

Appendix E: *Species Reports*

MEMORANDUM

To: *Harmony Group LLC*
Ashley Payne
From: *Cassie Baumgartner*
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Date: *July 31, 2026*
Subject: *Hermantown, St. Louis County, Minnesota – Hermantown Industrial Threatened and Endangered Species Memorandum*

INTRODUCTION

Kimley-Horn was contracted by Harmony Group LLC. to review the Hermantown Industrial project study area for potential species constraints. See **Figure 1** for project location and **Figure 2** for the study area boundary. The project is located in Hermantown, St. Louis County, Minnesota. The threatened and endangered species investigation included 24 parcels totaling 279.1 acres and is bound to the north by Morris Thomas Road and to the east by Midway Road. The western boundary of the study area extends parallel to Solway Road, and the southern boundary extends parallel to Saint Louis River Road. The western and southern boundaries are located approximately 0.27 miles east and 0.25 miles north of the roads, respectively (the “study area”). The study area is located in Section 31 of Township 50N, Range 15W. Kimley-Horn reviewed available background data in addition to conducting a field survey to assist in determining if there are any potential species constraints for the study area.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The majority of the study area is currently mixed forest and deciduous forest, herbaceous land, and wetland, with areas of impervious surface throughout the site. There are several residences along the northern and eastern perimeter of the study area. The western portion of the study area is adjacent to a power plant and includes associated access roads. Portions of the central forested area of the study area appear to have been recently logged. The study area location and characteristics are shown in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

USFWS Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

Kimley-Horn conducted a preliminary review of the potential for federally listed threatened, endangered, and proposed species to occur within the study area. These species and their preferred habitat were assessed for the potential to be affected by the proposed project for the purposes of due diligence in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The project is privately funded and is not anticipated to have a federal nexus; therefore, an effects determination for federal species was assessed under Section 9 and 10 of the ESA. If a federal nexus is later anticipated, the project should be reevaluated under Section 7 of the ESA. A list of the threatened, endangered, and proposed species along with the designated critical habitat that could occur in St. Louis County was obtained on July 27, 2026, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) online planning tool. The resource list is not considered official USFWS correspondence for ESA consultation. Habitat descriptions for the identified species were compared to the land cover within or

near the study area. The resource list obtained via the USFWS IPaC for the project identified four species that should be considered in an effects analysis. The resource list is included in **Attachment A**, and the identified species are described below in **Table 1**.

Table 1. USFWS Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

Species	Federal Status	Preferred Habitat
<i>Lynx canadensis</i> (Canada lynx)	Threatened	The Canada lynx generally inhabits boreal forested ecosystems, but also extends south to subalpine forests in the western United States and boreal/hardwood transitional zones in the eastern United States. Lynx are most commonly found in areas that receive heavy snowfall and inhabit snowshoe hares, the primary prey of Canada lynx. The study area is not located within critical habitat for the Canada lynx.
<i>Canis Lupus</i> (Gray wolf)	Threatened	Gray wolves are found in a wide range of habitats including temperate forests and herbaceous land. Wolves' habitat heavily depends on availability of prey such. The study area is not located within critical habitat for the gray wolf.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> (Monarch butterfly)	Proposed Threatened	The monarch butterfly requires herbaceous habitats where milkweed and flowers are present. North American populations of the monarch butterfly typically follow a seasonal migration pattern. The study area is not located within the proposed critical habitat for the monarch butterfly.
<i>Bombus suckleyi</i> (Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee)	Proposed Endangered	Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee is typically found throughout northern America in prairies, herbaceous land, and meadows. It is considered a parasitic bee and lives primary of nests of western bumblebees, which are typically found underground cavities but can also be seen in stumps and logs as well. No critical habitat has been designated for this species

Migratory Birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) makes it illegal for anyone to “take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations by the USFWS”. The phrase “incidental take” is used when migratory birds are taken or killed because of an otherwise lawful activity but the “take” is not the purpose of that activity. According to the IPaC resource list, eight migratory species on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list have been identified within the study area. The BCC list was updated in 2023 by the USFWS and is an effort to “identify species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act.”

Bald and Golden Eagles

According to the USFWS, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from “taking” bald eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. In addition to immediate impacts, this definition also covers impacts that result from human

induced alterations initiated around a previously used nest site during a time when eagles are not present, if, upon the eagle's return, such alterations agitate or bother an eagle to a degree that interferes with or interrupts normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering habits, and causes injury, death or nest abandonment. Kimley-Horn conducted a preliminary review of the potential for Bald and Golden Eagle habitat to occur on the study area or be affected by the project for the purposes of due diligence in complying with the BGEPA. Kimley-Horn downloaded and reviewed the IPaC official species list to assess the potential for Bald and Golden Eagles to occur within the study area. The USFWS data noted the potential for bald eagles in the vicinity of the study area. Kimley-Horn staff assessed for Bald and Golden Eagle nests during the field habitat assessment and none were observed.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Information System Review

Kimley-Horn contacted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) for an updated Natural Heritage Review for the proposed project in January 2026 and received a response on March 2, 2026. The findings were the same across both reports and are discussed below.

Additionally, Kimley-Horn reviewed the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) data per license agreement LA-2024-006 for state listed species within one mile of the project study area. The database includes known occurrences of any state endangered, threatened, or special concern species. The identity of the species and location are restricted and should not be shared publicly.

One state-listed species was identified within one mile of the study area and is described in **Table 2**. The identification of this species is consistent with previous Natural Heritage Reviews received from the DNR for the study area vicinity.

Table 2: Minnesota State Listed Species

Species	State Status	NHIS Listing Location and Preferred Habitat
<i>Accipiter atricapillus</i> (American goshawk)	Species of Special Concern	The NHIS database shows a mapped record for the American goshawk approximately 0.9 miles outside of the study area boundary. The preferred habitat of the American goshawk includes large tracts of mature and older upland forest. Preferred cover types for foraging include aspen, paper birch, pine, and spruce forests. Nesting areas tend to have taller and larger diameter trees and fewer understory trees than foraging areas.

