wildlife and Parks Division  
101 S. Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707  
Email: Keith.Warnke@wisconsin.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Warnke:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Mark Aquino, Manager – Southern Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
101 S. Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707  
Email: mark.aquino@wisconsin.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Aquino:

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Preston D. Cole, Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
101 S. Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707  
Email: preston.cole@wisconsin.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Secretary Cole:

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Mary Bottari, Chief of Staff  
City of Madison  
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Room 403  
Madison, WI 53703  
Email: mbottari@cityofmadison.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Ms. Bottari:

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Honorable Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor  
City of Madison  
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Room 403  
Madison, WI 53703  
Email: mayor@cityofmadison.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Sizemore".

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch  
efishburne@usgs.gov  
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Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
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mbonds@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

The Honorable Mark Pocan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1727 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Congressman Pocan:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Email: [press@baldwin.senate.gov](mailto:press@baldwin.senate.gov)

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
United States Senate  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Senator Johnson:

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

The Honorable Kelda Roys  
Wisconsin State Senate  
Room 3 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707  
Email: sen.Roys@legis.wisconsin.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Senator Roys:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Jeffrey Glazer, Supervisor  
Dane County Board of Supervisors  
City-County Building, Room 426  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703  
Email: glazer.jeffrey@countyofdane.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Supervisor Glazer:

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Miles Patrick, Supervisor  
Dane County Board of Supervisors  
City-County Building, Room 426  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703  
Email: miles@countyofdane.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Joe Parisi, County Executive  
Dane County Office of the County Executive  
City-County Building, Room 426  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703  
Email: parisi@countyofdane.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Parisi:

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Reid Nelson, Acting Executive Director  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
401 F Street, NW, Suite 308  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2637  
Email: rnelson@achp.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Director Nelson:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Sizemore".

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch  
efishburne@usgs.gov  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch  
msmith@usgs.gov  
Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
jsleeman@usgs.gov  
Michael D. Bonds, Environmental Program Coordinator USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
mbonds@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

October 4, 2022

Christopher Koeppel, Assistant Director  
Federal Property Management  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
401 F Street, NW, Suite 308  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2637  
Email: [ckoeppel@achp.gov](mailto:ckoeppel@achp.gov)

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Assistant Director Koeppel:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

USGS established the NWHC in 1975 as the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains the only national center devoted to advancing wildlife health science for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment. A growing challenge to performing the NWHC's mission, however, is the age and space limitations associated with the current center. The result is a need to develop a new facility thereby ensuring that the NWHC continues to successfully advance wildlife health science.

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Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
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Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

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msmith@usgs.gov  
Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
jsleeman@usgs.gov  
Michael D. Bonds, Environmental Program Coordinator USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
mbonds@usgs.gov



October 26, 2022

Mr. Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225

Ref: *Modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin  
ACHP Project Number: 018848*

Dear Mr. Sizemore:

On October 11, 2022, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) received your notification for the proposed development of an Environmental Impact Statement for the referenced project. Our comments were requested regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. We have no comments pursuant to the NEPA at this time.

In order to ensure compliance with Section 106, the ACHP encourages the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to initiate the Section 106 process by notifying, at your earliest convenience, the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Indian tribes, and other consulting parties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3 to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). Through early consultation, your agency will be able to determine the appropriate strategy to ensure Section 106 compliance for this project. The regulations (at 36 CFR § 800.3(b)) specifically encourage federal agencies to coordinate their Section 106 review with other required environmental reviews, such as the NEPA, in order to reduce duplicative analyses and overlapping review periods.

The USGS should continue consultation with the Wisconsin SHPO, Indian tribes, and other consulting parties to identify and evaluate historic properties and to assess any potential adverse effects on those historic properties. If you determine, through consultation with the consulting parties, that the undertaking will adversely affect historic properties, or that the development of a Section 106 agreement document (Agreement) is necessary, the USGS must notify the ACHP and provide the documentation detailed at 36 CFR § 800.11(e). In the event that this undertaking is covered under the terms of an existing Agreement, you should follow the process set forth in the applicable Agreement.

Should you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact Ms. Alexis Clark at (202)



517-0208 or by e-mail at [aclark@achp.gov](mailto:aclark@achp.gov) and reference the ACHP Project Number above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Koepfel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher Koepfel  
Assistant Director  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
Federal Property Management Section

From: Alexis Clark <aclark@achp.gov>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:20 PM  
To: Lopez, Paulina  
Cc: Jordan D. Sizemore; Forbes, Jessica  
Subject: RE: [External] National Wildlife Health Center - Proposed New Facility  
Attachments: wi.usgs.national wildlife health center.modernization.20221026.con.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Ms. López,

Thank you for including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) in your Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) preparation notices concerning the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) proposed development of a new National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin. We were previously notified of USGS's intent to prepare a DEIS in October 2022 and provided a response, which I've attached to this email. We maintain that, should the USGS, through consultation with the Wisconsin SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties, reach a determination of adverse effect, please invite the ACHP to participate at that time, pursuant to our regulations 36CFR800.6(a)(1). The ACHP has the Electronic Section 106 Documentation Submittal System (e106) that can be used to formally notify us of an adverse effect finding. All the information can be found on our site at: <https://www.achp.gov/e106-email-form>.

Thank you,

Alexis

Alexis Clark  
Assistant Program Analyst  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
401 F Street NW, Suite 308, Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 517-0208  
[www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)



---

From: Lopez, Paulina <[paulina.lopez@wsp.com](mailto:paulina.lopez@wsp.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 5:35 PM  
Cc: Jordan D. Sizemore <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>; Forbes, Jessica <[Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com)>  
Subject: [External] National Wildlife Health Center - Proposed New Facility

Good afternoon,

I am reaching out on behalf of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) about the development of a new National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, Wisconsin.

As a valued stakeholder, the USGS wants to inform you about the project, its intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and upcoming opportunities for your input.

The USGS plans to construct an updated NWHC facility on the site of the existing NWHC at 6006 Schroeder Road in Madison. This new facility will allow the center to continue to play a pivotal role in evaluating the impact of diseases on wildlife and exploring the intricate connections between wildlife health, human well-being, and the environment.

The existing NWHC, established in 1975, remains the only national center devoted to advancing wildlife health science for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment. A growing challenge to performing the NWHC's mission, however, is the age and space limitations associated with the current center. To keep advancing wildlife health science effectively, they are embarking on the development of a new modern and efficient facility.

In line with their commitment to environmental stewardship and compliance with NEPA, the USGS will soon be publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register. This notice will mark the initiation of the public scoping phase of the NEPA process. During this important period, we eagerly anticipate engaging with officials, agencies, stakeholders, and the public to discuss the proposed project and its potential environmental implications.

You can learn more about this project by visiting our website at <https://www.nwhceis.com/> and reviewing our [project summary document](#). The website will also be updated with information about how to participate in the public scoping meeting and ways to provide comments on the proposed action and plans for the EIS.

Your insights are valuable for us, and we are eager to gather your feedback as the project progresses.

Thank you,



**Paulina López, MPA**  
Communications and Public Involvement Specialist  
U.S. Advisory Services

T+ 1 210-810-4932  
M+ 1 915-248-6740

[in](#) [\[twitter.com/wsp\]](https://twitter.com/wsp)

WSP USA  
9311 San Pedro Ave., Suite 700  
San Antonio, Texas 78216

[wsp.com](http://wsp.com)

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

December 7, 2022

Kent Collier, NAGPRA  
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 70  
McCloud, OK 74851  
Email: kentcollier@kickapootribeofoklahoma.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Collier:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Sizemore".

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch  
efishburne@usgs.gov  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch  
msmith@usgs.gov  
Jonathan C. Nelson, Acting Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
jcnelson@usgs.gov  
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mbonds@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

December 7, 2022

Darwin Kaskaske, Chairman  
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 70  
McCloud, OK 74851  
Email: darwin.kaskaske@okkt.net

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Chairman Kaskaske:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch  
efishburne@usgs.gov  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch  
msmith@usgs.gov  
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mbonds@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

December 7, 2022

Michael Blackwolf, THPO  
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana  
656 Agency Main Street  
Harlem, MT 59526-9455  
Email: mblackwolf@ftbelknap.org

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Blackwolf:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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U.S. Geological Survey  
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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

December 7, 2022

Sunshine Thomas-Bear, THPO  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska  
P.O. Box 687  
Winnebago, NE 68071-0687  
Email: sunshine.bear@winnebagotribe.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Sunshine Thomas-Bear:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

December 7, 2022

William Quackenbush, THPO  
The Ho-Chunk Nation  
16250 Helmet Road  
Tomah, WI 54660  
Email: Bill.Quackenbush@Ho-Chunk.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Quackenbush:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

December 7, 2022

Andrea A. Hunter, Director/THPO  
Osage Nation  
627 Grandview Avenue  
Pawhuska, OK 74056  
Email: ahunter@osagenation-nsn.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Director Hunter:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

USGS established the NWHC in 1975 as the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains the only national center devoted to advancing wildlife health science for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment. A growing challenge to performing the NWHC's mission, however, is the age and space limitations associated with the current center. The result is a need to develop a new facility thereby ensuring that the NWHC continues to successfully advance wildlife health science.

Planning for a new NWHC began in 2011 and continued to 2020, from which emerged a plan to develop a modern and efficient facility. The new NWHC would serve current and future needs and allow USGS to better address issues of wildlife health science which also impacts public health and domestic animal health. USGS is proposing to develop the new NWHC on the grounds of the present NWHC in Madison.

Development and operation of a new NWHC is considered to be an action with the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, USGS intends to prepare an EIS to ensure that the environmental consequences of the proposed action are thoroughly documented and that compliance is achieved with NEPA and other environmental statutes including the Clean Air Act of 1974; the Clean Water Act and Amendments, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA); the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966; and the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA), among others. Preparation of NEPA documentation is being conducted to demonstrate that USGS has considered the potential environmental impacts during the decision-making process and to provide opportunities for the public, elected and appointed officials, regulatory agencies, and others to voice their interest and provide input and comments concerning the proposed action.

Page 2:

A Notice of Intent (NOI) will soon be published in the Federal Register announcing the start of public scoping during which time we will engage officials, agencies, stakeholders, and the public in a discussion about the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts. Obtaining input and guidance early in the planning process is intended to ensure that the EIS addresses your organization's concerns and complies with applicable federal regulations.

Following publication of the NOI and throughout the NEPA process we will keep you informed of our progress as we move forward. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me using the contact information provided below. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Sizemore".

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch  
efishburne@usgs.gov  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch  
msmith@usgs.gov  
Jonathan C. Nelson, Acting Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
jcnelson@usgs.gov  
Michael D. Bonds, Environmental Program Coordinator USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
mbonds@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

December 13, 2022

William Quackenbush, THPO  
The Ho-Chunk Nation  
16250 Helmet Road  
Tomah, WI 54660  
Email: Bill.Quackenbush@Ho-Chunk.com

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Quackenbush:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is initiating the Section 106 process pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3, because the above-referenced project may have a potential impact on historic properties. Enclosed for your review is a document containing the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC), located in Madison, Wisconsin. The evaluation was prepared in support of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared in advance of the proposed undertaking to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

We are requesting consultation and comment on the proposed undertaking and the attached documentation. We appreciate your interest and look forward to hearing from you. Should you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to me using the contact information provided below.

Sincerely,

*Jordan Sizemore*

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205, Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Attachment

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief, Environmental Management Branch, efishburne@usgs.gov



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

December 13, 2022

Andrea A. Hunter, Director/THPO  
Osage Nation  
627 Grandview Avenue  
Pawhuska, OK 74056  
Email: ahunter@osagenation-nsn.gov

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Director Hunter:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is initiating the Section 106 process pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3, because the above-referenced project may have a potential impact on historic properties. Enclosed for your review is a document containing the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC), located in Madison, Wisconsin. The evaluation was prepared in support of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared in advance of the proposed undertaking to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

We are requesting consultation and comment on the proposed undertaking and the attached documentation. We appreciate your interest and look forward to hearing from you. Should you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to me using the contact information provided below.

Sincerely,

*Jordan Sizemore*

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205, Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Attachment

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief, Environmental Management Branch, efishburne@usgs.gov



From: felipe.avila@wisconsinhistory.org  
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:06 AM  
To: Umlauf, Kate  
Subject: SHPO Review: 22-1752/DA - Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center

Dear Kate Umlauf,

We have completed our review of WHS #22-1752, Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center and find that no eligible properties will be affected, none are present.

If your plans change or cultural materials/human remains are found during the project, please halt all work and contact our office.

Please use this email as your official SHPO concurrence for the project. If you require a hard copy signed form, please contact me and I will provide you a signed copy as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Felipe Avila  
State Historic Preservation Office

Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706  
608 264-6013  
[felipe.avila@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:felipe.avila@wisconsinhistory.org)

Wisconsin Historical Society  
[Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories Since 1846](#)

**REQUEST FOR SHPO COMMENT AND CONSULTATION ON A FEDERAL UNDERTAKING**

Submit one copy with each undertaking for which our comment is requested. Please print or type. Return to: Wisconsin Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706

Please Check All Boxes and Include All of the Following Information, as Applicable.

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- This is a new submittal.
- This is supplemental information relating to Case #: \_\_\_\_\_, and title: \_\_\_\_\_
- This project is being undertaken pursuant to the terms and conditions of a programmatic or other interagency agreement. The title of the agreement is \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Federal Agency Jurisdiction (Agency providing funds, assistance, license, permit): U.S. Geological Survey
- b. Federal Agency Contact Person: Jordan D. Sizemore, REM Phone: 603-730-7743
- c. Project Contact Person: Kate Umlauf Phone: 612-524-0957
- d. Return Address: 250 Marquette Avenue, Suite 570 City: Minneapolis, MN Zip Code: 55401
- e. Email Address: kate.umlau@wsp.com
- f. Project Name: Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center
- g. Project Street Address: 6006 Schroeder Road
- h. County: Dane City: Madison Zip Code: 53711
- i. Project Location: Township 7, Range 8, East  or West , Section 25, Quarter Sections SE
- j. Project Narrative Description—Attach Information as Necessary.
- k. Area of Potential Effect (APE). Attach Copy of U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle showing APE.

**II. IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

- Historic Properties are located within the project APE per 36 CFR 800.4. Attach supporting materials, per 36 CFR 800.11.
- Historic Properties are not located within the project APE per 36 CFR 800.4. Attach supporting materials, per CFR 800.11.

**III. FINDINGS**

- No historic properties will be affected (i.e., none is present or there are historic properties present but the project will have no effect upon them). Attach necessary documentation, as described at 36 CFR 800.11.
- The proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on one or more historic properties located within the project APE under 36 CFR 800.5. Attach necessary documentation, as described at 36 CFR 800.11.
- The proposed undertaking will result in an adverse effect to one or more historic properties and the applicant, or other federally authorized representative, will consult with the SHPO and other consulting parties to resolve the adverse effect per 36 CFR 800.6. Attach supporting documentation as described at 36 CFR 800.11.

Authorized Signature: Jordan Sizemore Date: December 13, 2022

Type or print name: Jordan Sizemore

**IV. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE COMMENTS**

- Agree with the finding in section III above.
- Object to the finding for reasons indicated in attached letter.
- Cannot review until information is sent as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: [Signature] Date: 12/14/2022



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

December 22, 2022

Ron Corn, Chairman  
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135  
Email: chairman@mitw.org

**Re: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Chairman Corn:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is initiating the Section 106 process pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3, because the above-referenced project may have a potential impact on historic properties. Enclosed for your review is a document containing the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC), located in Madison, Wisconsin. The evaluation was prepared in support of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared in advance of the proposed undertaking to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

We are requesting consultation and comment on the proposed undertaking and the attached documentation. We appreciate your interest and look forward to hearing from you. Should you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to me using the contact information provided below.

Sincerely,

*Jordan Sizemore*

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205, Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov

Attachment

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief, Environmental Management Branch, efishburne@usgs.gov



## Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

3410 P St. NW, Miami, OK 74354 • P.O. Box 1326, Miami, OK 74355  
Ph: (918) 541-1300 • Fax: (918) 542-7260  
www.miamination.com



Via email: [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)

January 12, 2023

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225

Re: National Wildlife Health Center Modernization, Dane County, Wisconsin – Comments of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Sizemore:

Aya, kweehsitoolaani– I show you respect. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, a federally recognized Indian tribe with a Constitution ratified in 1939 under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936, respectfully submits the following comments regarding National Wildlife Health Center Modernization in Dane County, Wisconsin.

The Miami Tribe offers no objection to the above-referenced project at this time, as we are not currently aware of existing documentation directly linking a specific Miami cultural or historic site to the project site. However, given the Miami Tribe's deep and enduring relationship to its historic lands and cultural property within present-day Wisconsin, if any human remains or Native American cultural items falling under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) or archaeological evidence is discovered during any phase of this project, the Miami Tribe requests immediate consultation with the entity of jurisdiction for the location of discovery. In such a case, please contact me at 918-541-8966 or by email at [THPO@miamination.com](mailto:THPO@miamination.com) to initiate consultation.

The Miami Tribe accepts the invitation to serve as a consulting party to the proposed project. In my capacity as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer I am the point of contact for consultation.

Respectfully,

Diane Hunter  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

May 17, 2023

Shauna Marquardt  
Field Supervisor, Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
4101 American Blvd., Bloomington, MN 55425-1665  
GreenBay@fws.gov

**Re: Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Ms. Marquardt:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) operates the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located at 6006 Schroeder Road in Madison, Wisconsin. The NWHC is part of a 24-acre tract that was acquired by the Federal government in 1978 to provide a permanent facility for the NWHC. At that time, the NWHC was the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains today as the only national center devoted to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the U.S.

The NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of significant renovations, replacements and repairs. Studies conducted since 2008 have found that the mission and function of the facility, along with the interests of USGS, which oversees the NWHC, would be best served by replacing the NWHC. A new facility, designed and constructed to contemporary standards, would meet USGS's current and future needs, deliver better results, improve worker and public safety, and control operating costs.

Since development of a new NWHC has the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment, USGS will soon begin preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will ensure that the environmental consequences of the proposed action are thoroughly documented and complies with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, among other statutes and Executive Orders. The process also provides interested parties and the public with opportunities to offer input and comments concerning the proposed action.

While the Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register in the near future, USGS wishes to begin engaging key regulatory agencies including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) in a discussion about the proposed project and the interests and concerns unique to your organization. USGS and its consultant team would like to meet with you and others from your agency to describe the history of the NWHC and the purpose and objectives of the proposed project. Most important, the meeting will provide USGS an opportunity to learn of the interests and concerns of your agency regarding the proposed NWHC.

Page 2:

Included with this letter is a meeting agenda along with a Project Summary which provides information about the history and functions of the NWHC, plans for the proposed new NWHC, species under the USFWS jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the proposed project area according to USFWS's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), among other topics. A representative of our consultant team (WSP USA) will reach out to you shortly to identify a convenient date/time to hold a virtual meeting. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me using the contact information provided below. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Sizemore".

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205, Lakewood, CO 80225  
916-606-7460 / jsizemore@usgs.gov

Attachments

Cc:

R. Nardi, J. Forbes, T. Stewart, WSP USA  
E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch, efishburne@usgs.gov  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch, msmith@usgs.gov  
Michael D. Bonds, USGS Environmental Program Coordinator, NWHC, mbonds@usgs.gov



# United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

April 16, 2024

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office  
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service  
3815 American Boulevard East  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1659

**RE: Proposed Development of an Updated Facility for the National Wildlife Health Center- Madison, Wisconsin  
Section 7 Project Review  
USFWS Project Code 2023-0083583**

Dear Ms. Marquardt:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS), with the assistance of WSP USA, is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in support of a Proposed Action to develop an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC). The USGS operates the existing NWHC located at 6006 Schroeder Road in Madison, Wisconsin, approximately five miles southwest of downtown Madison.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) notice of the Proposed Action and to document compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as well as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) (40 Stat. 755, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 703-712), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (BGEPA) (54 Stat. 240, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 668-668c).

## **PROPOSED ACTION**

The NWHC is part of a 24-acre tract, which along with a vacant building, was acquired by the federal government in 1978 to provide a permanent facility for the NWHC. At that time, the NWHC was the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains today as the only national center devoted to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the U.S.

The NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of significant renovations, replacements and repairs. Studies conducted since 2008 have found that the mission and function of the facility, along with the interests of USGS, which oversees the NWHC, would be best served by replacing the NWHC. A new facility, designed and constructed to contemporary standards, would meet USGS's current and future needs, deliver better results, improve worker and public safety, and control operating costs. The Proposed Action will develop a new NWHC that will meet modern standards, incorporate more flexible lab space, and expand diagnostic facilities.

Impacts associated with the Proposed Action will be minimized by developing the new NWHC largely within the footprint of existing development; however, temporary and permanent impacts to undeveloped land would occur as a result of construction of the new NWHC and associated solar photovoltaic (PV) and geothermal systems. Permanent impact to approximately 0.6 acre of vegetation within the south prairie would result from construction of the new building footprint, sidewalks, and visitor parking. Approximately 0.7 acre of existing building/impervious surface would be converted to vegetated prairie habitat, for a net increase of approximately 0.1 acre of vegetated prairie habitat within the NWHC site. The newly created 0.7 acre prairie area will be seeded with a native short prairie mix. Approximately 1.4 acres of trees would be removed from the footprint of the new facility. Individual trees may be removed from the footprints of the geothermal field in the northern part of the property, and at the site entrance to accommodate a sidewalk connecting the property to the sidewalk and bus stop on Shroeder Road.

Approximately 2.1 acres of the existing north and south prairie habitat would be temporarily disturbed for construction mobilization, equipment staging and material storage areas, geothermal drilling, and installation of PV panels. Areas under the PV panels would be reseeded with lower-growing native grasses and prairie species. All temporarily disturbed vegetated areas would be restored following construction by removal of invasive species and revegetation with native prairie vegetation.

