

**Attachment B**  
**Public Meeting Materials**

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**Public Involvement Summary**  
**Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)**

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1. Outreach Efforts
  - a. Public Involvement Materials
    - i. Federal Register – Notice of Availability of the DEIS

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice. Click on this link [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain) to access the site. Find this information collection request (ICR) by selecting “Department of Education” under “Currently Under Review,” then check the “Only Show ICR for Public Comment” checkbox. *Reginfo.gov* provides two links to view documents related to this information collection request. Information collection forms and instructions may be found by clicking on the “View Information Collection (IC) List” link. Supporting statements and other supporting documentation may be found by clicking on the “View Supporting Statement and Other Documents” link.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Elizabeth Wiegman, 202–987–1347.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Assurance of Compliance—Civil Rights Certificate.  
*OMB Control Number:* 1870–0503.

*Type of Review:* An extension without change of a currently approved ICR.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* State, Local, and Tribal Governments; Private Sector.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 25.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 8.

*Abstract:* The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has enforcement responsibilities under several civil rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. To meet these responsibilities, OCR collects assurances of compliance from applicants for Federal financial

assistance from, and applicants for funds made available through, the Department of Education, as required by regulations. These entities include, for example, State educational agencies, local education agencies, and postsecondary educational institutions. If a recipient violates one or more of these civil rights laws, OCR and the Department of Justice can use the signed assurances of compliance in an enforcement proceeding.

Dated: June 11, 2024.

**Stephanie Valentine,**

*PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 2024–13165 Filed 6–13–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–OP–OFA–130]

### Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

*Responsible Agency:* Office of Federal Activities, General Information 202–564–5632 or <https://www.epa.gov/nepa>. Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) Filed June 3, 2024 10 a.m. EST Through June 10, 2024 10 a.m. EST Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

*Notice:* Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA’s comment letters on EISs are available at: <https://cdxapps.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-II/public/action/eis/search>.

EIS No. 20240101, Draft, USAF, GU, F–15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/29/2024, *Contact:* David Martin 210–925–4266.

EIS No. 20240102, Draft, USGS, WI, Proposed Development of an Updated Facility for USGS National Wildlife Health Center Madison, Wisconsin, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/29/2024, *Contact:* Jordan Sizemore 603–730–7743.

EIS No. 20240103, Final, BLM, NV, Greenlink West Transmission Project, *Review Period Ends:* 07/15/2024, *Contact:* Brian Buttazoni 775–861–6491.

EIS No. 20240104, Final, USFS, CO, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Plan Revision, *Review Period Ends:* 07/

15/2024, *Contact:* Samantha Staley 970–852–9812.

EIS No. 20240105, Final, NHTSA, REG, Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards for Passenger Cars and Light Trucks, Model Years 2027 and Beyond, and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Heavy-Duty Pickup Trucks and Vans, Model Years 2030 and Beyond, *Contact:* Claire Hepper McManus 771–216–6844.

Under 23 U.S.C. 139(n)(2), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has issued a combined final environmental impact statement and record of decision. Therefore, the 30-day wait/review period under NEPA does not apply to this action.

*Amended Notice:*

EIS No. 20240072, Draft, NRC, MN, Site-Specific Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants Supplement 26, Second Renewal Regarding Subsequent License Renewal for Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1, *Comment Period Ends:* 06/25/2024, *Contact:* Jessica Umana 301–415–5207.

Revision to FR Notice Published 05/03/2024; Extending the Comment Period from 06/10/2024 to 06/25/2024.

Dated: June 10, 2024.

**Nancy Abrams,**

*Associate Director, Office of Federal Activities.*

[FR Doc. 2024–13133 Filed 6–13–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560–50–P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–12033–01–OA]

### Public Meetings of the Science Advisory Board Inorganic Arsenic Review Panel

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces three public meetings of the Science Advisory Board Inorganic Arsenic Review Panel. The purpose of the meetings is to review and discuss the panel’s draft report of the EPA’s draft IRIS Toxicological Review of Inorganic Arsenic.

**DATES:** *Public meetings:* The Science Advisory Board Inorganic Arsenic Review Panel will meet on the following dates. All times listed are in eastern time.

July 8, 2024, from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

ii. June 2024 Newsletter



# Now Available



## The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is seeking feedback on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development of an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC).

The Draft EIS is now available for public review and can be accessed on the project website at: <https://www.nwhceis.com/eis/>.

The existing NWHC was established in 1975 and is the only national center devoted to advancing wildlife health science for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment. However, age and space limitations are a growing challenge to NWHC's mission.

### Public Meeting

Join us to learn about and comment on the Draft EIS

**Virtual**

**Thursday, July 18**  
**12:00 – 1:00 pm CDT**  
Register for the Zoom meeting at:  
[www.nwhceis.com](http://www.nwhceis.com)

**In-Person**

**Thursday, July 18**  
**5:30 – 7:30 pm CDT**  
Lussier Community  
Education Center (LCEC)  
Community Room  
55 S. Gammon Rd  
Madison, WI 53717

**Online**

All project information including the Draft EIS will be available for public review, consideration, and comment on the website.  
A recording of the virtual public meeting will also be posted:  
[www.nwhceis.com](http://www.nwhceis.com)

### We want to hear from you

Although comments can be submitted to USGS any time during the EIS process, only comments received by **July 29, 2024** will be considered and responded to in the Final EIS.



#### Online

Use the form on our website to submit comments

[Comment Form](#)



#### Email

Jordan D. Sizemore  
NEPA Project Manager,  
USGS

[Email Comments](#)



#### Mail

Jordan D. Sizemore  
NEPA Project Manager  
NWHC  
6006 Schroeder Rd  
Madison, WI 53711

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You are receiving this email because you are an important part of the National Wildlife Health Center community.

[NWHC 6006 Schroeder Rd, Madison, WI 53711](#)

[NWHC](#) | [USGS](#) | [Photos](#) | [Factsheet](#)

iii. July 2024 Newsletter



Join  
Us!

# Public Meeting

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### Online

Use the form on our website to submit comments

[Comment Form](#)



### Email

Jordan D. Sizemore  
NEPA Project Manager,  
USGS

[Email Comments](#)



### Mail

Jordan D. Sizemore  
NEPA Project Manager  
NWHC  
6006 Schroeder Rd  
Madison, WI 53711

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[Photos](#)

[Factsheet](#)



iv. Public Meeting Flyer



Save the  
**DATE**

# PUBLIC MEETING

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Scan QR Code below or visit:  
[www.nwhceis.com](http://www.nwhceis.com)

We want to hear from you



Please submit comments:

-  [www.nwhceis.com](http://www.nwhceis.com)
-  [Jordan D. Sizemore](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)  
*Environmental Management Branch, USGS*
-  NWHC 6006 Schroeder Rd, Madison, WI 53711

Although comments can be submitted to USGS any time during the EIS process, only comments received by July 29, 2024 will be considered and responded to in the Final EIS.



**Accommodations:** USGS is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodations to participate in this public meeting. If you require a special accommodation, please contact Paulina Lopez at (210)810-4932 or [paulina.lopez@wsp.com](mailto:paulina.lopez@wsp.com) at least 7 days prior to the meeting. We will do our best to fulfill requests made in a timely manner.

v. Public Meeting Newspaper Ad



Save the  
**DATE**

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Lussier Community Education  
Center (LCEC) Community Room  
55 S. Gammon Rd  
Madison, WI 53717

### Online:

A virtual meeting will be hosted July 18 from 12-1 pm. Registration information and Draft EIS materials will be available online for public review, consideration, and comment.

Scan QR Code below or visit:  
[www.nwhceis.com](http://www.nwhceis.com)



## We want to hear from you



Please submit comments:



[www.nwhceis.com](http://www.nwhceis.com)



Jordan D. Sizemore  
Environmental Management Branch, USGS  
[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)



NWHC 6006 Schroeder Rd, Madison, WI



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vi. DEIS Public Meeting Comment Form



**Public Comment Form**

Use this form to submit written comments concerning the proposal for an updated National Wildlife Health Center located on the existing property in Madison, WI. The U.S. Geological Survey is interested in your questions and comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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*Please Note: any personal identifying information and the entire comment may become publicly available.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**Please submit comments:**

**www.nwhceis.com**

**Jordan D. Sizemore**  
*Environmental Management Branch, USGS*  
**jsizemore@usgs.gov**

**NWHC 6006 Schroeder Rd,**  
**Madison, WI 53711**

*Although comments can be submitted to USGS any time during the EIS process, only comments received by **July 29, 2024** will be considered and responded to in the Final EIS.*

vii. DEIS Public Meeting Presentation



Proposed Development of an Updated  
Facility for the

# National Wildlife Health Center

Madison, Wisconsin

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Public Meeting

July 18, 2024



# Introductions



- **C. LeAnn White**, *NWHC Director*
- **Michael D. Bonds**, *NWHC Safety & Environmental Program Coordinator*
- **Jordan D. Sizemore**, *NEPA Project Manager*
- **Martin T. Smith**, *Chief, Project Management Branch*



- **Jessica Forbes**, *Deputy Project Manager*
- **Paulina Lopez**, *Public Involvement Manager*



# Meeting Purpose

- Provide information regarding the Proposed Action to develop an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, Wisconsin
- Provide an overview of the analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Invite comments and questions concerning the proposed action and Draft EIS

# NWHC Facility Today

Only national center devoted to advancing wildlife health science; designated a “mission essential” facility.

## Location:

6066 Schroeder Rd  
Madison, WI 53711



# Challenges Facing the National Wildlife Health Center

- Proactive efforts to repair systems and facilities to maintain operational status have provided short-term solutions.
- Continual renovations are impractical and cost prohibitive.
- NWHC age and space limitations are affecting ability to perform its mission.

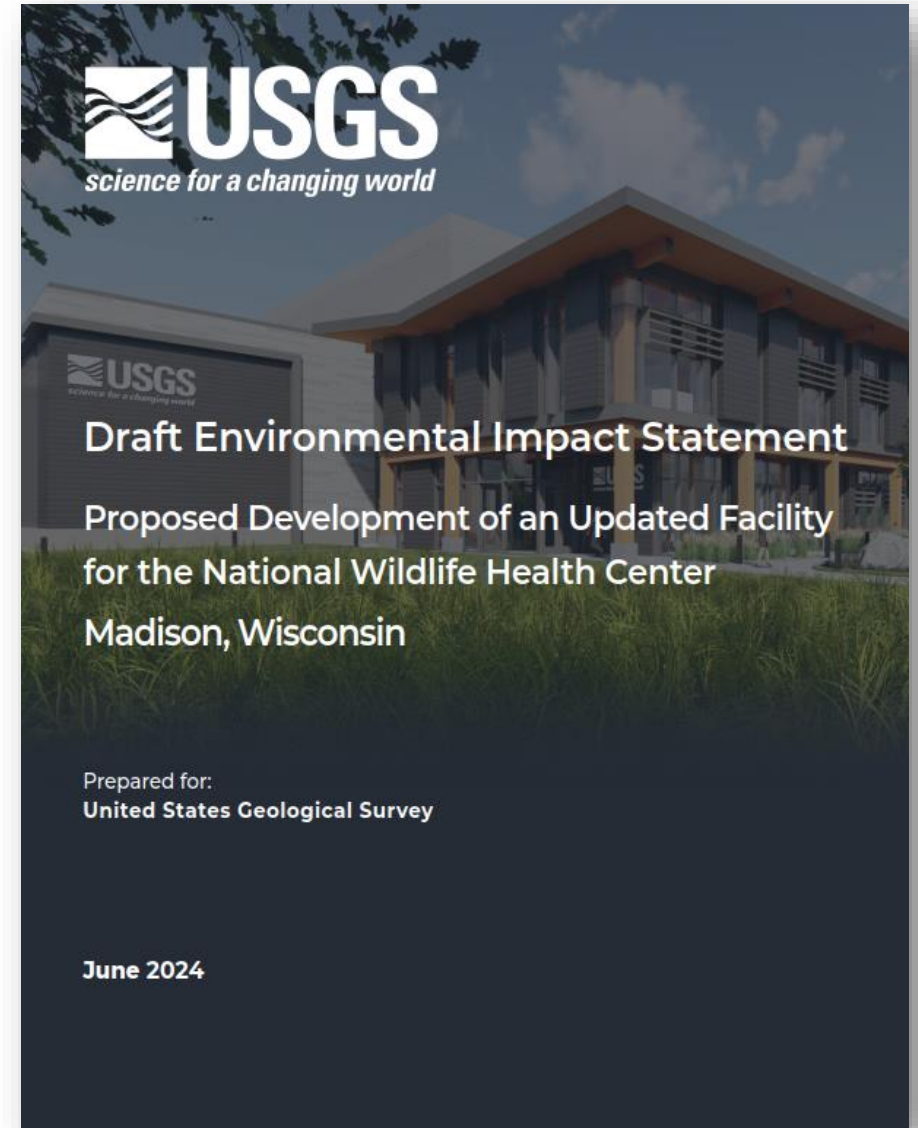


- Crowded labs and admin areas
- Inefficient use of space
- Aging buildings, equipment, and infrastructure
- Increasing costs of operation and maintenance

# What's included in the Draft EIS?

- Background and context for Proposed Action
- Purpose and need for an updated facility
- Existing environmental conditions
- Considers alternatives, including the No Action Alternative
- Potential environmental effects of the alternatives
- Summary of public outreach activities
- Technical appendices

**The Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published June 14, 2024.**





# Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to develop an updated facility for the NWHC. The Proposed Action would:

- Support the NWHC's current and future needs to streamline delivery of research
- Enhance worker and public safety
- Enhance animal care conditions
- Modernize biohazard and pathogen containment and biological waste disposal
- Improve operating efficiencies

*Concept Renderings – New NWHC, USGS, 2024*



# Purpose & Need

The NWHC needs facilities that:

- Provide functional space for administration and operations and meet health and safety standards and regulatory requirements.
- Allow for adequate space needed to conduct research into wildlife disease detection, enhance ability to meet unique needs of animal care, and strengthen other programs that support the mission of the NWHC.
- Utilize modern laboratory equipment and mechanical systems necessary to implement best operating and management practices.

# Preferred Alternative

- Preferred Alternative is development of a new NWHC on the current NWHC property in Madison, Wisconsin
- Construction of a new facility would allow for USGS to:
  - Provide sufficient lab space
  - Install modern, more efficient, and secure building envelope technologies
  - Modernize biological waste disposal systems
- Current NWHC would continue operating during construction of the new facility, and both buildings would be demolished once the new facility is operational.



# A new NHWC will:



**Streamline**  
delivery of research



**Enhance efficiency**  
For worker and public safety  
with modern equipment



**Manage costs**  
Through more efficient  
operations

# No Action Alternative



- The No Action Alternative involves maintaining the current operating conditions at the NWHC in Madison, Wisconsin without any changes or new facilities.
- While the No Action Alternative would avoid potential environmental impacts associated with new NWHC development and operation, adoption of the No Action Alternative would also result in the loss of the benefits associated with the Proposed Action.