The Natural Heritage Review letter requested for the study area vicinity stated "The Natural Heritage Information System tracks bat roost trees and hibernacula plus some acoustic data, but this information is not exhaustive. Even if there are no bat records listed all of Minnesota's bats, including the federally endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), can be found throughout Minnesota. During the active season (approximately April-November) bats roost underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Tree removal can negatively impact bats by destroying roosting habitat, especially during the pup rearing season when females are forming maternity roosting colonies, and the pups cannot yet fly. The northern long-eared bat (NLEB) was not listed on the IPaC official list nor were any known nearby occurrences listed in the NHIS data.

No Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) Sites of Biodiversity Significance or Native Plant Communities were identified within the project study area.

SUITABLE HABITAT FIELD INVESTIGATION

Field Habitat Assessment

Kimley-Horn conducted a protected species field habitat assessment in 2024 on September 26 and October 3, and in 2025 on June 2 and 3, and September 11 and 22. Potential suitable habitat for federally listed species was identified within the study area during the field investigation and is described below in **Table 3** and is depicted in **Figure 3** and **Figure 4**. While wetland wasn't specifically identified as suitable habitat for any of the listed species, most wetlands within the study area were observed to contain an herbaceous layers and/or deciduous trees, and therefore could be considered suitable habitat.

Table 3. Potential Listed Species Habitat

Land Cover Type	Potential Suitable Habitat?	Area (acres)	Notes
Deciduous Forest	Gray wolf, American goshawk, Canada lynx	132	Areas of deciduous forest are present in the northeastern and northwestern portions of the study area. The dominant tree species observed were a mix of alders, aspens, maples, oaks, and hickories. Deciduous forest provides suitable habitat for the gray wolf and American goshawk.. Deciduous forest may provide marginal, but not preferred, habitat for the Canada lynx.
Mixed Forest	Gray wolf, American goshawk, , Canada lynx	19	Areas of mixed forest are present throughout the study area. The dominant tree species observed were a mix of alders, aspens, maples, oaks, and hickories with some conifers present. Mixed forest provides suitable habitat for the gray wolf and American goshawk. Mixed forest may provide marginal, but not preferred, habitat for the Canada lynx.
Wetland	See notes	58	Areas of wetland were observed throughout the study area. While wetland wasn't specifically identified as suitable habitat for any of the listed species, most wetlands within the study area were observed to contain an herbaceous layer and/or deciduous trees and therefore could be considered suitable habitat.
Herbaceous land	Canada Lynx, Gray wolf, Monarch butterfly, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee	59	Herbaceous areas are present throughout the study area. This area could provide suitable habitat for the Canada lynx, gray wolf, monarch butterfly, and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee.

Impervious Surface	None	12	Impervious surface areas are not considered suitable habitat for species identified by the MnDNR or IPaC.
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FINDINGS

Based on the information reviewed, Kimley-Horn has identified potential species constraints that could require additional planning.

Federally Listed Species

- Based on the known preferred habitat for the Canada lynx, and the presence of marginal suitable habitat identified during the site visit (mixed deciduous forest) and suitable habitat identified through the desktop review (boreal forest), the Canada lynx has the potential to occur within the study area. However, the study area is known to be disturbed. Due to the generalist nature of the Canada lynx, and because preferred suitable habitat (contiguous, undisturbed boreal forests) is present adjacent to the study area, it is unlikely for the Canada lynx to occur within the project area. Therefore, impacts to the Canada lynx are not anticipated.
- Based on the known preferred habitat for the gray wolf, as well as the presence of suitable habitat identified during the site visit (herbaceous land and deciduous forest), the gray wolf has the potential to occur within the study area. However, the study area is known to be disturbed. Due to the generalist nature of the gray wolf and because higher quality, undisturbed preferred suitable habitat is present in the surrounding area, it is unlikely for the gray wolf to occur within the project area. Therefore, impacts to the gray wolf are not anticipated.
- Based on the known preferred habitat for the monarch butterfly, as well as the presence of suitable habitat identified during the site visit, the species has the potential to occur within herbaceous land observed within the study area. The proposed project may affect vegetation that could harbor monarch butterflies and/or suitable monarch habitat; however, ground and vegetation disturbing activities are not expected to appreciably diminish the quality or extent of available suitable habitat within the project area. The project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the monarch butterfly; however, a re-evaluation of project impacts to the monarch butterfly will be required if the project is not completed prior to when the final rule is published.
- Based on the known preferred habitat for the Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee, as well as the presence of suitable habitat identified during the site visit, the species has the potential to occur within herbaceous land observed within the study area. The proposed project may affect vegetation that could harbor Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee and/or suitable bee habitat; however, ground and vegetation disturbing activities are not expected to appreciably diminish the quality or extent of available suitable habitat within the project area. The project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee; however, a re-evaluation of project impacts to the bee will be required if the project is not completed prior to when the final rule is published.

State Listed Species

- Based on the known preferred habitat for the American goshawk, as well as the suitable habitat presence identified during the site visit, the species has the potential to occur within forested areas observed within the study area.
- To avoid impacts to state-listed species, the DNR recommends modifying the location of project activities to avoid suitable habitat or modifying the timing of project activities to avoid the presence of the species. No specific species recommendations were identified.

Migratory Birds

- Suitable habitat for migratory birds was identified throughout the study area

Other Considerations

- Based on the known preferred habitat for bats, the study area could contain suitable roosting habitat. However, based on USFWS and MnDNR data, it is unlikely for bats to inhabit the study area

MITIGATION

Federally Listed Species

- Mitigation for the Canada lynx, gray wolf, monarch butterfly, and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee is not anticipated.

State Listed Species

- With regard to the American goshawk, no specific mitigation requirements were requested by the MnDNR.
- There are no additional mitigation requirements requested by MnDNR.

VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION MEASURES

Federally Listed Species

- Reseeding disturbed herbaceous land with native seed mix is recommended to avoid potential impacts to the monarch butterfly and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee.

State Listed Species

- With regard to the American goshawk, while not required, impacts to wooded areas should be minimized or avoided where practicable. Additionally, tree disturbance could avoid the American goshawk nesting season, which occurs between April and July.