## **ACTION AREA**

Figure 1 shows the NWHC's location and Figure 2 provides an aerial view of the property. The central, developed portion of the site operates as the NWHC and contains two buildings and a parking lot. A prairie restoration was implemented on the property in 1985-1986. The 5.7 acre restored south prairie has trails for passive recreation and serves as a buffer to the sensitive nature of the NWHC's work. The restored prairie areas were originally planted with grasses such as big bluestem and Indian grass but have been heavily invaded by trees and brush such as black locust, sumac, black walnut, dogwood, wild grape, and reed canary grass, and the native plant diversity has decreased. The 3.1-acre north prairie is even more heavily invaded by woody species than in the south. Aspen have invaded from the adjacent woods and the area is vulnerable to exotic species from the adjacent Beltline Highway corridor. The wooded areas that surround the NWHC and prairie are dominated by exotic and invasive trees and brush such as black locust, box elder, black walnut, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and sumac with a ground layer of herbaceous weeds, especially garlic mustard. There are no wetlands or waterbodies mapped on or adjacent to the property.

## **SPECIES AND HABITATS CONSIDERED**

### **ESA Species**

The USFWS Official Species List, included as Attachment A, indicates that five federally listed, one proposed for listing, and one candidate species of plant or wildlife may occur within the vicinity of the NWHC property: northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis* - endangered); tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus* – proposed endangered); rusty patched bumble bee – (*Bombus affinis* – endangered); monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus* – candidate); whooping crane (*Grus americana* – Experimental Population, Non-Essential); eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea* – threatened); and prairie bush-clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya* - threatened). The property does not contain critical habitat or proposed critical habitat for these or any other species.



Descriptions of these species and their habitats, as well as the likelihood that they would occur within the property, are summarized below from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and USFWS species profiles.

- **Northern long-eared bat:** The federally endangered northern long-eared bat is a medium-sized bat that is distinguished by its long ears, particularly as compared to other bats in its genus. The northern long-eared bat is found across much of the eastern and north central United States. White-nose syndrome is the predominant threat to this bat, especially throughout the northeast where the species has declined by up to 99 percent from pre-white-nose syndrome levels at many hibernation sites. Northern long-eared bats spend winter (November 1 to March 31) hibernating in caves and mines and then emerge in early spring. During the active season (April 1 to October 31), northern long-eared bats utilize a wide variety of forested/ wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel. They may also utilize some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields, and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches dbh that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet of forested/ wooded habitat.

Forested portions of the NWHC property may provide suitable roosting habitat for northern long-eared bat. The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI Portal) database contains all current northern long-eared bat roost sites and hibernacula in Wisconsin based on verified survey results from Wisconsin DNR, USFWS, and private organizations. The NHI Portal was consulted as part of the Wisconsin DNR's Endangered Resources Review, and it was determined that there is no known maternity roost or hibernaculum within one mile of the NWHC property.

- **Tricolored bat:** On September 23, 2022, the UFSWS announced a proposal to list the tricolored bat as endangered due to the range-wide impacts of white-nose syndrome. The tricolored bat is one of the smallest bats native to North America. As its name suggests, the tricolored bat is distinguished by its unique tricolored fur that appears dark at the base, lighter in the middle, and dark at the tip. The once common species is wide ranging across the eastern and central United States and portions of southern Canada, Mexico and Central America. Tricolored bats are primarily found in the western half of Wisconsin, but hibernaculum surveys show hibernating tricolored bats in Door County and northeastern Wisconsin. During the winter, tricolored bats hibernate in caves and mines. Most mating occurs in the fall, with delayed fertilization and twin pups born in spring. During the spring, summer and fall, tricolored bats are found in forested habitats where they roost in trees, primarily among leaves. Their preferred foraging habitat is forest edges and waterways.

Forested portions of the NWHC property may provide suitable roosting habitat for tricolored bat.

- **Rusty patched bumble bee:** The rusty patched bumble bee is a state species of Special Concern and is federally listed as endangered. Since 2000, rusty patched bumble bee has been reported in only 13 states, including Wisconsin. All rusty

patched bumble bees have entirely black heads, but only workers and males have a rusty reddish patch centrally located on the back. This bee relies on diverse and abundant flowering plant species in proximity to suitable overwintering sites for hibernating queens, which include, but are not limited to non-compacted and often sandy soils or woodlands. Suitable active season habitat includes but is not limited to prairies, woodlands, marshes/wetlands, agricultural landscapes, and residential parks and gardens.

While the maintained areas and existing impervious areas on the NWHC property would not be considered suitable habitats for rusty patched bumble bee, the prairie and wooded portions of the property may contain suitable nesting and foraging habitat. The NWHC property also overlaps the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone (RPBB HBZ), indicating there is a high likelihood for the species to be present.

- **Monarch butterfly:** Monarch butterflies are a bright orange color with black and white markings and a wingspan between 3.5 and 4 inches. The caterpillars have many yellow, black and white bands and antenna-like appendages at each end of their body. Monarch caterpillars feed almost exclusively on milkweed and as adults feed on nectar from a wide range of flowers. They lay their eggs on milkweed; there are about 3 to 5 generations born each spring and summer and most of the offspring do not live beyond five weeks. Wisconsin monarchs are migratory, journeying to central Mexico for the winter each year. In the spring, summer and early fall, they can be found wherever there are nectar-producing plants.

While the maintained areas and existing impervious areas on the NWHC property would not be considered suitable habitats for monarch butterfly, they are expected to utilize the remnant prairie habitat.

- **Whooping crane:** The whooping crane is North America's tallest bird, with males approaching five feet (1.5 meters) when standing erect. The whooping crane adult plumage is snowy white except for black primaries, black or grayish specialized feathers attached to the upper leading end of the wing, sparse black bristly feathers on the side of the head from the bill to the angle of the jaw, and a dark gray-black wedge-shaped patch on the nape. They depend on large, open wetland ecosystems to eat, roost, and make their nests. Whooping cranes were extirpated from the Midwest and are listed as federally endangered. The Wisconsin DNR, along with other members of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, is working to restore an eastern migratory population of whooping cranes that migrates annually between its Wisconsin breeding grounds and its wintering habitat in the southern United States.

The whooping crane is not expected to occur on the NWHC property due to lack of appropriate habitat. Whooping cranes in Wisconsin are designated as a non-essential experimental population, and consultation under Section 7 of the ESA is only required if activities would occur within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park.

- **Eastern prairie fringed orchid:** The Eastern prairie white fringed orchid is a state endangered and federally threatened plant found in moist, undisturbed, deep-soiled and/or calcareous prairies and rarely in tamarack fens. This plant is 8 to 40 inches tall and has an upright leafy stem with one single flower spike composed of 5 to 40

white flowers. Blooming occurs early July through early August; fruiting occurs throughout August. It requires full sun for optimum growth and flowering and a grassy habitat with little or no woody encroachment.

The NWHC property lacks the moist soils and undisturbed grassy habitat without woody encroachment that is required by this species. The Wisconsin DNR did not report any records of this species occurring on the property. This species is not expected to occur within the NWHC property.

- **Prairie bush-clover:** Prairie bush-clover is state endangered and federally threatened plant found in gravelly or sandy hillside prairies. It has a clover-like leaf comprised of three leaflets about an inch long and a quarter inch wide. Flowering plants are generally between nine and 18 inches tall with the flowers loosely arranged on an open spike. The entire plant has a grayish-silver sheen. The pale pink or cream colored flowers bloom in mid-July and fruiting occurs early August through early September.

The NWHC does not contain gravelly or sandy hillside prairies. The disturbed remnant prairie habitat has been heavily invaded by woody and invasive vegetation. The Wisconsin DNR did not report any records of this species occurring on the property. This species is not expected to occur within the NWHC property.

### **Migratory Bird Treaty Act Species**

The USFWS Official Species List also provided a Migratory Bird Resource List for Proposed Action area. The list comprises USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention. The list indicates that there are 17 species of migratory birds that are protected under the MBTA that may occur in the Proposed Action area.

### **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Species**

According to the USFWS Official Species List, bald eagles are known to occur in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. Bald eagles prefer undisturbed forested areas near large lakes and reservoirs, marshes and swamps, or stretches along rivers where they can find open water and their primary food, fish. Bald eagles prefer to nest, perch, and roost in old-growth and mature forest stands of conifers and hardwoods. Foraging habitat for bald eagles consists of large perch trees near a body of water. The Proposed Action area does not contain the forested habitat near waterbodies that bald eagles prefer, and this species is not reported to breed within the vicinity of the property.

## **ANALYSIS AND DETERMINATION OF EFFECTS**

### **ESA Species**

- **Northern long-eared bat:** A determination of May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) was reached for northern long-eared bat using the IPaC system and Northern Long-eared Bat Range-wide Determination Key. The concurrence letter is included at Attachment B to this letter. As indicated in the determination key responses, tree removal will occur during the inactive (hibernation) season for northern long-eared bat.
- **Tricolored bat:** A determination of NLAA was reached for tricolored bat using the IPaC system and Minnesota-Wisconsin Determination Key. The consistency letter is

included at Attachment C. Seasonal tree removal restrictions, as noted above, would be implemented.

- **Rusty patched bumble bee:** A determination of May Effect for rusty patched bumble bee was reached using the IPaC system and Minnesota-Wisconsin Determination Key. The consistency letter is included at Attachment C.

The potential for impacts to rusty patched bumble bee is limited to disturbance within the existing remnant prairie habitat which may provide habitat for these pollinators. Within the south prairie, approximately 0.6 acre of degraded prairie adjacent to existing development will be permanently impacted by construction. However, approximately 0.7 acre of existing impervious surface would be converted to prairie habitat, adjacent to the existing prairie, for a net increase of approximately 0.1 acre of prairie habitat. Approximately 2.1 acres of the existing north and south prairie habitat that would be temporarily disturbed during construction would be restored through the planned removal of invasive species and revegetation with native prairie species.

The following USFWS recommended conservation measures for the rusty patched bumble bee would be employed during construction:

- Implement BMPs, especially those that serve to minimize the spread of invasive species and to avoid or minimize soil compaction.
- Avoid or minimize soil disturbance and heavy equipment operation during overwintering (mid-October to mid-March).
- Avoid or minimize forest management that may destroy spring blooming flowers during their bloom periods.
- Consider thinning or single tree selection and dense invasive shrub removal that may improve overwintering and spring foraging habitat.
- Use native trees, shrubs and flowering plants in landscaping.
- Provide plants that bloom from spring through fall (refer to the USFWS RPBB Midwest Plant Guide).
- Remove and control invasive plants in any habitat used for foraging, nesting, or overwintering.

Based on the proposed conservation and minimization measures, the net increase in prairie habitat, and the planned restoration of existing prairie habitat, we have determined that the Proposed Action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect rusty patched bumble bee.

- **Monarch butterfly:** The conservation and minimization measures listed above for rusty patched bumble bee will also avoid or minimize impacts to monarch butterfly. The net increase in prairie habitat and the planned restoration of existing prairie habitat would benefit this pollinator. A determination of No Effect for monarch butterfly was reached using the IPaC system and Minnesota-Wisconsin Determination Key. The consistency letter is included at Attachment C.
- **Whooping crane:** This species is not expected to occur within the Action Area. A determination of No Effect for whooping crane was reached using the IPaC system and Minnesota-Wisconsin Determination Key. The consistency letter is included at Attachment C.

- **Eastern prairie fringed orchid:** This species is not expected to occur within the Action Area. A determination of No Effect was reached for eastern prairie fringed orchid using the IPaC system and Minnesota-Wisconsin Determination Key. The consistency letter is included at Attachment C.
- **Prairie bush-clover:** This species is not expected to occur within the Action Area. A determination of No Effect for prairie bush-clover was reached using the IPaC system and Minnesota-Wisconsin Determination Key. The consistency letter is included at Attachment C.

### **Migratory Bird Treaty Act Species**

It is expected that any migratory birds that may be present in the Proposed Action area would temporarily leave to avoid disturbance from construction activity. USGS has determined that the proposed Project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any migratory birds and would not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of any such species.

### **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Species**

Based on the available habitat within the Proposed Action area, bald eagles are not anticipated to occur except as occasional transients. As with other migratory birds, foraging bald eagles may temporarily avoid the area during construction due to noise and disturbance. USGS has determined that the proposed Project would not result in “taking” bald or golden eagles. The Project would not substantially interfere with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior that may cause injury, decrease in productivity, or nest abandonment.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Proposed Action is not expected to result in a “taking” of any listed species. For purposes of consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, USGS has determined that the Proposed Action would have No Effect on monarch butterfly, whooping crane, eastern prairie fringed orchid, and prairie bush clover, and is not likely to adversely affect northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, and rusty patched bumble bee.

The Proposed Action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of vulnerable migratory birds or BCC, nor the destruction or adverse modification their designated critical habitat. The Proposed Action would not result in “taking,” injury, decrease in productivity, or nest abandonment of bald or golden eagles.

This letter provides further evaluation of effects of the Proposed Action on rusty patched bumble bee, as required per the Consistency Letter (Attachment C). USGS respectfully requests acknowledgement from USFWS that it has no objections to the determinations stated above and that project responsibilities under Section 7 of the ESA have been fulfilled. USGS understands that, as stated in the **Northern Long-eared Bat NLAA Concurrence Letter** (Attachment B), unless we are advised by USFWS within 15 days of the date of the concurrence letter that our IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, the consultation for northern long-eared bat is complete and no further action is necessary. For the NLAA determination for tricolored bat, USFWS concurrence is valid after a 30-day review period. USGS also understands the concurrence is not required and no further action is required for the species with No Effect determinations (whooping crane, monarch butterfly, eastern prairie fringed orchid, and prairie bush clover).

USGS understands that the USFWS presumes that all activities would be implemented as described herein. Any departures from the described activities will be promptly reported to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office.

We appreciate your assistance with this matter and look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov) or by phone at 360-929-0783. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan Sizemore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
NEPA Project Manager  
U.S. Geological Survey

#### Figures

Figure 1: NWHC Location

Figure 2: Aerial View

Figure 3 Preliminary Site Design for the Proposed New NWHC

#### Attachments

Attachment A: USFWS Official Species List

Attachment B: USFWS Northern Long-eared Bat NLAA Concurrence Letter

Attachment C: USFWS Consistency Letter

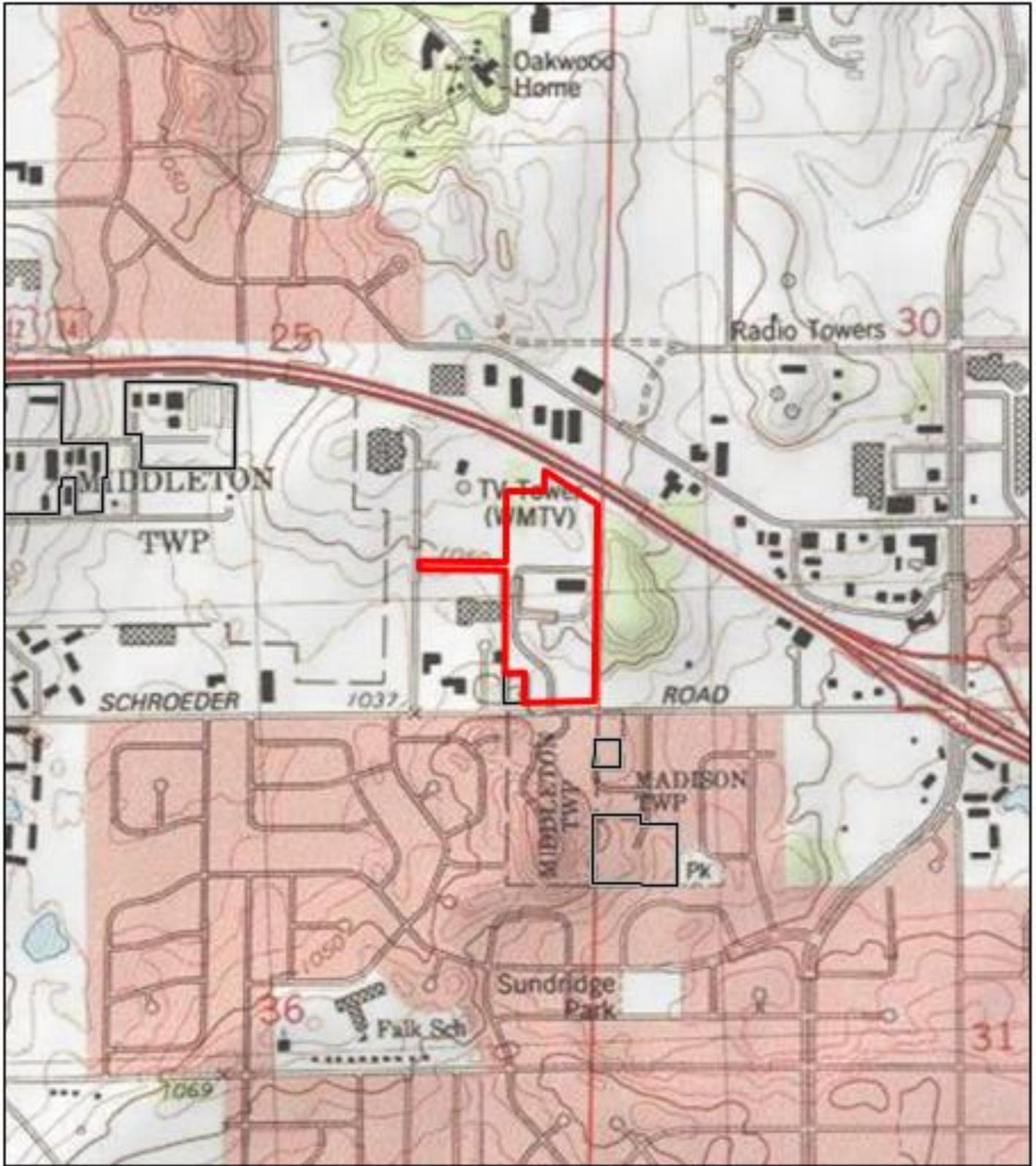


Figure 1: NWHC Location



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph





Figure 3: Preliminary Site Design for the Proposed New NWHC

**Attachment A: United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
Official Species List**



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office  
3815 American Blvd East  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659  
Phone: (952) 858-0793

In Reply Refer To:

04/10/2024 01:33:38 UTC

Project Code: 2023-0083583

Project Name: Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

This response has been generated by the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system to provide information on natural resources that could be affected by your project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides this response under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

### **Threatened and Endangered Species**

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirement for obtaining a Technical Assistance Letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

### **Consultation Technical Assistance**

Please refer to our [Section 7 website](#) for guidance and technical assistance, including [step-by-step instructions](#) for making effects determinations for each species that might be present and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, USDA Rural Development projects, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.

We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our **Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin ("D-key"))**. A [demonstration video](#) showing how-to access and use the determination key is available. Please note that the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key is the third option of 3 available d-keys. D-keys are tools to help Federal agencies and other project proponents determine if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect federally listed species and designated critical habitat. The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key includes a structured set of questions that assists a project proponent in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for a certain predetermined consultation outcome for all federally listed species found in Minnesota and Wisconsin (except for the northern long-eared bat- see below), which includes determinations of “no effect” or “may affect, not likely to adversely affect.” In each case, the Service has compiled and analyzed the best available information on the species’ biology and the impacts of certain activities to support these determinations.

If your completed d-key output letter shows a "No Effect" (NE) determination for all listed species, print your IPaC output letter for your files to document your compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

For Federal projects with a “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” (NLAA) determination, our concurrence becomes valid if you do not hear otherwise from us after a 30-day review period, as indicated in your letter.

If your d-key output letter indicates additional coordination with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is necessary (i.e., you get a “May Affect” determination), you will be provided additional guidance on contacting the Service to continue ESA coordination outside of the key; ESA compliance cannot be concluded using the key for “May Affect” determinations unless otherwise indicated in your output letter.

**Note: Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC with d-keys, although in most cases these tools should expedite your review.** If you choose to make an effects determination on your own, you may do so. If the project is a Federal Action, you may want to review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations.

### **Using the IPaC Official Species List to Make No Effect and May Affect Determinations for Listed Species**

1. If IPaC returns a result of “There are no listed species found within the vicinity of the project,” then project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on any federally listed species under Service jurisdiction. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **no effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
2. If IPaC returns one or more federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially present in the action area of the proposed project – other than bats (see below) – then project proponents must determine if proposed activities will have **no effect** on or **may affect** those species. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain [Life History Information for Listed and Candidate Species](#) on our office website. If no impacts will occur to a species on the IPaC species list (e.g., there is no habitat present in the project area), the appropriate determination is **no effect**. No

further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

3. Should you determine that project activities **may affect** any federally listed, please contact our office for further coordination. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

### **Northern Long-Eared Bats**

Northern long-eared bats occur throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and the information below may help in determining if your project may affect these species.

This species hibernates in caves or mines only during the winter. In Minnesota and Wisconsin, the hibernation season is considered to be November 1 to March 31. During the active season (April 1 to October 31) they roost in forest and woodland habitats. Suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches dbh for northern long-eared bat that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat and evaluated for use by bats. If your project will impact caves or mines or will involve clearing forest or woodland habitat containing suitable roosting habitat, northern long-eared bats could be affected.

Examples of unsuitable habitat include:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested or wooded areas,
- Trees found in highly developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas),
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh trees that are not mixed with larger trees, and
- A monoculture stand of shrubby vegetation with no potential roost trees.

If IPaC returns a result that northern long-eared bats are potentially present in the action area of the proposed project, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities **may affect** this species **IF** one or more of the following activities are proposed:

- Clearing or disturbing suitable roosting habitat, as defined above, at any time of year,
- Any activity in or near the entrance to a cave or mine,
- Mining, deep excavation, or underground work within 0.25 miles of a cave or mine,
- Construction of one or more wind turbines, or
- Demolition or reconstruction of human-made structures that are known to be used by bats based on observations of roosting bats, bats emerging at dusk, or guano deposits or stains.

*If none of the above activities are proposed*, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on the northern long-eared bat. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **No Effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

*If any of the above activities are proposed*, and the northern long-eared bat appears on the user's species list, the federal project user will be directed to either the range-wide northern long-eared bat D-key or the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Railways Administration, and Federal Transit Administration Indiana bat/ Northern long-eared bat D-key, depending on the type of project and federal agency involvement. Similar to the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key, these d-keys help to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter.