# Draft EIS Resource Topics

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Topography, Geology, and Soils

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Water Resources

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Biological Resources

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Cultural Resources

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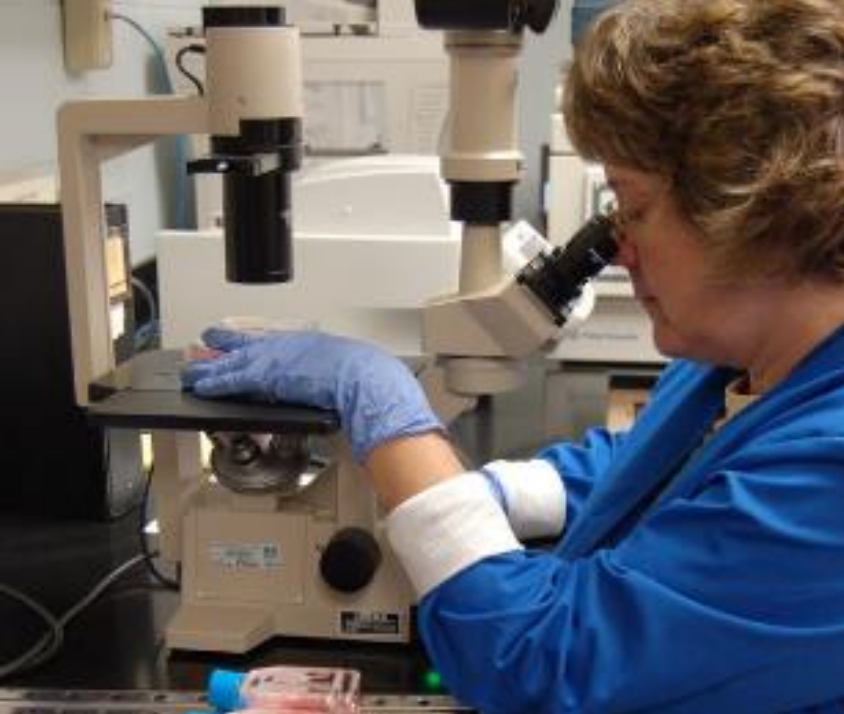
Hazardous Materials

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Visual and Aesthetic Resources

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Demographic, Economic, and Housing Characteristics



# Draft EIS Resource Topics (cont.)

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Environmental Justice

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Land Use

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Community Facilities and Services

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Utilities

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Transportation Systems

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Air Quality

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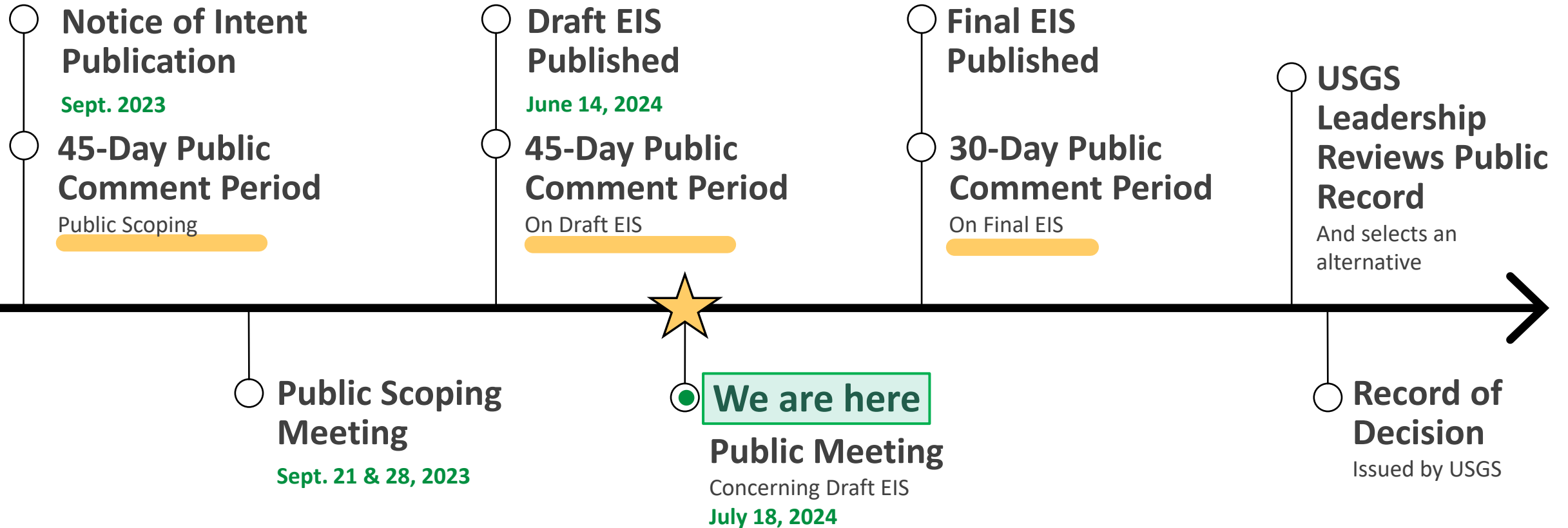
Noise

# Environmental Findings

- Construction and operation of the Preferred Alternative (new NWHC) would result in temporary impacts to air quality and noise, and temporary and long-term impacts to topography, soils, biological resources, visual and aesthetic resources, and land use.
- Impacts primarily would occur on the NWHC property, with some temporary effects in nearby neighborhoods during construction (i.e., noise, additional traffic). Impacts would be mitigated through design measures or best practices implemented during construction.



# Project's NEPA Schedule



# NWHC EIS Project Website:

- Provide a central location for project-related information
- Provide access to meeting notices, the Draft EIS and associated documents, announcements, recordings, etc.
- Provide means to submit comments, questions, join email list, receive EIS notifications, etc.

[www.nwhceis.com](http://www.nwhceis.com)



## National Wildlife Health Center

Environmental Impact Statement

- Home
- Proposed Action
- EIS Process
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Public Involvement
- FAQs
- Photo Gallery
- Contact Us

### Public Scoping

Watch this space for information on the upcoming public scoping period, including ways you can participate. Your input is a vital part of the National Environmental Policy Act process!

[Learn More](#)

### Welcome

Welcome to the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS's) website for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)! The USGS is preparing an EIS for the proposed development of a new NWHC in Madison, Wisconsin. This website provides information on the EIS process, the proposed action, and opportunities to get involved and provide comments.

[Learn More](#)







# Media Representatives

Media inquiries can be submitted by email to the Public Affairs Specialists with USGS Central States Office of Communication:

- Gina Gray: [glgray@usgs.gov](mailto:glgray@usgs.gov)
- Allie Weill: [aweill@usgs.gov](mailto:aweill@usgs.gov)



A photograph of a modern USGS building with large glass windows and an American flag on the left. The text 'Thank You!' is overlaid in white on a dark green background.

**Thank You!**

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[www.nwhceis.com](http://www.nwhceis.com)



viii. DEIS Virtual Public Meeting Recording

# Virtual Public Meeting Recording



Proposed Development of an Updated  
Facility for the

# National Wildlife Health Center

Madison, Wisconsin

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Public Meeting  
July 18, 2024

- b. Newspaper Ad Publication Tear Sheets
  - i. Wisconsin State Journal Ad - June 14

DAILY STOCK REPORT

STOCK EXCHANGES

Table with columns: Index, Change, Value. Includes Dow Jones, Nasdaq, S&P 500, Commodities (Corn, Wheat, Soybeans, Gold, Silver, Copper, Crude oil).

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns: Name, Ex, Div, Yld, PE, Last, Chg, YTD %Chg. Lists various local stocks like AT&T Inc, Accuray, AlliantEg s, etc.

g - Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. h - Does not meet continued-listing standards. n - Stock was a new issue in the last year. s - Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year.

Table with columns: Name, Ex, Div, Yld, PE, Last, Chg, YTD %Chg. Lists major national stocks like Sysco, Tesla, US Bancpr, etc.

STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: 52-Week High, 52-Week Low, Name, Last, YTD %Chg, 12-mo %Chg. Lists market indices like Dow Indust., Dow Trans., etc.

DEVELOPMENT | FORMER SOUTH TRANSFER POINT

Partner selected for \$200 million project

LUCAS ROBINSON
robinson@madison.com
Madison's public housing agency has named a developer to help quarterback a more than \$200 million housing project on the site of the former Metro Transit South Transfer Point at the corner of South Park Street and West Badger Road.

ists for the contract. Through the rest of 2024, the CDA and The Alexander Co. will put together early designs for the site as well as a plan for housing affordability for a project that could have up to 600 units. Next steps for the project include public engagement and applying for low-income housing tax credits in early 2025.

"This is actually a relatively small upfront payment if you will to really jump-start and give us a lot of horsepower," Johns said. The development would see three buildings potentially built in phases. Each would have 200 units and reach eight stories with step-backs at five stories against the street and some low-rise townhouses, according to preliminary plans.

tion No. 6. Both buildings are slated for completion in 2027. A third building would require the Madison Police Department's South District station on Hughes Place to relocate to make way for the housing. The CDA board had hoped to vote on a contract with The Alexander Co. at its meeting on Thursday but had to postpone a vote until its next meeting due to last-minute legal negotiations, Johns said. With a contract soon to be inked, the CDA will host its first public engagement meeting for the project at the Urban League on June 24.

South Side on the City Council, said residents are keen to hear how existing services in the area will be able to cater to the hundreds of future residents who would live in the development. "You have an anxiously awaiting neighborhood," Knox said. "Trust me, there are a lot of these conversations that are starting to happen in terms of how a project like that would environmentally impact the surrounding neighborhood."

Hub now open and the Center for Black Excellence and Culture starting construction this month. The CDA project would also sit on the city's North-South BRT line. With services so close by, Centro Hispano and the Urban League had partnered with Madison College in a bid to get brought on as the developer for the project. Bear Development of Kenosha and Greenprint Partners of Chicago were the other finalists for the contract. Centro Hispano and the Urban League did not respond to a request for comment. State Journal reporter Nicole Pollack contributed to this report.

AP-NORC POLL | STUDENT LOANS

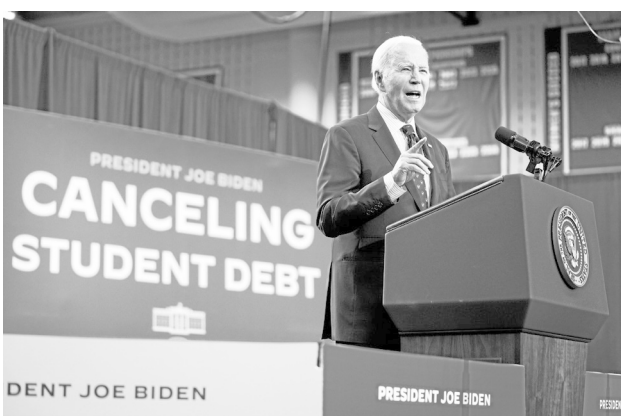
Americans split on debt relief efforts

COLLIN BINKLEY and LINLEY SANDERS
Associated Press
WASHINGTON — As he campaigns for reelection, President Joe Biden frequently touts his work on student debt, pointing to the millions of people who received cancellation under

his watch. Yet relatively few Americans say they're fans of his work on the issue, even among those who have student loans. Three in 10 U.S. adults say they approve of how Biden has handled the issue of student loan debt, while 4 in 10 disapprove, accord-

ing to a new poll from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The others are neutral or don't know enough to say. The outlook wasn't much better for the Democratic

president among those responsible for unpaid student loan debt, either for themselves or for a family member: 36% approve, while 34% disapprove. The poll reveals a deep divide over the issue of student debt relief. The president is pressing ahead with a new cancellation plan while he strives to energize young adults and Black and Hispanic Americans — groups that are more likely to prioritize student loan relief but have flagging approval for the president.



EVAN VUCCI, ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden speaks about student loan debt at Madison College on April 8 in Madison.

plan failed, but she doesn't hold it against him. "It was the Supreme Court that shut him down," said Kempf, 32. "I don't blame him for it, because he at least made an attempt to get something approved."

Poll results

American overall had a dimmer view on the Supreme Court's handling of the issue, the poll found: 15% approve of its work on the issue and around one-quarter disapprove. About 4 in 10 adults think it is extremely or very important for the federal government to provide student debt relief. A similar share say it's not too important or not important at all, with about one-quarter in the middle, saying they believe it's somewhat important.

somebody else's loans?" Steve Lesyk, a Republican in Gap, Pennsylvania, said he could support cancellation in some cases. It makes sense for people who have racked up big sums of interest or have been paying off loans for decades, he said — two categories targeted in Biden's new plan. But in general, he opposes cancellation, saying it doesn't do anything to prevent students from getting buried in debt in the first place. "They're asking people who've never had loans to pay back their loans," said Lesyk, 58, who never had student loans. "This money doesn't just appear out of the sky, it comes from somewhere, and there's so many other things that people need right now."

New plan

Biden's new plan would erase some or all debt for several groups: those with so much accrued interest that they owe more than they originally borrowed, those who have been repaying undergraduate loans for at least 20 years, borrowers who went to low-value college programs that leave graduates with large sums of debt compared to their earnings and those who face other kinds of financial hardship. None of those categories have support from a majority of Americans, the poll found. Just under half support relief for those who have made on-time payments for 20 years, and 44% support it for people who now owe more on their loan than they originally borrowed. About 4 in 10 support it for those who went to an institution that left borrowers with large amounts of debt compared to their incomes or those facing other forms of financial hardship.

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ii. Wisconsin State Journal Ad - June 23

# Mirus

From A14

change the genes they carry and prevent them from replicating.

Gene therapy remains a young technology. The first trials in human patients started in 1990, but after an 18-year-old with a metabolic disorder died from an immune response during a clinical trial in 1999, the field spent years searching for viruses that would be safer to inject into patients. The first gene therapy for treating a genetic condition was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2018.

Through all of gene therapy's ups and downs, Mirus "always stayed focused on our delivery part," Hagstrom said. "We created a product that allowed for the creation of tremendous amounts of viruses. And we think it's the leading product on the market."

The company's persistence paid off. In May, Mirus announced that it is being acquired by German pharmaceutical giant Merck KGaA for \$600 million. The sale, expected to close later this year, would bring Madison innovation to labs and patients around the world.

## One step at a time

Mirus started with a problem. By the beginning of the 1990s, scientists knew exactly what was causing certain genetic disorders. They also knew, in theory, how those disorders could be cured. In practice, though, they were stuck.

"We can make that gene. We

can make large amounts of that gene. But ... there was no technology for getting it (safely) into the cells of kids that needed it," Hagstrom said.

Cells have membranes that keep foreign materials out. Drugs like aspirin and ibuprofen can get in anyway because they are small enough to pass through those membranes. Molecules like DNA and RNA can't get through on their own, which is why gene therapy treatments have to be able to bypass the membrane without activating a cell's natural defenses.

In Wolff's UW-Madison lab, the researchers who founded Mirus created a nonviral technology that transported genetic material through a cell's membrane and into its nucleus — where the DNA is stored — more efficiently than existing methods could.

"The discovery was something that was better than anything we could purchase," Hagstrom said. The researchers partnered with a pair of Madison entrepreneurs to bring that initial product to market.

During the years that followed, Mirus kept working on increasing uptake of genetic material by cells in the lab — and, as gene therapy progressed, on improving how the treatments were manufactured.

For gene therapy, "delivery is still the key problem," Hagstrom said. "We've stayed focused on that problem our entire existence."

Roche, another major pharmaceutical company, acquired Mirus in 2008.

Mirus' founders later bought



AMBER ARNOLD, STATE JOURNAL

William Hess, production specialist, with Tera Hustad, foreground, shipping and product finishing assistant, puts product into tubes in the Mirus Bio lab. The company has spent decades developing technologies that transport genetic material into cells.

back the research-oriented portion of their company. Then they came up with a new gene delivery technology that yields larger batches of viruses.

"Cells will make the virus if you provide them the instructions," Hagstrom said. Mirus' product does this especially well, he said. Other companies are now using it to manufacture the viruses being used in gene therapy.

"We can dramatically increase the amount of material that can be made to use in some of these procedures. At the same time, that lowers the cost," said Terry Sivesind, a Mirus co-founder who came to the company from the business side and, along with Hagstrom, is still on its board.