Migratory Birds

- USFWS recommends avoiding tree clearing during the general migratory bird nesting season (March 1 to August 31). In northern Minnesota, peak migratory bird nesting season ranges from approximately May 1 to August 15. Additionally, a stick nest survey prior to construction could be completed to avoid impacts to migratory birds if tree clearing occurs during peak nesting season.

Other Considerations

- While not required, the DNR recommends that tree removal be avoided from June 1 through August 15 to minimize impacts to bats.

Figures

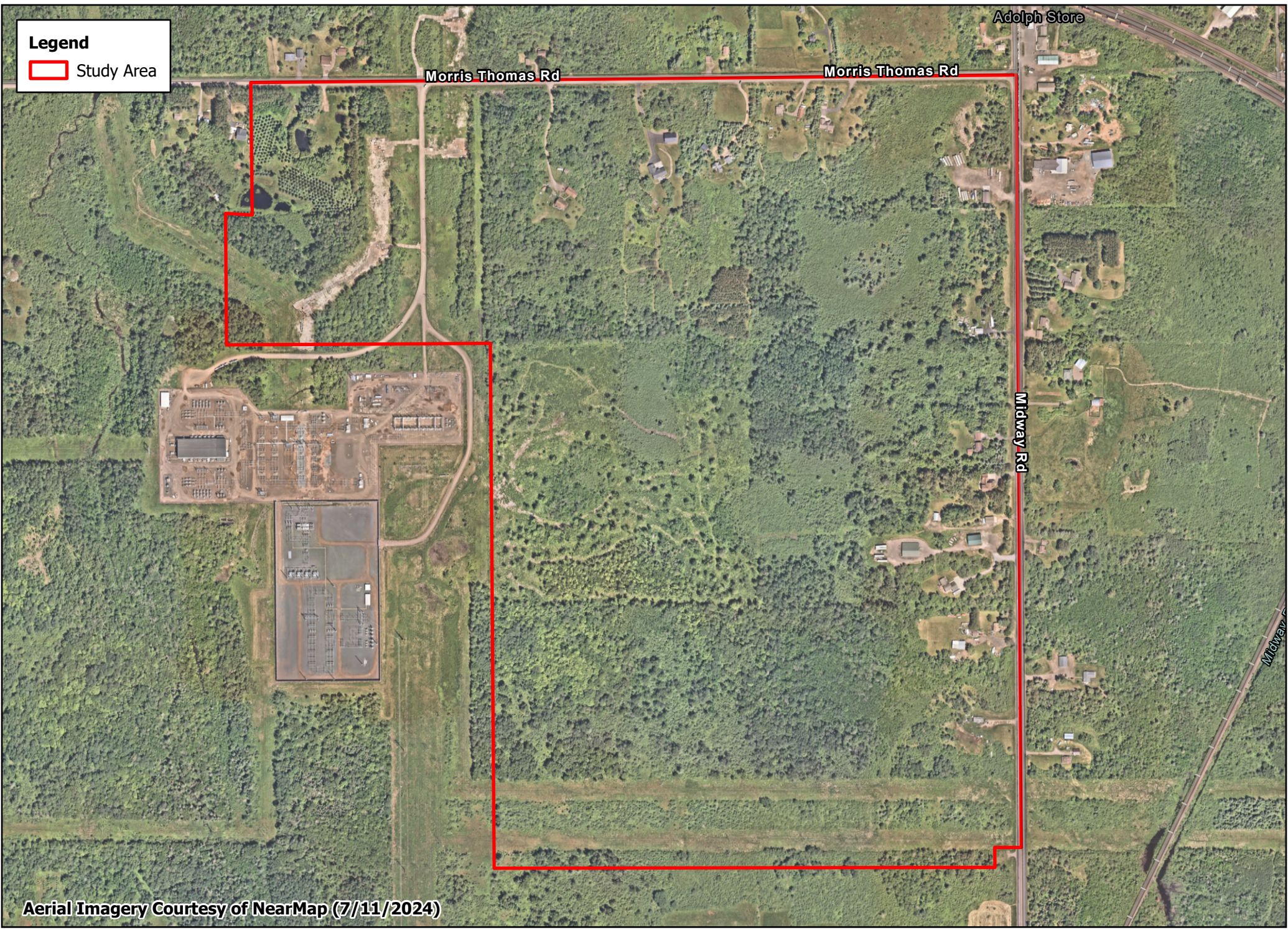
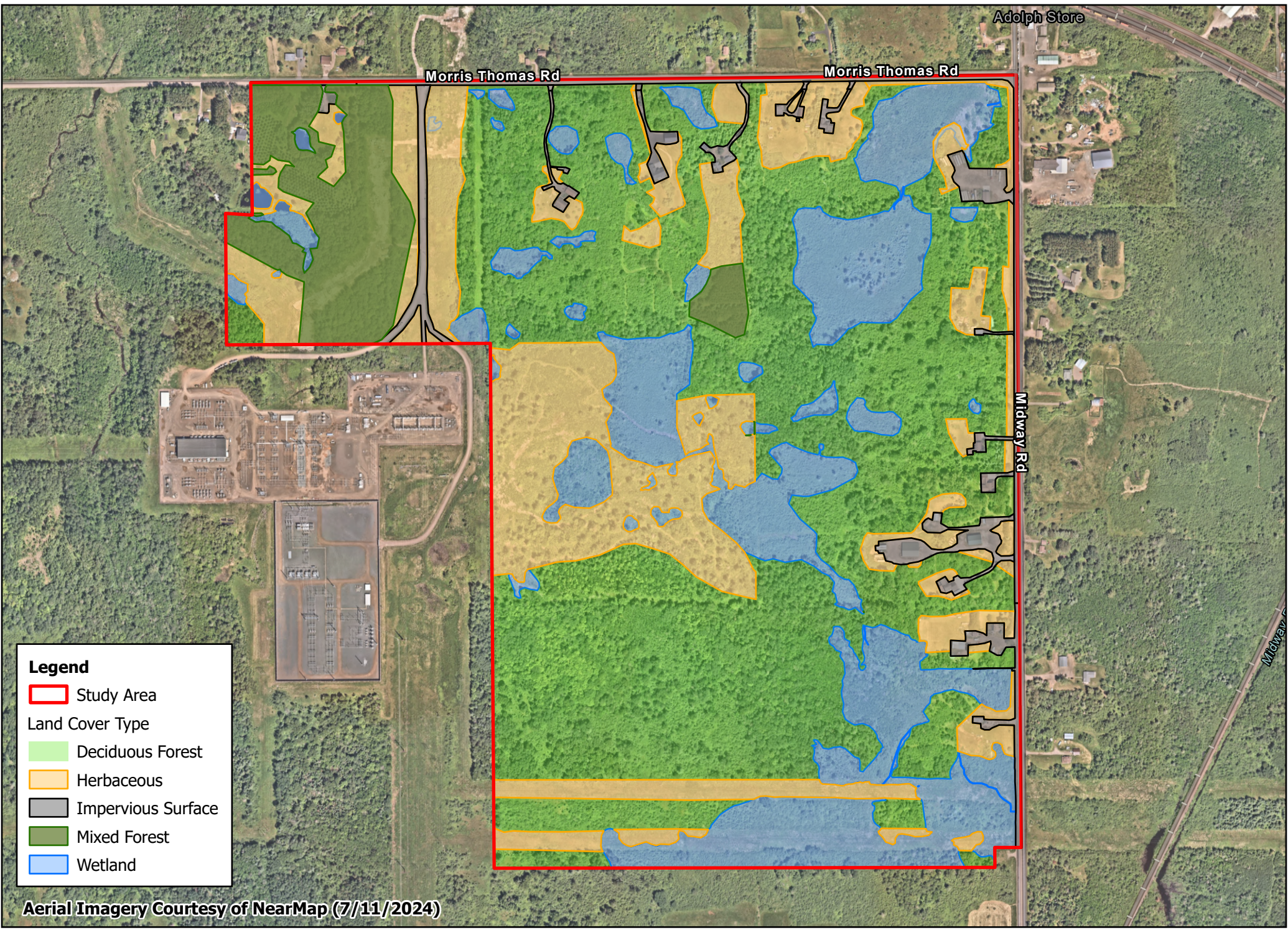