*Please note:* On November 30, 2022, the Service published a proposal final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. On January 26, 2023, the Service published a 60-day extension for the final reclassification rule in the Federal Register, moving the effective listing date from January 30, 2023, to March 31, 2023. This extension will provide stakeholders and the public time to preview interim guidance and consultation tools before the rule becomes effective. When available, the tools will be available on the Service's northern long-eared bat website (<https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis>). Once the final rule goes into effect on March 31, 2023, the 4(d) D-key will no longer be available (4(d) rules are not available for federally endangered species) and will be replaced with a new Range-wide NLEB D-key (range-wide d-key). For projects not completed by March 31, 2023, that were previously reviewed under the 4(d) d-key, there may be a need for reinitiation of consultation. For these ongoing projects previously reviewed under the 4(d) d-key that may result in incidental take of the northern long-eared bat, we recommend you review your project using the new range-wide d-key once available. If your project does not comply with the range-wide d-key, it may be eligible for use of the Interim (formal) Consultation framework (framework). The framework is intended to facilitate the transition from the 4(d) rule to typical Section 7 consultation procedures for federally endangered species and will be available only until spring 2024. Again, when available, these tools (new range-wide d-key and framework) will be available on the Service's [northern long-eared bat website](#).

### **Whooping Crane**

Whooping crane is designated as a non-essential experimental population in Wisconsin and consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act is only required if project activities will occur within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park. If project activities are proposed on lands outside of a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park, then you are not required to consult. For additional information on this designation and consultation requirements, please review "[Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Whooping Cranes in the Eastern United States.](#)"

### **Other Trust Resources and Activities**

*Bald and Golden Eagles* - Although the bald eagle has been removed from the endangered species list, this species and the golden eagle are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Should bald or golden eagles occur within or near the project area please contact our office for further coordination. For communication and wind energy projects, please refer to additional guidelines below.

*Migratory Birds* - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Service. The Service has the responsibility under the MBTA to proactively prevent the mortality of migratory birds whenever possible and we encourage implementation of [recommendations that minimize potential impacts to migratory birds](#). Such measures include clearing forested habitat outside the nesting season (generally March 1 to August 31) or conducting nest surveys prior to clearing to avoid injury to eggs or nestlings.

*Communication Towers* - Construction of new communications towers (including radio, television, cellular, and microwave) creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. However, the Service has developed [voluntary guidelines for minimizing impacts](#).

*Transmission Lines* - Migratory birds, especially large species with long wingspans, heavy bodies, and poor maneuverability can also collide with power lines. In addition, mortality can occur when birds, particularly hawks, eagles, kites, falcons, and owls, attempt to perch on uninsulated or unguarded power poles. To minimize these risks, please refer to [guidelines](#) developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and the Service. Implementation of these measures is especially important along sections of lines adjacent to wetlands or other areas that support large numbers of raptors and migratory birds.

*Wind Energy* - To minimize impacts to migratory birds and bats, wind energy projects should follow the Service's [Wind Energy Guidelines](#). In addition, please refer to the Service's [Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance](#), which provides guidance for conserving bald and golden eagles in the course of siting, constructing, and operating wind energy facilities.

### **State Department of Natural Resources Coordination**

While it is not required for your Federal section 7 consultation, please note that additional state endangered or threatened species may also have the potential to be impacted. Please contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for information on state listed species that may be present in your proposed project area.

#### *Minnesota*

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: [Review.NHIS@state.mn.us](mailto:Review.NHIS@state.mn.us)

#### *Wisconsin*

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: [DNRERReview@wi.gov](mailto:DNRERReview@wi.gov)

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries

- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

## **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office**

3815 American Blvd East

Bloomington, MN 55425-1659

(952) 858-0793



## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0083583

Project Name: Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin

Project Type: Government / Municipal (Non-Military) Construction

Project Description: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) operates the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located at 6006 Schroeder Road in Madison, Wisconsin. The NWHC is part of a 24-acre tract that was acquired by the Federal government in 1978 to provide a permanent facility for the NWHC. At that time, the NWHC was the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains today as the only national center devoted to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the U.S. However, the NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of significant renovations, replacements and repairs. Studies conducted since 2008 have found that the mission and function of the facility, along with the interests of USGS, which oversees the NWHC, would be best served by replacing the NWHC. The project involves the development of a new facility, designed and constructed to contemporary standards, to meet USGS's current and future needs, deliver better results, improve worker and public safety, and control operating costs.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@43.0487462,-89.4844698505574,14z>



Counties: Dane County, Wisconsin

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 7 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

**MAMMALS**

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a>	Proposed Endangered

**BIRDS**

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758</a>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential

**INSECTS**

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee <i>Bombus affinis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9383">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9383</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/6ER7JN4GKRFORIMMGTUGJOFLCE/documents/generated/5967.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/6ER7JN4GKRFORIMMGTUGJOFLCE/documents/generated/5967.pdf</a>	Endangered

**FLOWERING PLANTS**

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid <i>Platanthera leucophaea</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/601">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/601</a>	Threatened
Prairie Bush-clover <i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4458">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4458</a>	Threatened

**CRITICAL HABITATS**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

## BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>1</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats<sup>3</sup>, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#).

- 
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
  2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
  3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31



## MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats<sup>3</sup> should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Golden-plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10561">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10561</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Black-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399</a>	Breeds May 15 to Oct 10
Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454</a>	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9643">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9643</a>	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406</a></p>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
<p>Eastern Whip-poor-will <i>Antrastomus vociferus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
<p>Golden-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
<p>Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</a></p>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
<p>Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431</a></p>	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental](#)

[Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

**Probability of Presence (■)**

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

**Breeding Season (■)**

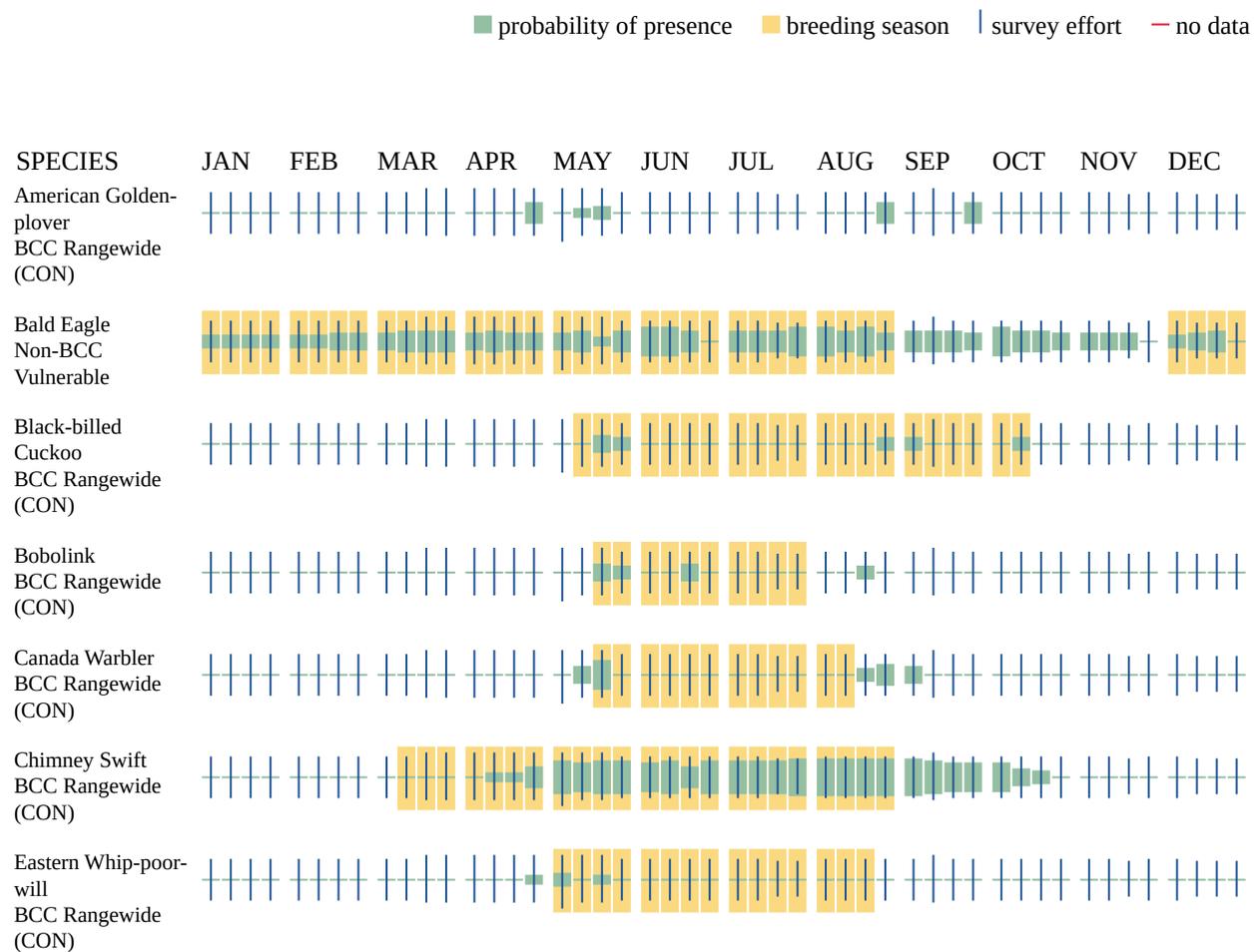
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

**Survey Effort (|)**

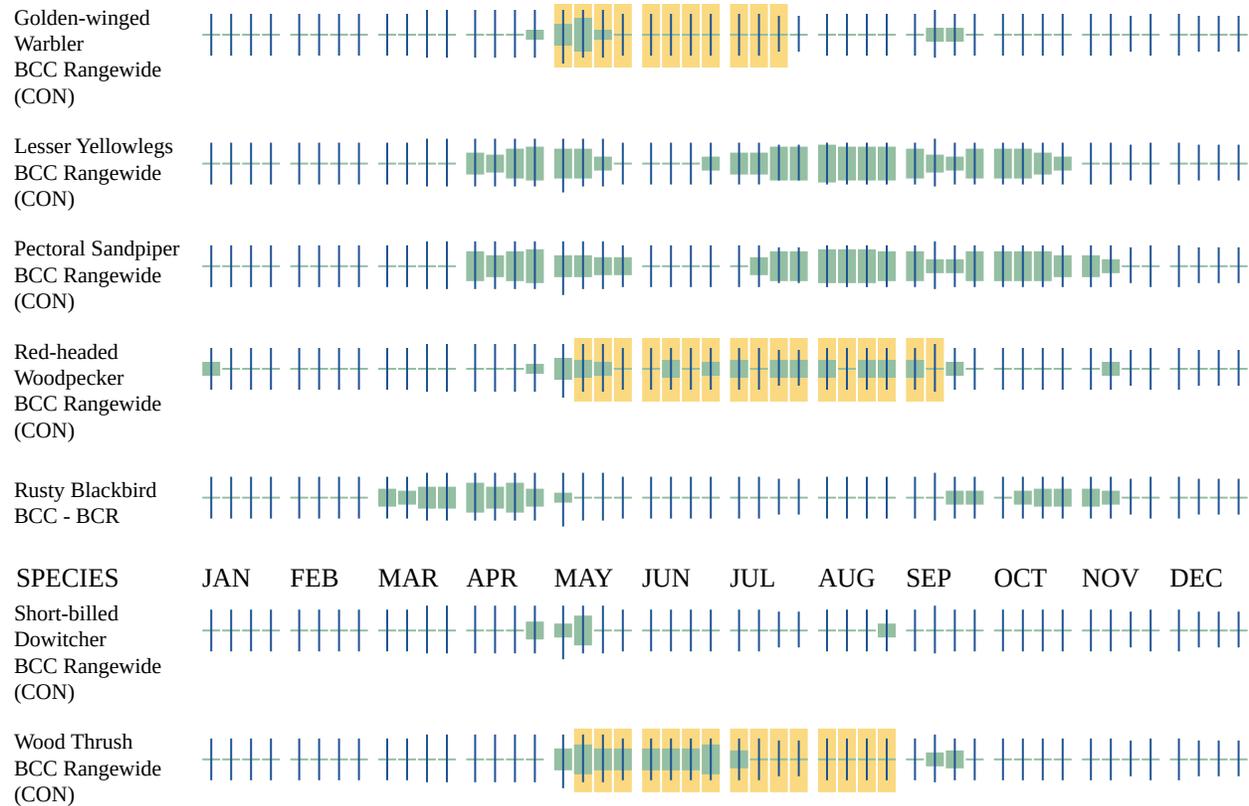
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

**No Data (-)**

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.







Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

## WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: WSP USA  
Name: Tara Stewart  
Address: 350 Mount Kemble Avenue  
City: Morristown  
State: NJ  
Zip: 07962  
Email: tara.stewart@wsp.com  
Phone: 9734071473

## **LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Lead Agency: U.S. Geological Survey  
Name: Jordan Sizemore  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov  
Phone: 9166067460

**Attachment B: United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
Northern Long-Eared Bat Concurrency Letter**



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office  
3815 American Blvd East  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659  
Phone: (952) 858-0793

In Reply Refer To:

04/10/2024 02:32:39 UTC

Project code: 2023-0083583

Project Name: Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): U.S. Geological Survey

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for 'Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin'

Dear Tara Stewart:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 10, 2024, for 'Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2023-0083583 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

## **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. **Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.**

## **Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat**

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, your project has reached the determination of "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" the northern

long-eared bat. Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid *Platanthera leucophaea* Threatened
- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate
- Prairie Bush-clover *Lespedeza leptostachya* Threatened
- Rusty Patched Bumble Bee *Bombus affinis* Endangered
- Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus* Proposed Endangered
- Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Experimental Population, Non-Essential

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2023-0083583 associated with this Project.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin':

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) operates the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located at 6006 Schroeder Road in Madison, Wisconsin. The NWHC is part of a 24-acre tract that was acquired by the Federal government in 1978 to provide a permanent facility for the NWHC. At that time, the NWHC was the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains today as the only national center devoted to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the U.S. However, the NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of significant renovations, replacements and repairs. Studies conducted since 2008 have found that the mission and function of the facility, along with the interests of USGS, which oversees the NWHC, would be best served by replacing the NWHC. The project involves the development of a new facility, designed and constructed to contemporary standards, to meet USGS's current and future needs, deliver better results, improve worker and public safety, and control operating costs.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@43.0487462,-89.4844698505574,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for the Endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*).

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of the northern long-eared bat or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

No

2. The action area does not overlap with an area for which U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently has data to support the presumption that the northern long-eared bat is present. Are you aware of other data that indicates that northern long-eared bats (NLEB) are likely to be present in the action area?

Bat occurrence data may include identification of NLEBs in hibernacula, capture of NLEBs, tracking of NLEBs to roost trees, or confirmed NLEB acoustic detections. Data on captures, roost tree use, and acoustic detections should post-date the year when white-nose syndrome was detected in the relevant state. With this question, we are looking for data that, for some reason, may have not yet been made available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

No

3. Does any component of the action involve construction or operation of wind turbines?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

4. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

Yes

5. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

No



6. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

7. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

9. Have you determined that your proposed action will have no effect on the northern long-eared bat? Remember to consider the [effects of any activities](#) that would not occur but for the proposed action.

If you think that the northern long-eared bat may be affected by your project or if you would like assistance in deciding, answer “No” below and continue through the key. If you have determined that the northern long-eared bat does not occur in your project’s action area and/or that your project will have no effects whatsoever on the species despite the potential for it to occur in the action area, you may make a “no effect” determination for the northern long-eared bat.

**Note:** Federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representatives) must consult with USFWS on federal agency actions that may affect listed species [50 CFR 402.14(a)]. Consultation is not required for actions that will not affect listed species or critical habitat. Therefore, this determination key will not provide a consistency or verification letter for actions that will not affect listed species. If you believe that the northern long-eared bat may be affected by your project or if you would like assistance in deciding, please answer “No” and continue through the key. Remember that this key addresses only effects to the northern long-eared bat. Consultation with USFWS would be required if your action may affect another listed species or critical habitat. The definition of [Effects of the Action](#) can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known northern long-eared bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating northern long-eared bats?

No

12. Does the action area contain or occur within 0.5 miles of (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

No

13. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

(If unsure, answer "Yes.")

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches (12.7 centimeter) dbh), answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

Yes

14. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

No

15. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel?

No

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of northern long-eared bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures

No

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats?**

No

18. Will the action directly or indirectly cause construction of one or more new roads that are open to the public?

**Note:** The answer may be yes when a publicly accessible road either (1) is constructed as part of the proposed action or (2) would not occur but for the proposed action (i.e., the road construction is facilitated by the proposed action but is not an explicit component of the project).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.). .

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicide or other pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat? Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic nighttime noise in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat? Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable roosting habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

Yes

31. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area? If unsure, answer "No."

No

32. Does the action include emergency cutting or trimming of hazard trees in order to remove an imminent threat to human safety or property? See hazard tree note at the bottom of the key for text that will be added to response letters

**Note:** A "hazard tree" is a tree that is an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety, or improved property and has a diameter breast height of six inches or greater.

No

33. Are any of the trees proposed for cutting or other means of knocking down, bringing down, topping, or trimming suitable for northern long-eared bat roosting (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches dbh that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or cavities)?

Yes

34. [Semantic] Does your project intersect a known sensitive area for the northern long-eared bat?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your [state agency or USFWS field office](#)

**Automatically answered**

*No*

35. Will all tree cutting/trimming or other knocking or bringing down of trees be restricted to the inactive season for the northern long-eared bat?

**Note:** Inactive Season dates for summer habitat outside of staging and swarming areas can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/inactive-season-dates-swarming-and-staging-areas>.

*Yes*

36. Will the action cause trees to be cut, knocked down, or otherwise brought down across an area greater than 10 acres?

*No*

37. Will the action cause trees to be cut, knocked down, or otherwise brought down in a way that would fragment a forested connection (e.g., tree line) between two or more forest patches of at least 5 acres?

The forest patches may consist of entirely contiguous forest or multiple forested areas that are separated by less than 1000' of non-forested area. A project will fragment a forested connection if it creates an unforested gap of greater than 1000'.

*No*

38. Will the action result in the use of prescribed fire?

*No*

39. Will the action cause noises that are louder than ambient baseline noises within the action area?

*No*

## PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

Enter the extent of the action area (in acres) from which trees will be removed - round up to the nearest tenth of an acre. For this question, include the entire area where tree removal will take place, even if some live or dead trees will be left standing.

1.4

In what extent of the area (in acres) will trees be cut, knocked down, or trimmed during the inactive (hibernation) season for northern long-eared bat? **Note:** Inactive Season dates for spring staging/fall swarming areas can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/inactive-season-dates-swarming-and-staging-areas>

1.4

In what extent of the area (in acres) will trees be cut, knocked down, or trimmed during the active (non-hibernation) season for northern long-eared bat? **Note:** Inactive Season dates for spring staging/fall swarming areas can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/inactive-season-dates-swarming-and-staging-areas>

0

Will all potential northern long-eared bat (NLEB) roost trees (trees  $\geq 3$  inches diameter at breast height, dbh) be cut, knocked, or brought down from any portion of the action area greater than or equal to 0.1 acre? If all NLEB roost trees will be removed from multiple areas, select 'Yes' if the cumulative extent of those areas meets or exceeds 0.1 acre.

Yes

Enter the extent of the action area (in acres) from which all potential NLEB roost trees will be removed. If all NLEB roost trees will be removed from multiple areas, entire the total extent of those areas. Round up to the nearest tenth of an acre.

1.4

For the area from which all potential northern long-eared bat (NLEB) roost trees will be removed, on how many acres (round to the nearest tenth of an acre) will trees be allowed to regrow? Enter '0' if the entire area from which all potential NLEB roost trees are removed will be developed or otherwise converted to non-forest for the foreseeable future.

0

Will any snags (standing dead trees)  $\geq 3$  inches dbh be left standing in the area(s) in which all northern long-eared bat roost trees will be cut, knocked down, or otherwise brought down?

No

Will all project activities be completed by April 1, 2024?

No

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: WSP USA  
Name: Tara Stewart  
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City: Morristown  
State: NJ  
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Phone: 9734071473

## **LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Lead Agency: U.S. Geological Survey  
Name: Jordan Sizemore  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov  
Phone: 9166067460

**Attachment C: United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
Consistency Letter**





# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office  
3815 American Blvd East  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659  
Phone: (952) 858-0793

In Reply Refer To:

04/10/2024 02:16:57 UTC

Project code: 2023-0083583

Project Name: Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin

Subject: Consistency letter for 'Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin' for specified threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location consistent with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin DKey).

Dear Tara Stewart:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on **April 10, 2024** your effect determination(s) for the 'Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin' (Action) using the Minnesota-Wisconsin DKey within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. You have submitted this key to satisfy requirements under Section 7(a)(2). The Service developed this system in accordance of with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.).

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Minnesota-Wisconsin DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid ( <i>Platanthera leucophaea</i> )	Threatened	No effect
Monarch Butterfly ( <i>Danaus plexippus</i> )	Candidate	No effect
Prairie Bush-clover ( <i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i> )	Threatened	No effect
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee ( <i>Bombus affinis</i> )	Endangered	May affect
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA
Whooping Crane ( <i>Grus americana</i> )	Experimental Population, Non- Essential	No effect

## **Determination Information**

**Consultation with the Service is not complete.** Further consultation with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is required for those species with a determination of “May Affect,” listed above. Please email our office at [TwinCities@fws.gov](mailto:TwinCities@fws.gov) and attach a copy of this letter, so we can discuss methods to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to those species.

### **Additional Information**

**Sufficient project details:** Please provide sufficient project details on your project homepage in IPaC (Define Project, Project Description) to support your conclusions. Failure to disclose important aspects of your project that would influence the outcome of your effects determinations may negate your determinations and invalidate this letter. If you have site-specific information that leads you to believe a different determination is more appropriate for your project than what the Dkey concludes, you can and should proceed based on the best available information.