Gamma Biosciences, a company created by investment firm

KKR to support biomanufacturing, bought a controlling stake in Mirus in 2021 and has since then sought to expand Mirus' reach. Mirus' acquisition by Merck is expected to do exactly that.

## From local to global

Mirus began and is still headquartered in University Research Park on Madison's West Side.

The company has sold products to researchers since the 1990s. From those early days, it reinvested money from its research product sales into developing technologies that could have a place in health care.

"It takes a lot more investment and time to get into those markets," Sivesind said. "But once you're in there, the potential is much larger."

Mirus CEO Dale Gordon declined to say how many employees the company has or whether that number could change as a result of the acquisition, but confirmed that it is under 100. Merck KGaA — which is not affiliated with the New Jersey-based pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. — employs about 63,000 people in 65 countries. Its life sciences arm, MilliporeSigma, has facilities in Madison and Verona.

More than 2,000 gene therapies are now in some stage of development globally, according to the American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy. As a small company, Mirus "doesn't necessarily have access to all the companies in the world doing this work," Gordon said.

Joining Merck's ranks "gives us tremendous reach and access that a smaller company doesn't have," and will mean that "more people's lives are touched through some of these life-saving therapies that we're enabling," he said.

Already, Mirus' work has "advanced biomanufacturing of gene therapies significantly," said Krishanu Saha, a professor of biomedical engineering at UW-Madison who has used Mirus products in his lab.

"I think patients ultimately will have higher-quality and lower-cost drugs from some of these innovations," Saha said.

For Mirus' founders, the acquisition is proof that they have been on the right track all along.

"You ride these waves," Hagstrom said. "But if you stay really good at something, the world comes back."

# Still

From A14

and deployers of "high-risk" AI systems in such areas as employment, housing, financial services and health care. The law carries obligations for developers and deployers for disclosures, risk management and consumer protections. It is set to take effect in early 2026.

California, usually quick to regulate just about anything, has about 50 AI bills under consideration. A major issue there, as well as in Tennessee, is ensuring that actors and musicians don't have their likenesses and voices used in

AI-generated content without their consent.

Connecticut's state Senate passed an AI bill in April to rein in bias in AI decision-making and protect people from possible harm. It has stalled in the state House of Representatives over concerns it would stifle innovation, become a burden for small businesses and make the state an outlier.

Laws to curb deceptive media, especially around elections, have cleared legislatures in California, Texas, Minnesota and Washington; similar laws are pending in New York, New Jersey and Michigan. Maryland requires employers to get employee consent before using AI

systems that collect data about them. Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Vermont have bills pending to curb AI "profiling" of people.

In all, about 400 bills have been introduced or enacted around the country, which is a regulatory pace that seems to be faster than the development of the industry itself.

Wisconsin may be among those states that follow a more deliberate path. Delaware plans to create a bipartisan commission with both public and private members to recommend regulatory paths, and Wisconsin appears to be doing much the same. Through the Legis-

lative Council, a nonpartisan service arm of the Wisconsin Legislature since 1947, a study committee has been established.

Its charge is to "review current uses of artificial intelligence technology" and make recommendations regarding use and development of such technology. That may include reviewing "the use of artificial intelligence in disinformation and artificial imagery" and other "high-risk" uses. High risk has yet to be defined.

There is no doubt AI is a tool that can be used for good or evil, much like some other technology tools. Because federal regulation isn't on the horizon,

states are trying to fill the void. The danger in a state-by-state approach is a hodge-podge of laws that may leave people and businesses in some states at a competitive disadvantage.

Nvidia and other innovators have proven the market has embraced AI, a tech-blue genie that cannot be crammed back into the bottle. The trick will be adopting regulations that don't shut down legitimate needs and opportunities while keeping deepfakes, disinformation and privacy breaches at a minimum.

Tom Still is the president of the Wisconsin Technology Council. Email: [tstill@wisconsintechcouncil.com](mailto:tstill@wisconsintechcouncil.com).

## Save the DATE

# PUBLIC MEETING

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- [www.nwhceis.com](https://www.nwhceis.com)
- [Jordan D. Sizemore](mailto:Jordan.D.Sizemore@usgs.gov)  
*Environmental Management Branch, USGS*
- NWHC 6006 Schroeder Rd, Madison, WI**

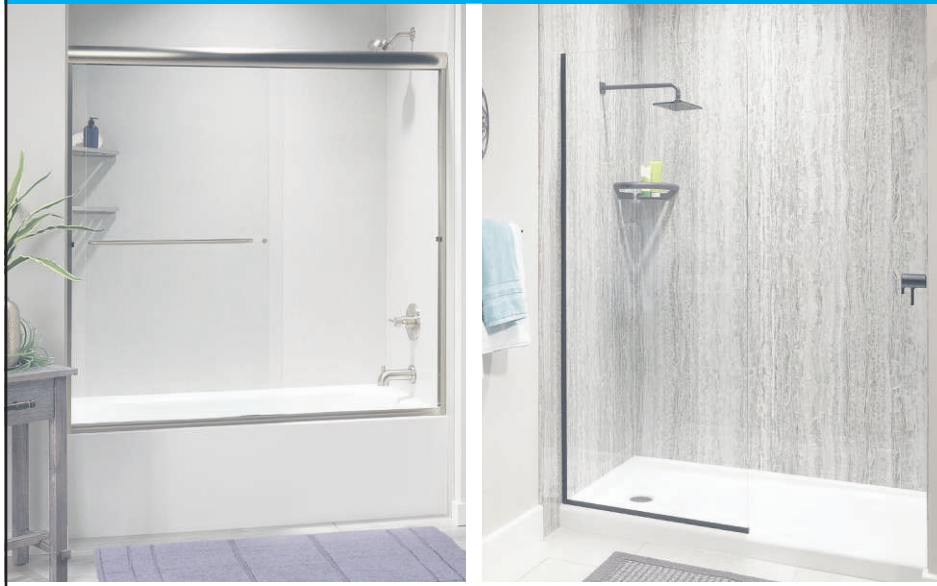
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iii. Capital Times Ad - July 10

# 'I am running and going to win'

## Biden in Madison vows to stay in race

BY ANDREW BAHL

President Joe Biden came to Madison on Friday in an attempt to stabilize his campaign amid a tumultuous week set off by a poor showing against former President Donald Trump in their first debate.

On paper, Roman Fritz is exactly the type of voter Biden would expect to be in his corner amid the turmoil.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student is a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August and says he is committed to ensuring Trump does not win in November.

Yet Fritz said he has concerns and might consider voting for someone else.

"It'll be my confirmation on whether or not he's stable," Fritz said of Biden's remarks at Sherman Middle School, which come amid a busy weekend for the president that many believe is his last chance to assuage fears about his candidacy for another term in the White House.

To be sure, Biden had plenty of supporters and faithful at his event Friday, his fifth in Wisconsin in 2024 alone. Over 1,000 supporters packed the gymnasium and an overflow room to hear his remarks.

"I can't say it was my best performance," Biden said of the debate. "But since then there's been a lot of speculation about what Joe is going to do. Is he going to stay in the race? I am running and going to win again."

But some voters were blunt that the president's struggles in the debate, where his remarks were difficult to follow at times, had given them second thoughts. The performance underscored what many voters had already identified as a problem: Biden would be 82 years old when sworn in for a second term and has appeared to become more frail.

One prospective rally attendee handed out fliers urging supporters to chant "Thank you Joe! Time to go!" during the rally in order to urge Biden to step aside.

Across the street from Sherman Middle School, Ben Hsuborger held a sign saying "Keep Democrats' flame burning - pass the torch."

Biden told the Madison audience "they're trying to push me out" of the



MORRY GASH, ASSOCIATED PRESS  
President Joe Biden speaks Friday at a campaign rally at Sherman Middle School in Madison.

race and argued it would amount to depriving Democratic primary voters of their chosen candidate for president.

"I'm the nominee of the Democratic Party because millions of Democrats like you voted for me," he said.

Alex Jones, a law student at UW-Madison, argued there would be practical problems with replacing Biden on the ballot and feared conservatives could mount a legal challenge to such a move.

Others were even more strident, saying nothing could sway them from voting for the president.

"Look at our (skin) color," said Eric Griffin, a Black voter and U.S. Army veteran from Milwaukee. "I damn sure ain't voting for Trump."

Wisconsin Democratic leaders, including Gov. Tony Evers, Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway and Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair Ben Wikler, joined Biden on stage Friday.

"There is only one president who consistently delivered for Wisconsin and his name is Joe Biden," Evers said, pointing to the recent announcement that Madison and Milwaukee would be designated a biotech hub, which supporters hope will lead to millions or billions of dollars of economic impact.

Biden called Trump a "one-man crime wave" and blasted the former president for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

"After what Trump did what he did on Jan. 6, why would anyone let him be anywhere near the Oval Office anywhere again?" Biden said. "This election is about what kind of country we want to be." 🇺🇸



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@ **Jordan D. Sizemore**  
*Environmental Management Branch, USGS*  
[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)

✉️ **NWHC 6006 Schroeder Rd, Madison, WI**



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iv. Wisconsin State Journal Ad – July 14

CONGRESS | APPROPRIATIONS

# House GOP unites on spending cuts

Reps have passed 4 bills, but they face Senate roadblock

KEVIN FREKING | Associated Press

House Republicans are off to a quicker start this year when it comes to funding the federal government, passing four of 12 annual appropriations bills before the end of June compared to zero at this time last year when the new majority got off to a rocky start. But there is no denying the spending fights to come.

All four bills that passed the House so far generated veto threats from President Joe Biden's administration and drew widespread Democratic opposition. They have no chance of passing the Senate in their current form. That means a monthslong battle that will likely require one or more stopgap spending bills to keep the federal government fully open when the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

Here's a look at where things stand in the appropriations process and the likely flashpoints.

### Plowing ahead

House Republicans are intent on passing the dozen appropriations bills one at a time rather than combining them into one, massive catchall bill known as an omnibus, which they say leads to excessive spending and faulty government policies because such massive bills are harder to amend or stop without risking a government shutdown.

Earlier this year, Speaker Mike Johnson broke up discretionary spending into two bills. Congress ended up passing them in March nearly halfway through the fiscal year. Now, House Republicans are intent on moving more quickly for the fiscal year 2025 spending bills. Johnson bragged that the House has passed four of next year's spending bills compared to zero in the Senate.



TOM WILLIAMS, POOL VIA AP

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., conducts a news conference June 13 at the Republican National Committee after a meeting with Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump and the House Republican Conference. Also appearing from left are, Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C., chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, House Republican Conference Chair Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., and House Majority Whip Tom Emmer, R-Minn.

### Non-defense spending cuts

The House GOP's momentum is likely temporary. They decided to go their own way rather than work with Democrats in crafting the bills. GOP leadership jettisoned key aspects of an agreement then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy worked out with Biden that put in place strict spending limits as part of a deal to avoid a crippling default.

The agreement called for defense and non-defense spending to increase 1% during the next fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. But House Republicans have decided that they'll pursue a course where only defense will go up that amount. Non-defense spending will be cut by about 6%, spurning adjustments McCarthy and the White House agreed to

that would allow for more non-defense spending than was specified in the debt ceiling legislation.

The difference between the two paths is significant. If House Republicans stayed with the McCarthy-Biden agreement, non-defense spending would rise from nearly \$773 billion this year to more than \$780 billion in the next fiscal year. Instead, they are working toward roughly \$725 billion in non-defense spending.

Rep. Tom Cole, the Republican chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, argued that House Republicans are going by what was in the debt ceiling bill. Not all of the Biden-McCarthy agreement was in it. The negotiators had agreed to claw back funding approved outside the appropriations process to shore up non-defense spending.

For example, negotiators agreed to trim \$20 billion from the IRS and apply that money elsewhere.

The White House says that "rather than respecting their agreement" and engaging in a bipartisan process, "House Republicans are again wasting time with partisan bills that would result in deep cuts" to law enforcement, education, housing and other programs.

Democrats see the House GOP's action as failing to learn the lessons of last year. Any spending bills passed into law will need bipartisan support. They described the House floor action on the spending bills as a waste of time since the bills have no chance in the Senate.

"Extreme MAGA Republicans are marching us toward a government shutdown," warned Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries.

### Where things stand in the Senate

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patty Murray and the committee's lead Republican, Sen. Susan Collins, have been in talks behind the scenes negotiating topline spending totals for defense and non-defense programs.

Both are looking to go above the 1% increase slated for defense and non-defense under the agreement that Biden and McCarthy reached.

Boosting the defense budget is a top priority of some Republicans, but Murray is insisting on parity.

The committee is scheduled to take up its first three spending bills on Thursday and the topline amount of money to be allocated for each of the 12 spending bills.

If the Senate goes beyond the 1% increase, that could complicate passage in the House, where many Republicans viewed the spending caps as too generous. A few months after those caps were approved as part of the debt ceiling bill, eight Republicans sided with Democrats to oust then-Speaker McCarthy from his job.

### Lame-duck or wait until after election?

Nobody expects Congress to finish its work on spending before the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1, meaning that lawmakers in both chambers will have to agree to a stopgap spending bill to keep government agencies operating for a few more weeks while they work out their differences.

Congress is not expected to be in session in October, so lawmakers can be at home on the campaign trail. That means spending legislation will be pushed into November and possibly December or it will be pushed off for a new president and Congress to handle.

**Save the DATE**

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Please submit comments:

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- [Jordan D. Sizemore](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)  
Environmental Management Branch, USGS
- [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)
- NWHC 6006 Schroeder Rd, Madison, WI**

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ICC19-MYGA5-19 (5-Yr)

- c. Outreach to Key Stakeholder Groups
  - i. Letter to Elected Officials
- Letters to federal elected officials who were sent correspondence on the Draft EIS publication.



## United States Department of the Interior

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

**June 7, 2024**

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Senator  
U.S. Senate

[REDACTED]

**Re: Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Development of an Updated Facility for the National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI**

Dear Senator Baldwin,

On behalf of the U.S. Geological Survey, I'm reaching out to provide you with an update regarding the proposed development of an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, WI. As a reminder, you received a letter about this project last fall during the public scoping period, and we are pleased to keep you informed about the latest progress.

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) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). **The Draft EIS is available today for public review and can be accessed on the project website: <https://www.nwhceis.com/eis/>.** In addition, a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register and in local newspapers on June 14. You and members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback concerning the proposed project and the Draft EIS during the 45-day comment period, which extends from June 14, 2024, to July 29, 2024.

As we reported previously, USGS's Preferred Alternative is to develop a new facility for the NWHC on the existing property at 6006 Schroeder Road in Madison. The new NWHC would continue to 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 facilities. The Proposed Action would update the aging NWHC facility to incorporate technological advances in biosafety engineering and equipment as well as add additional space for enhanced animal care and research.

The Draft EIS includes the range of alternatives that have been considered, including the *No Action* alternative. It also analyzes the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action and outlines measures that would mitigate, or reduce, potential impacts.

We are eager to involve all stakeholders and the public in this important process and invite you and your constituents to provide comments on the Draft EIS during the 45-day comment period by using the online form at: <https://nwhceis.com/contact/>, by e-mail to [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov), or by mail to: Jordan D. Sizemore, NEPA Manager, United States Geological Survey, NWHC, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI, 53711-6223.

Following the end of the public comment period, the Final EIS will be developed, taking into consideration the feedback received on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS will be available for public review for 30 days before a final decision is made. This comprehensive process ensures that all environmental impacts are thoroughly considered, and that the public has a voice in the process.

Your input is valuable to us, and we want to ensure we gather your and your constituents' feedback and/or questions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at the contact information below.