Figure 2. Study Area
Hermantown, Minnesota
St. Louis County



Legend

Study Area

Land Cover Type

- Deciduous Forest
- Herbaceous
- Impervious Surface
- Mixed Forest
- Wetland

Aerial Imagery Courtesy of NearMap (7/11/2024)

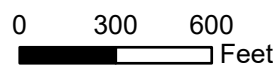
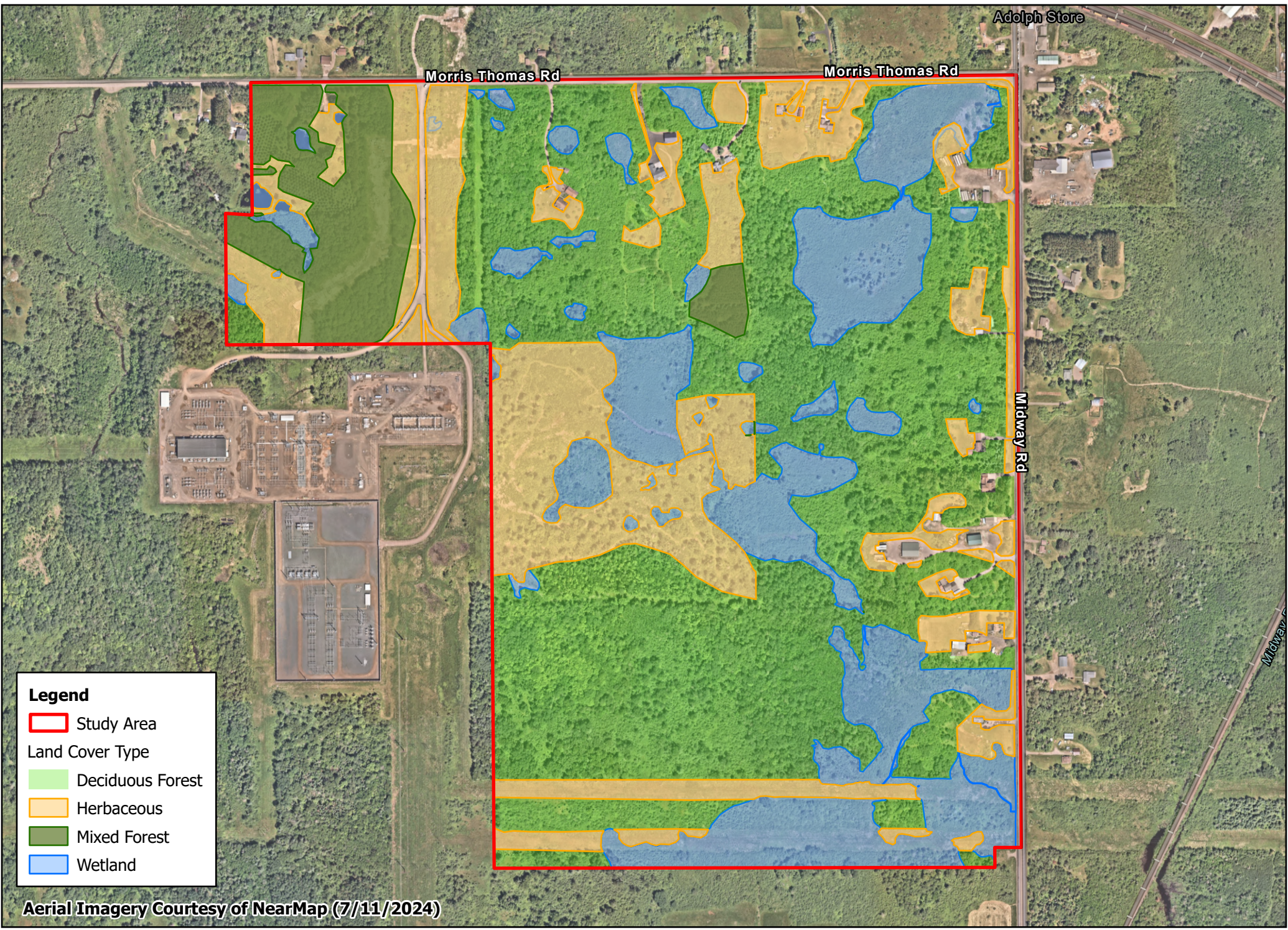