**Future project changes:** The Service recommends that you contact the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office or re-evaluate the project in IPaC if: 1) the scope or location of the proposed Action is changed; 2) new information reveals that the action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; 3) the Action is modified in a manner that causes effects to listed species or designated critical habitat; or 4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional consultation with the Service should take place before project changes are final or resources committed.

### **Species-specific information**

**Listed Plants:** You have indicated that your Action will have no effect (NE) on a threatened or endangered plant species. Although your Federal Endangered Species Act requirements are met, we recommend you contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding compliance with state law. **You may need a state permit if your Action will harm state-listed plants.**

**Rusty Patched Bumble Bee:** Rusty patched bumble bee may be present in the Action area. Projects have potential to adversely affect rusty patched bumble bee if seed collection occurs more than once every three years in a  $\geq 2$  ac area, includes insect trapping, rodent population control, application of insecticide, fungicide, or broadcast herbicide, hydrological changes, ground disturbance on more than  $>0.25$  ac of habitat, vegetation disturbance on  $\geq 2.0$  ac during the active season, and/or permanent conversion of  $\geq 2.0$  ac of habitat. **Please coordinate with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office to further evaluate effects of the Action on rusty patched bumble bee.**

**Bald and Golden Eagles:** Bald eagles, golden eagles, and their nests are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d) (Eagle Act). The Eagle Act prohibits, except when authorized by an Eagle Act permit, the “taking” of bald and golden eagles and defines “take” as “pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb.” The Eagle Act’s implementing regulations define disturb as “... to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, (1) injury to an eagle, (2) a decrease in its productivity,

by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or (3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.”

If you observe a bald eagle nest in the vicinity of your proposed project, you should follow the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (May 2007). For more information on eagles and conducting activities in the vicinity of an eagle nest, please visit our regional eagle website or contact Margaret at Margaret\_Rheude@fws.gov. **If the Action may affect bald or golden eagles, additional coordination with the Service under the Eagle Act may be required.**

The following species and/or critical habitats may also occur in your project area and **are not** covered by this conclusion:

- Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* Endangered

**Coordination with the Service is not complete if additional coordination is advised above for any species.**

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin':

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) operates the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located at 6006 Schroeder Road in Madison, Wisconsin. The NWHC is part of a 24-acre tract that was acquired by the Federal government in 1978 to provide a permanent facility for the NWHC. At that time, the NWHC was the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains today as the only national center devoted to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the U.S. However, the NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of significant renovations, replacements and repairs. Studies conducted since 2008 have found that the mission and function of the facility, along with the interests of USGS, which oversees the NWHC, would be best served by replacing the NWHC. The project involves the development of a new facility, designed and constructed to contemporary standards, to meet USGS's current and future needs, deliver better results, improve worker and public safety, and control operating costs.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@43.0487462,-89.4844698505574,14z>



## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. This determination key is intended to assist the user in evaluating the effects of their actions on Federally listed species in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It does not cover other prohibited activities under the Endangered Species Act (e.g., for wildlife: import/export, Interstate or foreign commerce, possession of illegally taken wildlife, etc.; for plants: import/export, reduce to possession, malicious destruction on Federal lands, commercial sale, etc.) or other statutes. Additionally, this key DOES NOT cover wind development, purposeful take (e.g., for research or surveys), communication towers that have guy wires or are over 450 feet in height, aerial or other large-scale application of any chemical (such as insecticide or herbicide), and approval of long-term permits or plans (e.g., FERC licenses, HCP's).

Click **YES** to acknowledge that you must consider other prohibitions of the ESA or other statutes outside of this determination key.

*Yes*

2. Is the action being funded, authorized, or carried out by a Federal agency?

*Yes*

3. Are you the Federal agency or designated non-federal representative?

*Yes*

4. Does the action involve the installation or operation of wind turbines?

*No*

5. Does the action involve purposeful take of a listed animal?

*No*

6. Does the action involve a new communications tower?

*No*

7. Does the activity involve aerial or other large-scale application of ANY chemical, including pesticides (insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, rodenticide, etc)?

*No*

8. Does the action occur near a bald eagle nest?

**Note:** Contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for an up-to-date list of known bald eagle nests.

*No*

9. Will your action permanently affect local hydrology?

*No*

10. Will your action temporarily affect local hydrology?

*No*

11. Will your project have any direct impacts to a stream or river (e.g., Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), hydrostatic testing, stream/road crossings, new stormwater outfall discharge, dams, other in-stream work, etc.)?

No

12. Does your project have the potential to impact the riparian zone or indirectly impact a stream/river (e.g., cut and fill; horizontal directional drilling; construction; vegetation removal; pesticide or fertilizer application; discharge; runoff of sediment or pollutants; increase in erosion, etc.)?

**Note:** Consider all potential effects of the action, including those that may happen later in time and outside and downstream of the immediate area involved in the action.

Endangered Species Act regulation defines "effects of the action" to include all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (50 CFR 402.02).

No

13. Will your action disturb the ground or existing vegetation?

**Note:** This includes any off-road vehicle access, soil compaction (enough to collapse a rodent burrow), digging, seismic survey, directional drilling, heavy equipment, grading, trenching, placement of fill, pesticide application (herbicide, fungicide), vegetation management (including removal or maintenance using equipment or prescribed fire), cultivation, development, etc.

Yes

14. Will your action include spraying insecticides?

No

15. Does your action area occur entirely within an already developed area?

**Note:** Already developed areas are already paved, covered by existing structures, manicured lawns, industrial sites, or cultivated cropland, AND do not contain trees that could be roosting habitat. Be aware that listed species may occur in areas with natural, or semi-natural, vegetation immediately adjacent to existing utilities (e.g. roadways, railways) or within utility rights-of-way such as overhead transmission line corridors, and can utilize suitable trees, bridges, or culverts for roosting even in urban dominated landscapes (so these are not considered "already developed areas" for the purposes of this question). If unsure, select NO..

No

16. Does the action include – or is it reasonably certain to result in – construction of one or more new roads or rail lines; the addition of travel lanes that are likely to increase vehicle traffic on one or more existing roads; or other structures or activities that will increase vehicle traffic?

No

17. Does the action include – or is it reasonably certain to cause – the use of commercial/ managed bees (e.g., the use of honeybees or managed bumble bees to pollinate crops).

*No*

18. Is there habitat for nesting, foraging, and/or overwintering for the rusty patched bumble bee in the action area?

**Note:** Please refer to the ESA Section 7(a)(2) Voluntary Implementation Guidance for Rusty Patched Bumble Bee at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/esa-section-7a2-voluntary-implementation-guidance-rusty-patched-bumble-bee>.

*Yes*

19. Have survey(s) for rusty patched bumble bees been conducted according to Service-approved protocols?

**Note:** Please refer to survey guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/survey-protocols-rusty-patched-bumble-bee>

*No*

20. Does the action include collection of seed from native species?

*No*

21. Does the action include, or will it cause the application of insecticides or fungicides; activities to control native rodent species; or planting or seeding of non-native plant species that are likely to degrade the quality of existing rusty patched bumble bee foraging habitat by decreasing the abundance or diversity of native rusty patched bumble bee forage species?

*No*

22. Will the action include or cause herbicide use?

*Yes*

23. Will herbicide application methods include only cut-stump, or basal bark treatments?

*Yes*

24. Will the action cause ground disturbance that affects more than 0.25 acre (0.1 hectare) of rusty patched bumble bee nesting habitat (upland grasslands, shrublands, and forest and woodland edges that contain native sources of pollen and nectar) in a High Potential Zone during the nesting season?

**Note:** Please refer to the ESA Section 7(a)(2) Voluntary Implementation Guidance for Rusty Patched Bumble Bee at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/esa-section-7a2-voluntary-implementation-guidance-rusty-patched-bumble-bee>.

*Yes*

25. Does eastern prairie fringed orchid occur in the action area?

*No*

26. Does prairie bush-clover occur in the action area?

*No*

27. Have you determined that the action will have no effect on individuals within the whooping crane nonessential experimental population (NEP)?

Yes

28. [Hidden Semantic] Does the action area intersect the monarch butterfly species list area?

**Automatically answered**

Yes

29. Under the ESA, monarchs remain warranted but precluded by listing actions of higher priority. The monarch is a candidate for listing at this time. The Endangered Species Act does not establish protections or consultation requirements for candidate species. Some Federal and State agencies may have policy requirements to consider candidate species in planning. We encourage implementing measures that will remove or reduce threats to these species and possibly make listing unnecessary.

If your project will have no effect on monarch butterflies (for example, if your project won't affect their habitat or individuals), then you can make a "no effect" determination for this project.

Are you making a "no effect" determination for monarch?

No

30. Is this project funded, authorized, or carried out by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No

31. [Hidden semantic] Does the action intersect the Tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

Yes

32. The tricolored bat was proposed for listing as endangered on September 13, 2022. During winter, tricolored bats hibernate in caves, abandoned mines, and abandoned tunnels ranging from small to large in size. During spring, summer and fall months, they roost primarily among leaf clusters of live or recently dead deciduous/hardwood trees.

What effect determination do you want to make for the tricolored bat (Only make a "may affect" determination if you think the project is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species)?

2. *“May affect – not likely to adversely affect”*



## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: WSP USA  
Name: Tara Stewart  
Address: 350 Mount Kemble Avenue  
City: Morristown  
State: NJ  
Zip: 07962  
Email: tara.stewart@wsp.com  
Phone: 9734071473

## **LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Lead Agency: U.S. Geological Survey  
Name: Jordan Sizemore  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov  
Phone: 9166067460

From: Anderson, Leah  
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 10:54 AM  
To: Anderson, Leah  
Subject: FW: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583)

From: Nardi, Bob <[robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)>  
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 2:17 PM  
To: Galbraith, Betsy M <[betsy\\_galbraith@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_galbraith@fws.gov)>  
Cc: Forbes, Jessica <[Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com)>; Stewart, Tara <[tara.stewart@wsp.com](mailto:tara.stewart@wsp.com)>; Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>  
Subject: FW: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583)

Hello again Betsy,

Thanks again for responding to our April 17, 2024, submission to the USFWS regarding the new National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) proposed for Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583). Your email (below) mentions that "*Consultation for this [NWHC] project is complete and that this letter can be saved in your project files.*" Your email mentions "*this letter*" but did not include any attachment. Does your email represent "*This letter*" or was an attachment overlooked? If your email represents the official response to the submission, USGS will assume that USFWS concurs with the findings that:

1. The Proposed Action is not expected to result in a "taking" of any listed species. For purposes of consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, USGS has determined that the Proposed Action would have No Effect on monarch butterfly, whooping crane, eastern prairie fringed orchid, and prairie bush clover, and is not likely to adversely affect northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, and rusty patched bumble bee.
2. The Proposed Action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of vulnerable migratory birds or BCC, nor the destruction or adverse modification their designated critical habitat. The Proposed Action would not result in "taking," injury, decrease in productivity, or nest abandonment of bald or golden eagles.
3. This letter provides further evaluation of effects of the Proposed Action on rusty patched bumble bee, as required per the Consistency Letter (Attachment C). USGS respectfully requests acknowledgement from USFWS that it has no objections to the determinations stated above and that project responsibilities under Section 7 of the ESA have been fulfilled. USGS understands that, as stated in the Northern Long-eared Bat NLAA Concurrence Letter (Attachment B), unless we are advised by USFWS within 15 days of the date of the concurrence letter that our IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, the consultation for northern long-eared bat is complete and no further action is necessary. For the NLAA determination for tricolored bat, USFWS concurrence is valid after a 30-day review period.
4. USGS also understands the concurrence is not required and no further action is required for the species with No Effect determinations (whooping crane, monarch butterfly, eastern prairie fringed orchid, and prairie bush clover).

**We're asking for confirmation that USFWS concurs with our effect determinations and that no surveys or additional coordination with USFWS is required.** We are ready to publish the Draft EIS and a timely response would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.



**Robert J. Nardi**, Senior Vice President  
WSP USA  
Email: [robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)  
T+ 1 973.407.1681 / M+ 1 973.809.7495

2000 Lenox Drive, 3rd Floor, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 USA

[wsp.com](http://wsp.com)

From: Nardi, Bob  
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:20 PM  
To: Galbraith, Betsy M <[betsy\\_galbraith@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_galbraith@fws.gov)>; Stewart, Tara <[tara.stewart@wsp.com](mailto:tara.stewart@wsp.com)>  
Cc: Marquardt, Shauna R <[Shauna\\_Marquardt@fws.gov](mailto:Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov)>; Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>; Forbes, Jessica <[Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com)>  
Subject: RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583)

Hi Betsy,

Thank you for quickly responding to our April 17, 2024, submission to the USFWS regarding the new National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) proposed for Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583). Your email received today (below) mentions that "*Consultation for this [NWHC] project is complete and that this letter can be saved in your project files.*" Your email mentions "*this letter*" but did not

include any attachment. Does your email represent "This letter" or was an attachment overlooked?

If your email represents the official response to the submission, USGS will assume that USFWS concurs with the findings that:

5. The Proposed Action is not expected to result in a "taking" of any listed species. For purposes of consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, USGS has determined that the Proposed Action would have No Effect on monarch butterfly, whooping crane, eastern prairie fringed orchid, and prairie bush clover, and is not likely to adversely affect northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, and rusty patched bumble bee.
6. The Proposed Action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of vulnerable migratory birds or BCC, nor the destruction or adverse modification their designated critical habitat. The Proposed Action would not result in "taking," injury, decrease in productivity, or nest abandonment of bald or golden eagles.
7. This letter provides further evaluation of effects of the Proposed Action on rusty patched bumble bee, as required per the Consistency Letter (Attachment C). USGS respectfully requests acknowledgement from USFWS that it has no objections to the determinations stated above and that project responsibilities under Section 7 of the ESA have been fulfilled. USGS understands that, as stated in the Northern Long-eared Bat NLAA Concurrence Letter (Attachment B), unless we are advised by USFWS within 15 days of the date of the concurrence letter that our IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, the consultation for northern long-eared bat is complete and no further action is necessary. For the NLAA determination for tricolored bat, USFWS concurrence is valid after a 30-day review period.
8. USGS also understands the concurrence is not required and no further action is required for the species with No Effect determinations (whooping crane, monarch butterfly, eastern prairie fringed orchid, and prairie bush clover).

We greatly appreciate your assistance with this matter.



**Robert J. Nardi**, Senior Vice President  
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Email: [robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)  
T+ 1 973.407.1681 / M+ 1 973.809.7495

2000 Lenox Drive, 3rd Floor, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 USA

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From: Galbraith, Betsy M <[betsy\\_galbraith@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_galbraith@fws.gov)>  
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:05 AM  
To: Stewart, Tara <[tara.stewart@wsp.com](mailto:tara.stewart@wsp.com)>  
Cc: Marquardt, Shauna R <[Shauna\\_Marquardt@fws.gov](mailto:Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov)>; Nardi, Bob <[robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)>; Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>; Forbes, Jessica <[Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com)>  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583)

Hi Tara,

Consultation for this project is complete. This letter can be saved in your project files. We appreciate your communication.

Sincerely,

Betsy

*Betsy Galbraith* [she/her](#)

Deputy Project Leader

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MN-WI Ecological Services Field Office

(920) 866-1753

From: Stewart, Tara <[tara.stewart@wsp.com](mailto:tara.stewart@wsp.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 8:38 AM  
To: Galbraith, Betsy M <[betsy\\_galbraith@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_galbraith@fws.gov)>  
Cc: Marquardt, Shauna R <[Shauna\\_Marquardt@fws.gov](mailto:Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov)>; Nardi, Robert <[robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)>; Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>; Forbes-Guerrero, Jessica <[Jessica.Forbes-Guerrero@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes-Guerrero@wsp.com)>  
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583)

Hi Betsy,

I received an automatic reply from Shauna that is out of the office and no longer with USFWS as of April 21, 2024. Please see the prior correspondence with Shauna below and the attached consultation letter. I'm not sure if this is something Shauna will address before April 21.

Thank you,  
Tara



**Tara Stewart, CE**  
Sr. Environmental Scientist

T+ 1 973-407-1473 / M+ 1 908-510-9456

From: Stewart, Tara  
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:48 PM  
To: Nardi, Bob <[robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)>; Marquardt, Shauna R <[Shauna\\_Marquardt@fws.gov](mailto:Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov)>  
Cc: Green Bay, FW3 <[GreenBay@fws.gov](mailto:GreenBay@fws.gov)>; Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>; Forbes, Jessica <[Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com)>; Kaim, Brittani <[Brittani.Kaim@wsp.com](mailto:Brittani.Kaim@wsp.com)>  
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583)

Hi Ms. Marquardt,

We followed your guidance below and utilized the online consultation system and determination keys to evaluate potential impacts to listed species that may result from the proposed development of a New USGS National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, WI. Since the determination key output for rusty patch bumble bee was May Affect, we prepared the attached consultation letter to address potential impacts and proposed conservation and avoidance measures for rusty patched bumble. The letter also provides a summary of the findings for the other species included in the list generated by IPaC. The Official Species List, Northern Long-eared Bat NLAA Concurrence Letter, and USFWS Consistency Letter are include as attachments to the letter.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We appreciate your assistance with this ESA consultation.

Thank you,  
Tara



**Tara Stewart, CE**  
Sr. Environmental Scientist

T+ 1 973-407-1473 / M+ 1 908-510-9456

From: Nardi, Robert <[robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)>  
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 5:21 PM  
To: Marquardt, Shauna R <[Shauna\\_Marquardt@fws.gov](mailto:Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov)>  
Cc: Green Bay, FW3 <[GreenBay@fws.gov](mailto:GreenBay@fws.gov)>; Stewart, Tara <[tara.stewart@wsp.com](mailto:tara.stewart@wsp.com)>; Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>; Forbes, Jessica <[Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com)>; Kaim, Brittani B. <[Brittani.Kaim@wsp.com](mailto:Brittani.Kaim@wsp.com)>  
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI

Shauna,

We will follow your guidance as described below and keep you posted on developments. We will also be sure you and the Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office are recipients of the Notice of Intent to prepare a DEIS and other important project related

materials. Thank you.



**Robert J. Nardi**, Senior Vice President  
WSP USA  
Email: [robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)  
T+ 1 973.407.1681 / M+ 1 973.809.7495

2000 Lenox Drive, 3rd Floor, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 USA

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From: Marquardt, Shauna R <[Shauna\\_Marquardt@fws.gov](mailto:Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov)>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 4:07 PM  
To: Nardi, Robert <[robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)>  
Cc: Green Bay, FW3 <[GreenBay@fws.gov](mailto:GreenBay@fws.gov)>; Stewart, Tara <[tara.stewart@wsp.com](mailto:tara.stewart@wsp.com)>; Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>; Forbes, Jessica <[Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com)>; Kaim, Brittani B. <[Brittani.Kaim@wsp.com](mailto:Brittani.Kaim@wsp.com)>  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI

Mr. Nardi,

Thank you for contacting the Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office. We provide early consultation and technical assistance through our online consultation system. To streamline consultations, we offer the Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key. The determination key is available in [IPaC](#) and can be used to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter. No further review from us is necessary, if you receive a "no effect" or "may affect, not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)" determination letter.

If you submit a project and receive a "may affect" result for any species that is not covered by our determination key, it is at this point that you will make determinations for each "may affect" species (e.g., not likely to adversely affect, or likely to adversely affect) and submit those determination to us for review and further discussions. Because the new NWHC will be constructed in an adjacent urbanized area, it is unlikely that any listed species will be impacted such that you should be able to easily complete ESA consultation through the streamlined determination key making a meeting unnecessary. If this is not the case, someone from my staff will be able to discuss with you next steps for consultation.

Once you have completed the determination key steps, please reach back out if your consultation needs are not met.

---

Shauna Marquardt ([she/her](#))  
Field Office Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office  
mobile: 573-239-3293

---

From: Nardi, Robert <[robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 12:08 PM  
To: Marquardt, Shauna R <[Shauna\\_Marquardt@fws.gov](mailto:Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov)>  
Cc: Green Bay, FW3 <[GreenBay@fws.gov](mailto:GreenBay@fws.gov)>; Stewart, Tara <[tara.stewart@wsp.com](mailto:tara.stewart@wsp.com)>; Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>; Forbes-Guerrero, Jessica <[Jessica.Forbes-Guerrero@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes-Guerrero@wsp.com)>; Kaim, Brittani B. <[Brittani.Kaim@wsp.com](mailto:Brittani.Kaim@wsp.com)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Ms. Marquardt:

On May 17<sup>th</sup> I wrote to the USFWS about a proposal by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to develop a new National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, Wisconsin. At that time I reported that the NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of replacement as described in the attached. While the Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register in the near future, USGS wishes to begin engaging key regulatory agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a discussion about the proposed project and the interests and concerns unique to your organization.

USGS and WSP have reviewed the species list and applicable links and have gathered a considerable amount of information about the project site and surroundings. Unfortunately, we have not received a response from been contacted by the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office staff. USGS and WSP (its consultant) would like to meet (virtually) with you and others from your agency to discuss the NWHC and the purpose and objectives of the proposed project. Most important, the meeting will provide USGS an opportunity to learn of the interests and concerns of your agency regarding the proposed NWHC. Included among the attachments is a meeting agenda along with a Project Summary which provides information about the NWHC, plans for the proposed new NWHC, among other topics. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to hearing from you and eventually meeting.



**Robert J. Nardi**, Senior Vice President  
WSP USA  
Email: [robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)  
T+ 1 973.407.1681 / M+ 1 973.809.7495

2000 Lenox Drive, 3rd Floor, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 USA

[wsp.com](http://wsp.com)

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From: Green Bay, FW3 <[GreenBay@fws.gov](mailto:GreenBay@fws.gov)>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 3:39 PM  
To: Nardi, Robert <[robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)>  
Subject: Automatic reply: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office. This email inbox will be checked by our staff approximately once per week. See below for information and instructions specific to your inquiry.