Sincerely,

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

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)

**Cc:** R. Nardi, J. Forbes, B. Kaim, WSP



## United States Department of the Interior

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

**June 7, 2024**

The Honorable Ron Johnson, U.S. Senator  
U.S. Senate

[REDACTED]

**Re: Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Development of an Updated Facility for the National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI**

Dear Senator Johnson,

On behalf of the U.S. Geological Survey, I'm reaching out to provide you with an update regarding the proposed development of an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, WI. As a reminder, you received a letter about this project last fall during the public scoping period, and we are pleased to keep you informed about the latest progress.

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) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). **The Draft EIS is available today for public review and can be accessed on the project website: <https://www.nwhceis.com/eis/>.** In addition, a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register and in local newspapers on June 14. You and members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback concerning the proposed project and the Draft EIS during the 45-day comment period, which extends from June 14, 2024, to July 29, 2024.

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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 facilities. The Proposed Action would update the aging NWHC facility to incorporate technological advances in biosafety engineering and equipment as well as add additional space for enhanced animal care and research.



The Draft EIS includes the range of alternatives that have been considered, including the *No Action* alternative. It also analyzes the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action and outlines measures that would mitigate, or reduce, potential impacts.

We are eager to involve all stakeholders and the public in this important process and invite you and your constituents to provide comments on the Draft EIS during the 45-day comment period by using the online form at: <https://nwhceis.com/contact/>, by e-mail to [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov), or by mail to: Jordan D. Sizemore, NEPA Manager, United States Geological Survey, NWHC, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI, 53711-6223.

Following the end of the public comment period, the Final EIS will be developed, taking into consideration the feedback received on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS will be available for public review for 30 days before a final decision is made. This comprehensive process ensures that all environmental impacts are thoroughly considered, and that the public has a voice in the process.

Your input is valuable to us, and we want to ensure we gather your and your constituents' feedback and/or questions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at the contact information below.

Sincerely,

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

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)

**Cc:** R. Nardi, J. Forbes, B. Kaim, WSP



## United States Department of the Interior

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

**June 7, 2024**

The Honorable Mark Pocan, U.S. Congressman, 2nd Congressional District of Wisconsin  
U.S. House of Representatives

**Re: Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Development of an Updated Facility for the National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI**

Dear Congressman Pocan,

On behalf of the U.S. Geological Survey, I'm reaching out to provide you with an update regarding the proposed development of an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, WI. As a reminder, you received a letter about this project last fall during the public scoping period, and we are pleased to keep you informed about the latest progress.

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Your input is valuable to us, and we want to ensure we gather your and your constituents' feedback and/or questions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at the contact information below.

Sincerely,

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

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
[jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov)

**Cc:** R. Nardi, J. Forbes, B. Kaim, WSP

ii. Email to Local Elected Officials

- Email on the public review of the Draft EIS sent to local elected officials. The spreadsheet following the copy of the email includes the contact list for those who were sent an email.

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## Update on National Wildlife Health Center – Draft EIS Now Available

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From Kaim, Brittani [REDACTED]  
Date Fri 6/7/2024 3:43 PM  
To Kaim, Brittani [REDACTED]  
Cc Sizemore, Jordan D [REDACTED]; Nardi, Bob [REDACTED]; Forbes, Jessica [REDACTED]

### **Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Development of an Updated Facility for the National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI**

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), I'm reaching out to provide you with an update regarding the proposed development of an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, WI. As a reminder, you received a letter about this project last fall during the public scoping period, and we are pleased to keep you informed about the latest progress.

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Your input is valuable to us, and we want to ensure we gather your and your constituents' feedback and/or questions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at the contact information below.

Best regards,  
Brittani Kaim



**Brittani Kaim**

Vice President

Director, Communications & Public Involvement Practice | US

*(She/her/hers)*

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

WSP USA

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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

NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER						
Name	Affiliation	Title	Mailing Address	Office	Mobile	Email Address
<b>ELECTED OFFICIALS</b>						
<b>STATE OF WISCONSIN, EXECUTIVE OFFICES</b>						
Tony Evers	Office of the Governor	Governor				
Fred Ludwig	Office of the Governor	Chief of Staff				
<b>WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE - STATE SENATE</b>						
Kelda Roys	Wisconsin State Senate	State Senator (District 26 )				
Melissa Agard	Wisconsin State Senate	State Senator (District 16)				
<b>WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE - ASSEMBLY</b>						
Lisa Subeck	Assembly - District 78	State Representative				
Mike Bare	Assembly - District 80	State Representative				
<b>DANE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</b>						
Elizabeth Doyle	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 1				
Heidi Wegleitner	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 2				
Analiese Eicher	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 3				
Matt Veldran	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 4				
Jeff Hynes	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 5				
Yogesh Chawla	Board of Supervisors - Sergeant at Arms	Supervisor - District 6				
Cecely Castillo	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 7				
Jeffrey Glazer	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 8				
Alex Joers	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 9				
Aaron Collins	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 10				
Richelle Andrae	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 11				
Larry Palm	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 12				
Olivia Xistris-Songpanya	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 13				
Anthony Gray	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 14				
April Kigeaya	Board of Supervisors - Second Vice Chair	Supervisor - District 15				
Rick Rose	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 16				
Jacob Wright	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 17				
Michele Ritt	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 18				
Brenda Yang	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 19				
Jeff Weigand	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 20				
Andrew Schauer	Board of Supervisors - First Vice Chair	Supervisor - District 21				
Maureen Mccarville	Board of Supervisors - Sergeant at Arms	Supervisor - District 22				
Chuck Erickson	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 23				
Sarah Smith	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 24				
Tim Kiefer	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 25				
Holly Hatcher	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 26				
Kierstin Huelsemann	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 27				
Michele Doolan	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 28				
Dave Ripp	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 29				
Patrick Downing	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 30				
Jerry Bollig	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 31				
Mike Bare	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 32				
Dana Pellebon	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 33				
Miles Patrick	Board of Supervisors - Chair	Supervisor - District 34				
Michael Engelberger	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 35				
Mellisa Ratcliff	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 36				
Kate Mcginnity	Board of Supervisors	Supervisor - District 37				
<b>CITY OF MADISON MAYOR AND STAFF</b>						
Satya Rhodes-Conway	City of Madison	Mayor				
Mary Bottari	City of Madison	Chief of Staff				
Nicole Stevens	City of Madison	Executive Assistant to the Mayor				
Christie Baumel	City of Madison	Deputy Mayor				
Katie Crawley	City of Madison	Deputy Mayor				
Dr. Linda Vakunta	City of Madison	Deputy Mayor				
Reuben Sanon	City of Madison	Deputy Mayor				
<b>CITY OF MADISON COUNCIL</b>						

Name	Affiliation	Title	Mailing Address	Office	Mobile	Email Address
John W. Duncan	Alder, City of Madison, District 1	Council member				
Juliana Bennett	Alder, City of Madison, District 2	Council member				
Derek Field	Alder, City of Madison, District 3	Council member				
Michael Verveer	Alder, City of Madison, District 4	Council member				
Regina Vidaver	Alder, City of Madison, District 5	Council member				
Marsha Rummel	Alder, City of Madison, District 6	Council member				
Nasra Wehelie	Alder, City of Madison, District 7	Council member				
MGR Govindarajan	Alder, City of Madison, District 8	Council member				
Nikki Conklin	Alder, City of Madison, District 9	Council member				
Yannette Figueroa Cole	Alder, City of Madison, District 10	Council member				
Bill Tishler	Alder, City of Madison, District 11	Council member				
Amani Latimer Burris	Alder, City of Madison, District 12	Council member				
Tag Evers	Alder, City of Madison, District 13	Council member				
Isadore Knox, Jr.	Alder, City of Madison, District 14	Council member				
Nina Martinez-Rutherford	Alder, City of Madison, District 15	Council member				
Jael Currie	Alder, City of Madison, District 16	Council President				
Sabrina Madison	Alder, City of Madison, District 17	Council member				
Charles Myadze	Alder, City of Madison, District 18	Council member				
Kristen Slack	Alder, City of Madison, District 19	Council member				
Barbara Harrington-McKinney	Alder, City of Madison, District 20	Council member				



iii. Letter to Tribal Leaders

- Sample letter on the public review of the Draft EIS sent to Tribal Leaders. The spreadsheet following the letter includes the contact list for those who were sent a letter.



United States Department of the Interior

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

June 7, 2024

**Re: Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Development of an Updated Facility for the National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI**

Dear Tribal Leader:

I'm reaching out to provide you with an update regarding the proposed development of an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, WI. As a reminder, you received a letter about this project last year prior to the public scoping period, and we are pleased to keep you informed about the latest progress.

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At this time, USGS wishes to engage your Tribal Nation in a discussion about the Draft EIS and the Proposed Action along with the interests and concerns unique to your tribe. Please let us know if you are interested in meeting with the USGS regarding the contents outlined in the Draft EIS.

We invite you to provide comments on the Draft EIS by July 29, 2024, using the online form at: <https://nwhceis.com/contact/>, by e-mail to [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov), or by mail to: Jordan D. Sizemore, NEPA Manager, United States Geological Survey, NWHC 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI, 53711-6223.

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More information about the project can be found on the project website at: <https://nwhceis.com/>. Feel free to reach out to me using the contact information provided below with any specific questions.

Thank you and we look forward to meeting.

Sincerely,

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

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
[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 & Support Branch, [msmith@usgs.gov](mailto:msmith@usgs.gov)  
Joshua Valder, PhD, USGS Midcontinent Region Science Coordinator and Tribal Liaison,  
[jvalder@usgs.gov](mailto:jvalder@usgs.gov)  
C. LeAnn White, PhD, MPH, Center Director, USGS National Wildlife Health Center  
[clwhite@usgs.gov](mailto:clwhite@usgs.gov)  
Michael D. Bonds, Environmental Program Coordinator, USGS NWHC, [mbonds@usgs.gov](mailto:mbonds@usgs.gov)  
R. Nardi, J. Forbes, K. Umlauf, B. Kaim, WSP

# NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER

Name	Affiliation	Title	Mailing Address	Office	Mobile	Email Address
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS</b>						
Edith Leoso	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				
Mike Wiggins, Jr.	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians	CEO and Tribal Chairman				
Eldred Corbine	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Tribal Vice Chairman				
Louis Taylor	Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Chairman				
Sarah Thompson	Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				
Joseph Wildcat, Sr.	Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	President				
Benjamin Rhodd, MSA, RPA	Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Forest County Potawatomi Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				
Ron Corn Sr.	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	Chairman				
David Grignon	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				
Jon Greendeer	The Ho-Chunk Nation	President				
Marlon White Eagle	The Ho-Chunk Nation	President				
William (Bill) Quackenbush	The Ho-Chunk Nation	THPO/Head, Cultural Resources Division				
	Oneida Nation	Tribal Secretary				
Tehassi Hill	Oneida Nation	Chairman				
Melinda J. Danforth	Oneida Nation	Director – Intergovernmental Affairs				
Stacie Cutbank	Oneida Nation of Wisconsin	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				
Shannon Holsey	Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians	President				
Allen Quinney	Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians	Executive Director				
Jeff Bendremer	Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				
Michael LaRonge	Sokaogon Chippewa Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				
Wanda McFaggen	St Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				
James Crawford	Forest County Potawatomi Community, WI	Chairman				
Ned Daniels, Jr.	Forest County Potawatomi Community, WI	Chairman				
Michael Blackwolf	Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				
Jeffery (Jeff) Stiffarm	Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana	President				
Darwin Kaskaske	Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma	Chairman				
Douglas Lankford	Miami Tribe of Oklahoma	Chief				
Logan York	Miami Tribe of Oklahoma	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				
Geoffrey Standing Bear	Osage Nation	Principal Chief				
Andrea A. Hunter	Osage Nation	Director and THPO				
Coly Brown	Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	Chairman				
Sunshine Thomas-Bear	Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer				

iv. Letter to Partner Agencies

- Sample letter on the public review of the Draft EIS sent to Partner Agencies. The spreadsheet following the letter includes the contact list for those who were sent a letter.



United States Department of the Interior  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
National Wildlife Health Center  
6006 Schroeder Road  
Madison, Wisconsin 53711-6223  
608-270-2400

June 10, 2024

**Re: Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Development of an Updated Facility for the USGS-National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI**

Dear Partner Agency,

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Please visit the project website to view announcements, meeting notices, and other relevant information at: <https://nwhceis.com/>. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. LeAnn White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C. LeAnn White, PhD, MPH  
Center Director  
USGS National Wildlife Health Center  
clwhite@usgs.gov

Cc: J. Sizemore, USGS  
R. Nardi, J. Forbes, B. Kaim, WSP

# NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Title	Mailing Address	E-Mail Address
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## PARTNER WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS

David	Yoskowitz	Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission	State Director
Chuck	Skyles	Outdoor Alabama (Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources)	Director, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
Ty	Gray	Wildlife Services State Offices	State Director
Art	Nelson	Alaska Boards of Game and Fisheries	Executive Director, Board of Fisheries
Kirsty	Tibbles	Alaska Boards of Game and Fisheries	Executive Director, Board of Game
Doug	Lang	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Commissioner
Austin	Booth	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission	Director
Melissa	Miller-Henson	California Fish and Game Commission	Executive Director
Steve	Gonzalez	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Information Officer II
Jeff	Davis	Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission	Director
Katherine	Dykes	Bureau of Natural Resources	Commissioner
Ricard	Jackson	Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)	Acting Director
Nikki	Lavoie	State Of Delaware - Division of Fish & Wildlife	Chief Communications Officer
Roger	Young	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Executive Director
Lacey	Creech	Georgia Department of Natural Resources	Marketing & Communications Manager
Dan	Dennison	Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife	Sr. Communications Mgr.
Don	Ebert	Idaho Fish and Game	Commission Chairman
Natalie	Phelps Finnie	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Director
Marty	Benson	Indiana Department of Natural Resources	Public Information Officer
Karla	Lyon	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Director
Brad	Loveless	Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks	Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Rich	Storm	Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources	Commissioner
Andrew	Blanchard	Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission	Chair
Ed	Prat	Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries	Press Secretary
Kristin	Peet	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council	Chair
Judy	Camuso	Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	Commissioner
Jeannie	Curtz	Department of Natural Resources	Secretary
Mark	Tisa	Division of Fisheries and Wildlife	Director
Shannon	Lott	Department of Natural Resources	Acting Director
Sarah	Strommen	Department of Natural Resources	Commissioner
Lynn	Posey	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks	Director
Sara	Parker Pauley	Department of Conservation	Director
Dustin	Temple	Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks	Director
Tim	McCoy	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Director
Alan	Jenne	Nevada Department of Wildlife	Director
Scott	Mason	New Hampshire Fish and Game	Executive Director
Dave	Golden	New Jersey Fish & Wildlife	Assistant Commissioner
Jesse	Deubel	New Mexico Wildlife Federation	Executive Director
Basil	Seggos	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	Commissioner
Cameron	Ingram	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission	Executive Director
Kim	Kary	North Dakota Game and Fish Department	Division Chief
Mary	Mertz	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Director
J.D	Strong	Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation	Director
Beth	Quillian	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Public Information Officer
Jill	Zarnowitz	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission	Vice Chair
Matthew	Schnupp	Bureau of Wildlife Management, Game Commission	Director
Suzanne	Amerault	Department of Environmental Management	Director
Robert	Boyles	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources	Director
Kevin	Robling	South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks	Department Secretary
Thomas	Woods	Tennessee Fish & Wildlife Commission	Chair
David	Yoskowitz	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Executive Director
Faith	Heaton Jolley	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Statewide PIO
Christopher	Herrick	Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, Agency of Natural Resources	Commissioner
Ryan	Brown	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources	Executive Director
Kelly	Susewind	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Director
Brett	McMillion	Wildlife Resources Section (of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources)	Director
Adam	Payne	Wisconsin Fish, Wildlife & Parks Division	Secretary
		Wisconsin Natural Resources Board	
Brian	Nesvik	Wyoming Game and Fish Department	Director



## 2. Events and Activities

### a. Flyer Drop-off in the Community

- The project team submitted a distribution form to the South Central Library System to request flyers to be dropped off at key library locations in the community to advertise the National Wildlife Health Center public meetings.