Figure 3. Land Cover
Hermantown, Minnesota
St. Louis County



Adolph Store

Morris Thomas Rd

Morris Thomas Rd

Midway Rd

Midway Rd

Legend

- Study Area
- Land Cover Type
 - Deciduous Forest
 - Herbaceous
 - Mixed Forest
 - Wetland

Aerial Imagery Courtesy of NearMap (7/11/2024)

Figure 4. Potential Suitable Habitat
Hermantown, Minnesota
St. Louis County

ATTACHMENT A

Species Resources



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
Phone: (952) 256-7289



In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2026-0042483
Project Name: Hermantown Industrial

07/27/2026 21:36:01 UTC

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

This response has been generated by the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system to provide information on natural resources that could be affected by your project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides this response under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

Threatened and Endangered Species

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirement for obtaining a Technical Assistance Letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Consultation Technical Assistance

Please refer to our [Section 7 website](#) for guidance and technical assistance, including [step-by-step instructions](#) for making effects determinations for each species that might be present and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, USDA Rural Development projects, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.

We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our **Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin ("D-key"))**. A [demonstration video](#) showing how-to access and use the determination key is available. Please note that the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key is the third option of 3 available d-keys. D-keys are tools to help Federal agencies and other project proponents determine if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect federally listed species and designated critical habitat. The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key includes a structured set of questions that assists a project proponent in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for a certain predetermined consultation outcome for all federally listed species found in Minnesota and Wisconsin (except for the northern long-eared bat- see below), which includes determinations of "no effect" or "may affect, not likely to adversely affect." In each case, the Service has compiled and analyzed the best available information on the species' biology and the impacts of certain activities to support these determinations.

If your completed d-key output letter shows a "No Effect" (NE) determination for all listed species, print your IPaC output letter for your files to document your compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

For Federal projects with a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" (NLAA) determination, our concurrence becomes valid if you do not hear otherwise from us after a 30-day review period, as indicated in your letter.

If your d-key output letter indicates additional coordination with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is necessary (i.e., you get a "May Affect" determination), you will be provided additional guidance on contacting the Service to continue ESA coordination outside of the key; ESA compliance cannot be concluded using the key for "May Affect" determinations unless otherwise indicated in your output letter.

Note: Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC with d-keys, although in most cases these tools should expedite your review. If you choose to make an effects determination on your own, you may do so. If the project is a Federal Action, you may want to review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations.

Using the IPaC Official Species List to Make No Effect and May Affect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If IPaC returns a result of "There are no listed species found within the vicinity of the project," then project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on any federally listed species under Service jurisdiction. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **no effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
2. If IPaC returns one or more federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially present in the action area of the proposed project – other than bats (see below) – then project proponents must determine if proposed activities will have **no effect** on or **may affect** those species. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain [Life History Information for Listed and Candidate Species](#) on our office website. If no impacts will occur to a species on the IPaC species list (e.g., there is no habitat present in the project area), the appropriate determination is **no effect**. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

3. Should you determine that project activities **may affect** any federally listed, please contact our office for further coordination. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

For projects that intersect with or are adjacent to Tribal lands: The Service has federal Trust responsibilities and a strong commitment to working with Tribal governments to help sustain fish and wildlife resources for future generations. Tribal governments should be provided with sufficient opportunity to express their perspectives and/or concerns for proposed projects. If your project intersects with Tribal lands or impacts culturally sensitive resources, please engage with the federally recognized Tribe to ensure they have an opportunity to provide input on this project.

Northern Long-Eared Bats

Northern long-eared bats occur throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and the information below may help in determining if your project may affect these species.

Suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches dbh for northern long-eared bat that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat and evaluated for use by bats. If your project will impact caves or mines or will involve clearing forest or woodland habitat containing suitable roosting habitat, northern long-eared bats could be affected. For bat activity dates, please review Appendix A in the [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Examples of unsuitable habitat include:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested or wooded areas,
- Trees found in highly developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas),
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh trees that are not mixed with larger trees, and
- A monoculture stand of shrubby vegetation with no potential roost trees.

If IPaC returns a result that northern long-eared bats are potentially present in the action area of the proposed project, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities **may affect** this species **IF** one or more of the following activities are proposed:

- Clearing or disturbing suitable roosting habitat, as defined above, at any time of year,
- Any activity in or near the entrance to a cave or mine,
- Mining, deep excavation, or underground work within 0.25 miles of a cave or mine,
- Construction of one or more wind turbines, or

- Demolition or reconstruction of human-made structures that are known to be used by bats based on observations of roosting bats, bats emerging at dusk, or guano deposits or stains.

If none of the above activities are proposed, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on the northern long-eared bat. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **No Effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

If any of the above activities are proposed, and the northern long-eared bat appears on the user's species list, the federal project user will be directed to either the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat range-wide D-key or the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Railways Administration, and Federal Transit Administration Indiana bat/Northern long-eared bat D-key, depending on the type of project and federal agency involvement. Similar to the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key, these d-keys help to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter. Additional information about available tools can be found on the Service's [northern long-eared bat website](#).

Whooping Crane

Whooping crane is designated as a non-essential experimental population in Wisconsin and consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act is only required if project activities will occur within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park. If project activities are proposed on lands outside of a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park, then you are not required to consult. For additional information on this designation and consultation requirements, please review "[Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Whooping Cranes in the Eastern United States](#)."

Other Trust Resources and Activities

Bald and Golden Eagles - Although the bald eagle has been removed from the endangered species list, this species and the golden eagle are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to survey the area for any migratory bird nests. If there is an eagle nest on-site while work is on-going, eagles may be disturbed. We recommend avoiding and minimizing disturbance to eagles whenever practicable. If you cannot avoid eagle disturbance, you may seek a [permit](#). A [nest take permit](#) is always required for removal, relocation, or obstruction of an eagle nest. For communication and wind energy projects, please refer to additional guidelines below.

