

Attachment A - Natural Heritage Information System Report (DNR)
Split Rock Lighthouse State Park Campground Expansion Project
(December 2010)

Joyal, Lisa (DNR)

From: Joyal, Lisa (DNR)
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 3:57 PM
To: Anderson, Diane (DNR)
Cc: Boyd, Deb (DNR)
Subject: Split Rock Lighthouse EAW

A current query of the NHIS does not show any new records in the vicinity of the above project. As such, the Natural Heritage letter and database reports dated November 2009 are still valid for environmental review purposes.

Lisa Joyal

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NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator  
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20100250-16



# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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November 6, 2009

**Correspondence # ERDB 20100250**

Joseph Ward  
WSB & Associates, Inc.  
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

RE: Natural Heritage information in the vicinity of the proposed Split Rock Campground,  
T55N R8W Section 32, Lake County

Dear Mr. Ward,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System has been queried to determine if any rare species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project. Based on this query, several rare features have been documented in the search area, mostly between Highway 61 and Lake Superior (all of the rare features on pages 1-3 of the enclosed report are located outside of the project boundary between Hwy 61 and the lake; please visit the Rare Species Guide at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html> for more information on the biology, habitat use, and conservation measures of these rare species). Given the nature and location of the proposed project, I do not believe the project will negatively affect any known occurrences of rare species. Please note, however, that the following **native plant communities may be impacted** by the proposed project:

- The proposed campground is within an area that the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) has identified as a Site of High Biodiversity Significance. Sites of Biodiversity Significance have varying levels of native biodiversity and are ranked based on the relative significance of this biodiversity at a statewide level. Sites ranked as High contain very good quality occurrences of the rarest species, high quality examples of the rare native plant communities, and/or important functional landscapes. This particular Site contains patches of bedrock within an Aspen-Birch Forest (see enclosed map and pages 4 & 5 of the enclosed report; GIS shapefiles of MCBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance and MCBS Native Plant Communities can be downloaded from the DNR Data Deli at <http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us>). Aspen-Birch Forests and the Crystalline Bedrock Outcrops are common in northeastern Minnesota. The Bedrock Shrubland located in the southeastern portion of the project boundary is a rare native plant community (state rank = 1) that is limited to the North Shore Highlands Subsection of the Northern Superior Uplands. We recommend that the campground be designed to avoid the Bedrock Shrubland and to minimize impacts to the other native plant communities. Indirect impacts from surface runoff or the spread of invasive species should also be considered and minimized to the extent feasible.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area.

DNR Information: 651-296-6157

● 1-888-646-6367

● TTY: 651-296-5484

● 1-800-657-3929

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The enclosed results include an Index Report of records in the Rare Features Database and the MCBS Native Plant Communities database. This report is copyrighted, but may be reprinted, unaltered, in the EAW. If you wish to reproduce the index report for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission.

This letter does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. Additional rare features for which we have no data may be present in the project area, or there may be other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. For these concerns, please contact your DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Rian Reed at 218-999-7826. Please be aware that additional site assessments or review may be required.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources. An invoice will be mailed to you under separate cover.

Sincerely,



Lisa Joyal  
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

enc. Rare Features Database: Index Report  
Rare Features Database Reports: An Explanation of Fields  
Map

cc: Randall Doneen  
Rian Reed

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System  
Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:  
ERDB #20100250 - Split Rock Campground  
T55N R8W Section 32  
Lake County

