



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1678

November 23, 2020

Regulatory File No. MVP-2020-01882-BBY

City of Redwood Falls
c/o Keith Muetzel
333 South Washington Street, P.O. Box 526
Redwood Falls, Minnesota 56283

Dear Mr. Muetzel:

This letter regards an approved jurisdictional determination for Redwood Falls SE Development Area project in Paxton Township, Minnesota. The project site is in Sections 5 and 8, Township 112 North, Range 35 West, Redwood County, Minnesota. The review areas for our jurisdictional determination is identified by the red boxes labeled "AJD Review Area" on the enclosed figures labeled MVP-2020-01882-BBY Pages 3 of 4 through 4 of 4.

The review area consists of Wetland 8 and Wetland 12, which are not waters of the United States subject to Corps of Engineers (Corps) jurisdiction. Therefore, you are not required to obtain Department of the Army authorization to discharge dredged or fill material within those areas. The rationale for this determination is provided in the enclosed Approved Jurisdictional Determination form. This determination is only valid for the review area described.

If you object to this approved jurisdictional determination, you may request an administrative appeal under Corps regulations at 33 CFR 331. Enclosed you will find a Notification of Appeal Process (NAP) fact sheet and Request for Appeal (RFA) form. If you request to appeal this determination, you must submit a completed RFA form to the Mississippi Valley Division Office at the address shown on the form.

In order for an RFA to be accepted by the Corps, the Corps must determine that it is complete, that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 CFR 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the date of the enclosed NAP. It is not necessary to submit an RFA form to the division office if you do not object to the determination in this letter.

This approved jurisdictional determination may be relied upon for five years from the date of this letter. However, the Corps reserves the right to review and revise the boundary in response to changing site conditions, information that was not considered during our initial review, or off-site activities that could indirectly alter the extent of wetlands and other resources on-site. This determination may be renewed at the end of the five year period provided you submit a written request and our staff are able to verify that the limits established during the original determination are still accurate.

Regulatory Branch (File No. MVP-2020-01882-BBY)

If you have any questions, please contact me in our St. Paul office at (651) 290-5975 or Brian.b.Yagle@usace.army.mil. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory file number shown above.