Migratory Birds - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Service. The Service has the responsibility under the MBTA to proactively prevent the mortality of migratory birds whenever possible and we encourage implementation of [recommendations that minimize potential impacts to migratory birds](#). Such measures include clearing forested habitat outside the nesting season (generally March 1 to August 31) or conducting nest surveys prior to clearing to avoid injury to eggs or nestlings.

Communication Towers - Construction of new communications towers (including radio, television, cellular, and microwave) creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. However, the Service has developed [voluntary guidelines for minimizing impacts](#).

Transmission Lines - Migratory birds, especially large species with long wingspans, heavy bodies, and poor maneuverability can also collide with power lines. In addition, mortality can occur when birds, particularly hawks, eagles, kites, falcons, and owls, attempt to perch on uninsulated or unguarded power poles. To minimize these risks, please refer to [guidelines](#) developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and the Service. Implementation of these measures is especially important along sections of lines adjacent to wetlands or other areas that support large numbers of raptors and migratory birds.

Wind Energy - To minimize impacts to migratory birds and bats, wind energy projects should follow the Service's [Wind Energy Guidelines](#). In addition, please refer to the Service's [Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance](#), which provides guidance for conserving bald and golden eagles in the course of siting, constructing, and operating wind energy facilities.

State Department of Natural Resources Coordination

While it is not required for your Federal section 7 consultation, please note that additional state endangered or threatened species may also have the potential to be impacted. **Please contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for information on state listed species that may be present in your proposed project area.**

Minnesota

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Wisconsin

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: DNRERReview@wi.gov

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
(952) 256-7289

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2026-0042483
Project Name: Hermantown Industrial
Project Type: Commercial Development
Project Description: Planned industrial development.
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@46.77319575,-92.2854009831511,14z>



Counties: St. Louis County, Minnesota

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Canada Lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i> Population: Wherever Found in Contiguous U.S. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652	Threatened
Gray wolf <i>Canis lupus</i> Population: MN There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488	Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened
Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee <i>Bombus suckleyi</i> Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885	Proposed Endangered

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

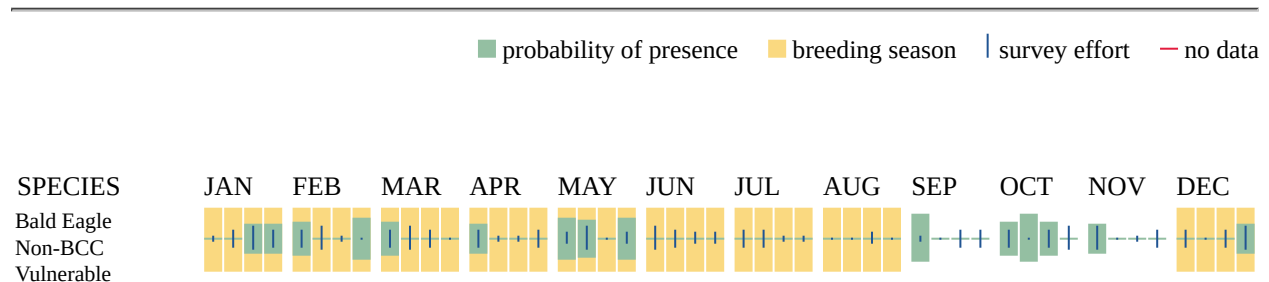
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

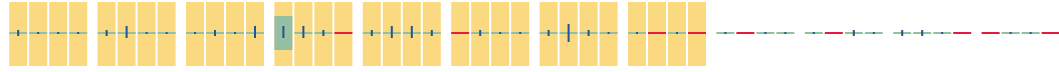
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Golden Eagle
Non-BCC
Vulnerable



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Black-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399	Breeds May 15 to Oct 10

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9643	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
Evening Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9465	Breeds May 15 to Aug 10
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Golden-winged warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
Le Conte's Sparrow <i>Ammospiza leconteii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9469	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 15
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914	Breeds May 20 to Aug 31
Veery <i>Catharus fuscescens fuscescens</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11987	Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental](#)

[Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

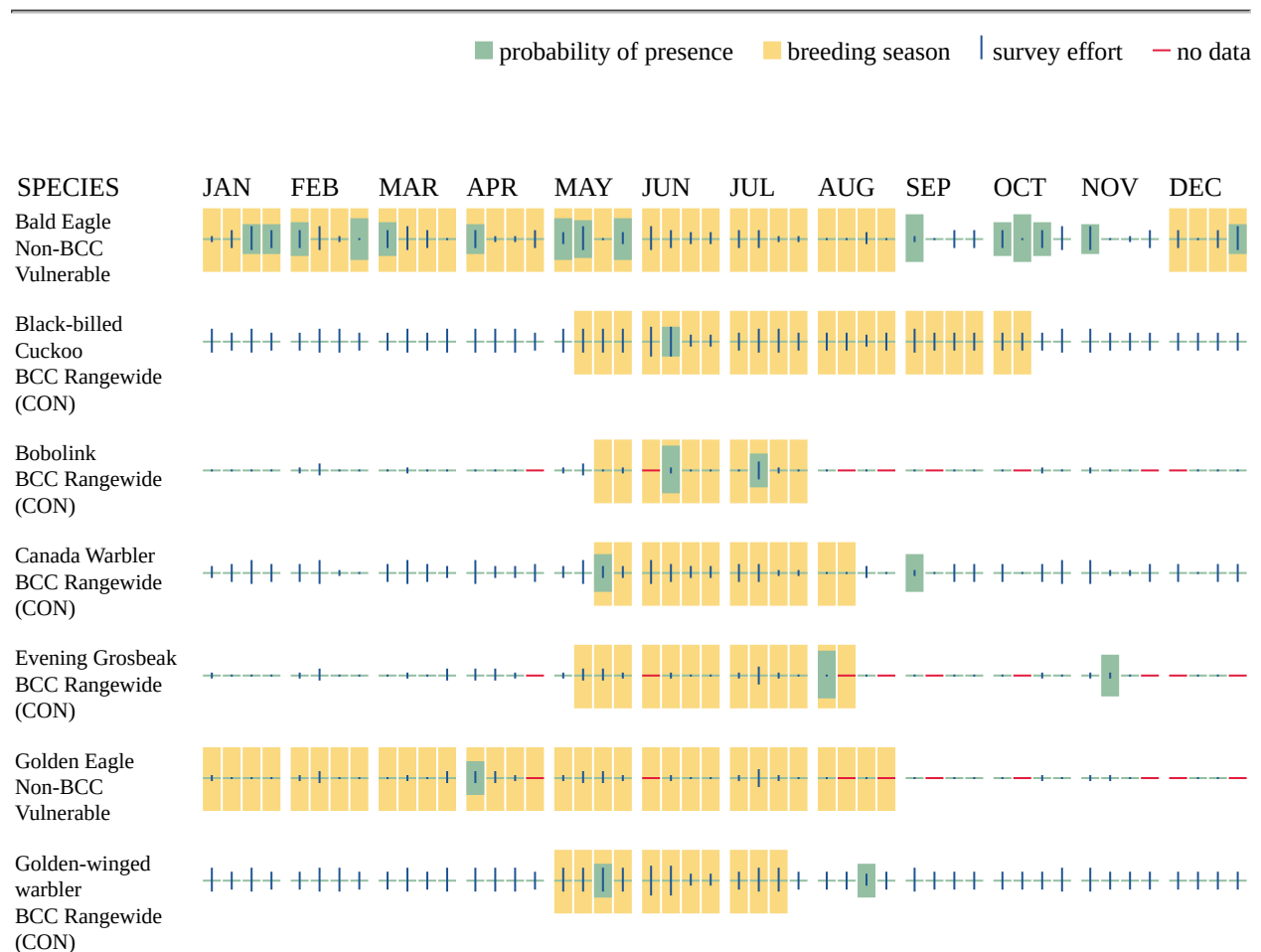
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