**Rare Features Database:**

| Element Name and Occurrence Number                                                                                                                                                                                 | Federal Status | MN Status | State Rank | Global Rank | Last Observed Date | EO ID # |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Vertebrate Animal</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Falco peregrinus</u> (Peregrine Falcon) #12<br>T54N R08W S5 ; Lake County                                                                                                                                       | No Status      | THR       | S2B        | G4          | 2006               | 1790    |
| <b>Animal Assemblage</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Colonial Waterbird Nesting Area</u> (Colonial Waterbird Nesting Site) #464<br>Just outside Minnesota in adjacent jurisdiction(s). ; Non-MN County - Located just outside Minnesota in adjacent jurisdiction(s). |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1979-06-04         | 763     |
| <u>Colonial Waterbird Nesting Area</u> (Colonial Waterbird Nesting Site) #465<br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                                                                       |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1979-06-04         | 764     |
| <b>Vascular Plant</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Artemisia campestris</u> (Canadian Wormwood) #7<br>T55N R08W S33, T55N R08W S32 ; Lake County                                                                                                                   | No Status      | NON       | SNR        | G5          | 1999-07-30         | 27621   |
| <u>Carex gynandra</u> (A Species of Sedge) #21<br>T55N R08W S32 ; Lake County                                                                                                                                      |                | NON       | SNR        | G5          | 1999-07-30         | 27619   |
| <u>Carex gynandra</u> (A Species of Sedge) #29<br>T54N R08W S6, T54N R08W S5 ; Lake County                                                                                                                         |                | NON       | SNR        | G5          | 1999-08-05         | 27631   |
| <u>Carex media</u> (Intermediate Sedge) #31<br>T55N R08W S33, T55N R08W S28 ; Lake County                                                                                                                          |                | NON       | SNR        | G5?         | 1999-07-29         | 27615   |
| <u>Carex media</u> (Intermediate Sedge) #32<br>T54N R08W S5 ; Lake County                                                                                                                                          |                | NON       | SNR        | G5?         | 1999-08-05         | 27627   |
| <u>Draba arabisans</u> (Rock Whitlow-grass) #8<br>T55N R08W S33, T55N R08W S32 ; Lake County                                                                                                                       |                | SPC       | S3         | G4          | 1999-07-29         | 4498    |
| <u>Draba arabisans</u> (Rock Whitlow-grass) #9<br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                                                                                                      |                | SPC       | S3         | G4          | 1999-07-29         | 4499    |
| <u>Draba arabisans</u> (Rock Whitlow-grass) #33<br>T54N R08W S5 ; Lake County                                                                                                                                      |                | SPC       | S3         | G4          | 1999-08-05         | 27628   |

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System  
Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:  
ERDB #20100250 - Split Rock Campground  
T55N R8W Section 32  
Lake County

**Rare Features Database:**

| Element Name and Occurrence Number                                                                                                | Federal Status | MN Status | State Rank | Global Rank | Last Observed Date | EO ID # |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Vascular Plant</b>                                                                                                             |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Draba arabisans</u> (Rock Whitlow-grass) #35<br>T55N R08W S33, T55N R08W S28 ; Lake County                                     |                | SPC       | S3         | G4          | 1999-07-29         | 27561   |
| <u>Euphrasia hudsoniana</u> (Hudson Bay Eyebright) #38<br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                             |                | SPC       | S3         | G5?         | 1999-07-29         | 27616   |
| <u>Euphrasia hudsoniana</u> (Hudson Bay Eyebright) #39<br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                             |                | SPC       | S3         | G5?         | 1999-07-29         | 27617   |
| <u>Euphrasia hudsoniana</u> (Hudson Bay Eyebright) #40<br>T54N R08W S5, T55N R08W S32 ; Lake County                               |                | SPC       | S3         | G5?         | 1999-07-30         | 27618   |
| <u>Euphrasia hudsoniana</u> (Hudson Bay Eyebright) #41<br>T55N R08W S33, T55N R08W S32 ; Lake County                              |                | SPC       | S3         | G5?         | 1999-07-30         | 27622   |
| <u>Euphrasia hudsoniana</u> (Hudson Bay Eyebright) #46<br>T54N R08W S5 ; Lake County                                              |                | SPC       | S3         | G5?         | 1999-08-05         | 27626   |
| <u>Juniperus horizontalis</u> (Creeping Juniper) #24<br>T55N R08W S33, T55N R08W S28 ; Lake County                                |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 1946-06-22         | 6150    |
| <u>Juniperus horizontalis</u> (Creeping Juniper) #42<br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                               |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 1999-07-29         | 25048   |
| <u>Juniperus horizontalis</u> (Creeping Juniper) #46<br>T55N R08W S33, T55N R08W S32 ; Lake County                                |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 1999-07-30         | 27620   |
| <u>Juniperus horizontalis</u> (Creeping Juniper) #47<br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                               |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 1999-07-30         | 27624   |
| <u>Pinguicula vulgaris</u> (Butterwort) #37<br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                        |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 1999-07-30         | 27623   |
| <b>Fungus</b>                                                                                                                     |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Parmelia stictica</u> (A Species of Lichen) #2<br>T055N R08W S32, T055N R08W S33, T055N R08W S29, T055N R08W S28 ; Lake County |                | END       | S1         | G3G5        | 1974-08-11         | 32266   |

**Terrestrial Community - Other Classification**

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System  
Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:  
ERDB #20100250 - Split Rock Campground  
T55N R8W Section 32  
Lake County