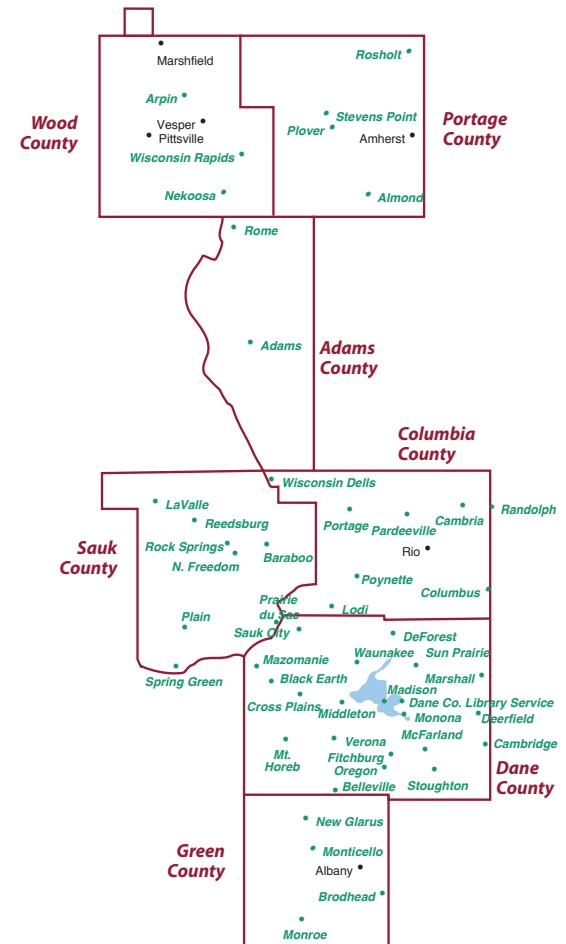
# South Central Library System DISTRIBUTION Form

Instructions: Write in # of copies to be sent to each library: \_\_\_\_\_ AND highlight/circle your designated libraries!

Dane County	19
Madison Public (Includes South Central Administration & Delivery)	12
Northern Counties: Adams, Portage, Wood	13
Southern Counties: Columbia, Green, Sauk	24

**ALL-Adams, Columbia, Dane (includes Madison), Green, Portage, Sauk, Wood 68**

<p><b>ADAMS COUNTY-2</b> Adams Rome</p>	<p><b>DANE COUNTY-19</b> Belleville Black Earth Bookmobile Cambridge Cross Plains Deerfield DeForest Fitchburg Marshall Mazomanie McFarland Middleton Monona Mount Horeb Oregon Stoughton Sun Prairie Verona Waunakee</p>	<p><b>MADISON PUBLIC-11</b> Ashman Central Hawthorne Lakeview Meadowridge Monroe Street Pinney Sequoia South Madison LSC-Badger Rd SCLS-Admin SCLS-Delivery</p>	<p><b>GREEN COUNTY-5</b> Albany Broadhead Monroe Monticello New Glarus</p>	<p><b>SAUK COUNTY-9</b> Baraboo LaValle North Freedom Plain Prairie du Sac Reedsburg Rock Springs Sauk City Spring Green</p>
<p><b>COLUMBIA COUNTY-10</b> Cambria Columbus Lodi Pardeeville Portage Poynette Randolph Rio Wisconsin Dells Wyocena</p>			<p><b>PORTAGE COUNTY-5</b> Almond Amherst Plover Rosholt Stevens Point</p>	<p><b>WOOD COUNTY-6</b> Arpin Marshfield Nekoosa Pittsville Vesper Wisconsin Rapids</p>



b. Virtual Public Meeting

**Public Review of the Draft EIS  
Virtual Public Meeting Attendance  
Thursday, July 18, 2024**

Name
Aedan Gardill
Allie Weill *Representing USGS
Brittani Kaim *Representing WSP
C. LeAnn White *Representing USGS
David Blehert *Representing USGS
Diana Hirshfeld
Hannah Faber *Representing USGS
Jasmine Batten
Jenn Lacey *Representing USGS
Jessica Forbes *Representing WSP
Jo Marlor *Representing USGS
Jordan Sizemore *Representing USGS
Joshua Valder *Representing USGS
Julia Lankton *Representing USGS
Katherine Richgels *Representing USGS
Kelly Bakayza
Kyle Wimmer
Lauren Gritzmacher *Representing USGS
Liz Pelloso
Mark Gaikowski *Representing USGS
Mark Lydon
Mark Orton
Martin Smith *Representing USGS
Michael Bonds *Representing USGS
Michelle Fishburne *Representing USGS
Paulina Lopez *Representing WSP
Richard Isensee
Robert Hougard
Robert Nardi *Representing WSP
Shannon Zunino *Representing USGS
Sharon Pudwill
Shelagh DeLiberto

c. In-Person Public Meeting



# NWHC Public Meeting Sign-in – Members of the Public Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

*Thursday, July 18, 2024: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.*

*Lussier Community Education Center, 55 S Gammon Rd, Madison, WI 53717*

Name	Organization (if representing one)	Title (if applicable)	Phone Number	Zip Code	Email	Added to Distribution List? (Y/N)
Bob Hougaard					[REDACTED]	Y
Susan Hougaard					[REDACTED]	
Brad Olson					[REDACTED]	Y

## NWHC Public Meeting Sign-in – Staff

### Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Thursday, July 18, 2024: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Lussier Community Education Center, 55 S Gammon Rd, Madison, WI 53717

Name	Title	Organization	Phone Number	Email
Martin Smith	Chief Architect	USGS		
Julia Larkton	NWHC Deputy Center Director	USGS		
Jonathan Steiner	USGS Science Advisor	USGS		
Tom Hankins	NWHC ADMIN OFFICER	USGS		
Jo Marlor	Aluminum Assistant	USGS		
David Bleher	NWHC Branch Chief	USGS		
Katie Fichgels	NWHC Branch Chief	USGS		
Michael Bonds	NWHC CDERC	USGS		



**NWHC Public Meeting Sign-in – Staff**  
**Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement**  
 Thursday, July 18, 2024: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
 Lussier Community Education Center, 55 S Gammon Rd, Madison, WI 53717

Name	Title	Organization	Phone Number	Email
Jordan Sizemore	USGS NEPA Project	USGS	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
LeAnn White	USGS NWHC Center Director	USGS		

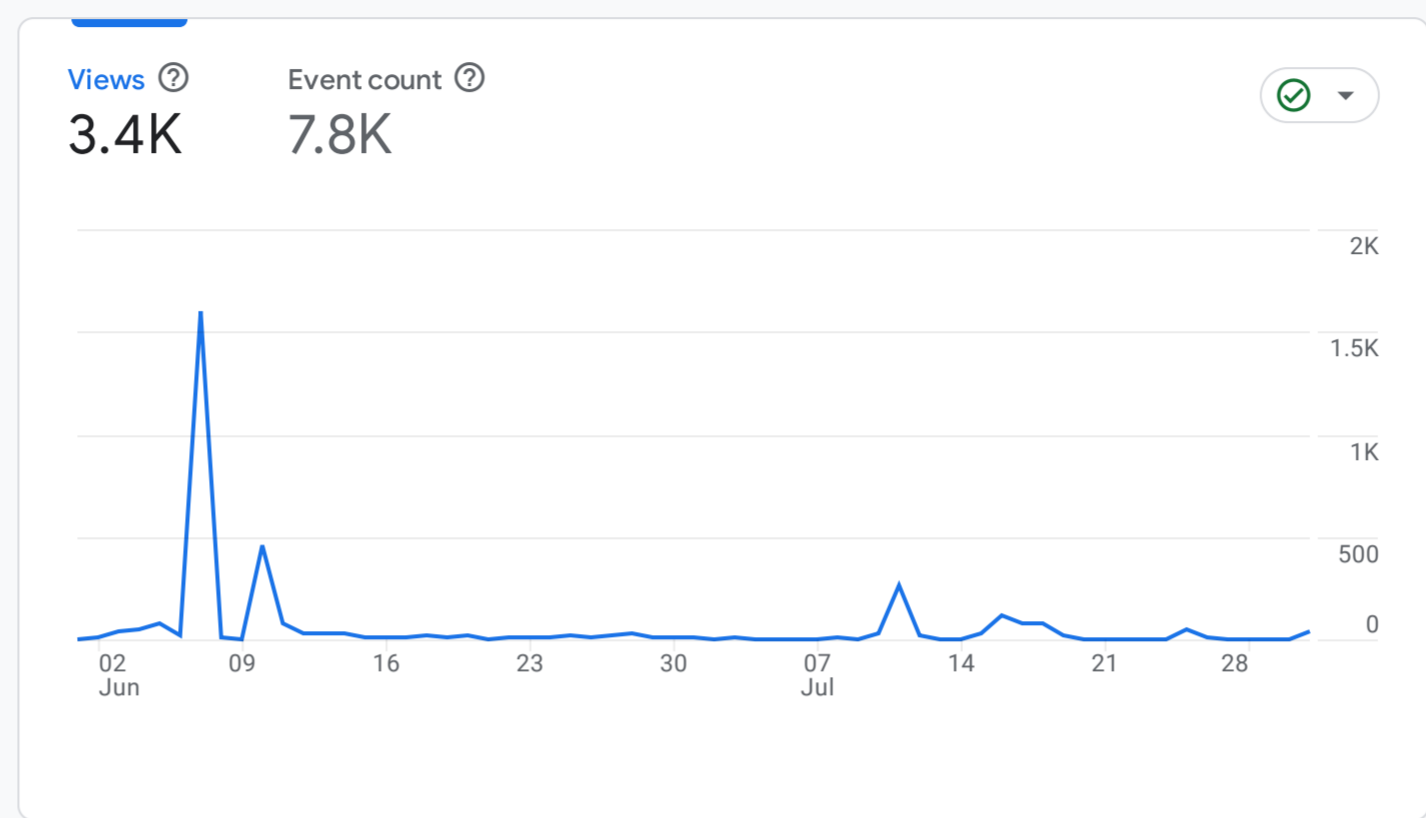
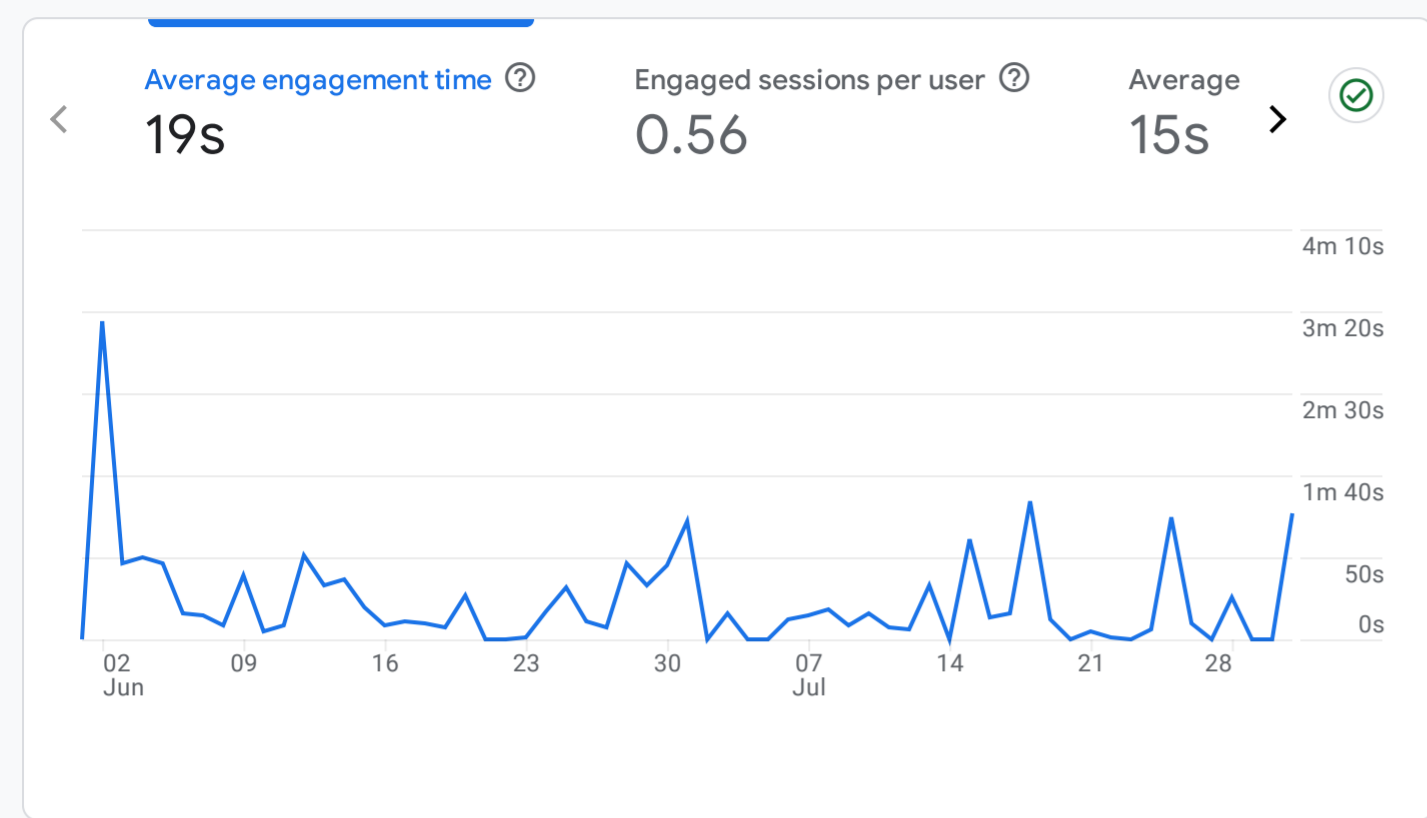
### 3. Website Updates