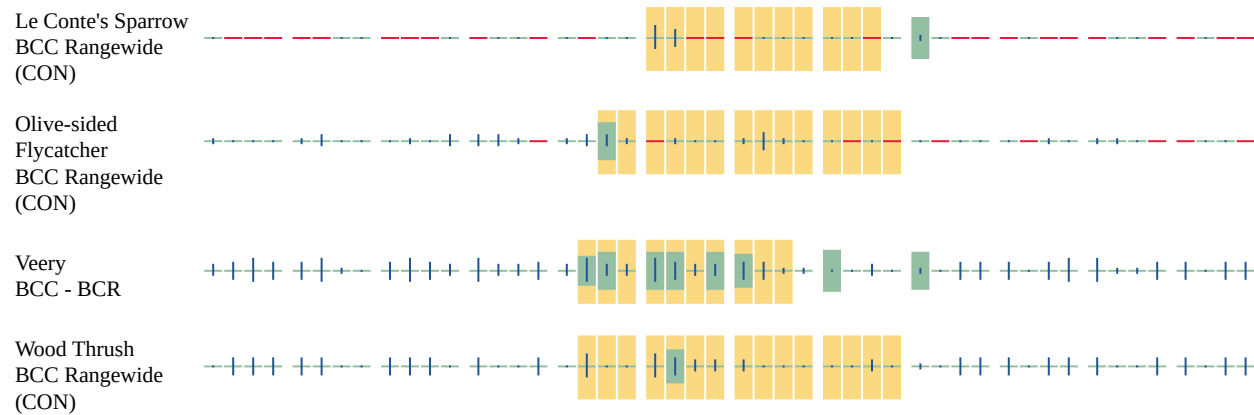
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PSS1/EM1C
- PSS1C
- PFO1D
- PSS3Dg
- PSS1D

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1D
- PEM1C

- PEM1Cx

FRESHWATER POND

- PUBG
- PUBGx

RIVERINE

- R4SBC

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Cassie Baumgartner
Address: 767 N. Eustis Street
Address Line 2: Suite 100
City: St. Paul
State: MN
Zip: 55114
Email: cassie.baumgartner@kimley-horn.com
Phone: 6517600185



Formal Natural Heritage Review - Cover Page

See next page for results of review. A draft watermark means the project details have not been finalized and the results are not official.

Project Name: Hermantown Industrial

Project Proposer: Harmony Group LLC

Project Type: Development, Commercial/Institutional/Industrial

Project Type Activities: Wetland impacts (e.g., dewatering, tiling, drainage, discharge, excavation, fill, runoff, sedimentation, changes in hydrology); Waterbody or watercourse impacts (e.g., dewatering, discharge, excavation, fill, runoff, sedimentation, changes in hydrology); Tree Removal; Grading

TRS: T50 R15 S30, T50 R15 S31

County(s): St. Louis

DNR Admin Region(s): Northeast

Reason Requested: Other

Project Description: The study area is planned to be developed for a light industrial project.

Existing Land Uses: Mostly undeveloped grasslands and forested areas with some residential houses along the perimeters.

Landcover / Habitat Impacted: Grassland, forest, wetland, impervious surface

Waterbodies Affected: Impacts to wetlands will be minimized or avoided to the extent practicable. Impacts to wetland (fill) could occur.

Groundwater Resources Affected: N/A

Previous Natural Heritage Review: Yes, ERDB#: 2025-00299

Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys: No

SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

Category	Results	Response By Category
Project Details	Comments	Tree Removal - Recommendations
Ecologically Significant Area	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Species of Special Concern	Comments	Recommendations
Federally Listed Species	No Records	Visit IPaC For Federal Review



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

January 29, 2026

Project ID: MCE #2026-00097

Twin Cities - Environmental (Kimley-Horn)
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
767 North Eustis Street, Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55114

RE: Automated Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Hermantown Industrial
See Cover Page for location and project details.

Dear Twin Cities - Environmental (Kimley-Horn),

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to rare features. Based on this review, the following rare features may be adversely affected by the proposed project:

Project Type and/or Project Type Activity Comments

- The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) tracks bat roost trees and hibernacula plus some acoustic data, but this information is not exhaustive. Even if there are no bat records listed below, all of Minnesota's bats, including the federally endangered northern long-eared bat ([Myotis septentrionalis](#)), can be found throughout Minnesota. During the active season (approximately April-November) bats roost underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Tree removal can negatively impact bats by destroying roosting habitat, especially during the pup rearing season when females are forming maternity roosting colonies and the pups cannot yet fly. To minimize these impacts, the DNR recommends that tree removal be avoided from June 1 through August 15.