**Rare Features Database:**

| Element Name and Occurrence Number                                                                                                                      | Federal Status | MN Status | State Rank | Global Rank | Last Observed Date | EO ID # |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Terrestrial Community - Other Classification</b>                                                                                                     |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Alder - (Maple - Loosetrife) Swamp Type #21</u><br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                                       |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1998-10            | 25056   |
| <u>Jack Pine Woodland (Bedrock) Type #1</u><br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                                              |                | N/A       | S3         | GNR         | 1998-10            | 25051   |
| <u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class #418</u><br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                                   |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1998-10            | 25054   |
| <u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class #429</u><br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                                   |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1998-10            | 25053   |
| <u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class #458</u><br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                                   |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1998-10            | 25050   |
| <u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class #462</u><br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                                   |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1998-10            | 25052   |
| <u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class #1148</u><br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                                  |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1998-10            | 25049   |
| <u>Wet Rocky Shore (Lake Superior): Bedrock Subtype #3</u><br>T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County                                                               |                | N/A       | S2         | GNR         | 1998-10            | 25055   |
| <b>Other (Ecological)</b>                                                                                                                               |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Lake and wetland composite (quaternary) (Lake and Wetland Composite (Quaternary)) #1</u><br>T54N R08W S5, T55N R08W S32, T55N R08W S33 ; Lake County |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1980-07            | 74      |

Records Printed = 32

Minnesota's endangered species law (Minnesota Statutes, section 84.0895) and associated rules (Minnesota Rules, part 6212.1800 to 6212.2300 and 6134) prohibit the taking of threatened or endangered species without a permit. For plants, taking includes digging or destroying. For animals, taking includes pursuing, capturing, or killing.

**MCBS Native Plant Communities Database:**

(records within or adjacent to project boundary)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <u>MCBS NPC ID</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>State Rank</u> | <u>EO Rank</u> | <u>Last Observed Date</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Site of Biodiversity Significance #132 in County #38</b>                                                                                                                                            |                    |              |                   |                |                           |
| <b><u>Native Plant Community</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                   |                    |              |                   |                |                           |
| Bedrock Shrubland (Lake Superior)<br>Version 2.0 Classification: ROn23b<br>Version 1.5 Classification:<br>T55N R8W Section 32                                                                          | 34264              | 0.53         | 1                 | BC             | 2001                      |
| Crystalline Bedrock Outcrop (Northern)<br>Version 2.0 Classification: ROn12b<br>Version 1.5 Classification:<br>T55N R8W Section 32                                                                     | 34266              | 0.40         | 4                 | BC             | 2001                      |
| Aspen - Birch Forest: Hardwood Subtype<br>Version 2.0 Classification: FDn43b2<br>Version 1.5 Classification:<br>T55N R8W Section 33<br>T55N R8W Section 32<br>T54N R8W Section 5<br>T54N R8W Section 6 | 34267              | 314.31       | 5                 | BC             | 2001                      |
| <b>Site of Biodiversity Significance #136 in County #38</b>                                                                                                                                            |                    |              |                   |                |                           |
| <b><u>Native Plant Community</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                   |                    |              |                   |                |                           |
| Crystalline Bedrock Outcrop (Northern)<br>Version 2.0 Classification: ROn12b<br>Version 1.5 Classification:<br>T55N R8W Section 32                                                                     | 34242              | 0.07         | 4                 |                | 2002                      |
| Crystalline Bedrock Outcrop (Northern)<br>Version 2.0 Classification: ROn12b<br>Version 1.5 Classification:<br>T55N R8W Section 32                                                                     | 34243              | 0.22         | 4                 |                | 2002                      |
| Crystalline Bedrock Outcrop (Northern)<br>Version 2.0 Classification: ROn12b<br>Version 1.5 Classification:<br>T55N R8W Section 32                                                                     | 34244              | 0.14         | 4                 |                | 2002                      |

GIS shapefiles of MCBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance and MCBS Native Plant Communities can be downloaded from the DNR Data Deli at <http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us>.



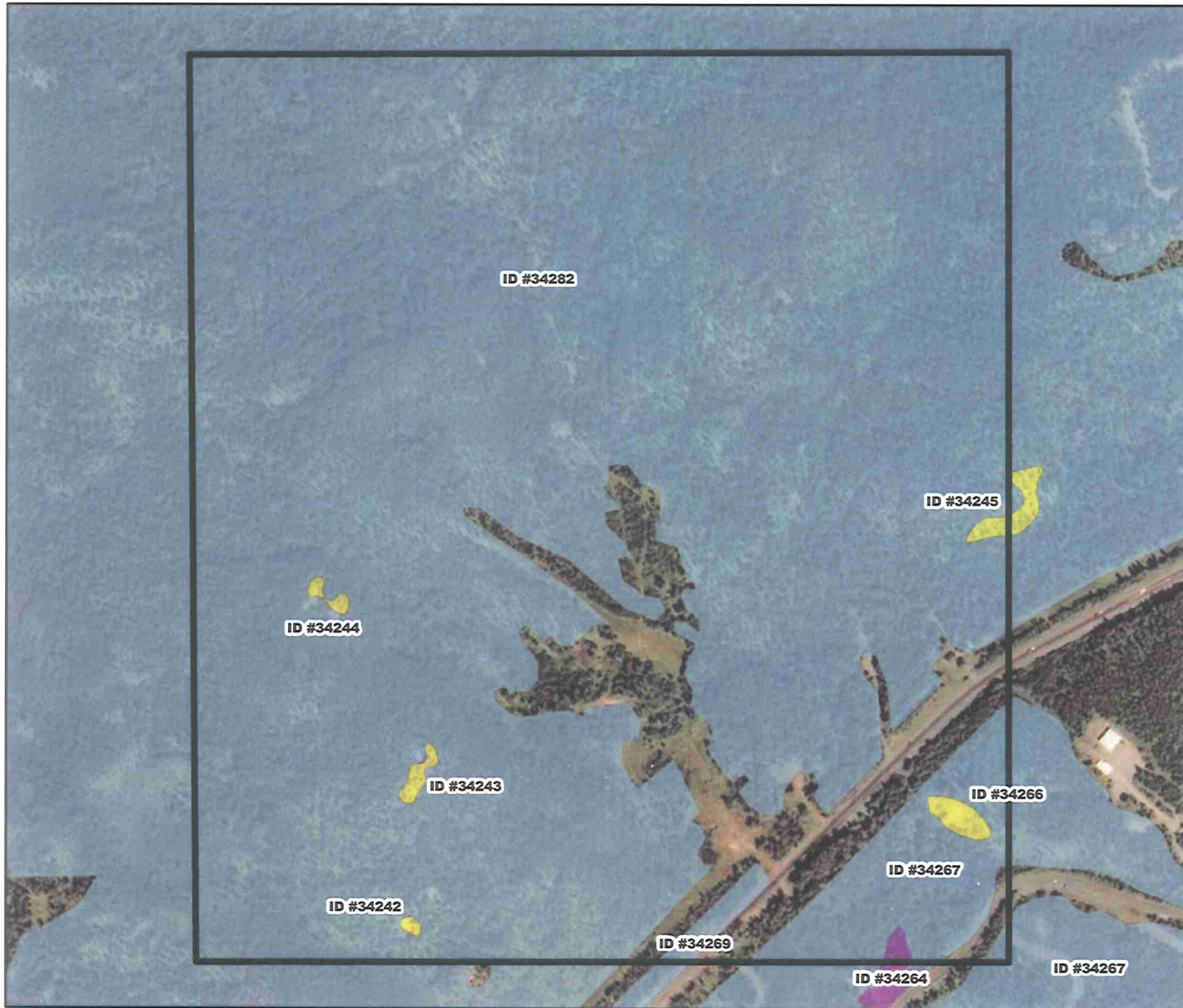
Printed November 2009  
 Data valid for one year

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System  
 Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:  
 ERDB #20100250 - Split Rock Campground  
 T55N R8W Section 32  
 Lake County

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |       |          |   |    |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---|----|------|
| Crystalline Bedrock Outcrop (Northern)<br>Version 2.0 Classification: ROn12b<br>Version 1.5 Classification:<br>T55N R8W Section 32                                                                                                                                          | 34245 | 0.53     | 4 | BC | 2002 |
| Aspen - Birch Forest: Hardwood Subtype<br>Version 2.0 Classification: FDn43b2<br>Version 1.5 Classification:<br>T55N R8W Section 32<br>T54N R8W Section 5                                                                                                                   | 34269 | 4.29     | 5 | CD | 2002 |
| Aspen - Birch Forest: Hardwood Subtype<br>Version 2.0 Classification: FDn43b2<br>Version 1.5 Classification:<br>T55N R8W Section 29<br>T55N R8W Section 30<br>T55N R8W Section 33<br>T55N R8W Section 32<br>T55N R8W Section 31<br>T54N R8W Section 5<br>T54N R8W Section 6 | 34282 | 1,980.33 | 5 | C  | 2002 |


**ERDB # 20100250 - Split Rock Campground  
T55N R8W Section 32  
Lake County**

GIS shapefiles of MCBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance and MCBS Native Plant Communities can be downloaded from the DNR Data Deli at <http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us>.






**Legend**

20100250

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**Native Plant Communities**

-  Aspen - Birch Forest: Hardwood Subtype
-  Bedrock Shrubland (Lake Superior)
-  Crystalline Bedrock Outcrop (Northern)



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Rare Feature, Prairie Railroad Survey, Native Plant Community,  
and Sites of Biodiversity Significance data are from the  
Natural Heritage Information System. The absence of rare features  
for a particular location should not be construed to mean that the  
DNR is confident rare features are absent from that location.