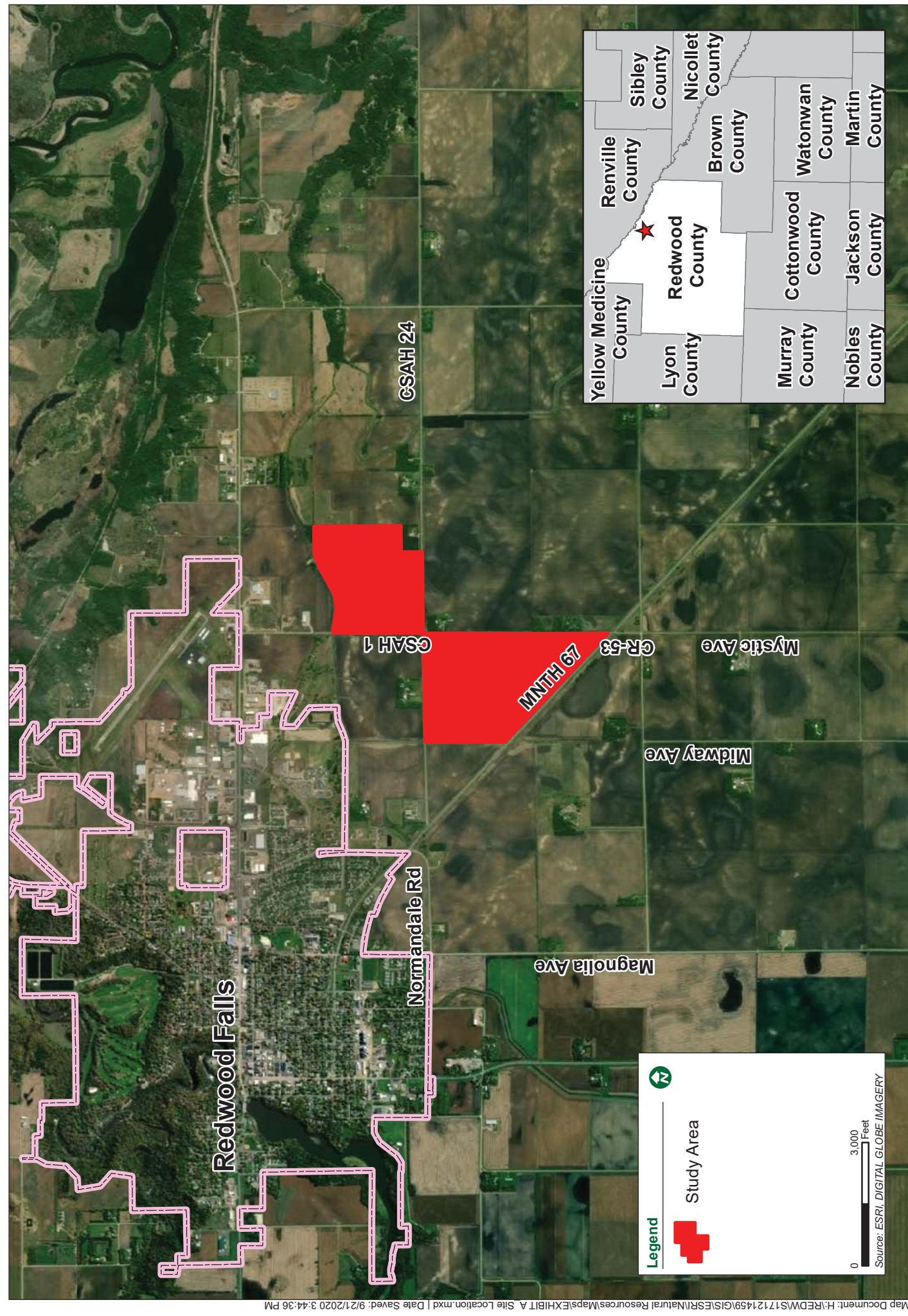
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Yagle".