#### Information on Federal Trust Resources

For general information about federal trust resources in Minnesota and Wisconsin, including federally listed species, please visit our [Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office website](#). The site has helpful information about species, habitats, and the programs administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### Consultation Technical Assistance

**If you are requesting technical assistance with an environmental review specifically concerning threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544), we provide technical assistance through our [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\)](#) system**

for regarding federally listed species that could occur in your project area through IPaC by entering the geographic and activity details for your project. The system will generate an Official Species List that provides a list of federally listed species and designated critical habitat that may be impacted by your project. The species list also will include any species proposed for listing and any areas proposed as critical habitat that overlap with the project area.

Once you have reviewed the Official Species List, refer to our [Section 7 website](#) for guidance and technical assistance, including [step-by-step instructions](#) for making effects determinations for each species that might be present and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: *projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, USDA Rural Development projects, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.*

We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our **Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin ("D-key"))**. A [demonstration video](#) showing how-to access and use the determination key is available. Please note that the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key is the third option of 3 available d-keys. D-keys are tools to help Federal agencies and other project proponents determine if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect federally listed species and

designated critical habitat. The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key includes a structured set of questions that assists a project proponent in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for a certain predetermined consultation outcome for all federally listed species found in Minnesota and Wisconsin (except for the northern long-eared bat- see below), which includes determinations of “no effect” or “may affect, not likely to adversely affect.” In each case, the Service has compiled and analyzed the best available information on the species’ biology and the impacts of certain activities to support these determinations.

If your completed D-key output letter shows a "No Effect" (NE) determination for all listed species, print your IPaC output letter for your files to document your compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

For Federal projects with a “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” (NLAA) determination, our concurrence becomes valid if you do not hear otherwise from us after a 30-day review period, as indicated in your letter.

If your d-key output letter indicates additional coordination with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is necessary (i.e., you get a “May Affect” determination), you will be provided additional guidance on contacting the Service to continue ESA coordination outside of the key; ESA compliance cannot be concluded using the key for “May Affect” determinations unless otherwise indicated in your output letter.

**Note: Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC with d-keys, although in most cases these tools should expedite your review.** If you choose to make an effects determination on your own, you may do so. If the project is a Federal Action, you may want to review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations.

### **Using the IPaC Official Species List to Make No Effect and May Affect Determinations for Listed Species**

1. If IPaC returns a result of “There are no listed species found within the vicinity of the project,” then project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on any federally listed species under Service jurisdiction. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **No Effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Likewise, if there is no habitat for the species that IPaC indicates, then the appropriate determination is **No Effect**. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
2. If IPaC returns one or more federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially present in the action area of the proposed project – other than bats (see below) – then project proponents must determine if proposed activities will have **No Effect** on or **May Affect** those species. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain [Life History Information for Listed and Candidate Species](#) on our office website. If no impacts will occur to a species on the IPaC species list (e.g., there is no habitat present in the project area), the appropriate determination is **No Effect**. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
3. Should you determine that project activities **May Affect** any federally listed, please contact our office for further coordination. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

#### *Northern Long-Eared Bat*

The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key does not include the northern long-eared bat. If the northern long-eared bat appears on the user’s species list, the federal project user will instead be directed to either the Range-wide Northern Long-eared Bat D-key or the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Railways Administration, and Federal Transit Administration Indiana Bat/Northern Long-Eared Bat D-key, depending on the type of project and federal agency involvement. Similar to the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key, these D-keys help to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter.

*Please note:* If your project does not comply with the Range-wide Northern Long-eared Bat D-key, it may be eligible for use of the Interim (formal) Consultation Framework (framework). The framework is intended to facilitate the transition from the 4(d) rule to typical

Section 7 consultation procedures for federally endangered species and will be available only until spring 2024. Additional information about this tool and the new range-wide D-key is available on the Service's [northern long-eared bat website](#).

### *Consultation Next Steps*

After reviewing the species list and applicable links, if you determine that further consultation is required with the Service (i.e., your project "May Affect" listed species or critical habitat), please contact our office for further assistance. If your agency has a designated point-of-contact (POC) in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office, you may send your inquiry directly to the POC. If you do not have a designated POC, or are unable to determine the appropriate POC, please contact Field Supervisor Shauna Marquardt ([shauna\\_marquardt@fws.gov](mailto:shauna_marquardt@fws.gov)) to be directed to the appropriate staff lead.

**\*Please include the IPaC consultation code in the e-mail subject line when emailing us for further coordination. Please also include a copy of your output letter in your correspondence with our office as it will help expedite our review of your project.**

### Other Questions and Inquiries

All other questions and inquiries will be reviewed and either a response will be provided, or the inquiry will be directed to the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or partner agency contact for response.

From: Nardi, Robert  
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 3:38 PM  
To: [GreenBay@fws.gov](mailto:GreenBay@fws.gov)  
Cc: Sizemore, Jordan D [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov); Forbes, Jessica [Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com); Stewart, Tara [tara.stewart@wsp.com](mailto:tara.stewart@wsp.com); Kaim, Brittani B. [Brittani.Kaim@wsp.com](mailto:Brittani.Kaim@wsp.com)  
Subject: RE: National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI

Ms. Marquardt:

On behalf of the United States Geological Survey (USGS), I am pleased to submit the attached letter. USGS operates the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, Wisconsin. The NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of replacement as described in the attached. While the Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register in the near future, USGS wishes to begin engaging key regulatory agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a discussion about the proposed project and the interests and concerns unique to your organization. USGS and WSP (its consultant) would like to meet (virtually) with you and others from your agency to discuss the NWHC and the purpose and objectives of the proposed project. Most important, the meeting will provide USGS an opportunity to learn of the interests and concerns of your agency regarding the proposed NWHC. Included among the attachments is a meeting agenda along with a Project Summary which provides information about the NWHC, plans for the proposed new NWHC, among other topics. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to meeting.



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## Forbes, Jessica

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**From:** Forbes, Jessica  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 9:53 AM  
**To:** Forbes, Jessica  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583)

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**From:** Bulliner, Kathryn M <kathryn\_bulliner@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2024 3:27 PM  
**To:** Stewart, Tara <tara.stewart@wsp.com>  
**Cc:** Galbraith, Betsy M <betsy\_galbraith@fws.gov>; Nardi, Bob <robert.nardi@wsp.com>; Sizemore, Jordan D <jsizemore@usgs.gov>; Forbes, Jessica <Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583)

Dear Ms. Stewart,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your email and enclosures, requesting consultation on the proposed National Wildlife Health Center project (Project Code: 2024-0083583) and submits these comments pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544).

The analysis using the MN-WI FO Determination Key for the proposed action resulted in a “may affect” determination for Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*). However, based on the additional information you provided and the actions you will take to avoid and minimize adverse effects, the Service concurs with your determinations that the proposed action “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) the endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.

This concludes consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. Should the scope, timing, or manner of activity change, please contact this me at [Kathryn\\_Bulliner@fws.gov](mailto:Kathryn_Bulliner@fws.gov).

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed actions.

Kathryn  
Kathryn Bulliner, PhD (she/her)  
Acting Deputy Field Supervisor / Energy Coordinator  
Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office / Missouri Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
[Kathryn\\_Bulliner@fws.gov](mailto:Kathryn_Bulliner@fws.gov)  
Phone: 573-476-9136



## Forbes, Jessica

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**From:** Forbes, Jessica  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 9:53 AM  
**To:** Forbes, Jessica  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583)

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**From:** Stewart, Tara <tara.stewart@wsp.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 7:25 AM  
**To:** Bulliner, Kathryn M <kathryn\_bulliner@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Galbraith, Betsy M <betsy\_galbraith@fws.gov>; Nardi, Bob <robert.nardi@wsp.com>; Sizemore, Jordan D <jsizemore@usgs.gov>; Forbes, Jessica <Jessica.Forbes@wsp.com>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed New National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI (Project Code 2023-0083583)

Thank you, Kathryn. We will notify your office if the scope, timing, or manner of activity changes.

We appreciate your assistance with this consultation,  
Tara



**Tara Stewart, CE**  
Sr. Environmental Scientist

T+ 1 973-407-1473 / M + 1 908-510-9456

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## Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center Madison, Wisconsin

### Agenda

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- I. Welcome, Introductions**
  - a. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service |
  - b. U.S. Geological Survey
  - c. WSP USA
  
- II. Proposed National Wildlife Health Center**
  - a. Project History
  - b. Goals and Objectives
  - c. Project Description
  
- III. Project Status**
  - a. Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS
  - b. Agency Scoping
  - c. Public Scoping
  - d. Project Website (<http://nwhceis.com/>)
  
- IV. Anticipated Schedule**
  - a. Notice of Intent
  - b. Draft Environmental Impact Statement
  - c. Final Environmental Impact Statement
  - d. Record of Decision
  
- V. Next Steps/Action Items**



## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

# **Proposed Development of the New National Wildlife Health Center - Madison, Wisconsin**

Prepared by:  
**United States Geological Survey**

**May 2023**

# PROJECT SUMMARY

## Proposed Development of the New National Wildlife Health Center – Madison, Wisconsin

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is proposing to develop a new National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, Wisconsin. To comply with various federal regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended in 1982, outreach by USGS and engagement with federal and state environmental agencies is being undertaken. NEPA requires “an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action” and is one form of engaging with key stakeholders in planning for a new NWHC.

### Background

The National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) was established in Madison as the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains today as the only national center devoted to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the United States.



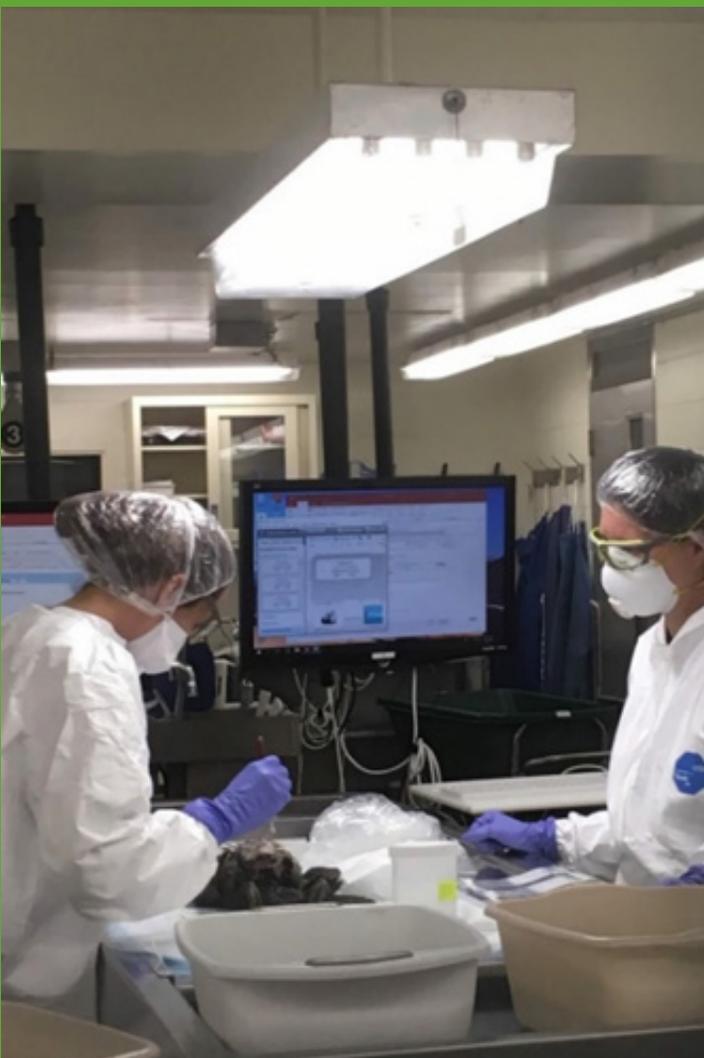
*National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin*

The emergence of wildlife diseases has become a high-priority concern in the United States and the world. In addition to their harmful effects on natural wildlife populations and ecosystems, there is the potential for the spread of zoonotic diseases to humans, and for causing economic losses associated with livestock morbidity and mortality. The NWHC is responsible for providing research and for investigating and responding to known and emerging wildlife diseases and wildlife mortality outbreaks throughout the United States.

The NWHC is located on a 24-acre tract of federal property which, along with a vacant building, was acquired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1978 to consolidate USFWS expertise into a single program and provide a permanent facility for the NWHC. The Main Building was constructed in the 1960’s and underwent an extensive renovation in 1982 with a second building, the Tight Isolation Building (TIB), constructed in 1985 and modified in 1989. Portions of the property not occupied by buildings, access and service driveways, and parking areas were restored to native prairie in 1988. An interpretive nature trail has also been developed through the prairie and adjacent wooded area and is actively visited by the public.



*NWHC, circa 1988*



*NWHC scientists at work*

In 1996, the NWHC, along with other U.S. Department of the Interior research functions, was transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) where it is one of many entities that provides the independent science that forms the basis of sound management of the nation's natural resources. Created by Congress in 1879, USGS is an agency of the federal government where scientists study the nation's landscape, its natural resources, and the natural hazards that threaten it. USGS is also a research organization whose work spans biology, geography, geology, and hydrology.

The NWHC provides information, technical assistance, and research on national and international wildlife health issues. It also monitors and assesses the impact of disease on wildlife populations; defines ecological relationships leading to the occurrence of disease; transfers technology for disease prevention and control; and provides guidance, training, and assistance for reducing wildlife losses. As a Level 3 Security Facility under the U.S. Department of Justice Standards for Federal Facilities, the NWHC is required to operate under criteria established by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for Biological Safety Level 3 (BSL-3) containment.

The NWHC functions as an integrated program involving disease diagnosis, field response to disease outbreaks, research, animal welfare, and training of others in disease identification and control. Collaboration with and technical assistance is also provided to a wide variety of agencies and organizations within the federal, state, and private sectors. This has resulted in an extensive network of interaction and today the NWHC is the focal point for information, technical assistance, and research on wildlife health issues.

Designated as a "mission essential" facility, NWHC functions to advance wildlife health science for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment. However, a growing challenge to performing its mission is the age and space limitations associated with the present NWHC. Therefore, starting in 2008, USGS began conducting studies of the NWHC from which conditions hampering efficient operations were identified. Among the findings were crowded laboratories and administrative areas, use of older, primary containment biological safety cabinets, old and inefficient incubators, autoclaves needing replacement, deteriorating casework surfaces, cracking walls, doors, window seals and window frames, lack of consolidated freezer space, and use of contained animal rooms for general storage, among many others.

In follow-on studies conducted in 2011 and 2016, many of the same conditions remained. The condition of key systems, infrastructure, and equipment continued aging with numerous items requiring repair or replacement. Even with proactive efforts to repair systems and facilities, the efforts and expenditures have provided only short-

term relief, focused only on those necessary to its operation. Repairs have proven costly while resulting in only modest and short-term improvements to the buildings, systems, and infrastructure which support NWHC operation. The extensive renovations needed for NWHC to meet the requirements of its mission and BSL-3 status has resulted in a cost prohibitive situation.

Overall, the NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of significant renovations, replacements and repairs. It has been the findings of the various studies that the mission and function of the facility, along with the interests of the USGS, which oversees the NWHC, would be best served by replacing the NWHC with a new facility. The consequence is the need to design and construct a new contemporary facility to:

- › Meet USGS and NWHC’s administrative, operational, health, and safety standards and requirements.
- › Provide the spaces needed to conduct research into wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention and other programs that support the mission of the NWHC.
- › Incorporate the latest technologies and best practices to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of staff, visitors, and the public.
- › Reduce exposure to pathogens and the risks faced by staff by utilizing modern laboratory equipment, mechanical systems, and operating and management approaches.
- › Make effective use of operating staff with a design that minimizes internal movements.
- › Elevate the quality of the work environment for staff and visitors.
- › Apply advanced building design features and construction materials that are sustainable and resilient against the hazards associated with climate change.
- › Optimize the cost of operation by applying innovative design, quality construction, highly efficient air handling, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and facility maintenance programs to achieve and maintain peak performance standards.

Developing a new NWHC will also demonstrate that the combination of a modern facility and contemporary best management practices can deliver better results, improve worker and public safety, and control operating costs.



*NWHC location, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison*

## National Wildlife Health Center

Since its establishment, the NWHC has been located at 6006 Schroeder Road, approximately five miles southwest of downtown Madison. The Main Building, comprising approximately 33,000 square feet of floor space, contains necropsy and associated disease diagnostic laboratories; general support laboratories for biological media and reagent preparation, glassware preparation and other special use areas; and administrative support areas with a conference room, staff offices, data processing and records areas. A passive solar system used to preheat water for the building’s boilers, along with other conservation, are employed to reduce energy consumption and control operational costs.

The TIB is located approximately 150 feet northeast of the Main Building and while the buildings are physically separated, there is not a complete separation of functions, with some researchers working in both buildings. The TIB contains specialized research laboratories and support areas, staff offices for investigators, and BSL-3 bio-containment animal research areas. The animal isolation

wing is self-contained with cage and glassware cleaning, necropsy, and incineration facilities. Entry into the area requires use of specialized clothing and footwear, changes of clothing and footwear for each room entered, and a mandatory shower which is activated upon entering the exit chamber from the animal area.

Other small structures are also on the property including a maintenance garage, an exterior freezer located outside the Diagnostic Necropsy, an array of photovoltaic (PV) panels located behind the parking area, and a modular trailer added in the 2000’s and used as employee offices.

# Proposed National Wildlife Health Center

At this time, the proposed NWHC is envisioned as a low-rise structure consisting of three stories and a basement containing administrative offices; BSL2 and BSL3 laboratories; vivarium ABSL-2, ABSL-3 and BSL3-AG; and support spaces. The new NWHC is intended to present a visually unified physical structure that is compatible with its surroundings. The structure would be fire-resistant and meet applicable building code requirements. In addition to the new facility itself, the proposal includes:

- › New internal service driveways and parking areas to accommodate visitors, students, government vehicles, and staff.
- › All utilities would remain functional to serve the current facility until completion of the new NWHC.
- › Containment within NWHC laboratories to prevent staff exposure to biological and chemical agents, the escape of harmful pathogens, contamination of assay systems, reagents, and other materials, and cross-contamination between investigations.
- › Incinerators would be replaced by bulk autoclaves and other modern systems for biological waste disposal.
- › Continued use of PV systems to provide a portion of the energy needed to operate the proposed NWHC.
- › Installation of a geothermal field to supplement the mechanical and PV systems in meeting a portion of the new facility's energy requirements.
- › A utility yard where emergency generators for redundancy and to maintain the chillers would be placed.
- › Continued use of the maintenance garage.
- › New energy-efficient lighting along internal walkways and parking areas along with new directional and other signage.

A range of alternatives for developing a new NWHC were analyzed including developing a new NWHC at its current location using different building placements and configurations. Each alternative, including the No Action alternative (i.e., maintaining the status quo), will be described and analyzed within the Draft EIS.



*Conceptual Renderings of Proposed NWHC*



## Biological Resources

Biological resources found within the NWHC property have been determined through the use of agency contacts, available database inventories and maps, previous studies, and direct field observations. Maps utilized included USGS topographic quadrangle maps, USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps, and USDA aerial photographs. Databases accessed include the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Public Portal, and the Wisconsin DNR Surface Water Data Viewer.

Detailed information about vegetative communities within the property was extracted from the Site Assessment for National Wildlife Health Center 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI. (Quercus Land Stewardship Services 2013) and Recommend Plan for Prairie Reconstruction at National Wildlife Health Laboratory (Coenen 1983). Habitats were analyzed and compared to habitat requirements of species known to occur in the vicinity, including species of special status, to assess their potential for area use. Direct observations of wildlife and/or their sign were also recorded.

### a. Vegetation

The NWHC property is located within the Southeastern Wisconsin Savanna and Till Plain ecoregion which supports a mix of agriculture (cropland, and dairy operations) and woodland. Crops include forage crops to support the dairy operations and a wide range of truck and specialty crops. Most of the original vegetation has been cleared with forested areas remaining only on steeper end moraines and poorly drained depressions. Irregular till plains, end moraines, kettles, and drumlins are common, and wetlands are found throughout the region, especially along end morainal ridges. Potential natural vegetation of this region is transitional with a mosaic of sugar maple, basswood, oak to the east, and an increasing amount of white, black, and bur oak, oak savanna, prairie, and sedge meadows toward the west (WDNR 2008).

The developed portion of the property consists of a mix of impervious surfaces (parking lot, access driveways, walkways) and grass lawn. The undeveloped portion of the property consists of wooded areas and remnants of restored prairie habitat, predominantly in the southern portion of the property. A prairie restoration was carried out on the property from 1985 to 1986. The restored land was historically prairie prior to being cleared for agriculture and subsequently converting to old field habitat. The prairie restoration consisted of a 5.7-acre area south of the facility (South Prairie) and a 3.1-acre area north of the facility (North Prairie). The restored prairie areas were treated with herbicide, burned, and plowed before being planted with grasses such as big bluestem (*Andropogon qerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and herbaceous plants such as goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.), yellow coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), and black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). Trails were incorporated into the South Prairie for passive recreation. A perched wetland with a runoff control system was created at the southern end of the South Prairie in 1992, but this system has not been used in recent years.

By 2013, both prairies had been invaded by trees and brush and many of the original species were not present. Native plant diversity has continued to decrease and currently both prairies are degraded by invasion of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), sumac (*Rhus* spp.), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), aspen (*Populus* spp.), gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), wild grape (*Vitis* spp.), crownvetch (*Securigera varia*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). The North Prairie is more heavily invaded by woody species - predominantly black locust, black walnut, and aspen - than in the south. Big bluestem and Indian grass is still present throughout the South Prairie, while extensive areas of the North Prairie are dominated by Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Native herbaceous plants are infrequent and widely scattered and include yellow coneflower, stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*), and cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*). The perched wetland on the south edge of the South Prairie is predominantly invasive reed canary grass with some lake sedge (*Carex lacustris*).