Ecologically Significant Area

No ecologically significant areas have been documented in the vicinity of the project.

State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species

No state-listed endangered or threatened species have been documented in the vicinity of the project.

State-Listed Species of Special Concern

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Water Regime	Habitat	Federal Status
Vertebrate Animal	American Goshawk	Astur atricapillus		Fire Dependent Forest, Mesic Hardwood Forest	

- The above table identifies state-listed species of special concern that have been documented in the vicinity of your project. If suitable habitat for any of these species occurs within your project footprint or activity impact area, the project may negatively impact those species. To avoid impacting state-listed species of special concern, the DNR recommends modifying the location of project activities to avoid suitable habitat or modifying the timing of project activities to avoid the presence of the species. Please visit the [DNR Rare Species Guide](#) for more information on the habitat use of these species and recommended measures to avoid or minimize impacts. Species-specific comments, if any, appear below.

Federally Listed Species

The Natural Heritage Information System does not contain any records for federally listed species within one mile of the proposed project. Please note, however, that not all federally listed species are tracked within the NHIS. To ensure compliance with federal law, please conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#).

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 and the project description provided on the cover page. If project details change or construction has not occurred within one year, please resubmit the project for review before initiating project activities.

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. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource concerns, you may contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#).

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely, *The Natural Heritage Review Team* [Natural Heritage Review Program](#)
Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Links: USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool
[Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#)
DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html

Hermantown Industrial

Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



0 0.17 0.35 0.7 1.05 1.4 Miles

 Project Boundary

Project Type: Development, Commercial/Institutional/Industrial

Project Size (acres): 278.79

County(s): St. Louis

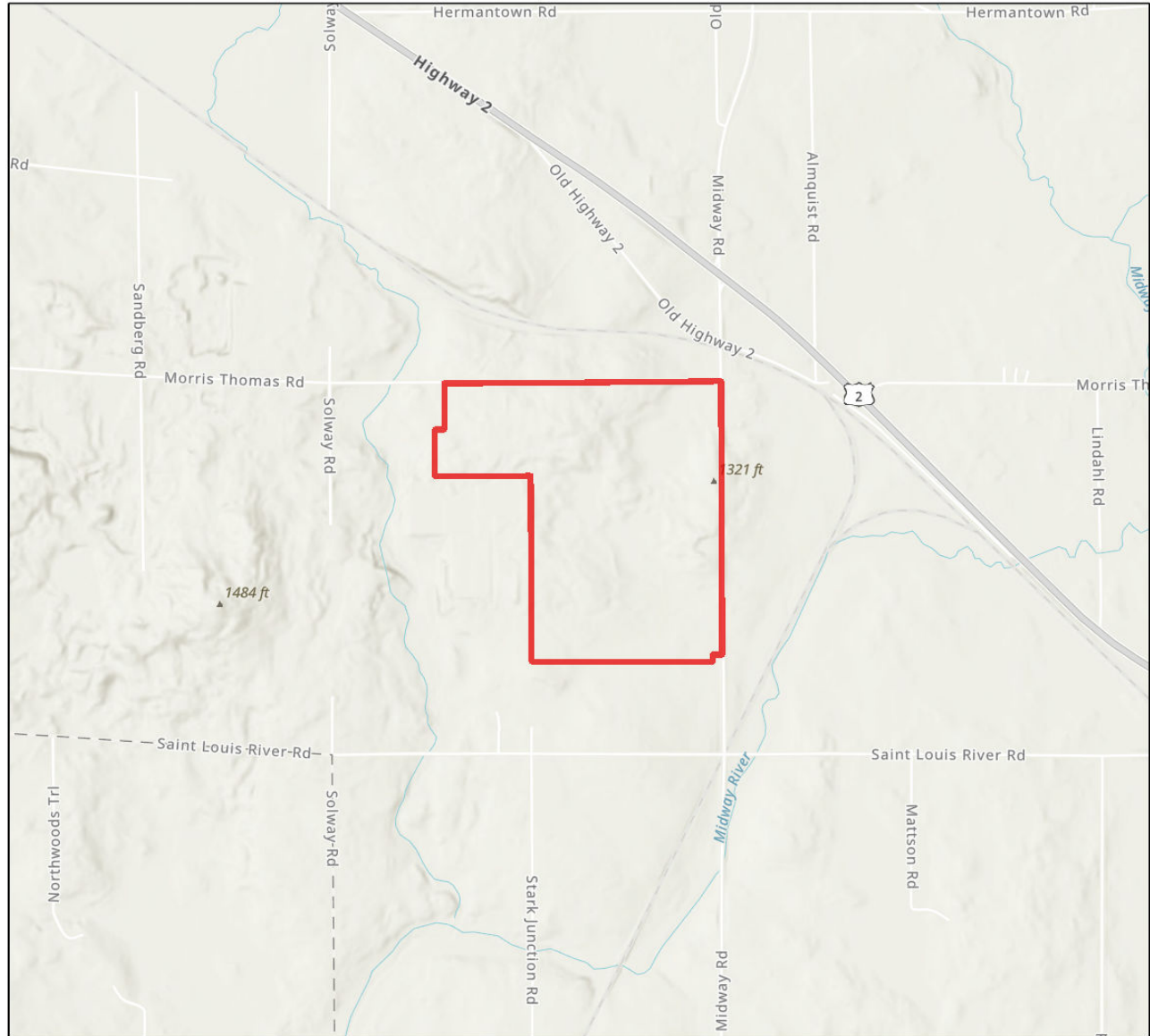
TRS: T50 R15 S30, T50 R15 S31

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



Hermantown Industrial

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



 Project Boundary

Project Type: Development, Commercial/Institutional/Industrial

Project Size (acres): 278.79

County(s): St. Louis

TRS: T50 R15 S30, T50 R15 S31

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,