Brian Yagle
Lead Project Manager

Enclosures

cc:
Mark Perry, Bolton & Menk
John Hansel, BWSR
Amy Waters, BWSR

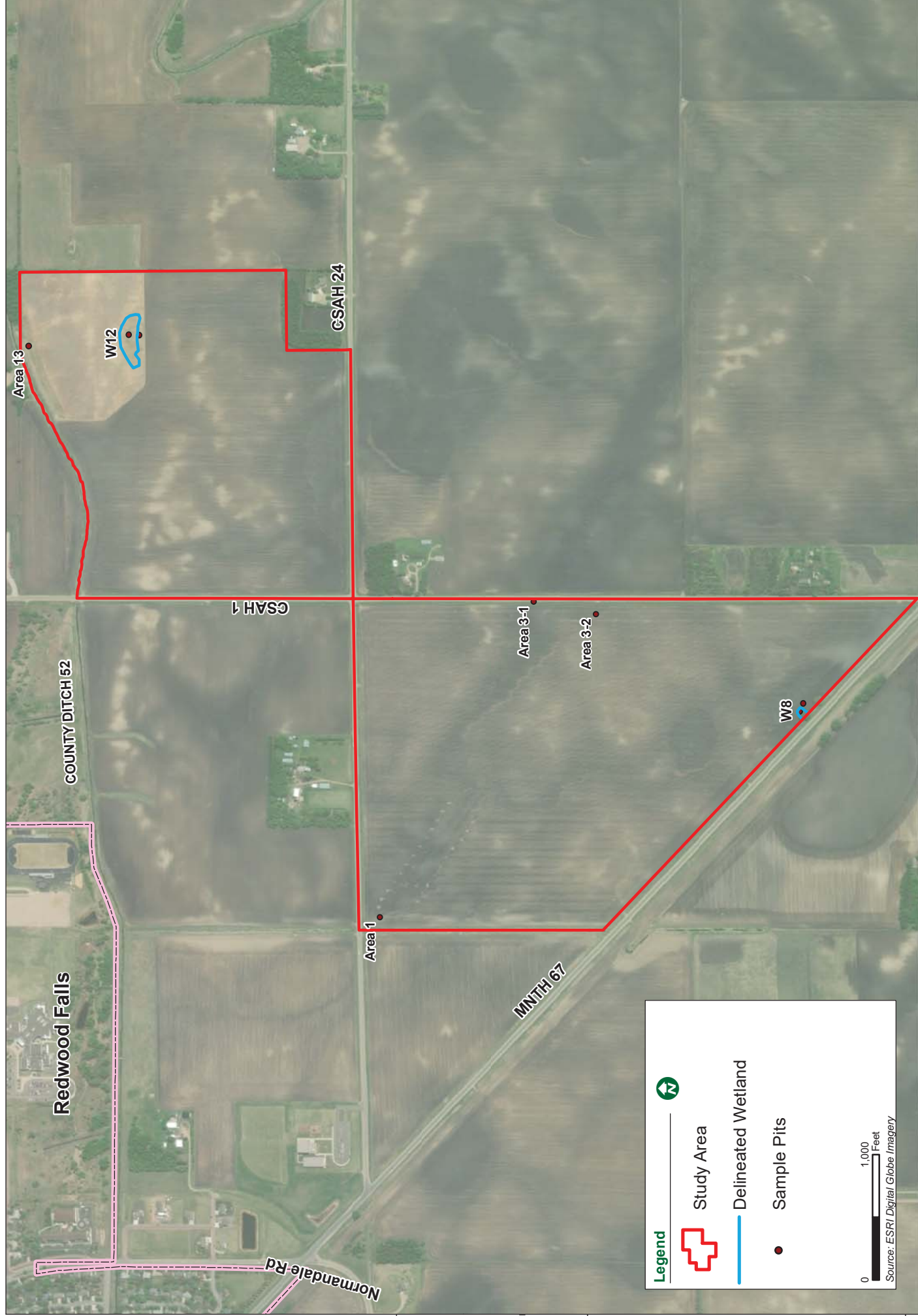


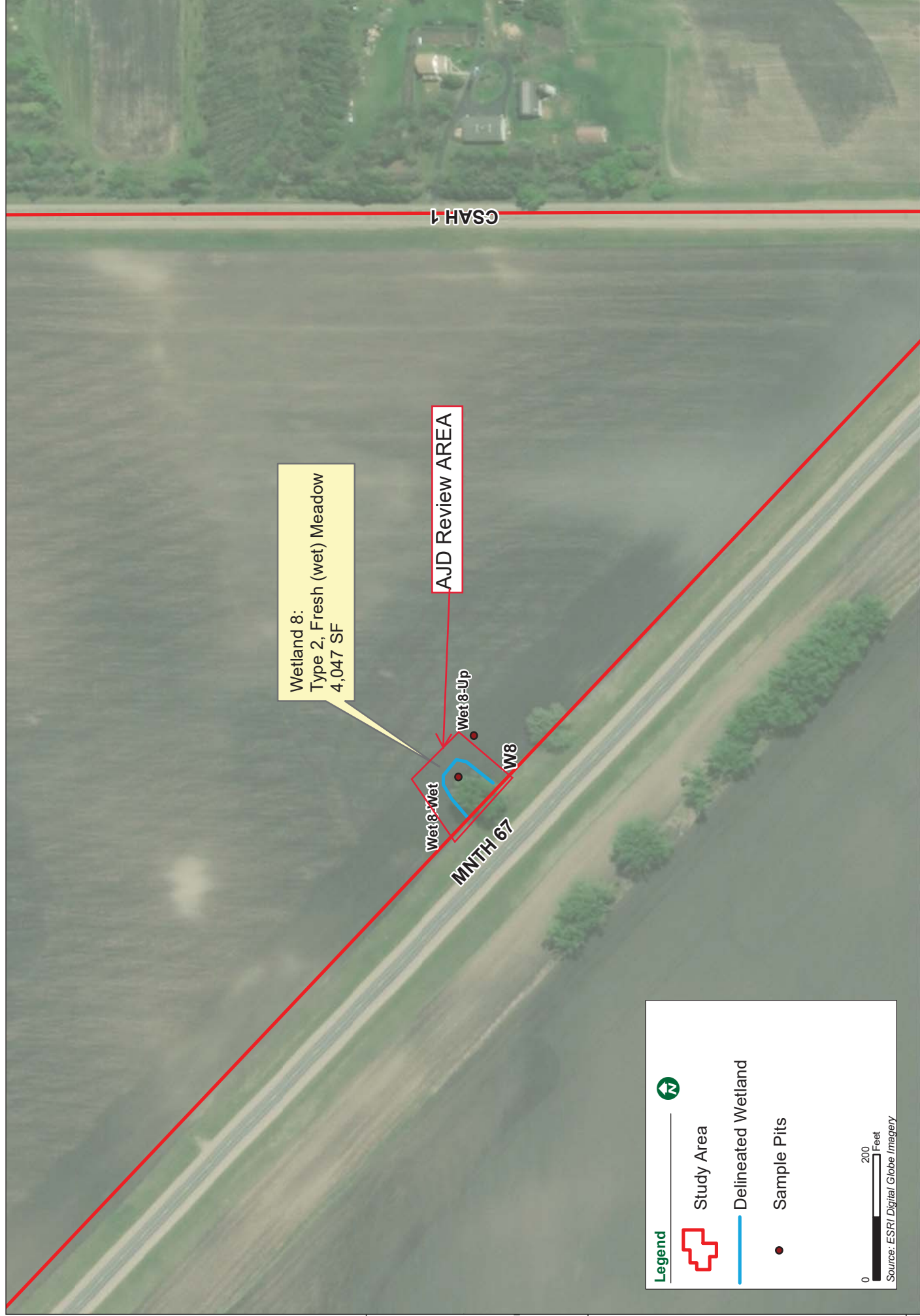
Legend

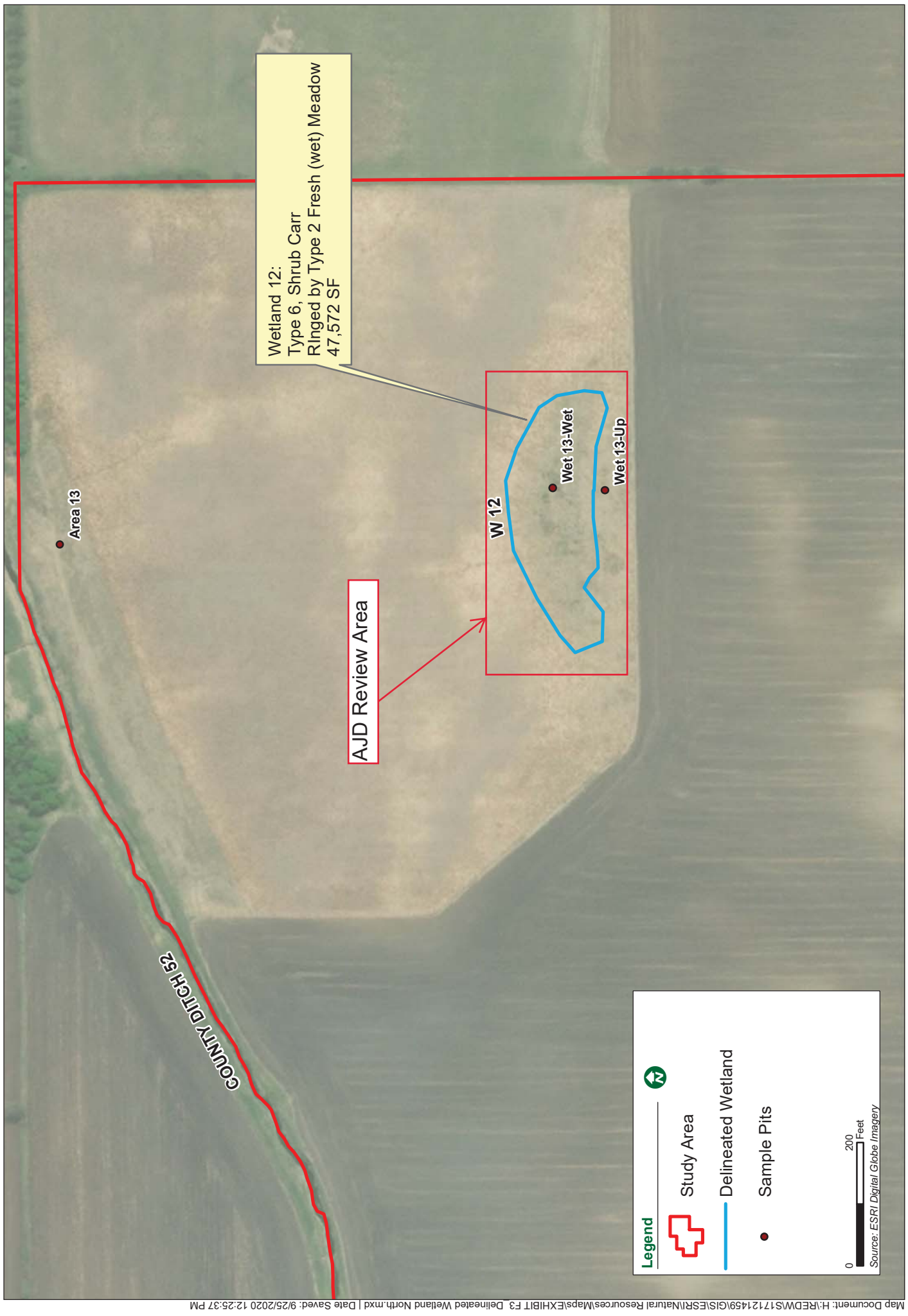
 Study Area

0 3,000 Feet

Source: ESRI, DIGITAL GLOBE IMAGERY







Legend

- Study Area
- Delineated Wetland
- Sample Pits

0 200 Feet
Source: ESRI Digital Globe Imagery



**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
REGULATORY PROGRAM
APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM (INTERIM)
NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION RULE**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Completion Date of Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD): 11/23/2020

ORM Number: MVP-2020-01882 -BBY

Associated JDs: N/A

Review Area Location¹: State/Territory: MN City: Paxton Township County/Parish/Borough: Redwood

Center Coordinates of Review Area: Latitude 44.5290 Longitude -95.0780

II. FINDINGS

A. Summary: Check all that apply. At least one box from the following list MUST be selected. Complete the corresponding sections/tables and summarize data sources.