Aspen have invaded from the adjacent woods and the area is vulnerable to exotic species from the adjacent Beltline Highway corridor. The wooded areas that surround the NWHC and prairie are dominated by exotic and invasive trees and brush such as black locust, box elder (*Acer negundo*), black walnut, buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), and sumac with a ground layer of herbaceous weeds, especially garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

## b. Wildlife

Wisconsin is host to 668 native vertebrates, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, as well as many more species of invertebrates such as snails, dragonflies, and mussels (WDNR n.d.). The developed grounds of the property are paved or maintained as lawns which provides minimal habitat for wildlife. Common wildlife species expected to be found on the developed portion of the property include gray squirrel, eastern cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), and passerine birds. Wildlife observed during field investigations include plains pocket gopher (*Geomys bursarius*).

Prairies have a diverse and specialized fauna, especially among prairie invertebrates, prairie and grassland herptiles and grassland birds. Species expected to utilize prairie habitats within the property include moles, mice, rabbits, birds, bats, gophers, gartersnakes, and various bees, moths, butterflies, beetles, and leafhoppers. Due to the invasion by woody species and the surrounding development, the remaining prairie habitat within the NWHC property is not expected to support extensive populations of grassland birds that are typically found in more expansive and open prairies. According to the USFWS IPaC, there are 16 species of migratory birds that are on the Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) list that may occur within the vicinity of the property, including grassland species such as Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) and bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), shrub-savanna species like red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), and forest species like wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*).

## c. Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.

According to the NWI maps, there are no wetlands or waterbodies mapped on or adjacent to the USGS property. The nearest NWI mapped wetlands are isolated palustrine emergent persistent wetlands approximately 0.4 miles northeast and approximately 0.5 miles southeast of the property. The nearest waterbody mapped by NWI is a small pond in the Oakwood Wildlife Preserve located approximately 0.6 miles to the north. Two NWI mapped ponds are located approximately 0.7 miles to the southeast in Greentree-Chapel Hill Park and a residential development and another larger pond is approximately 0.75 miles southwest within Odana Hills Park. A tributary of Badger Mill Creek, mapped by NWI as riverine unknown perennial, ends approximately 0.5 miles south of the NWHC property. Unnamed streams mapped by Dane County GIS run through Greentree-Chapel Hill Park approximately 0.5 miles to the southwest of the property and approximately 0.5 miles to the northeast within University Research Park. As noted earlier, a perched wetland with a runoff control system was created at the southern end of the South Prairie, but this system is not in use.

## d. Species of Special Status

USFWS IPaC indicates that six federally listed and one candidate species of wildlife may occur within the vicinity of the NWHC property: northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis* - endangered); whooping crane (*Grus americana* - Experimental Population, Non-Essential); monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus* - candidate); rusty patched bumble bee - (*Bombus affinis* - endangered); eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea* - threatened); Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii* - threatened); and prairie bush-clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya* - threatened). The property does not contain any critical habitat for these or any other species. According to the Wisconsin DNR, the following two species were recorded from within and surrounding the NWHC property: rusty patched bumble and ornate box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*). Descriptions of these species and their habitats, as well as the likelihood that they would occur within the property, are summarized below from Wisconsin DNR and USFWS species profiles.

- › **Northern long-eared bat:** The northern long-eared bat, found across much of the eastern and north central United States, is a medium-sized bat that is distinguished by its long ears, particularly as compared to other bats in its genus. On January, 30, 2023, the USFWS reclassified this species as endangered. White-nose syndrome is the predominant threat to this bat, especially throughout the northeast where the species has declined by up to 99 percent from pre-white-nose syndrome levels at many hibernation sites. Northern long-eared bats spend winter hibernating in caves and mines and then emerge in early spring. During the summer months, northern long-eared bat utilize forested habitats where they roost, forage, and travel. Northern long-eared bats require abundant stands of trees with sufficient bark crevices and snags for roosting during the active season. Forested portions of the NWHC property may provide suitable roosting habitat for northern long-eared bat. The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI Portal) database contains all current northern long-eared bat roost sites and hibernacula in Wisconsin based on verified survey results from Wisconsin DNR, USFWS, and private

organizations. The NHI Portal was consulted for the NWHC project as part of the Wisconsin DNR's Endangered Resources Review and it was determined that the project site is more than 150 feet from a known maternity roost tree and is more than 0.25 miles from a known hibernaculum.

- › **Whooping crane:** The whooping crane is North America's tallest bird, with males approaching five feet (1.5 meters) when standing erect. The whooping crane adult plumage is snowy white except for black primaries, black or grayish specialized feathers attached to the upper leading end of the wing, sparse black bristly feathers on the side of the head from the bill to the angle of the jaw, and a dark gray-black wedge-shaped patch on the nape. They depend on large, open wetland ecosystems to eat, roost, and make their nests. Whooping cranes were extirpated from the Midwest and are listed as federally endangered. The Wisconsin DNR, along with other members of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, is working to restore an eastern migratory population of whooping cranes that migrates annually between its Wisconsin breeding grounds and its wintering habitat in the southern United States. The whooping crane is not expected to occur on the NWHC property due to lack of appropriate habitat.
- › **Monarch butterfly:** Monarch butterflies are a bright orange color with black and white markings and a wingspan between 3.5 and 4 inches. The caterpillars have many yellow, black and white bands and antenna-like appendages at each end of their body. Monarch caterpillars feed almost exclusively on milkweed and as adults feed on nectar from a wide range of flowers. They lay their eggs on milkweed; there are about 3 to 5 generations born each spring and summer and most of the offspring do not live beyond five weeks. Wisconsin monarchs are migratory, journeying to central Mexico for the winter each year. In the spring, summer and early fall, they can be found wherever there are nectar-producing plants. While the maintained areas and existing impervious areas would not be considered suitable habitats for monarch butterfly, they are expected to utilize the prairie and surrounding areas that contain milkweed or other native nectar plants.
- › **Rusty patched bumble bee:** The rusty patched bumble bee is a state species of Special Concern and is federally listed as endangered. Since 2000, this bumble bee has been reported in only 13 states, including Wisconsin. All rusty patched bumble bees have entirely black heads, but only workers and males have a rusty reddish patch centrally located on the back. This bee relies on diverse and abundant flowering plant species in proximity to suitable overwintering sites for hibernating queens, which include, but are not limited to non-compacted and often sandy soils or woodlands. Suitable active season habitat includes but is not limited to prairies, woodlands, marshes/wetlands, agricultural landscapes, and residential parks and gardens. While the maintained areas and existing impervious areas would not be considered suitable habitats for rusty patched bumble bee, the prairie and wooded portions of the property may contain suitable habitat. The NWHC property also overlaps the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone (RPBB HBZ), indicating there is a likelihood for the species to be present.
- › **Eastern prairie fringed orchid:** The Eastern prairie white fringed orchid is a state endangered and federally threatened plant found in moist, undisturbed, deep-soiled and/or calcareous prairies and rarely in tamarack fens. This plant is 8 to 40 inches tall and has an upright leafy stem with one single flower spike composed of 5 to 40 white flowers. Blooming occurs early July through early August; fruiting occurs throughout August. It requires full sun for optimum growth and flowering and a grassy habitat with little or no woody encroachment. The majority of the NWHC property lacks the moist soils and grassy habitat without woody encroachment that is preferred by this species. Eastern prairie fringed orchid is not expected to occur within the area planned for development.
- › **Mead's milkweed:** Mead's milkweed is a formerly widespread milkweed of the midwestern United States that is listed as federally threatened. Historically, it ranged over much of the native tallgrass prairie region of the Midwest, which has declined due to the extensive destruction and fragmentation of its habitat. Mead's milkweed has a single slender unbranched stalk with a whitish waxy covering. The hairless leaves are opposite, broadly ovate, also with a whitish waxy covering. The plant has an umbrella-like cluster of 6 to 15 greenish, cream-colored flowers at the top of the stalk. It flowers in mid- to late-June in the north and fruit pods reach their maximum length of by late August or early September. Mead's milkweed is believed to have been extirpated from Wisconsin and therefore is not expected to occur within the NWHC property.
- › **Prairie bush-clover:** Prairie Bush Clover is state endangered and federally threatened plant found in gravelly or sandy hillside prairies. It has a clover-like leaf comprised of three leaflets about an inch long and a quarter inch wide. Flowering plants are generally between nine and 18 inches tall with the flowers loosely arranged on an open spike. The entire plant has a grayish-silver sheen. The pale pink or cream

colored flowers bloom in mid-July and fruiting occurs early August through early September. Suitable habitat for prairie bush-clover may be present within the prairie habitats on the property, but this species is not expected to occur within the area planned for development.

- › **Ornate box turtle:** The ornate box turtle is listed as endangered in the state of Wisconsin. This species is not federally listed. Ornate box turtles prefer mesic prairies, dry-mesic prairies, sand prairies, oak savannas, and open to semi-open woodlands. They overwinter in deep sand and/or well drained soils in open canopy microhabitats supporting sparse vegetation and in areas of disturbed soils such as the edges of sand blows. Ornate box turtles are not expected to occupy the NWHC property. According to the Wisconsin DNR, it is unlikely that sufficient suitable habitat is present since the area has been previously disturbed and is surrounded by urban development.

## The National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA requires consideration of environmental issues in federal agency planning and decision-making. USGS is complying with NEPA by undertaking preparation of a Draft EIS to ensure that the potential environmental impacts are thoroughly documented, that the environmental consequences are adequately taken into account, and that compliance is achieved with NEPA and other statutes including the Clean Air Act of 1974 and amendments; the Clean Water Act and Amendments, the Endangered Species Act of 1973; the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; and the Farmland Protection Policy Act, among other laws, regulations and Executive Orders. Preparation of NEPA documentation and its consideration by federal, state, and local officials, regulatory agencies, Native American tribes, stakeholders, and the public will be conducted to demonstrate that USGS understands and has fully considered the potential environmental impacts associated with new NWHC development during the decision-making process.

## Engagement

Engagement is a key component of the environmental planning and review process ensuring that key regulatory agencies and public concerns and issues are identified early and addressed in the Draft EIS. The process includes undertaking scoping, including holding a public scoping meeting, as one of the first steps in developing the Draft EIS. Undertaking scoping early in the process provides the public with an opportunity to understand the proposed NWHC project in light of its possible environmental consequences and to provide comments and express their views on the scope and significant issues to be addressed in the Draft EIS.

Towards that end, USGS has established a NWHC EIS website to host communications, public announcements, and other relevant information and to facilitate public access to project-related information (<https://nwhceis.com/>). In addition, USGS will soon publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Draft EIS for the development of a new NWHC in the Federal Register thereby initiating a public scoping period. Prior to NOI publication and the start of the public scoping process, tribal representatives have an opportunity to help USGS identify significant resources and issues, impact-producing factors, reasonable alternatives, and potential mitigation measures to be analyzed in the EIS, as well as to provide additional information.

Once completed, USGS will issue the Draft EIS for a public comment period lasting no less than 45-days, at which time parties with an interest in the project will have an opportunity to review the evaluations, inquire about any areas of concern, and offer additional information that should be considered by USGS during the decision-making process. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register and a similar notice in local newspapers at the time of its release and providing information about the means to examine the document and provide comments on the proposed action and Draft EIS. During the public comment period USGS will host an additional public meeting, similar to the scoping meeting.



Overview of NEPA Process

Following the end of the Draft EIS public comment period, USGS will prepare and publish a Final EIS which will incorporate additional data which may become known and respond to comments received on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS will be subject to an additional public review period lasting no less than 30 days. No action will be taken to implement any of the proposed alternatives until completion of the Final EIS review period and issuance of a Record of Decision by USGS.

## Project Contacts

- › Jordan D. Sizemore, REM, Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Management Branch  
United States Geological Survey, P.O. Box 25046, MS 205, Lakewood, Colorado 80225  
Tel: 603-730-7743  
Email: jsizemore@usgs.gov
- › Robert J. Nardi, PP, Project Manager  
WSP USA, 2000 Lenox Drive, 3rd Floor, Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648  
Tel: 973-407-1681  
Email: robert.nardi@wsp.com
- › Jessica Forbes, Deputy Project Manager  
WSP USA, 5665 Flatiron Parkway, Suite 250, Boulder, Colorado 80301  
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Email: jessica.forbes@wsp.com



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

May 17, 2023

Anna Rossler  
Endangered Resources Review Program  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation  
101 Webster Street, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707  
anna.rossler@wi.gov

**Re: Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Ms. Rossler:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) operates the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located at 6006 Schroeder Road in Madison, Wisconsin. The NWHC is part of a 24-acre tract that was acquired by the Federal government in 1978 to provide a permanent facility for the NWHC. At that time, the NWHC was the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains today as the only national center devoted to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the U.S.

The NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of significant renovations, replacements and repairs. Studies conducted since 2008 have found that the mission and function of the facility, along with the interests of USGS, which oversees the NWHC, would be best served by replacing the NWHC. A new facility, designed and constructed to contemporary standards, would meet USGS's current and future needs, deliver better results, improve worker and public safety, and control operating costs.

Since development of a new NWHC has the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment, USGS will soon begin preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will ensure that the environmental consequences of the proposed action are thoroughly documented and complies with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, among other statutes and Executive Orders. The process also provides interested parties and the public with opportunities to offer input and comments concerning the proposed action.

While the Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register in the near future, USGS wishes to begin engaging key regulatory agencies including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in a discussion about the proposed project and the interests and concerns unique to your organization. USGS and its consultant team would like to meet with you and others from your agency to describe the history of the NWHC and the purpose and objectives of the proposed project. Most important, the meeting will provide USGS an opportunity to learn of the interests and concerns of your agency regarding the proposed NWHC.

Page 2:

Our consultant team (WSP USA) submitted a request for an Endangered Resources Review for the proposed project to the WDNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation on October 11, 2022. A copy of the Endangered Resources Review, received on October 22, 2022, is included as an attachment to this letter. Also included with this letter is a meeting agenda along with a Project Summary which provides information about the history and functions of the NWHC, plans for the proposed new NWHC, among other topics. A representative of WSP USA will reach out to you shortly to identify a convenient date/time for a virtual meeting. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me using the contact information provided below. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to meeting.

Sincerely,



Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205, Lakewood, CO 80225  
916-606-7460 / jsizemore@usgs.gov

Attachments

Cc:

R. Nardi, J. Forbes, T. Stewart, WSP USA  
E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch, efishburne@usgs.gov  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch, msmith@usgs.gov  
Michael D. Bonds, USGS Environmental Program Coordinator, NWHC, mbonds@usgs.gov



# Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center Madison, Wisconsin

## Agenda

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- I. Welcome, Introductions**
  - a. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
  - b. U.S. Geological Survey
  - c. WSP USA
  
- II. Proposed National Wildlife Health Center**
  - a. Project History
  - b. Goals and Objectives
  - c. Project Description
  
- III. Project Status**
  - a. Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS
  - b. Agency Scoping
  - c. Public Scoping
  - d. Project Website (<http://nwhceis.com/>)
  
- IV. Anticipated Schedule**
  - a. Notice of Intent
  - b. Draft Environmental Impact Statement
  - c. Final Environmental Impact Statement
  - d. Record of Decision
  
- V. Next Steps/Action Items**





**State of Wisconsin / DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Tony Evers, Governor  
Preston D. Cole, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

October 22, 2022

Tara Stewart  
WSP USA  
350 Mount Kemble Avenue  
Morristown, NJ 07960

SUBJECT: Endangered Resources Review (ERR Log # 22-736)  
Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center, Dane County, WI (T07N R08E S25)

Dear Tara Stewart,

The Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation has reviewed the proposed project described in the Endangered Resources (ER) Review Request received October 11, 2022. The complete ER Review for this proposed project is attached and follow-up actions are summarized below:

Required Actions: 2 species

Recommended Actions: 0 species

No Follow-Up Actions: 1 species

Additional Recommendations Specified: Yes

This ER Review may contain Natural Heritage Inventory data (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/NHI>), including specific locations of endangered resources, which are considered sensitive and are not subject to Wisconsin's Open Records Law. Information contained in this ER Review may be shared with individuals who need this information in order to carry out specific roles in the planning, permitting, and implementation of the proposed project. **Specific locations of endangered resources may not be released or reproduced in any publicly disseminated documents.**

The attached ER Review is for informational purposes and only addresses endangered resources issues. **This ER Review does not constitute DNR authorization of the proposed project and does not exempt the project from securing necessary permits and approvals from the DNR and/or other permitting authorities.** Please contact the ER Review Program whenever the project plans change, new details become available, or more than a year has passed to confirm if results of this ER Review are still valid.

Please contact me at 608-264-8968 or via email at [anna.rossler@wi.gov](mailto:anna.rossler@wi.gov) if you have any questions about this ER Review.

Sincerely,

*Anna Rossler*  
Endangered Resources Review Program

cc:

**Endangered Resources Review for the Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center, Dane County**  
**(ER Log # 22-736)**

**Section A. Location and brief description of the proposed project**

Based on information provided by the ER Review Request form and attached materials, the proposed project consists of the following:

<b>Location</b>	Dane County - T07N R08E S25
<b>Project Description</b>	The proposed project is to develop a new National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) which is devoted to advancing wildlife health science. The new NWHC will meet modern standards, incorporate more flexible lab space, and expand diagnostic facilities. Construction impacts will be minimized by developing new NWHC largely within the footprint of existing parking lot which was disturbed at the time of the site's initial development (circa 1960s). While development is underway, operations would continue at the current NWHC. A new employee/visitor access drive will be developed from Forward Road and parking would increase from 98 to 150 spaces. The prairie areas will be not be disturbed by construction or operation of the new NWHC. Following construction, the existing NWHC will be demolished and the area restored as a grassed lawn. Total net disturbance is estimated at 5 - 7 acres.
<b>Project Timing</b>	January 2024- December 2025
<b>Current Habitat</b>	The central, developed portion of the site operates as the NWHC and contains two buildings and a parking lot. A prairie restoration was implemented on the property in 1985/1986. The 5.7 acre restored south prairie has trails for passive recreation and serves as a buffer to the sensitive nature of the NWHC's work. The restored prairie areas planted with grasses such as big bluestem and Indian grass have been invaded by trees and brush such as black locust, sumac, black walnut, dogwood, wild grape, and reed canary grass, and the native plant diversity has decreased. The 3.1-acre north prairie is more heavily invaded by woody species than in the south. Aspen have invaded from the adjacent woods and the area is vulnerable to exotic species from the adjacent Beltline Highway corridor. The wooded areas that surround the NWHC and prairie are dominated by exotic and invasive trees and brush such as black locust, box elder, black walnut, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and sumac with a ground layer of herbaceous weeds, especially garlic mustard.
<b>Impacts to Wetlands or Waterbodies</b>	There are no wetlands or waterbodies mapped on or adjacent to the project area.
<b>Property Type</b>	Public
<b>Federal Nexus</b>	Yes

*It is best to request ER Reviews early in the project planning process. However, some important project details may not be known at that time. Details related to project location, design, and timing of disturbance are important for determining both the endangered resources that may be impacted by the project and any necessary follow-up actions. Please contact the ER Review Program whenever the project plans change, new details become available, or more than a year has passed to confirm if results of this ER Review are still valid.*

**Section B. Endangered resources recorded from within the project area and surrounding area**

	<b>Group</b>	<b>State Status</b>	<b>Federal Status</b>
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee ( <i>Bombus affinis</i> )	Bee	SC/FL	LE
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone	Bee	NA	HPZ
Ornate Box Turtle ( <i>Terrapene ornata</i> )	Turtle	END	

*For additional information on the rare species, high-quality natural communities, and other endangered resources listed above, please visit our Biodiversity (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/biodiversity.html>) page. For further definitions of state and federal statuses (END=Endangered, THR=Threatened, SC=Special Concern), please refer to the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Working List (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/wlist.html>).*

**Section C. Follow-up actions**

**Actions that need to be taken to comply with state and/or federal endangered species laws:**

• **Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*) - Bee**

**State Status:** SC/FL **Federal Status:** LE

<b>Impact Type</b>	Impact possible
<b>Required Measures</b>	Other
<b>Description of Required Measures</b>	Please see the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone section for guidance.

• **Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone - Bee**

**State Status:** NA **Federal Status:** HPZ

<b>Impact Type</b>	Impact possible
<b>Required Measures</b>	Other
<b>Description of Required Measures</b>	<p>This project overlaps the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone (RPBB HPZ). While the maintained areas and existing impervious areas would not be considered suitable, the unmaintained, prairie and wooded portions of the project site may contain suitable habitat.</p> <p>If suitable habitat will be disturbed, project proponents should follow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service S7 Guidance: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/esa-section-7a2-voluntary-implementation-guidance-rusty-patched-bumble-bee">https://www.fws.gov/media/esa-section-7a2-voluntary-implementation-guidance-rusty-patched-bumble-bee</a>. The Conservation Management Guidelines for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (<i>Bombus affinis</i>) document can be found at (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/pdf/ConservationGuidanceRPBBv1_27Feb2018.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/pdf/ConservationGuidanceRPBBv1_27Feb2018.pdf</a>).</p> <p>Follow-up actions for the Rusty patched bumble bee include following one or more of the USFWS' recommended conservation measures below (as applicable):</p> <p>For tree clearing/thinning, follow the voluntary conservation measures outlined in the Conservation Management Guidelines for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (<i>Bombus affinis</i>) document. (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/pdf/ConservationGuidanceRPBBv1_27Feb2018.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/pdf/ConservationGuidanceRPBBv1_27Feb2018.pdf</a>). These conservation measures include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement best management practices (BMPs), especially those that serve to minimize the spread of invasive species and to avoid or minimize soil compaction. Visit (<a href="https://www.stateforesters.org/newsroom/state-forestry-bmps/">https://www.stateforesters.org/newsroom/state-forestry-bmps/</a>) for up to date information about BMP recommendations by state.</li><li>• Avoid or minimize soil disturbance and heavy equipment operation during overwintering (mid October- mid March)</li><li>• Avoid or minimize forest management that may destroy spring blooming flowers during their bloom periods.</li><li>• Consider thinning or single tree selection and dense invasive shrub removal that may improve overwintering and spring foraging habitat.</li></ul> <p>For all other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• use native trees, shrubs and flowering plants in landscaping,</li><li>• provide plants that bloom from spring through fall (refer to the USFWS RPBB Midwest Plant Guide),</li><li>• remove and control invasive plants in any habitat used for foraging, nesting, or overwintering</li></ul> <p>If suitable habitat is present and none of the above conservation measures can be followed, then contact the USFWS Bloomington Field Office at (952) 252-0092 or <a href="mailto:TwinCities@fws.gov">TwinCities@fws.gov</a> for further consultation.</p>

**Actions recommended to help conserve Wisconsin's Endangered Resources:** None

Remember that although these actions are not required by state or federal endangered species laws, they may be required by other laws, permits, granting programs, or policies of this or another agency. Examples include the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, State Natural Areas law, DNR Chapter 30 Wetland and Waterway permits, DNR Stormwater permits, and Forest Certification.

