



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological & Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

April 9, 2026

Ben Nicklay
MN DNR - Ecological & Water Resources

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed **Cedar Lake Manoomin Restoration**,
T49N R18W Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, and 15; Carlton County

Dear Ben Nicklay,

For all correspondence regarding the Natural Heritage Review of this project please include the project ID **MCE-2026-00046** in the email subject line.

As requested, the [Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System](#) has been reviewed to determine if the proposed project has the potential to impact any rare species or other significant natural features. Based on the project details provided with the request, the following rare features may be impacted by the proposed project:

Ecologically Significant Areas

- The proposed project is within **Cedar Lake Peatlands**, a Site of *Moderate* Biodiversity Significance identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS). MBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance (MBS Sites) have varying levels of native biodiversity and are ranked based on the relative significance of this biodiversity at a statewide level. MBS Sites ranked as *Moderate* contain occurrences of rare species and/or moderately disturbed native plant communities, and/or landscapes that have a strong potential for recovery.

The DNR recommends that the project be designed to avoid impacts to ecologically significant areas. Actions to avoid or minimize disturbance include, but are not limited to, the following recommendations:

- As much as possible, operate within already-disturbed areas.
- Minimize vehicular disturbance in the MBS Site (allow only vehicles/equipment necessary for construction activities).
- Do not park equipment or stockpile supplies in the MBS Site.
- Do not place spoil in the MBS Site or other sensitive areas.
- If possible, conduct the work under frozen ground conditions.
- Use effective erosion prevention and sediment control measures.
- Inspect and clean equipment prior to operation and follow recommendations to [prevent the spread of invasive species](#).

- Revegetate disturbed soil with [native species suitable to the local habitat](#) as soon after construction as possible.
- Use only weed-free mulches, topsoils, and seed mixes. Of particular concern are birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*), two invasive species that are sold commercially and are problematic in prairies and disturbed open areas.
- Ecologically significant areas can be viewed using the Explore page in [Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#) (MCE) or they can be downloaded from DNR Quick Layers. Reference the [MBS Site Biodiversity Significance](#) and [Native Plant Community](#) websites for information on interpreting the data. To receive a list of ecologically significant areas in the vicinity of your project, create a Conservation Planning Report using the Explore Tab in MCE.

State-listed Species

- Based on the project details provided with the request, I do not believe the proposed project will negatively affect any known occurrences of state-listed species.
- Please report incidental sightings of state-listed species via the [DNR Plant and Animal Observation Form](#).

Federally Protected Species

- To ensure compliance with federal law, conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#).

Environmental Review and Permitting

- Please include a copy of this letter and the MCE-generated Final Project Report in any state or local license or permit application. Please note that measures to avoid or minimize disturbance to the above rare features may be included as restrictions or conditions in any required permits or licenses.
- Please note that the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) should address whether the proposed project has the potential to adversely affect these rare features and, if so, the EAW should describe any measures that will be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts.

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 and Water 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 native plant communities, rare species, and other rare features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and does not contain the locations of all rare features in the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area. If additional information becomes available regarding rare features in the vicinity of the project, further review may be necessary.

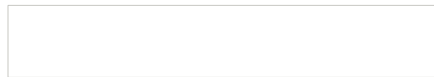
For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location and project description provided with the request. **If project details change or the project has not occurred within one year, please resubmit the project for review within one year of initiating project activities.** Resubmit by selecting *Clone Project as Draft* on the project page in MCE.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute project approval by the Department of Natural Resources. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential impacts to these rare features. Visit [Natural Heritage Review](#) for additional information regarding this process, survey guidance, and other related information. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource concerns, please contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#).

Thank you for consulting us and for your interest in the conservation of Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,

Molly Barrett



Natural Heritage Review Specialist

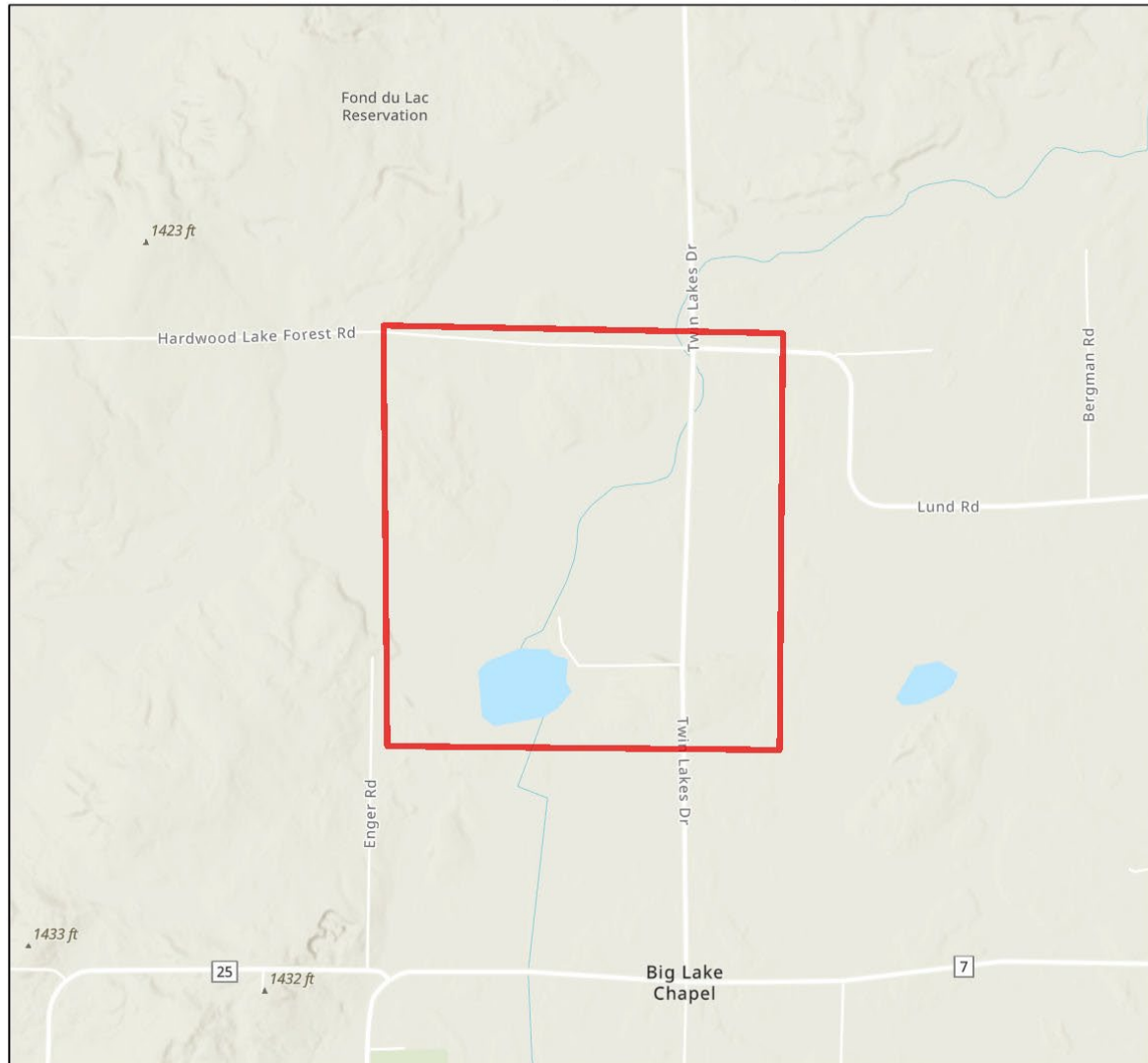
molly.barrett@state.mn.us

Cc: [Jessica Parson](#), Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Northeast (Region 2)

For more project details, see the MCE-generated Final Project Report, available on the MCE project page.

Cedar Lake Manoomin Restoration

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Miles

 Project Boundary

Project Type: Natural Resource Management

Project Size (acres): 1,044.10

County(s): Carlton

TRS: T49 R18 S10, T49 R18 S11, T49 R18 S14, T49 R18 S15, T49 R18 S2 +

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA
St. Louis County (MN), Fond du Lac Reservation, MN Dept Natural Resources,