- ☐ The review area is comprised entirely of dry land (i.e., there are no waters or water features, including wetlands, of any kind in the entire review area). Rationale: N/A or describe rationale.
- ☐ There are "navigable waters of the United States" within Rivers and Harbors Act jurisdiction within the review area (complete table in Section II.B).
- ☐ There are "waters of the United States" within Clean Water Act jurisdiction within the review area (complete appropriate tables in Section II.C).
- ☒ There are waters or water features excluded from Clean Water Act jurisdiction within the review area (complete table in Section II.D).

B. Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 Section 10 (§ 10)²

§ 10 Name	§ 10 Size	§ 10 Criteria	Rationale for § 10 Determination
N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

C. Clean Water Act Section 404

Territorial Seas and Traditional Navigable Waters ((a)(1) waters): ³				
(a)(1) Name	(a)(1) Size	(a)(1) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(1) Determination	
N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

Tributaries ((a)(2) waters):				
(a)(2) Name	(a)(2) Size	(a)(2) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(2) Determination	
N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

Lakes and ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters ((a)(3) waters):				
(a)(3) Name	(a)(3) Size	(a)(3) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(3) Determination	
N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

Adjacent wetlands ((a)(4) waters):				
(a)(4) Name	(a)(4) Size	(a)(4) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(4) Determination	
N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

¹ Map(s)/figure(s) are attached to the AJD provided to the requestor.

² If the navigable water is not subject to the ebb and flow of the tide or included on the District's list of Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 navigable waters list, do NOT use this document to make the determination. The District must continue to follow the procedure outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 navigability determination.