**Additional Recommendations**

Please note that erosion control netting (also known as erosion control blankets, erosion mats or erosion mesh netting) used to prevent erosion during the establishment of vegetation can have detrimental effects on local snake and other wildlife populations. Plastic netting without independent movement of strands can easily entrap snakes moving through the area, leading to dehydration, desiccation, and eventually mortality. Netting that contains biodegradable thread with the "leno" or "gauze" weave (contains strands that are able to move independently) appears to have the least impact on snakes and should be used in areas adjacent to or near any waterbody.

If erosion matting will be used for this project, use the following matting (or something similar): American Excelsior "FibreNet" or "NetFree" products; East Coast Erosion biodegradable jute products; Erosion Tech biodegradable jute products; ErosionControlBlanket.com biodegradable leno weave products; North American Green S75BN, S150BN, SC150BN or C125BN; or Western Excelsior "All Natural" products.

The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI Portal) database contains all current Northern Long-eared Bat roost sites and hibernacula in Wisconsin. The NHI Portal contains verified survey results from WI DNR, FWS, and private organizations. The NHI Portal was consulted for this project, and per U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 4(d) rule, it was determined that this project is more than 150 feet from a known maternity roost tree AND is more than 1/4 mile from a known hibernaculum. Therefore, this project can proceed without federal restrictions for this species.

**No actions are required or recommended for the following endangered resources:**

• **Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata*) - Turtle**

**State Status: END**

<b>Impact Type</b>	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
<b>Reason</b>	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
<b>Justification</b>	<p>This project takes place in an area that has previously been disturbed and is surrounded by additional development. It is unlikely that sufficient suitable habitat is present at the project site. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Ornate Box Turtle (<i>Terrapene ornata</i>), listed as Endangered in Wisconsin, prefers mesic prairies, dry-mesic prairies, sand prairies, oak savannas, and open to semi-open woodlands. They overwinter in deep sand and/or well drained soils in open canopy microhabitats supporting sparse vegetation and in areas of disturbed soils such as the edges of sand blows.</p>

**Section D. Next Steps**

1. Evaluate whether the '**Location and brief description of the proposed project**' is still accurate. All recommendations in this ER Review are based on the information supplied in the ER Review Request. If the proposed project has changed or more than a year has passed and you would like your letter renewed, please contact the ER Review Program to determine if the information in this ER Review is still valid.
2. Determine whether the project can incorporate and implement the '**Follow-up actions**' identified above:
  - o 'Actions that need to be taken to comply with state and/or federal endangered species laws' represent the Department's best available guidance for complying with state and federal endangered species laws based on the project information that you provided and the endangered resources information and data available to us. If the proposed project has not changed from the description that you provided us and you are able to implement all of the 'Actions that need to be taken to comply with state and/or federal endangered species laws', your project should comply with state and federal endangered species laws. Please remember that if a violation occurs, the person responsible for the taking is the liable party. Generally this is the landowner or project proponent. For questions or concerns about individual responsibilities related to Wisconsin's Endangered Species Law, please contact the ER Review Program.
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  - o 'Actions recommended to help conserve Wisconsin's Endangered Resources' may be required by another law, a policy of this or another Department, agency or program; or as part of another permitting, approval or granting process. Please make sure to carefully read all permits and approvals for the project to determine whether these or other measures may be required. Even if these actions are not required by another program or entity for the proposed project to proceed, the Department strongly encourages the implementation of these conservation measures on a voluntary basis to help prevent future listings and protect Wisconsin's biodiversity for future generations.
3. If federally-protected species or habitats are involved and the project involves federal funds, technical assistance or authorization (e.g., permit) and there are likely to be any impacts (positive or negative) to them, consultation with USFWS will need to occur prior to the project being able to proceed. If no federal funding, assistance or authorization is involved with the project and there are likely to be adverse impacts to the species, contact the USFWS Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office at 612-725-3548 (x2201) for further information and guidance.

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is considered for terrestrial and wetland species, and a 2 mile buffer for aquatic species. Endangered resources records from the buffer area are considered because most lands and waters in the state, especially private lands, have not been surveyed. Considering records from the entire project area (also sometimes referred to as the search area) provides the best picture of species and communities that may be present on your specific site if suitable habitat for those species or communities is present.

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- Federally-protected species include those federally listed as Endangered or Threatened and Designated Critical Habitats. Federally-protected animals are protected on all lands; federally-protected plants are protected only on federal lands and in the course of projects that include federal funding (see Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended).
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**Please remember** the following:

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## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

May 17, 2023

Anna Rossler  
Endangered Resources Review Program  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation  
101 Webster Street, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707  
GreenBay@fws.gov

**Re: Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Ms. Rossler:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) operates the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located at 6006 Schroeder Road in Madison, Wisconsin. The NWHC is part of a 24-acre tract that was acquired by the Federal government in 1978 to provide a permanent facility for the NWHC. At that time, the NWHC was the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains today as the only national center devoted to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the U.S.

The NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of significant renovations, replacements and repairs. Studies conducted since 2008 have found that the mission and function of the facility, along with the interests of USGS, which oversees the NWHC, would be best served by replacing the NWHC. A new facility, designed and constructed to contemporary standards, would meet USGS's current and future needs, deliver better results, improve worker and public safety, and control operating costs.

Since development of a new NWHC has the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment, USGS will soon begin preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will ensure that the environmental consequences of the proposed action are thoroughly documented and complies with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, among other statutes and Executive Orders. The process also provides interested parties and the public with opportunities to offer input and comments concerning the proposed action.

While the Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register in the near future, USGS wishes to begin engaging key regulatory agencies including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in a discussion about the proposed project and the interests and concerns unique to your organization. USGS and its consultant team would like to meet with you and others from your agency to describe the history of the NWHC and the purpose and objectives of the proposed project. Most important, the meeting will provide USGS an opportunity to learn of the interests and concerns of your agency regarding the proposed NWHC.

Page 2:

Our consultant team (WSP USA) submitted a request for an Endangered Resources Review for the proposed project to the WDNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation on October 11, 2022. A copy of the Endangered Resources Review, received on October 22, 2023, is included as an attachment to this letter. Also included with this letter is a meeting agenda along with a Project Summary which provides information about the history and functions of the NWHC, plans for the proposed new NWHC, among other topics. A representative of WSP USA will reach out to you shortly to identify a convenient date/time for a virtual meeting. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me using the contact information provided below. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Sizemore".

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205, Lakewood, CO 80225  
916-606-7460 / jsizemore@usgs.gov

Attachments

Cc:

R. Nardi, J. Forbes, T. Stewart, WSP USA  
E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch, efishburne@usgs.gov  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch, msmith@usgs.gov  
Michael D. Bonds, USGS Environmental Program Coordinator, NWHC, mbonds@usgs.gov



## Proposed Development of New National Wildlife Health Center Madison, Wisconsin

### Agenda

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- I. Welcome, Introductions**
  - a. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service |
  - b. U.S. Geological Survey
  - c. WSP USA
  
- II. Proposed National Wildlife Health Center**
  - a. Project History
  - b. Goals and Objectives
  - c. Project Description
  
- III. Project Status**
  - a. Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS
  - b. Agency Scoping
  - c. Public Scoping
  - d. Project Website (<http://nwhceis.com/>)
  
- IV. Anticipated Schedule**
  - a. Notice of Intent
  - b. Draft Environmental Impact Statement
  - c. Final Environmental Impact Statement
  - d. Record of Decision
  
- V. Next Steps/Action Items**





**State of Wisconsin / DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Tony Evers, Governor  
Adam N. Payne, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

January 5, 2024

Tara Stewart  
WSP USA  
350 Mount Kemble Avenue  
Morristown, NJ 07960

SUBJECT: Endangered Resources Review (ERR Log # 22-736)

Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center - Renewed 01/05/24, Dane County, WI (T07N R08E S25)

Dear Tara Stewart,

The Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation has reviewed the proposed project described in the Endangered Resources (ER) Review Request received October 11, 2022. The complete ER Review for this proposed project is attached and follow-up actions are summarized below:

Required Actions: 2 species

Recommended Actions: 0 species

No Follow-Up Actions: 1 species

Additional Recommendations Specified: Yes

This ER Review may contain Natural Heritage Inventory data (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/NHI>), including specific locations of endangered resources, which are considered sensitive and are not subject to Wisconsin's Open Records Law. Information contained in this ER Review may be shared with individuals who need this information in order to carry out specific roles in the planning, permitting, and implementation of the proposed project. **Specific locations of endangered resources may not be released or reproduced in any publicly disseminated documents.**

The attached ER Review is for informational purposes and only addresses endangered resources issues. **This ER Review does not constitute DNR authorization of the proposed project and does not exempt the project from securing necessary permits and approvals from the DNR and/or other permitting authorities.** Please contact the ER Review Program whenever the project plans change, new details become available, or more than a year has passed to confirm if results of this ER Review are still valid.

Please contact me at 608-264-8968 or via email at [anna.rossler@wi.gov](mailto:anna.rossler@wi.gov) if you have any questions about this ER Review.

Sincerely,

*Anna Rossler*

Endangered Resources Review Program

cc:

**Endangered Resources Review for the Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center - Renewed 01/05/24, Dane County**  
(ER Log # 22-736)

**Section A. Location and brief description of the proposed project**

Based on information provided by the ER Review Request form and attached materials, the proposed project consists of the following:

<b>Location</b>	Dane County - T07N R08E S25
<b>Project Description</b>	The proposed project is to develop a new National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) which is devoted to advancing wildlife health science. The new NWHC will meet modern standards, incorporate more flexible lab space, and expand diagnostic facilities. Construction impacts will be minimized by developing new NWHC largely within the footprint of existing parking lot which was disturbed at the time of the site's initial development (circa 1960s). While development is underway, operations would continue at the current NWHC. A new employee/visitor access drive will be developed from Forward Road and parking would increase from 98 to 150 spaces. The prairie areas will be not be disturbed by construction or operation of the new NWHC. Following construction, the existing NWHC will be demolished and the area restored as a grassed lawn. Total net disturbance is estimated at 5 - 7 acres.
<b>Project Timing</b>	January 2024- December 2025
<b>Current Habitat</b>	The central, developed portion of the site operates as the NWHC and contains two buildings and a parking lot. A prairie restoration was implemented on the property in 1985/1986. The 5.7 acre restored south prairie has trails for passive recreation and serves as a buffer to the sensitive nature of the NWHC's work. The restored prairie areas planted with grasses such as big bluestem and Indian grass have been invaded by trees and brush such as black locust, sumac, black walnut, dogwood, wild grape, and reed canary grass, and the native plant diversity has decreased. The 3.1-acre north prairie is more heavily invaded by woody species than in the south. Aspen have invaded from the adjacent woods and the area is vulnerable to exotic species from the adjacent Beltline Highway corridor. The wooded areas that surround the NWHC and prairie are dominated by exotic and invasive trees and brush such as black locust, box elder, black walnut, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and sumac with a ground layer of herbaceous weeds, especially garlic mustard.
<b>Impacts to Wetlands or Waterbodies</b>	There are no wetlands or waterbodies mapped on or adjacent to the project area.
<b>Property Type</b>	Public
<b>Federal Nexus</b>	Yes

*It is best to request ER Reviews early in the project planning process. However, some important project details may not be known at that time. Details related to project location, design, and timing of disturbance are important for determining both the endangered resources that may be impacted by the project and any necessary follow-up actions. Please contact the ER Review Program whenever the project plans change, new details become available, or more than a year has passed to confirm if results of this ER Review are still valid.*

**Section B. Endangered resources recorded from within the project area and surrounding area**

	<b>Group</b>	<b>State Status</b>	<b>Federal Status</b>
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee ( <i>Bombus affinis</i> )	Bee	SC/FL	LE
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone	Bee	NA	HPZ
Ornate Box Turtle ( <i>Terrapene ornata</i> )	Turtle	END	

*For additional information on the rare species, high-quality natural communities, and other endangered resources listed above, please visit our Biodiversity (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/biodiversity.html>) page. For further definitions of state and federal statuses (END=Endangered, THR=Threatened, SC=Special Concern), please refer to the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Working List (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/wlist.html>).*

**Section C. Follow-up actions**

**Actions that need to be taken to comply with state and/or federal endangered species laws:**

• **Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*) - Bee**

**State Status:** SC/FL **Federal Status:** LE

<b>Impact Type</b>	Impact possible
<b>Required Measures</b>	Other
<b>Description of Required Measures</b>	Please see the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone section for guidance.

• **Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone - Bee**

**State Status:** NA **Federal Status:** HPZ

<b>Impact Type</b>	Impact possible
<b>Required Measures</b>	Other
<b>Description of Required Measures</b>	<p>This project overlaps the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone (RPBB HPZ). While the maintained areas and existing impervious areas would not be considered suitable, the unmaintained, prairie and wooded portions of the project site may contain suitable habitat.</p> <p>If suitable habitat will be disturbed, project proponents should follow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service S7 Guidance: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/esa-section-7a2-voluntary-implementation-guidance-rusty-patched-bumble-bee">https://www.fws.gov/media/esa-section-7a2-voluntary-implementation-guidance-rusty-patched-bumble-bee</a>. This document provides information about the bee and has a determination key. The project should complete the determination key to determine impacts and what kind of consultation with USFWS will be needed.</p> <p>The Conservation Management Guidelines for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (<i>Bombus affinis</i>) document can be found at (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/pdf/ConservationGuidanceRPBBv1_27Feb2018.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/pdf/ConservationGuidanceRPBBv1_27Feb2018.pdf</a>).</p> <p>Follow-up actions for the Rusty patched bumble bee include following one or more of the USFWS' recommended conservation measures below:</p> <p>For tree clearing/thinning, conservation measures include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement best management practices (BMPs), especially those that serve to minimize the spread of invasive species and to avoid or minimize soil compaction. Visit (<a href="https://www.stateforesters.org/newsroom/state-forestry-bmps/">https://www.stateforesters.org/newsroom/state-forestry-bmps/</a>) for up to date information about BMP recommendations by state.</li><li>• Avoid or minimize soil disturbance and heavy equipment operation during overwintering (mid October- mid March)</li><li>• Avoid or minimize forest management that may destroy spring blooming flowers during their bloom periods.</li><li>• Consider thinning or single tree selection and dense invasive shrub removal that may improve overwintering and spring foraging habitat.</li></ul> <p>For all other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• use native trees, shrubs and flowering plants in landscaping,</li><li>• provide plants that bloom from spring through fall (refer to the USFWS RPBB Midwest Plant Guide),</li><li>• remove and control invasive plants in any habitat used for foraging, nesting, or overwintering</li></ul> <p>If suitable habitat is present and will be affected by the project, please contact the USFWS Bloomington Field Office at (952) 252-0092 or <a href="mailto:TwinCities@fws.gov">TwinCities@fws.gov</a> for further consultation.</p>

**Actions recommended to help conserve Wisconsin's Endangered Resources:** None

Remember that although these actions are not required by state or federal endangered species laws, they may be required by other laws, permits, granting programs, or policies of this or another agency. Examples include the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, State Natural Areas law, DNR Chapter 30 Wetland and Waterway permits, DNR Stormwater permits, and Forest Certification.

**Additional Recommendations**

USFWS is using larger buffers in IPaC than those included in the NHI Portal for Northern Long-eared Bats. Since your project involves a federal nexus, the federal action agency will need to complete the federal review process through IPaC to satisfy federal requirements. The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI Portal) database contains all current Northern Long-eared Bat roost sites and hibernacula in Wisconsin. The NHI Portal contains verified survey results from WI DNR, FWS, and private organizations. The NHI Portal was consulted for this project and it was determined that there is no known roost or hibernaculum within 1 mile of the project site.

Please note that erosion control netting (also known as erosion control blankets, erosion mats or erosion mesh netting) used to prevent erosion during the establishment of vegetation can have detrimental effects on local snake and other wildlife populations. Plastic netting without independent movement of strands can easily entrap snakes moving through the area, leading to dehydration, desiccation, and eventually mortality. Netting that contains biodegradable thread with the "leno" or "gauze" weave (contains strands that are able to move independently) appears to have the least impact on snakes and should be used in areas adjacent to or near any waterbody.

If erosion matting will be used for this project, use the following matting (or something similar): American Excelsior "FibreNet" or "NetFree" products; East Coast Erosion biodegradable jute products; Erosion Tech biodegradable jute products; ErosionControlBlanket.com biodegradable leno weave products; North American Green S75BN, S150BN, SC150BN or C125BN; or Western Excelsior "All Natural" products.

**No actions are required or recommended for the following endangered resources:**

• **Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata*) - Turtle**

**State Status: END**

<b>Impact Type</b>	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
<b>Reason</b>	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
<b>Justification</b>	<p>This project takes place in an area that has previously been disturbed and is surrounded by additional development. It is unlikely that sufficient suitable habitat is present at the project site. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Ornate Box Turtle (<i>Terrapene ornata</i>), listed as Endangered in Wisconsin, prefers mesic prairies, dry-mesic prairies, sand prairies, oak savannas, and open to semi-open woodlands. They overwinter in deep sand and/or well drained soils in open canopy microhabitats supporting sparse vegetation and in areas of disturbed soils such as the edges of sand blows.</p>

**Section D. Next Steps**

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## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

# **Proposed Development of the New National Wildlife Health Center - Madison, Wisconsin**

Prepared for:  
**United States Geological Survey**

**June 2023**

# PROJECT SUMMARY

## Proposed Development of the New National Wildlife Health Center – Madison, Wisconsin

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is proposing to develop a new National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, Wisconsin. In the months ahead, USGS will be undertaking preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, among other federal regulations. During this time, USGS will also be engaging federal, state, Tribal, and local officials, regulatory agencies, stakeholders, and the public to assist in determining the scope of issues to be addressed in planning for a new NWHC.

### Background

The National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) was established in 1975 in Madison as the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. It remains today as the only national center devoted to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the United States.



*National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin*

The emergence of wildlife diseases has become a high-priority concern in the United States and the world. In addition to their harmful effects on natural wildlife populations and ecosystems, there is the potential for the spread of zoonotic diseases to humans, and for causing economic losses associated with livestock morbidity and mortality. The NWHC is responsible for providing research and for investigating and responding to known and emerging wildlife diseases and wildlife mortality outbreaks throughout the United States.

The NWHC is located on a 24-acre tract of federal property which, along with a vacant building, were acquired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1978 to consolidate USFWS expertise into a single program and provide a permanent facility for the NWHC. The Main Building was constructed in the 1960's and underwent an extensive renovation in 1982 with a second building, the Tight Isolation Building (TIB), constructed in 1985 and modified in 1989. Portions of the property not occupied by buildings, access and service driveways, and parking areas were restored to native prairie in 1988. An interpretive nature trail has also been developed through the prairie and adjacent wooded area and is actively visited by the public.



*NWHC, circa 1988*



*NWHC scientists at work*

In 1996, the NWHC, along with other U.S. Department of the Interior research functions, was transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) where it is one of many entities that provides the independent science that forms the basis of sound management of the nation's natural resources. Created by Congress in 1879, USGS is an agency of the federal government where scientists study the nation's landscape, its natural resources, and the natural hazards that threaten it. USGS is also a research organization whose work spans biology, geography, geology, and hydrology.

The NWHC provides information, technical assistance, and research on national and international wildlife health issues. It also monitors and assesses the impact of disease on wildlife populations; defines ecological relationships leading to the occurrence of disease; transfers technology for disease prevention and control; and provides guidance, training, and assistance for reducing wildlife losses. As a Level 3 Security Facility under the U.S. Department of Justice Standards for Federal Facilities, the NWHC is required to operate under criteria established by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for Biological Safety Level 3 (BSL-3) containment.

The NWHC functions as an integrated program involving disease diagnosis, field response to disease outbreaks, research, animal welfare, and training of others in disease identification and control. Collaboration with and technical assistance is also provided to a wide variety of agencies and organizations within the federal, state, and private sectors. This has resulted in an extensive network of interaction and today the NWHC is the focal point for information, technical assistance, and research on wildlife health issues.

Designated as a "mission essential" facility, NWHC functions to advance wildlife health science for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment. However, a growing challenge to performing its mission is the age and space limitations associated with the present NWHC. Therefore, starting in 2008, USGS began conducting studies of the NWHC from which conditions hampering efficient operations were identified. Among the findings were crowded laboratories and administrative areas, use of older, primary containment biological safety cabinets, old and inefficient incubators, autoclaves needing replacement, deteriorating casework surfaces, cracking walls, doors, window seals and window frames, lack of consolidated freezer space, and use of contained animal rooms for general storage, among many others.

In follow-on studies conducted in 2011 and 2016, many of the same conditions remained. The condition of key systems, infrastructure, and equipment continued aging with numerous items requiring repair or replacement. Even with proactive efforts to repair systems and facilities, the efforts and expenditures have provided only short-term relief, focused only on those necessary to its



operation. Repairs have proven costly while resulting in only modest and short-term improvements to the buildings, systems, and infrastructure which support NWHC operation. The extensive renovations needed for NWHC to meet the requirements of its mission has resulted in a cost prohibitive situation.