#### a. Website Analytics

All Users Add comparison +

Custom Jun 1 - Jul 31, 2024

### Engagement overview



**Event count by Event name**

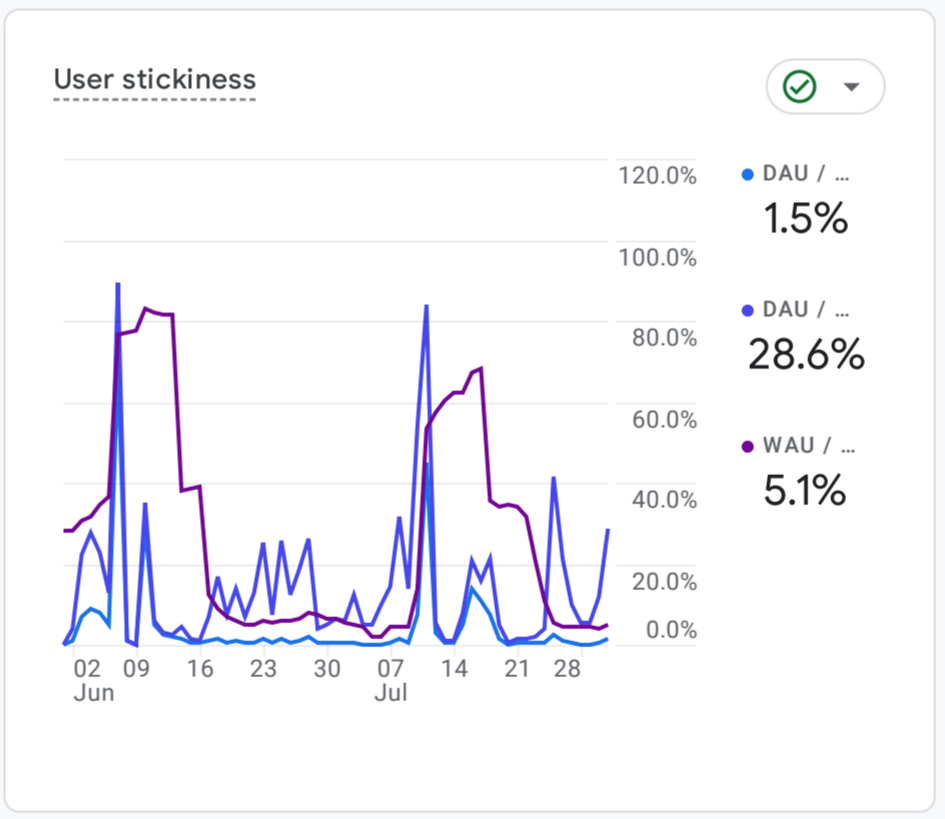
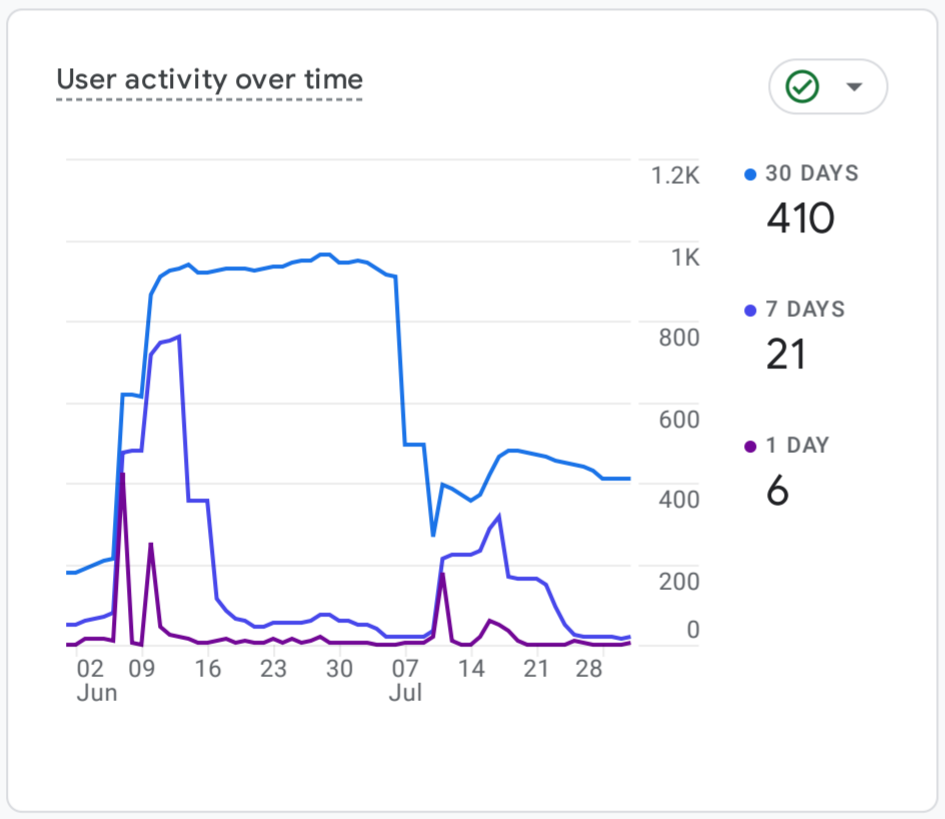
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session_start	1.6K
first_visit	1.4K
user_engagement	841
scroll	370
file_download	180
click	25

[View events](#)

**Views by Page title and screen**

PAGE TITLE AND S...	VIEWS
National Wildlife Heal...	1.2K
Contact	1.1K
Environmental Impac...	719
Photo Gallery	204
Public Involvement	159
Proposed Action	37
EIS Process	35