³ A stand-alone TNW determination is completed independently of a request for an AJD. A stand-alone TNW determination is conducted for a specific segment of river or stream or other type of waterbody, such as a lake, where upstream or downstream limits or lake borders are established. A stand-alone TNW determination should be completed following applicable guidance and should NOT be documented on the AJD Form.



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NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION RULE**

D. Excluded Waters or Features

Excluded waters ((b)(1) – (b)(12)): ⁴				
Exclusion Name	Exclusion Size		Exclusion ⁵	Rationale for Exclusion Determination
Wetland 8	0.09	acre(s)	(b)(1) Non-adjacent wetland.	The contour map submitted in the joint application indicates that Wetland 8 is a depressional basin, surrounded by upland. Wetland 8 borders upland being utilized for agricultural purposes and a road to the southwest. Wetland 8 is not abutting a(1)-a(3) water. Therefore, Wetland 8 is not considered a water of the U.S. under the Navigable Waters Protection Rule.
Wetland 12	1.09	acre(s)	(b)(1) Non-adjacent wetland.	The contour map submitted in the joint application indicates that Wetland 12 is a depressional basin, surrounded by upland. Wetland 12 is located approximately 800 linear feet south of County Ditch 52. However, there is no surface water connection to County Ditch 52 mentioned in the joint application and delineation or evident in Google Earth aerial imagery. Wetland 12 is not abutting a(1)-a(3) water. Therefore, Wetland 12 is not considered a water of the U.S. under the Navigable Waters Protection Rule.

III. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

A. Select/enter all resources that were used to aid in this determination and attach data/maps to this document and/or references/citations in the administrative record, as appropriate.

- ☒ Information submitted by, or on behalf of, the applicant/consultant: [Redwood Falls SE Development Area Joint Application signed on 20200929 and submitted by Bolton & Menk, Inc on behalf of the applicant.](#)

This information is sufficient for purposes of this AJD.

Rationale: [N/A](#)

- ☐ Data sheets prepared by the Corps: [Title\(s\) and/or date\(s\).](#)
- ☒ Photographs: [Aerial: Google Earth Imagery 1992, 2003-2004, 2006, 2008-2009, 2011-2012, 2015](#)
- ☐ Corps site visit(s) conducted on: [Date\(s\).](#)
- ☐ Previous Jurisdictional Determinations (AJDs or PJDs): [ORM Number\(s\) and date\(s\).](#)
- ☐ Antecedent Precipitation Tool: [provide detailed discussion in Section III.B.](#)
- ☐ USDA NRCS Soil Survey: [Title\(s\) and/or date\(s\).](#)
- ☐ USFWS NWI maps: [Title\(s\) and/or date\(s\).](#)
- ☐ USGS topographic maps: [Title\(s\) and/or date\(s\).](#)

Other data sources used to aid in this determination:

⁴ Some excluded waters, such as (b)(2) and (b)(4), may not be specifically identified on the AJD form unless a requestor specifically asks a Corps district to do so. Corps districts may, in case-by-case instances, choose to identify some or all of these waters within the review area.

⁵ Because of the broad nature of the (b)(1) exclusion and in an effort to collect data on specific types of waters that would be covered by the (b)(1) exclusion, four sub-categories of (b)(1) exclusions were administratively created for the purposes of the AJD Form. These four sub-categories are not new exclusions, but are simply administrative distinctions and remain (b)(1) exclusions as defined by the NWPR.



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Data Source (select)	Name and/or date and other relevant information
USGS Sources	N/A.
USDA Sources	N/A.
NOAA Sources	N/A.
USACE Sources	N/A.
State/Local/Tribal Sources	N/A.
Other Sources	N/A.

B. Typical year assessment(s): N/A

C. Additional comments to support AJD: N/A

**NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND
REQUEST FOR APPEAL**

Applicant: City of Redwood Falls (Keith Muetzel)		File No.: MVP-2020-01882-BBY	Date: November 23, 2020
Attached is:			See Section below
	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)		A
	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)		B
	PERMIT DENIAL		C
X	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION		D
	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION		E

SECTION I - The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at <http://usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg> or Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.

A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit.

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- **OBJECT:** If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.