Overall, the NWHC is outdated, inefficient, and in need of significant renovations, replacements and repairs. It has been the findings of the various studies that the mission and function of the facility, along with the interests of the USGS, which oversees the NWHC, would be best served by replacing the NWHC with a new facility. The consequence is the need to design and construct a modern new facility to:

- › Meet USGS and NWHC’s administrative, operational, health, and safety standards and requirements.
- › Provide the spaces needed to conduct research into wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention and other programs that support the mission of the NWHC.
- › Incorporate the latest technologies and best practices to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of staff, visitors, and the public.
- › Reduce exposure to pathogens and the risks faced by staff by utilizing modern laboratory equipment, mechanical systems and operating and management approaches.
- › Make effective use of operating staff with a design that minimizes internal movements.
- › Elevate the quality of the work environment for staff and visitors.
- › Apply advanced building design approaches and construction materials that are sustainable and resilient against the hazards associated with climate change and other outside forces while reducing energy consumption and the facility’s carbon footprint.
- › Optimize the cost of operation by applying innovative design, quality construction, highly efficient air handling, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and facility maintenance programs to achieve and maintain peak performance standards.

Developing a new NWHC will also demonstrate that the combination of a modern facility and contemporary best management practices can deliver better results, improve worker and public safety, and control operating costs.



*NWHC location, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison*

## National Wildlife Health Center

Since its establishment, the NWHC has been located at 6006 Schroeder Road, approximately five miles southwest of downtown Madison. The Main Building, comprising approximately 33,000 square feet of floor space, contains necropsy and associated disease diagnostic laboratories; general support laboratories for biological media and reagent preparation, glassware preparation and other special use areas; and administrative support areas with a conference room, staff offices, data processing and records areas. Solar voltaic panels to preheat water for the building’s boilers, along with other conservation, are employed to reduce energy consumption and control operational costs.

The TIB is located approximately 150 feet northeast of the Main Building and while the buildings are physically separated, there is not a complete separation of functions, with some researchers working in both buildings. The TIB contains specialized research laboratories and support areas, staff offices for investigators and BSL-3 bio-containment animal research areas. The Animal Isolation

Wing is self-contained with cage and glassware cleaning, necropsy, and incineration facilities. Entry into the area requires use of specialized clothing and footwear, changes of clothing and footwear for each room entered, and a mandatory shower which is activated upon entering the exit chamber from the animal area.

Other small structures are also on the property including a maintenance garage, an exterior freezer located outside the Diagnostic Necropsy, an array of solar voltaic panels located behind the parking area, and a modular trailer added in the 2000’s and used as employee offices.

# Proposed National Wildlife Health Center

The proposed NWHC is envisioned as a low-rise structure consisting of three stories and a basement containing administrative offices; BSL2 and BSL3 laboratories; vivarium ABSL-2, ABSL-3 and BSL3-AG; and support spaces. The new NWHC is intended to present a visually unified physical structure that is compatible with its surroundings. The structure would be fire-resistant and meet applicable building code requirements. In addition to the new facility itself, the proposal includes the following:

- › New internal service driveways and parking to accommodate visitors, students, government vehicles, and staff.
- › All utilities would remain functional to serve the current facility until completion of the new NWHC.
- › Containment within NWHC laboratories to prevent staff exposure to biological and chemical agents, the escape of harmful pathogens, contamination of assay systems, reagents, and other materials, and cross-contamination between investigations.
- › Incinerators may be replaced with bulk autoclaves and other modern systems for biological waste disposal.
- › Expanding use of photovoltaic systems to provide for a portion of the energy needed to operate the proposed NWHC.
- › Installation of a geothermal field to supplement the mechanical and PV systems in meeting a portion of the new facility's energy requirements.
- › A utility yard where emergency generators, for redundancy and to maintain the chillers, would be placed.
- › Continued use of the maintenance garage.
- › Maintaining/restoring the prairie area and keeping it available for public access and use.
- › New energy-efficient lighting along internal walkways and parking areas along with new directional and other signage.

A range of alternatives for developing a new NWHC, including the No Action alternative (i.e., maintaining the status quo) and developing a new NWHC at its current location, will be described and analyzed within the EIS.



*Conceptual Renderings of Proposed NWHC*

## A Culture of Safety

The NWHC has a strong safety culture with biosafety and biosecurity achieved through engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment. Adherence to these controls is evaluated and maintained through both internal and external inspection with the culture that emphasizes safety evidence of the success of the program.

Engineering controls prevent the release of contaminants into the workplace and the environment. Among the engineering controls at the NWHC are maintaining all BSL3 and ABSL3 spaces under negative air pressure, with unidirectional airflow, and approximately 12 air changes per



*NWHC Laboratory (typical)*

hour; entrances to laboratories through two self-closing and interlocked doors; performing all work involving infectious agents or toxins within an appropriate, annually certified biosafety cabinet; decontaminating all laboratory wastes via incinerators and autoclaves; having all BSL3 and ABSL3 exhaust air HEPA-filtered before discharge, and heat treating and pasteurizing wastewater in decontamination systems prior to discharge.

Administrative controls are safety policies, rules, supervision, schedules, and training with the goal of reducing the risk, duration, frequency, and severity of exposure to biological hazards. NWHC's primary administrative control involves having all research with biological agents and toxins reviewed and approved by the Institutional Biosafety Committee. Researchers submit a biosafety protocol to the Committee with information about the personnel involved and their level of training and experience, the research space(s), and potential hazards associated with the work, and planned risk mitigation measures. In addition, the NWHC has an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee that reviews and approves all studies involving the use of live animals. Administrative controls also include medical surveillance of laboratory workers, up-to-date Safety Manual, annual staff biosafety and biosecurity training, and a building security plan.

Proper personal protective equipment (PPE) is the final layer of control with staff using PPE for laboratory and animal work as proscribed under biosafety protocols. Personnel also attend the respiratory protection program which requires annual training, annual fit test for respirators, and medical clearance.

Laboratories and animal spaces are also inspected annually to make sure that the facility is operating properly. NWHC leadership also evaluate whether the researchers are following the approved biosafety practices and procedures. In addition to formal inspections, NWHC leadership also checks periodically as part of the post approval monitoring process.

## The National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA requires consideration of environmental issues in federal agency planning and decision-making. It does so by having federal agencies such as USGS prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or EIS for any federal action, except those that are determined to be "categorically excluded" from further analysis. An EIS is prepared for those federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environments, such as development of a new NWHC, or where the impacts are unknown or controversial. The EIS is also intended to disclose significant environmental impacts and inform decision makers, stakeholders, and the public of reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment.

USGS will soon begin preparation of a Draft EIS (DEIS) to ensure that the potential environmental impacts are thoroughly documented, that the environmental consequences are adequately taken into account, and that compliance is achieved with NEPA and other statutes including but not limited to the Clean

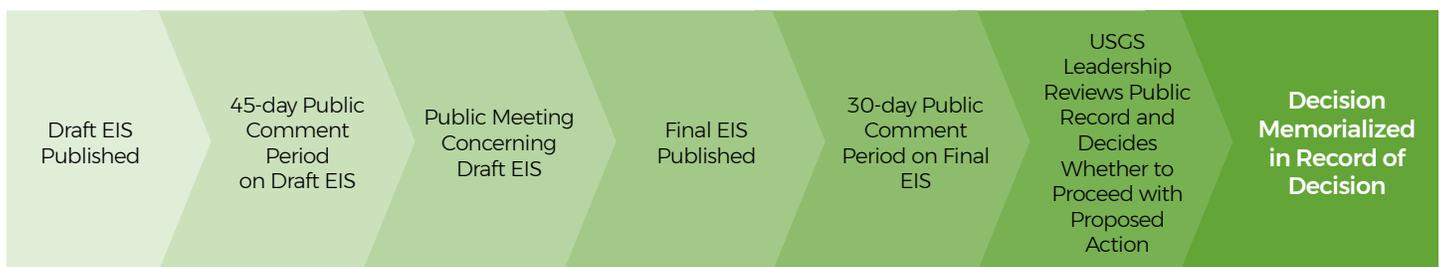
Air Act of 1974 and amendments; the Clean Water Act and Amendments, the Endangered Species Act of 1973; the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; and the Farmland Protection Policy Act, among other laws, regulations and Executive Orders. Preparation of NEPA documentation, and its consideration by federal, state, and local officials, regulatory agencies, stakeholders, and the public, will be conducted to demonstrate that USGS understands and has fully considered the potential environmental impacts associated with new NWHC development during the decision-making process.

## Public Outreach and Engagement

Public outreach and engagement is a key component of the environmental planning and review process, ensuring that public concerns and issues are identified and addressed in the DEIS. The process includes undertaking scoping, including holding public scoping meetings, as one of the first steps in developing the DEIS. Undertaking scoping early in the process provides all interested individuals and entities with an opportunity to understand the proposed NWHC project in light of its possible environmental consequences and to provide comments and express their views on the scope and significant issues to be addressed in the DEIS.

To aid in the process, USGS has established a NWHC EIS website to host communications, public announcements, and other relevant information and to facilitate public access to project-related information (<https://nwhceis.com>). In addition, USGS will soon publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the development of a new NWHC in the Federal Register thereby initiating a scoping period. Coinciding with publication of the NOI, USGS also published a similar notice in local newspapers inviting government agencies, officials, organizations, and the public to participate in the public scoping and DEIS process. During the scoping process, federal, state, Tribal, and local governments, and the public have an opportunity to help USGS identify significant resources and issues, impact-producing factors, reasonable alternatives, and potential mitigation measures to be analyzed in the DEIS, as well as to provide additional information.

Once completed, USGS will issue the DEIS for a public comment period lasting no less than 45-days, at which time parties with an interest in the project will have an opportunity to review the evaluations, inquire about any areas of concern, and offer additional information that should be considered by USGS during the decision-making process. A Notice of Availability of the DEIS will be published in the Federal Register and in local newspapers at the time of its release and providing information about the means to examine the document and provide comments on the proposed action and DEIS. During the public comment period USGS will host additional public meetings.



Overview of NEPA Process

Following the end of the DEIS public comment period, USGS will prepare and publish a Final EIS (FEIS) which will incorporate additional data which may become known and respond to comments received on the DEIS. The FEIS will be subject to an additional public review period lasting no less than 30 days. No action will be taken to implement any of the proposed alternatives until completion of the FEIS review period and issuance of a Record of Decision by USGS.

## We Want to Hear From You

Questions or comments concerning the proposed action can be submitted in any of the following ways:

- › Delivered by mail or delivery service, enclosed in an envelope labeled “NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER EIS” and addressed to Jordan D. Sizemore, REM, Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Management Branch, United States Geological Survey, P.O. Box 25046, MS 205, Lakewood, Colorado 80225;
- › By email to: Jordan D. Sizemore, REM, Environmental Protection Specialist, United States Geological Survey, Email: [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov); or
- › By using the Comment Form available on the NWHC EIS website at: **<https://nwhceis.com/>**.

Throughout the planning process, interested parties can request to be added to the contacts database to directly receive via email future announcements and notifications, including upcoming public meetings and the availability of the DEIS and FEIS documents, by submitting your contact information (name, affiliation if any, and email address) through the website or to Jordan D. Sizemore at USGS ([jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)).

Thank you for your interest and participation.



## United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Box 25046 M.S. 205  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

August 21, 2023

The Honorable Rick Rose, Supervisor - District 16  
Dane County Board of Supervisors  
City-County Building, Room 426, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Madison, WI 53703  
rose.rick@countyofdane.com

**Re: Updates Regarding the Proposed New Facility for the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin**

Dear Supervisor Rose,

I'm reaching out to provide you with an update regarding the development of a new National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, Wisconsin. As a reminder, you received a letter about this previously, and we are pleased to keep you informed about the latest progress.

As we reported previously, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) is planning to build a new facility for the NWHC on the existing property at 6006 Schroeder Road in Madison. The new center will play a crucial role in assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and studying the connection between wildlife health and human and environmental well-being.

The existing NWHC, established in 1975, remains the only national center devoted to advancing wildlife health science for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment. A growing challenge to performing the NWHC's mission, however, is the age and space limitations associated with the current center. To keep advancing wildlife health science effectively, we are embarking on the development of a new modern and efficient facility.

The planning for this new facility began back in 2011 and has progressed steadily. Our goal is to create a space that meets the current and future needs of wildlife health science, allowing us to better address issues that also impact public health and domestic animal health.

We are eager to involve all stakeholders and the public in this important process. As part of our commitment to the environment and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) will soon be publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register, announcing the start of public scoping. During this time, we want to engage with officials, agencies, stakeholders, and the public to discuss the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts. Your input is valuable to us, and we want to ensure we gather your and your constituents' feedback and/or questions and comply with federal regulations.

Throughout the NEPA process, we will keep you informed of our progress. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project further, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at the contact information below.

Looking forward to working together on this exciting project.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Sizemore".

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Tel: 916-606-7460  
Email: [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)

Cc:

E. Michelle Fishburne, Chief USGS- Environmental Management Branch  
[efishburne@usgs.gov](mailto:efishburne@usgs.gov)  
Martin Smith, Chief USGS- Facilities Project Management and Support Branch  
[msmith@usgs.gov](mailto:msmith@usgs.gov)  
Mark Gaikowski, Acting Center Director USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
[mgaikowski@usgs.gov](mailto:mgaikowski@usgs.gov)  
Michael D. Bonds, Environmental Program Coordinator USGS- National Wildlife Health Center  
[mbonds@usgs.gov](mailto:mbonds@usgs.gov)  
Jessica Forbes, Deputy Project Manager- WSP  
[jessica.forbes@wsp.com](mailto:jessica.forbes@wsp.com)

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of USGS National Wildlife Health Center  
Attachments: NWHC Notification (A. Hunter, Director) 12-7-22.pdf  
From: Eden Hemming <[eden.hemming@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:eden.hemming@osagenation-nsn.gov)>  
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 12:58 PM  
To: Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of USGS National Wildlife Health Center

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon Mr. Sizemore,  
I am requesting a map indicating the location and boundaries of the area of potential effect, plus an update on the status of this project. When is Section 106 consultation planned for this project?

Eden Hemming

Pronouns: She/her

Archaeologist, MA

Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office

627 Grandview Avenue, Pawhuska, OK 74056

Office: 918-287-5416 | Fax: 918-287-5376

[eden.hemming@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:eden.hemming@osagenation-nsn.gov)

<https://www.osageculture.com/culture/historic-preservation-office>



The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office will now receive **ALL initial project notifications and reports at [s106@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:s106@osagenation-nsn.gov)** Include the Lead Agency, Project Name and Number on the subject line and address it to Dr. Andrea Hunter. Follow-up emails should be sent and addressed directly to me only.

**IMPORTANT:** This email message may contain confidential or legally privileged information and is intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s). Any unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, distribution, copying, or the taking of any action in reliance on the information herein is prohibited. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be error-free. They can be intercepted, amended, or contain viruses. Anyone who communicates with us by email is deemed to have accepted these risks. Osage Nation is not responsible for errors or omissions in this message and denies any responsibility for any damage arising from the use of email. Any opinion and other statements contained in this message and any attachment are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Osage Nation.

*I will be out of the office on the following upcoming dates:*

*September 4*

*September 15*

*Plus additional dates for fieldwork as necessary.*

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From: Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>  
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:40 PM  
To: Andrea Hunter <[ahunter@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:ahunter@osagenation-nsn.gov)>  
Cc: Nardi, Robert <[robert.nardi@wsp.com](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com)>; Forbes-Guerrero, Jessica <[Jessica.Forbes-Guerrero@wsp.com](mailto:Jessica.Forbes-Guerrero@wsp.com)>  
Subject: Consultations for Proposed Modernization of USGS National Wildlife Health Center

Good Afternoon Director Hunter,

Please see the attached notification letter regarding United States Geological Survey's (USGS) intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) located in Madison, Wisconsin.

We look forward to hearing from your office if you have any questions, comments, or concerns throughout our Environmental Review Process.



Very Respectfully,

Jordan Sizemore

*Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Environmental Management Branch  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
603-730-7743  
[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)*



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
National Wildlife Health Center  
6006 Schroeder Road  
Madison, Wisconsin 53711-6223  
608-270-2400

September 7, 2023

Suzanne Amerault, Director  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Suzanne.Amerault@dem.ri.gov

**Subject: Proposed Development of an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI**

Dear Director Amerault:

The National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) was established in 1975 as the first biomedical laboratory dedicated to assessing the impact of disease on wildlife and identifying the role of various pathogens in contributing to wildlife losses. Since then, NWHC has been designated as a “mission essential” facility and today is the only national center devoted to advancing wildlife health science for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment.

A growing challenge to performing our mission is the age and space limitations associated with the NWHC including crowded laboratories and administrative areas, inefficient use of space, aging infrastructure, and increasing costs associated with operation and maintenance.

USGS has conducted various studies of the NWHC since 2008, with each finding that the mission and function of the facility would be best served by developing an entirely new building on the grounds of the current NWHC in Madison, Wisconsin. Since such a proposal is considered to be an action with the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment, USGS must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This includes preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and soliciting public input concerning the proposed action prior to preparation of the DEIS during a period known as “scoping”.

We are eager to receive comments on the proposed action of developing a new NWHC and invite you to provide comments during the scoping period which extends from September 5, 2023 to October 20, 2023 to: Jordan D. Sizemore, NEPA Manager, United States Geological Survey, NWHC 6006 Schroeder Road Madison, WI, or by e-mail to: [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov).

WOAH Collaborating Centre for  
Research, Diagnosis and  
Surveillance of Wildlife Pathogens

Reference Centre



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE



## Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office

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Date: September 29, 2023

File: 2223-4336WI-12

U.S. Geological Survey  
Jordan Sizemore  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 205  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
Email: [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)

**RE: DOI, USGS, Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin**

***SENT VIA EMAIL***

Dear Ms. Sizemore,

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office (ONHPO) has evaluated your submission for the proposed DOI, USGS, Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin. The ONHPO is not aware of, but has a general concern for, any burials (graves, mounds, cairns), prehistoric districts, sites, or objects included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR § 800.16(1)) or that have not been evaluated pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(c) in consultation with the Osage Nation that may be located within the area of potential effects (APE). **If any are identified within the APE during any identification efforts conducted for the proposed project, including background research and cultural resource surveys, the Osage Nation requests to be notified and provided with all relevant CRS reports and correspondence of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), or affiliated reviewing state agency, for review and comment prior to the federal agency's approval of the proposed undertaking.** The Osage Nation, however, has no concern for **historic** graves unaffiliated with the Osage Nation or any identified **historic** archaeology sites that have no known connection to the Osage Nation. **There is no need to further notify or further consult with the Osage Nation regarding any such graves or non-Osage historic sites located in the project APE.**

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (NHPA) [54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.] 1966, undertakings subject to the review process are referred to in 54 U.S.C. § 302706 (a), which clarifies that historic properties may have religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. Additionally, Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties (36 CFR Part 800) as does the National Environmental Policy Act (43 U.S.C. 4321 and 4331-35 and 40 CFR 1501.7(a) of 1969). **If no graves, historic properties, or cultural resources, as specified above, are**



**identified within the APE during any identification efforts conducted for the proposed project, the Osage Nation concurs that the U.S. Geological Survey has fulfilled NHPA compliance by consulting with the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office in regard to the proposed DOI, USGS, Proposed Modernization of National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin.**

**If artifacts or human remains are discovered during project-related activities we ask that activities cease immediately and the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office be contacted at 918-287-5328 within 48 hours of the discovery and prior to the resuming of project activities.** Should you have any questions or need any additional information please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Osage Nation on this matter.

Andrea A. Hunter, Ph.D.  
Director, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Eden Hemming, MA  
Archaeologist

We have also established a project website which can be used to submit comments and to provide access to announcements, meeting notices, and other relevant information: <https://nwhceis.com/>. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. LeAnn White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

C. LeAnn White, PhD, MPH  
Acting Center Director  
USGS National Wildlife Health Center  
[clwhite@usgs.gov](mailto:clwhite@usgs.gov)

Cc: J. Sizemore, USGS  
R. Nardi, J. Forbes, B. Kaim, WSP

From: Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:52 AM  
To: Forbes, Jessica; Nardi, Bob; Kaim, Brittani  
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Proposed New NWHC Facility in Madison,  
Attachments: NWHC Facility in Madison, WI.pdf

FYI

*Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Environmental Management Branch  
U.S. Geological Survey  
360-929-0783  
[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)*

*[CDEPC Program SharePoint Site](#)*

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From: Logan York <[lyork@miamination.com](mailto:lyork@miamination.com)> on behalf of THPO <[thpo@miamination.com](mailto:thpo@miamination.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:45 AM  
To: Sizemore, Jordan D <[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed New NWHC Facility in Madison,

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Greetings:

Attached you will find the response of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to the above-referenced project.

The Miami Tribal Historic Preservation Office has a new email address. Please send all Section 106 correspondence to [THPO@MiamiNation.com](mailto:THPO@MiamiNation.com).

Respectfully,

Logan York  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma  
918-541-7885  
[Lyork@miamination.com](mailto:Lyork@miamination.com)



## Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

3410 P St. NW, Miami, OK 74354 • P.O. Box 1326, Miami, OK 74355  
Ph: (918) 541-1300 • Fax: (918) 542-7260  
[www.miamination.com](http://www.miamination.com)



Via email: [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)

February 7, 2024

Jordan D. Sizemore  
NEPA Project Manager  
USGS  
6006 Schroeder Rd  
Madison, WI 53711

Re: Proposed New NWHC Facility in Madison, WI – Comments of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Greetings,

Aya, kweehsitoolaanki – I show you respect. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, a federally recognized Indian tribe with a Constitution ratified in 1939 under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936, respectfully submits the following comments regarding the Proposed New NWHC Facility.

The Miami Tribe offers no objection to the above-referenced project at this time, as we are not currently aware of existing documentation directly linking a specific Miami cultural or historic site to the project site. However, given the Miami Tribe's deep and enduring relationship to its historic lands and cultural property within present-day Wisconsin, if any human remains or Native American cultural items falling under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) or archaeological evidence is discovered during any phase of this project, the Miami Tribe requests immediate consultation with the entity of jurisdiction for the location of discovery. In such a case please contact me at 918-541-7885 or by email at [THPO@miamination.com](mailto:THPO@miamination.com) to initiate consultation.

The Miami Tribe requests to serve as a consulting party to the proposed project. In my capacity as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, I am the point of contact for all Section 106 consultation.

Respectfully,

*Logan York*

Logan York  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer