

Wieland, Ronald (DNR)

From: Joyal, Lisa (DNR)
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 6:02 PM
To: Anderson, Diane (DNR)
Cc: Fritcher, Shawn C (DNR); Templin, Jade (DNR); Smith, Stacy (DNR); Wieland, Ronald (DNR); Texler, Hannah L (DNR); Edwards, Jaime L (DNR); Haworth, Brooke (DNR)
Subject: Whitewater State Park Campground Development
Attachments: NHIS_WhitewaterSP_PAT_RScomments.pdf; WhitewaterSP_ProjArea1.pdf; nhis_data_request_WhitewaterSP.PDF; Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control(acc).pdf

I have reviewed the attached assessment of the potential for the above project to impact rare features, and concur with your assessment.

In addition, given that timber rattlesnakes could pass through or feed within the project area, I recommend that the use of erosion control mesh (if any) be limited to wildlife-friendly materials (see enclosed fact sheet). Timber rattlesnakes are state-listed as threatened and thus are protected by Minnesota's Endangered Species Law and associated rules. I recommend that you consult with Regional Nongame Specialist, Jaime Edwards at 507-280-5070, to see if she has any additional concerns about potential impacts to rattlesnakes.

The reference number for this correspondence is ERDB #20140307.

Thank you for notifying us of this project, and for the opportunity to provide comments.

Lisa Joyal

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NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator  
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## Whitewater State Park Campground Expansion Project, NHIS Request Attachment

Natural Heritage Review and Comments from PAT Area Resource Specialist:

- 1) MHs37 and MHs37a: These high quality native plant communities will be avoided by the scope of the project and/or project design. The project boundaries essentially follow the boundary of former agricultural fields (now partially restored to forest communities). The MHs37 communities are adjacent to the proposed development but will not be significantly impacted. Long-term management includes the restoration of all non-use areas within the project boundaries. Restoring forest canopy and understory will help buffer existing high quality NPCs and provide more connectivity of wildlife habitats. Approximately 30 acres of forest restoration will occur within the 50-acre project area (the remaining 20 acres will be campsites, roads, trails, and other infrastructure).
- 2) Moderate biodiversity significance rating: Adjacent NPC landscape is rated as moderate biodiversity significance. The proposed project should not significantly impact that rating. High quality restoration within the development area may even improve the buffer and connectivity to other areas of higher biodiversity significance within the park.
- 3) Timber rattlesnake: No known den sites occur within the project area or on the bluffs immediately adjacent to the project area. All known den locations within the park are approximately 1 mile away in Trout Run valley. If a rattlesnake is observed within the project area during construction, it will either be left alone or relocated to an appropriate location depending on construction sequences. We do not consider the proposed development area critical rattlesnake habitat area. No TR observations have come from the proposed development area in the past 20 years (checking if this is accurate).
- 4) Bat concentration: A maternity colony of bats was identified in the early 1980s in an old building near the project area (across State Hwy 74 to the west). The building was demolished during construction of the current visitor center. Subsequent visits by MBS failed to detect a maternity colony in the same area. Park staff constructed a bat condo to mitigate the demolition of the old building, which failed to be used by bats. The bat condo was eventually replaced with several small bats houses near the visitor center which are currently used by bats. Additional bat houses should be constructed within the proposed development area to provide maternity habitat for bats. PAT staff marked approximately 200 of the largest trees in the project area to leave as cavity habitat. Most the trees are still too small for cavity nesters but will provide habitat over the next few decades (at least more quickly than would be the case otherwise). The project area does not currently provide good habitat for northern myotis due to the lack of cavity trees and low quality of forest community.
- 5) Pickerel frog and Cerulean warbler: Both these species are documented nearby along the Middle Branch Whitewater River. Impacts to habitat of these species are minimal. The proposed project area consists of a high terrace with low quality vegetation. Cerulean warblers and pickerel frogs are more commonly associated with high quality NPC near the Whitewater River and tributaries.
- 6) Plain wild indigo, wolf's bluegrass, cliff goldenrod, woodland bluegrass: All these plant species are associated with surrounding high quality NPCs. These species mostly occur further upslope in dryer oak woodland, dry rock outcrops, and bluff prairies. These high quality resources are important habitat for many plant and animal species (especially invertebrates). We actively manage and protect these sensitive areas. These habitats occur in steep topography and are not suitable for development.
- 7) Peregrine falcon: Peregrine falcons have nested on a cliff above the south picnic area for the past 5 to 10 years. The proposed development will not significantly impact this peregrine falcon nesting site.

**From:** [Thomas Cinadr](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Diane \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Request for SHPO Database Search  
**Date:** Friday, April 25, 2014 1:05:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [Archaeology.rtf](#)  
[Historic.rtf](#)

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**THIS EMAIL IS NOT A PROJECT CLEARANCE.**

**This message simply reports the results of the cultural resources database search you requested. The database search produced results for only previously known archaeological sites and historic properties. Please read the note below carefully.**

Archaeological sites and historic properties were identified in a search of the Minnesota Archaeological Inventory and Historic Structures Inventory for the search area requested. **Reports containing the results of the search are attached.**

The result of this database search provides a listing of recorded archaeological sites and historic architectural properties that are included in the current SHPO databases. Because the majority of archaeological sites in the state and many historic architectural properties have not been recorded, important sites or structures may exist within the search area and may be affected by development projects within that area. Additional research, including field survey, may be necessary to adequately assess the area's potential to contain historic properties.

If you require a comprehensive assessment of a project's potential to impact archaeological sites or historic architectural properties, you may need to hire a qualified archaeologist and/or historian. If you need assistance with a project review, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson in Review and Compliance @ 651-259-3455 or by email at [kelly.graggjohnson@mnhs.org](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@mnhs.org).

The Minnesota SHPO Survey Manuals and Database Metadata and Contractor Lists can be found at <http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/survey/inventories.htm>

SHPO research hours are 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Tuesday-Friday.

**The Office is closed on Mondays.**

***Tom Cinadr***  
Survey and Information Management Coordinator  
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota Historical Society  
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651-259-3453

On Thu, Apr 24, 2014 at 1:59 PM, Anderson, Diane (DNR)  
<[diane.k.anderson@state.mn.us](mailto:diane.k.anderson@state.mn.us)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Cinadr,

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of preparing two separate Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAW) for two proposed projects in Whitewater State Park, located near the town of Altura, in Winona County. The projects are in close proximity of one another, so they are considered 'phased actions' by Environmental Quality Board rules (4410.1000, Subp. 4). Both projects are anticipated to begin in 2015. Please accept this email and project description as my request for a database search for archaeological, historical and architectural districts or structures within both project areas.

Project descriptions:

1) The Minnesota DNR is proposing to develop a new campground in Whitewater State Park, located in Winona County. The new campground area will include approximately 45-60 campsites, four camper cabins, three redesigned group camps with picnic shelters, and two new sanitation buildings. Following the completion of the new campground, the existing Gooseberry Glen campground, on the west side of TH 74, is planned to be converted to a day use area. Construction may begin in spring 2015.

2) Whitewater River Channel Restoration Project – The DNR is proposing a stream restoration project in Whitewater State Park on the Middle Fork of the Whitewater River in Winona County. Project plans include channel restoration that re-establishes dimension, pattern, and profile on 1,800 feet of the Middle Fork of the Whitewater River. Restoration of this section would restore stability, lessen erosion, improve water quality, revive natural structure and function, and result in an overall improvements to habitat conditions and public safety. Construction may begin in fall 2015.

\*We are aware of the Whitewater State Park Historic District located within Whitewater State Park. The NRHP District boundary crosses both project areas, however, no contributing elements are located within either project area, nor will any elements be affected by the proposed developments/improvements.

Both proposed projects are located in the same section of Elba Township, Winona County:

**TWP 107N RANGE 10W, Section 20;** and part of the campground area includes **a portion of Section 17**

Attached are two draft maps (PDF) showing the location and proposed layout for your reference, as well as GIS shapefiles for each project area.

If you need additional information about these proposed projects or have any issues with the attachments, please contact me.

Thank you,

Diane Anderson

Diane K. Anderson  
Principal Planner  
DNR, Division of Parks & Trails

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# Archaeological Site Locations

| Site Number           | Site Name                          | Twp. | Range | Sec. | Quarter Sections            | Acres | Phase | Site Description | Tradition | Context | Reports    | NR | CEF | DOE |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------|-------|------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|------------------|-----------|---------|------------|----|-----|-----|
| <b>County: Winona</b> |                                    |      |       |      |                             |       |       |                  |           |         |            |    |     |     |
| 21WN0032              |                                    | 107  | 10    | 20   | NE-SW-SE                    | 2     | 1     | LS               |           |         | WN-81-02   |    |     |     |
|                       |                                    | 107  | 10    | 20   | NE-SW-SE                    | 2     | 1     | LS               |           |         | MULT-79-08 |    |     |     |
| 21WN0039              |                                    | 107  | 10    | 20   | C-N-NE                      | 3     | 1     | LS               | A-1       |         | WN-81-02   |    |     |     |
| 21WN0043              | Whitewater Interpretive Center     | 107  | 10    | 20   | SE-NE-NW-NE                 | 1     | 1     | LS               |           |         | STP-90-01  |    |     |     |
| 21WN0070              | Whitewater State Park CCC/WPA Camp | 107  | 10    | 20   | SW-SE                       | 6     | 1     | AS,SR,STR        |           | TR-1    |            |    |     |     |
| 21WNbd                |                                    | 107  | 10    | 20   | NE-NE-NW-NE,<br>NW-NW-NE-NE | 2     | 1     | LS               |           |         |            |    |     |     |

# History/Architecture Inventory

| PROPERTY NAME                      | ADDRESS                                 | Twp | Range | Sec | Quarters | USGS | Report   | NRHP | CEF | DOE | Inventory Number |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|----------|------|----------|------|-----|-----|------------------|
| <b>COUNTY:</b>                     | <b>Winona</b>                           |     |       |     |          |      |          |      |     |     |                  |
| <b>CITY/TOWNSHIP:</b>              | <b>Elba Twp.</b>                        |     |       |     |          |      |          |      |     |     |                  |
| Whitewater State Park              | off Mn. Hwy. 74 (Whitewater State Park) | 107 | 10    | 20  |          | Elba |          | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-003       |
| park bridge                        |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | NW-SW-NE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-006       |
| group camp                         |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-NW-SW | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-007       |
| sanitation building                |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SE-NW-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-008       |
| water supply tank                  |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-SW-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-011       |
| CCC/WPA Transient Campsite (razed) |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-SE    | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-012       |
| pump house                         |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-NW-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-013       |
| warehouse/garage                   |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-NW-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-014       |
| shed                               |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-NW-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-015       |
| Custodian's Cabin                  |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-NW-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-016       |
| entrance signs (north and south)   |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | NE-SW-NE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-017       |
| culvert                            |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | NW-SW-NE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-018       |
| Bath House                         |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-NE-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-021       |
| recreational dam/foot bridge       |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-NE-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-022       |
| diversion dam                      |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-NE-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-023       |
| combination building               |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-SW-NE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-025       |
| picnic shelter                     |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SE-NW-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-027       |
| contact station                    |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SE-NW-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-029       |
| picnic tables (east and west)      |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SE-NW-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-030       |
| suspension bridge                  |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SE-NE-SW | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-031       |
| stone abutment                     | off Mn. Hwy. 74                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | SE-SE-SW | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-032       |
| golf course garage                 |                                         | 107 | 10    | 20  | NE-SW-SW | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-033       |

| PROPERTY NAME         | ADDRESS                                                            | Twp | Range | Sec | Quarters | USGS | Report   | NRHP | CEF | DOE | Inventory Number |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|----------|------|----------|------|-----|-----|------------------|
| <b>COUNTY:</b>        | <b>Winona</b>                                                      |     |       |     |          |      |          |      |     |     |                  |
| <b>CITY/TOWNSHIP:</b> | <b>Elba Twp.</b>                                                   |     |       |     |          |      |          |      |     |     |                  |
| footbridge            | off Mn. Hwy. 74                                                    | 107 | 10    | 20  | SW-NE-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-034       |
| park bridge           | park road over Whitewater River                                    | 107 | 10    | 20  | SE-SW-SE | Elba | xx-88-3H | Y    |     |     | WN-ELT-035       |
| Bridge No. 5836       | T.H. 74 2.7 mi. S of Jct. CSAH 26                                  | 107 | 10    | 20  |          | Elba |          |      |     |     | WN-ELT-041       |
| Bridge No. 85019      | carries paved road across Mid. Frk of Whitewater River in the Park | 107 | 10    | 20  |          |      |          |      |     |     | WN-ELT-045       |