



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Box 25

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February 13, 2015

Correspondence # ERDB 201500216

Mr. Jeff Tillma
MN DNR Fisheries
1201 East Highway 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Solid Bottom Creek Restoration,
T142N R38W Section 6, Becker County

Dear Mr. Tillma,

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, rare features have been documented within the search area (for details, see the enclosed database reports; 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). Please note that the following **rare features may be adversely affected** by the proposed project:

- The least darter (*Etheostoma microperca*), a state-listed fish species of special concern, was documented in Elbow Lake in 2004. As you are aware, this species prefers crystal clear, low velocity streams and lakes with cool to warm waters, and they are strongly associated with pools of water that have dense, submerged aquatic vegetation. Threats to this species include pollution, pesticides, agricultural runoff, loss of forested habitats around streams, and in-stream work.
- The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state-listed species of special concern, can be found throughout Minnesota. During the winter this species hibernates in caves and mines, and during the summer it roosts underneath barks, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to federally list this species and will make a final listing determination by April 2, 2015. To meet the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Interim Guidance, avoid any tree removal from April 1 to September 30.
- The Environmental Assessment Worksheet should address whether the proposed project has the potential to adversely affect the above rare features and, if so, it should identify specific measures that will be taken to avoid or minimize disturbance.
- Please include a copy of this letter in any DNR license or permit application.

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 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. **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 (noted above) and the project description provided on the NHIS Data Request Form. Please contact me if project details change or for an updated review if construction has not occurred within one year.

The Natural Heritage Review 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. To determine whether there are other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project, please contact your DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist (contact information available at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html). 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.

Sincerely,



Lisa Joyal
Endangered Species Review Coordinator

Link: Northern Long-Eared Bat
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html>

cc: Nathan Kestner