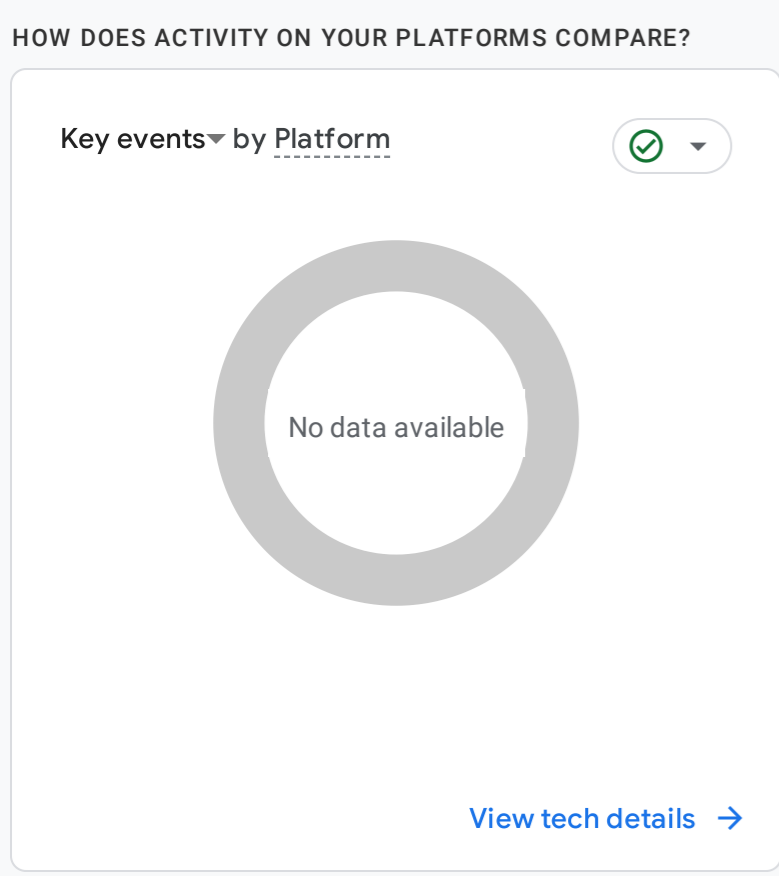
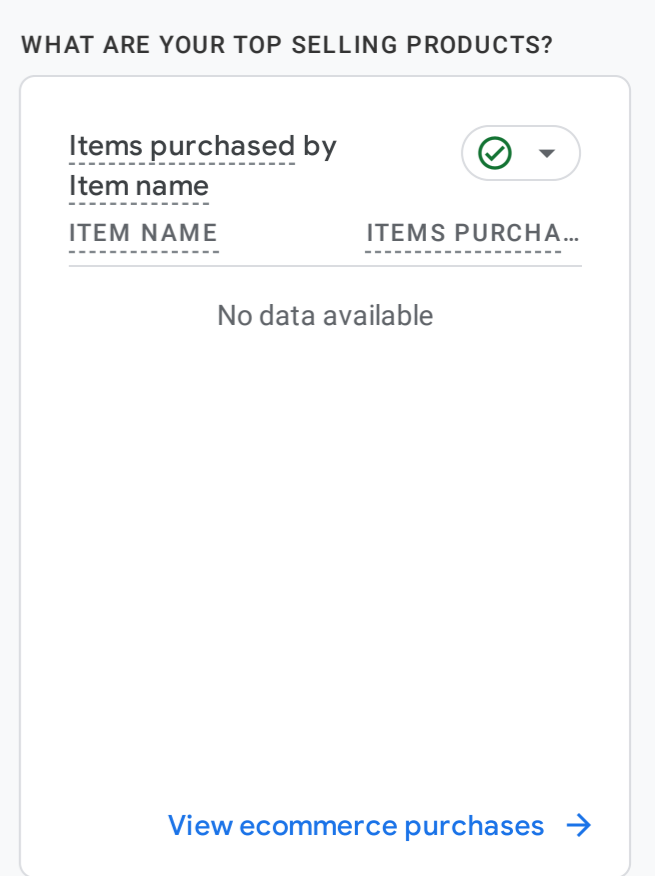
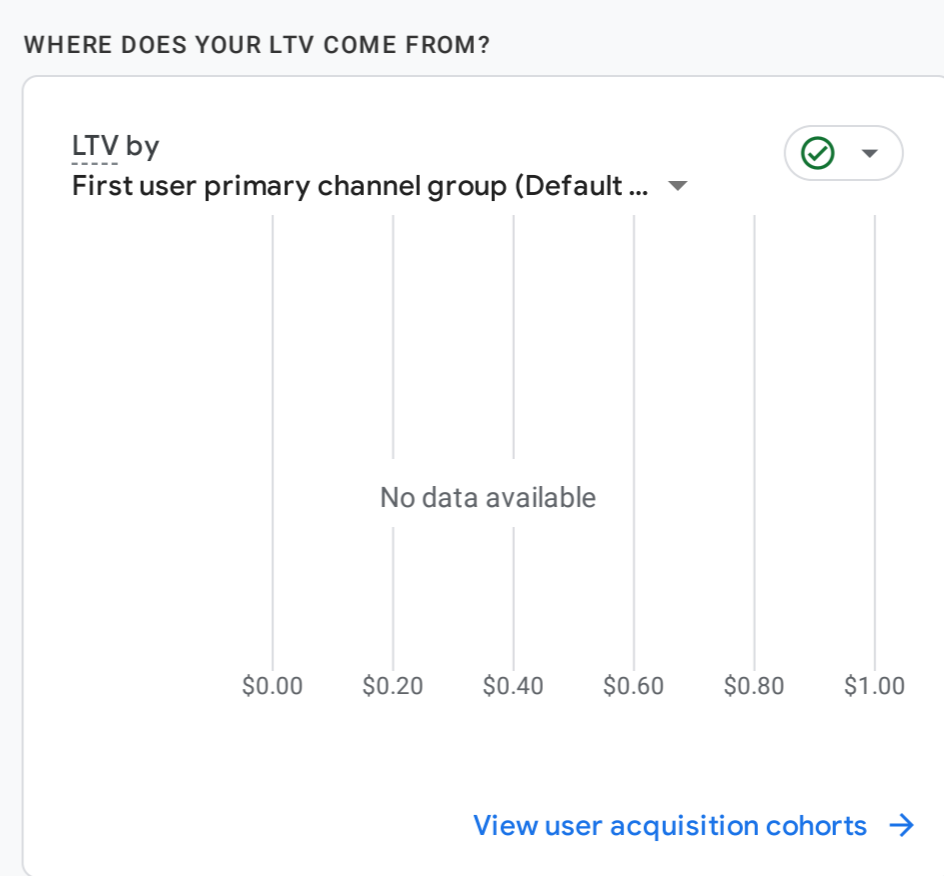
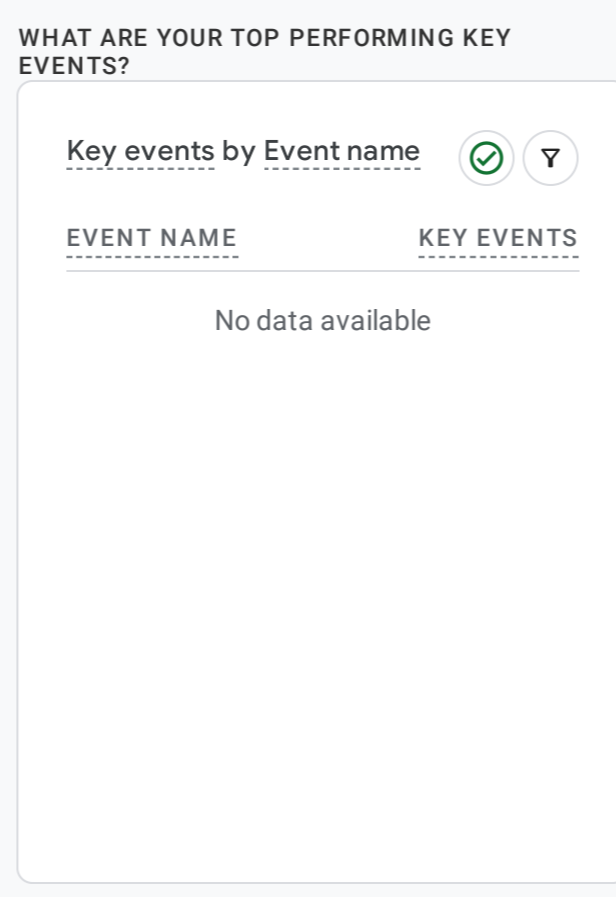
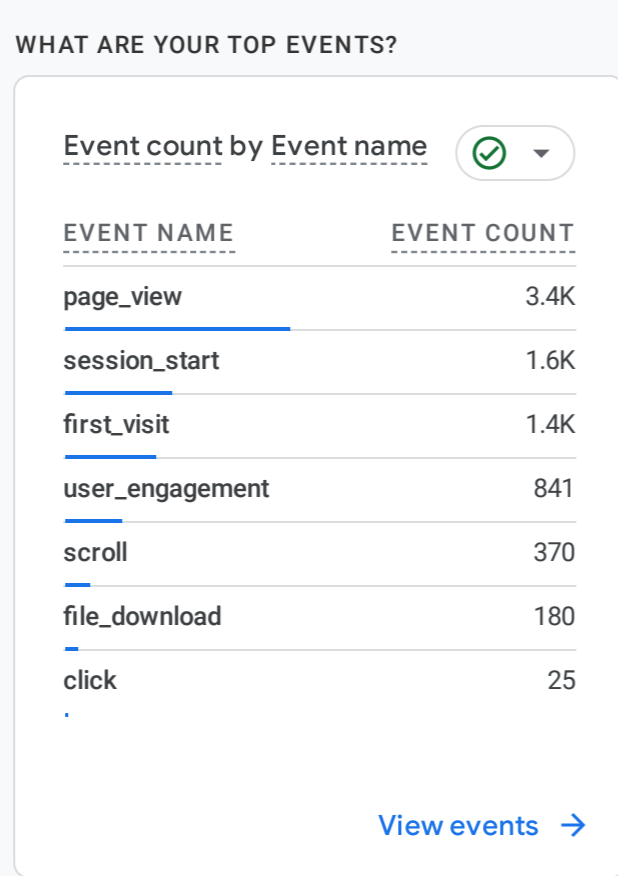
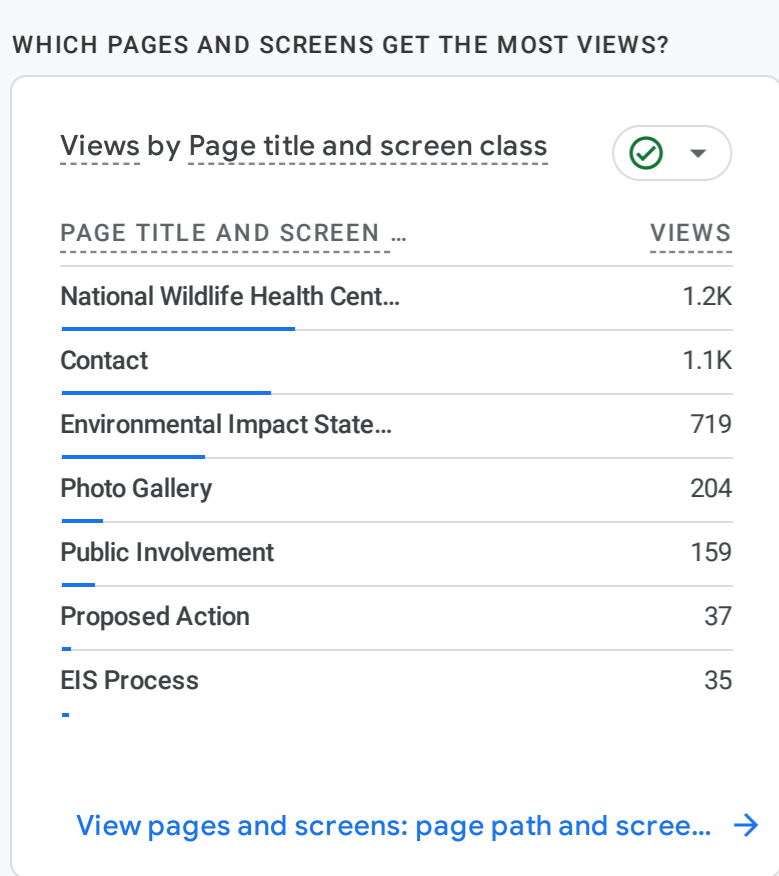
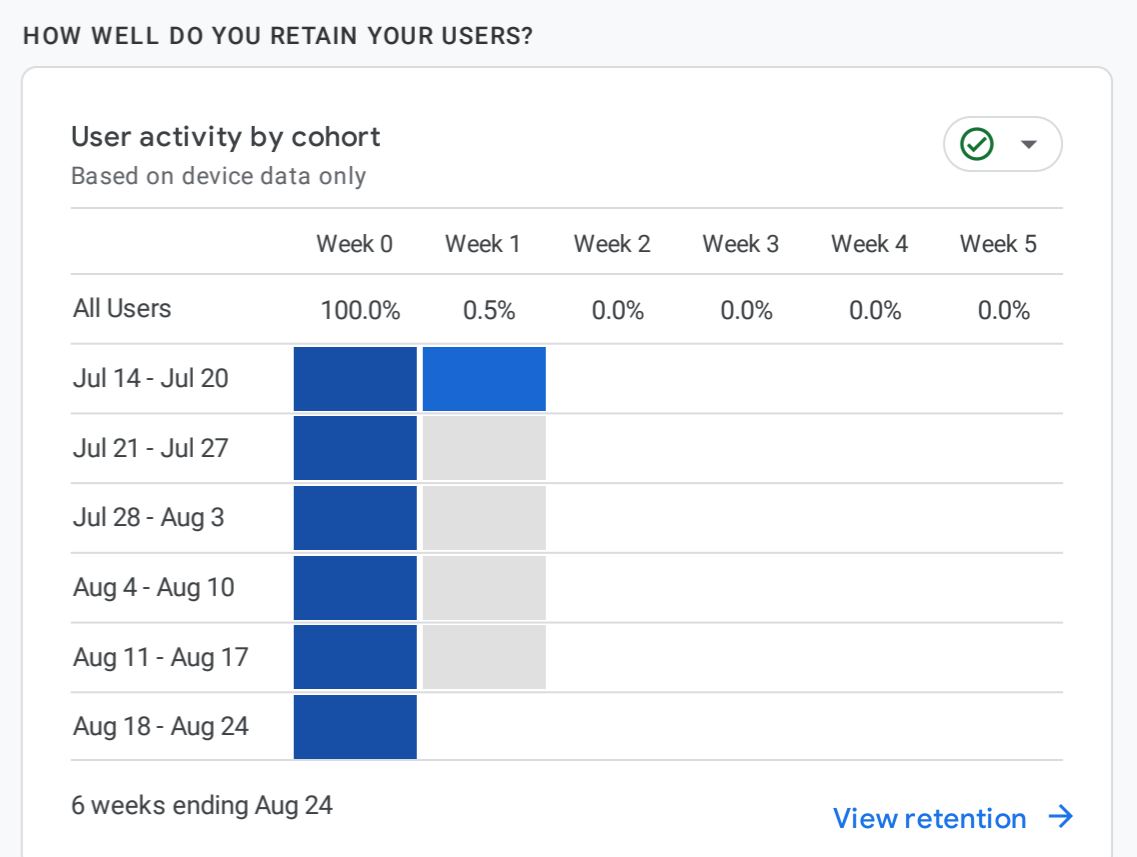
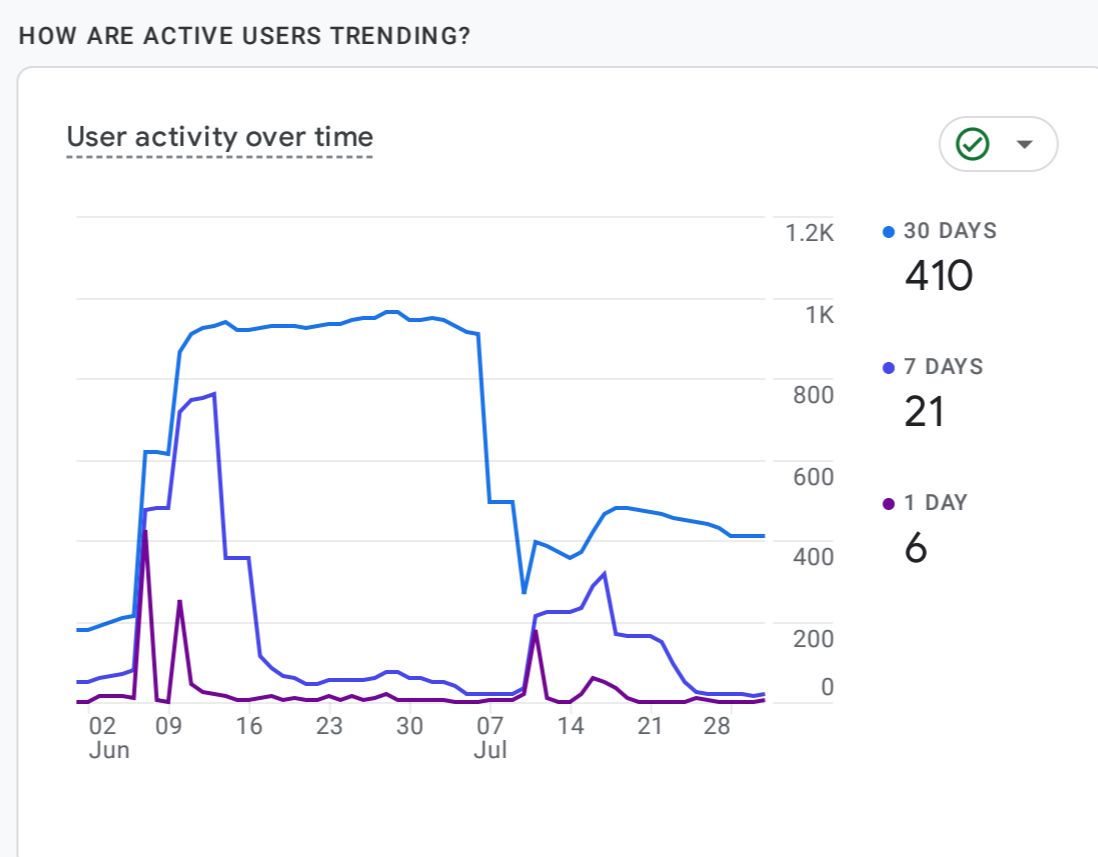
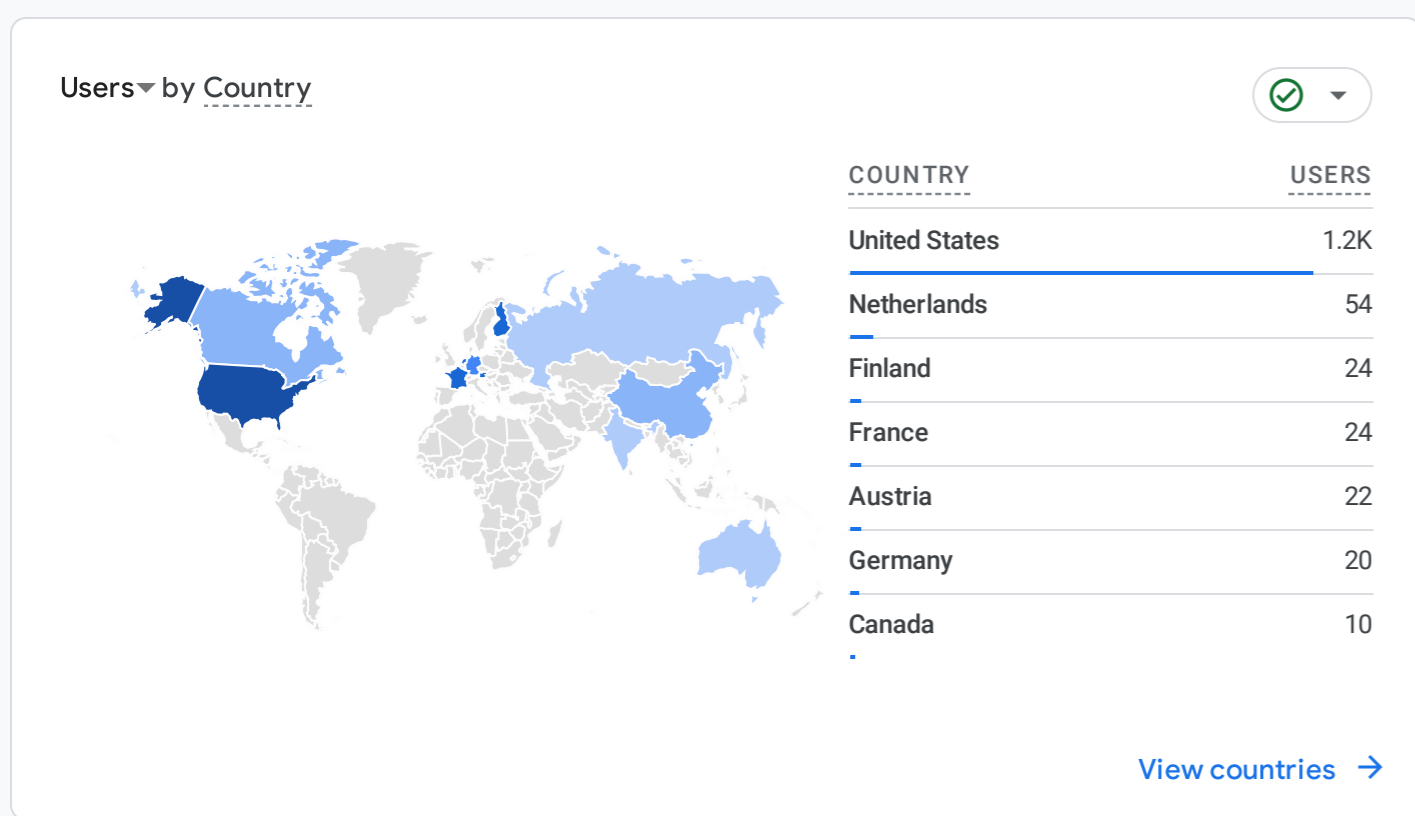
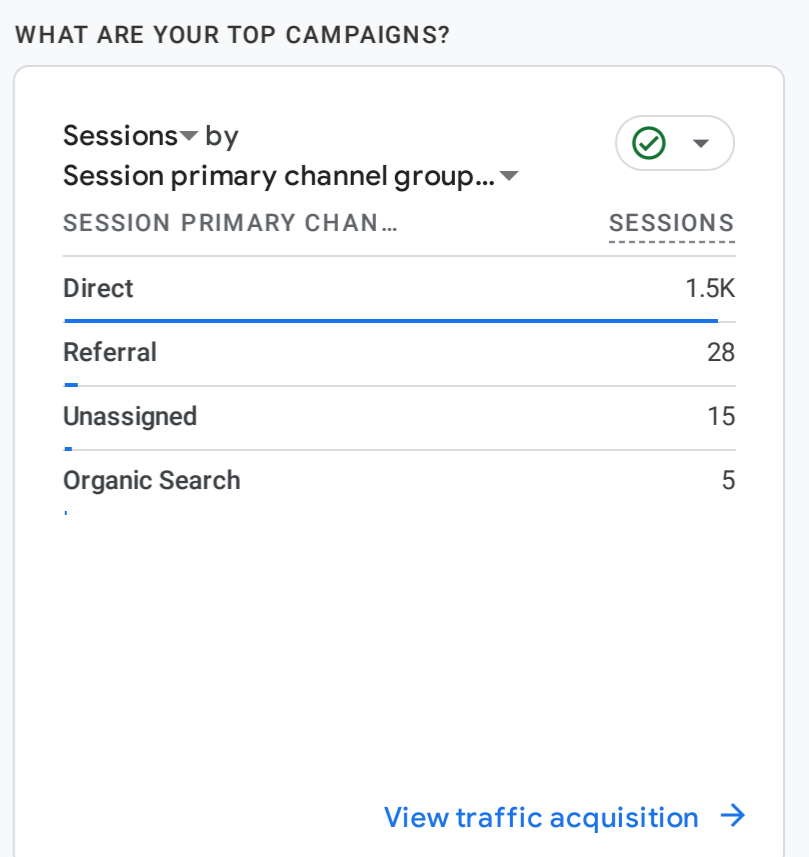
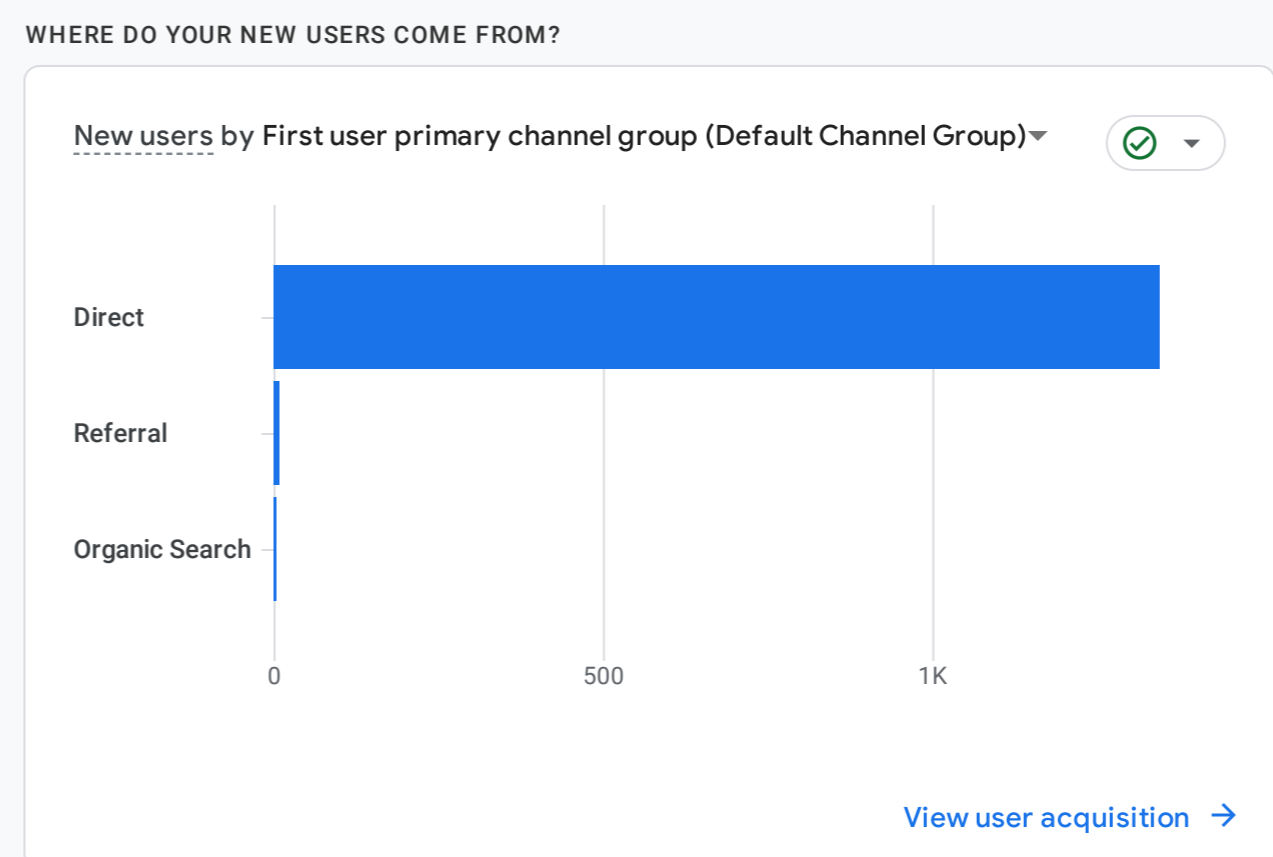
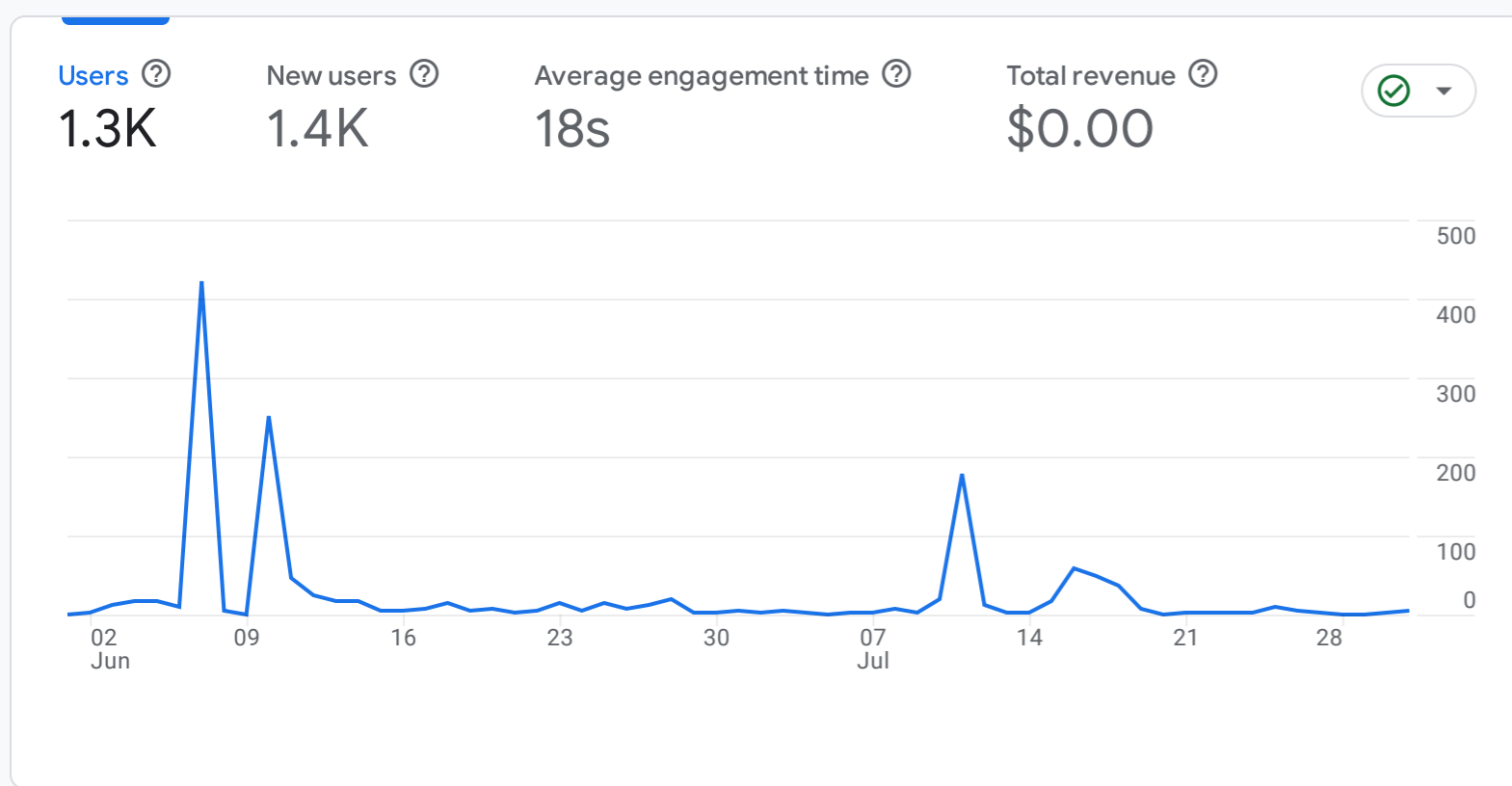
[View pages and screens: page pa...](#)



All Users [Add comparison](#)

Custom Jun 1 - Jul 31, 2024

### Reports snapshot



b. Home Page

# National Wildlife Health Center

## Environmental Impact Statement

- Home
- Proposed Action
- EIS Process
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Public Involvement
- FAQs
- Photo Gallery
- Contact Us

### Draft EIS Now Available

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is seeking feedback on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development of an updated facility for the NWHC. The Draft EIS is [available online](#) for public review and feedback. Although comments can be submitted to USGS any time during the EIS process, only comments received by July 29, 2024, will be considered and responded to in the Final EIS.

[Learn More](#)

## Welcome

Welcome to the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS's) website for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)! The USGS is preparing an EIS for the proposed modernization of the NWHC in Madison, Wisconsin. This website provides information on the EIS process, the proposed action, and opportunities to get involved and provide comments.

[Learn More](#)

### Site Map

Click the image to enlarge the map.




A Gunnison prairie dog eats a peanut-butter-flavored bait containing a vaccine against the sylvatic plague.

c. Environmental Impact Statement Page

# National Wildlife Health Center

## Environmental Impact Statement

 MENU

## Environmental Impact Statement

### Draft Environmental Impact Statement

As part of our commitment to the environment and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development of an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center. This comprehensive document will be made available for public review twice during the NEPA process.

The first phase of this process includes the public review of the Draft EIS (EIS), which is now available here:

[Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(9.67 MB\)](#)

[Appendix A - Glossary \(14.1 KB\)](#)

[Appendix B - Public Scoping and Engagement \(34.1 MB\)](#)

[Appendix C - Conceptual NWHC Renderings \(15.9 MB\)](#)

[Appendix D - Agency Correspondence \(8.27 MB\)](#)

[Appendix E - Cultural Resources Evaluation Report \(19.1 MB\)](#)

[Appendix F - Phase II Survey Report \(2.86 MB\)](#)

[Appendix G - Traffic Report \(2.51 MB\)](#)

[Appendix H - NAAQS Criteria Pollutants \(173 KB\)](#)

[Appendix I - Distribution List \(2.99 MB\)](#)

A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register and in local newspapers on June 14, initiating a 45-day comment period. **We invite you to provide comments on the Draft EIS by July 29, 2024.** Although comments can be submitted to USGS any time during the EIS process, only comments received by July 29, 2024, will be considered and responded to in the Final EIS.

Submit your comments on the Draft EIS through our online form by e-mail to [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov), or by mail to: Jordan D. Sizemore, NEPA Manager, United States Geological Survey, NWHC 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI, 53711-6223.


Following the end of the public comment period, the Final EIS will be developed, taking into consideration the feedback received on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS will be available for public review for 30 days before a final decision is made. This comprehensive process ensures that all environmental impacts are thoroughly considered, and that the public and stakeholders have a voice in the process.



d. Public Involvement Page

# National Wildlife Health Center

## Environmental Impact Statement

 MENU

### Public Involvement

[Public Review of the Draft EIS](#)

[Public Comments](#)

[Public Scoping](#)

[Public Involvement Materials](#)

The public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be initiated with the publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register on June 14, 2024. The publication of the notice initiates a 45-day public comment period concluding on July 29, 2024. During this time, the USGS is seeking input on the Draft EIS from agencies, organizations, and the public.

The USGS invites the community to attend a virtual or in-person public meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2024. These public meetings will provide information about the Proposed Action, analysis included in the Draft EIS, and methods for members of the community to provide feedback. Both meetings will present the same information.

#### Virtual Public Meeting

Thursday, July 18, 2024

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. CDT

[Register Here](#)

#### In-Person Public Meeting

Thursday, July 18, 2024

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. CDT

Lussier Community Education Center (LCEC) Community Room

[55 S. Gammon Rd.](#)

[Madison, WI 53717](#)

For those unable to attend these meetings, all project information including the Draft EIS is available for public review, consideration, and comment on this website. A recording of the virtual public meeting will also be posted on this page following its completion.

### Draft EIS Now Available


The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is seeking feedback on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development of an updated facility for the NWHC. The Draft EIS is [available online](#) for public review and feedback. Although comments can be submitted to USGS any time during the EIS process, only comments received by July 29, 2024, will be considered and responded to in the Final EIS.

[Learn More](#)

e. Public Comments Tab

# National Wildlife Health Center

## Environmental Impact Statement

 MENU

### Public Involvement

[Public Review of the Draft EIS](#)[Public Comments](#)[Public Scoping](#)[Public Involvement Materials](#)

The public comment period for the DEIS is now open. Although comments can be submitted to USGS any time during the EIS process, only **comments received by July 29, 2024, will be considered and responded to in the Final EIS.**

Please note that before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment(s), the entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available. Comments may be provided:

- By using the Comment Form available on the [Contact Us page](#);
- By email to: Jordan D. Sizemore, REM, NEPA Project Manager, United States Geological Survey, Email: [jsizemore@usgs.gov](mailto:jsizemore@usgs.gov); or
- Delivered by mail or delivery service, enclosed in an envelope labeled "NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER EIS" and addressed to:

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM, NEPA Project Manager  
Environmental Management Branch, United States Geological Survey  
NWHC  
6006 Schroeder Road  
Madison, WI 53711

### Draft EIS Now Available

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is seeking feedback on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development of an updated facility for the NWHC. The Draft EIS is [available online](#) for public review and feedback. Although comments can be submitted to USGS any time during the EIS process, only comments received by July 29, 2024, will be considered and responded to in the Final EIS.

[Learn More](#)

f. Frequently Asked Questions Page

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Need for a New National Wildlife Health Center

Collapse All

#### Where is the National Wildlife Health Center located?

The National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) is located at 6006 Schroeder Road in southwest Madison, Wisconsin. It sits on a 24-acre tract of Federal property which, along with a vacant building, were acquired in 1978 to consolidate wildlife health expertise into a single program and provide a permanent facility for the NWHC.

#### What purpose does the National Wildlife Health Center serve?

The 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.

#### Why is the U.S. Geological Survey proposing to develop a new National Wildlife Health Center?

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. The extensive renovations that would be needed to bring the existing facility up to contemporary standards are cost prohibitive.

#### When was modernization of the National Wildlife Health Center first contemplated?

Starting in 2008, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) conducted multiple studies of the NWHC which found a 40+ year-old facility with crowded and aged laboratories and administrative areas, use of older, primary containment biological safety cabinets, aging infrastructure, old and inefficient incubators, autoclaves needing replacement, deteriorating casework surfaces, cracking walls, doors, window seals and window frames, lack of consolidated freezer space, use of contained animal rooms for general storage, among many other deficiencies. In follow-up studies conducted in 2016 and 2020, many of the same conditions remained.

#### What efforts have been made to maintain and modernize the current National Wildlife Health Center?

Even with proactive efforts to repair equipment, systems, and facilities, the efforts and expenditures to date have provided only short-term relief, focusing 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.

#### Why not renovate or upgrade the current National Wildlife Health Center instead of developing a new facility?

It has been the findings of various studies that the extensive amount of renovation needed to bring the NWHC up to contemporary standards and practices would be cost prohibitive and that the mission and function of the facility, along with the interests of the USGS, which oversees the NWHC, would be best served with a complete replacement of the NWHC.

### Public Health and Safety

#### Will public health and safety be affected by development of a new National Wildlife Health Center?

Biohazard containment to prevent the escape of harmful pathogens into the environment is critical for NWHC operation. The existing NWHC has not had any biocontainment breaches, and the proposed NWHC will include modern equipment, systems, and procedures to better protect the health and safety of staff, visitors, and the public. In addition, the new NWHC will address containment within individual laboratories to prevent contamination of assay systems, reagents, and other materials as well as cross-contamination between investigations and protection of staff from exposure to biological and chemical agents capable of inducing disease in humans.

#### Will local police, fire protection, and emergency response services be affected in the surrounding community?

The NWHC has operated successfully at its current location for over 40 years. There is no record of any emergency police or fire department response to an incident at the facility.

### Benefits

#### What are the benefits to developing a new NWHC in Madison?

The NWHC currently employs approximately 120 scientists, researchers, administrators, and support personnel with most staff residing in the Madison/Dane County area. NWHC employees have been contributing to the social and economic fabric of the surrounding area for over 40 years; developing a new NWHC outside of Madison and Dane County would deprive the area of such benefits.

### Project Planning

#### What is the status of the environmental impact studies and what is the schedule for completing the Environmental Impact Statement process?

The development of an updated NWHC first requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental statutes which includes preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The first step in the process was publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare a DEIS in the Federal Register, which was published on September 5, 2023, followed by a public scoping period.

The next step in the process is the publication of the Draft EIS for public review and comment. The public comment period is initiated by a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, which will be published on June 14, 2024. The public comment period will remain open through July 29, 2024, and all comments received by that deadline will be responded to in the Final EIS.

#### What is the schedule for constructing the new NWHC?

Although construction of the new NWHC is dependent upon completion of the NEPA process and Congressional appropriations, ground-breaking for the new NWHC facility is tentatively scheduled for 2025.

#### Will NWHC operations be affected during construction?

As a mission-essential facility, the NWHC must remain operational throughout construction of the new facility. However, once the new facility is operational, the existing Main Building and Tight Isolation Building would be demolished.

### Public Engagement

#### What efforts have been made to inform elected officials, stakeholders, and the public about the proposed construction of a new NWHC?

USGS officials have contacted key federal, state, county and city officials, Native American tribes, regulatory agencies, and others to inform them of plans for a new NWHC and the EIS process. In addition, coinciding with publication of the NOI in the Federal Register, additional project-related information will be made available to elected and appointed officials, stakeholders, the media, and the public.

#### What opportunities are there for the public to offer its input, ideas and comments concerning plans for a new NWHC and preparation of the DEIS?

The NEPA process provides for a 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIS before the preparation of the Final EIS. During the public comment period, the USGS is formally seeking input from agencies, organizations, stakeholders, and the public on findings of the Draft EIS. Information on [upcoming public meetings and ways to provide comments](#) is provided on this website.

#### What is the role of the public in the NWHC planning and decision-making process?

USGS is committed to ensuring that the NWHC planning and environmental impact study process is transparent and involving the input and involvement of stakeholders, elected officials, and the public. To do so, USGS is undertaking ongoing outreach activities to introduce the proposed project to the public, frame the public information process, and articulate how public input will be integrated into the planning and decision-making process. USGS seeks to create an atmosphere of openness that builds trust among the various interest groups. Public interest, input, and trust is vital to the project's overall success and USGS is committed to providing public involvement opportunities throughout the environmental impact study process.

#### How can the public learn about progress in planning and developing the new NWHC?

The best source of information about the status and progress in planning for the new NWHC including technical reports, announcements, upcoming meetings, etc., is the [NWHC project website](#). Questions and comments concerning the proposed project and plans for the DEIS can also be submitted via the project website or by contacting:

Jordan D. Sizemore, REM, NEPA Project Manager  
 Environmental Management Branch, United States Geological Survey  
 NWHC  
 6006 Schroeder Road  
 Madison, WI 53711.