B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- **APPEAL:** If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

C: PERMIT DENIAL: You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

D: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.

- **ACCEPT:** You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice, means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- **APPEAL:** If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

E: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT

REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: (Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION:

If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact:

Brian Yagle
Regulatory Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
180 5th Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101
651-290-5975

If you only have questions regarding the appeal process you may also contact the Division Engineer through:

Administrative Appeals Review Officer
Mississippi Valley Division
P.O. Box 80 (1400 Walnut Street)
Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080
601-634-5820 FAX: 601-634-5816

RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15 day notice of any site investigation, and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.

_____ Signature of appellant or agent.	Date: _____	Telephone number: _____
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Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision

Local Government Unit: Redwood SWCD	County: Redwood
Applicant Name: City of Redwood Falls, Keith Muetzel	
Applicant Representative: Bolton & Menk, Dan Donayre	
Project Name: Redwood Falls South East Development Area	LGU Project No. (if any):
Date Complete Application Received by LGU: 6/17/2021	
Date of LGU Decision: 7/30/21	
Date this Notice was Sent: 7/30/21	

WCA Decision Type - check all that apply

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland Boundary/Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Sequencing	<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Plan (not credit purchase)
<input type="checkbox"/> No-Loss (8420.0415)	<input type="checkbox"/> Exemption (8420.0420)		
Part: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> H		Subpart: <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9	

Replacement Plan Impacts (replacement plan decisions only)

Total WCA Wetland Impact Area:
Wetland Replacement Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Project Specific Credits:
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Credits:
Bank Account Number(s):

Technical Evaluation Panel Findings and Recommendations (attach if any)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Approve w/Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Deny <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No TEP Recommendation

LGU Decision

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved with Conditions (specify below) ¹ List Conditions:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied
Decision-Maker for this Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Governing Board/Council <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Decision is valid for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 years (default) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):		

¹ *Wetland Replacement Plan approval is not valid until BWSR confirms the withdrawal of any required wetland bank credits. For project-specific replacement a financial assurance per MN Rule 8420.0522, Subp. 9 and evidence that all required forms have been recorded on the title of the property on which the replacement wetland is located must be provided to the LGU for the approval to be valid.*

LGU Findings – Attach document(s) and/or insert narrative providing the basis for the LGU decision¹.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attachment(s) (specify): TEP Recommendation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summary: LGU Concurs with TEP Recommendation.
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¹ Findings must consider any TEP recommendations.

Attached Project Documents

☐ Site Location Map ☒ Project Plan(s)/Descriptions/Reports (specify):

Appeals of LGU Decisions

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must provide a written request within 30 calendar days of the date you received the notice. All appeals must be submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources Executive Director along with a check payable to BWSR for \$500 *unless* the LGU has adopted a local appeal process as identified below. The check must be sent by mail and the written request to appeal can be submitted by mail or e-mail. The appeal should include a copy of this notice, name and contact information of appellant(s) and their representatives (if applicable), a statement clarifying the intent to appeal and supporting information as to why the decision is in error. Send to:

Appeals & Regulatory Compliance Coordinator
Minnesota Board of Water & Soils Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
travis.germundson@state.mn.us

Does the LGU have a local appeal process applicable to this decision?

☐ Yes¹ ☒ No

¹If yes, all appeals must first be considered via the local appeals process.

Local Appeals Submittal Requirements (LGU must describe how to appeal, submittal requirements, fees, etc. as applicable)

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Notice Distribution (include name)

Required on all notices:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWCD TEP Member: Scott Wold	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BWSR TEP Member: John Hansel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LGU TEP Member (if different than LGU contact): Jim Doering	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DNR Representative: Jeff Zajac	
<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed District or Watershed Mgmt. Org.:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant: City of Redwood Falls, Keith Muetzel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agent/Consultant: Bolton & Menk, Dan Donayre	

Optional or As Applicable:

<input type="checkbox"/> Corps of Engineers:	
<input type="checkbox"/> BWSR Wetland Mitigation Coordinator (required for bank plan applications only):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Members of the Public (notice only):	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Signature: 	Date: 7/31/21
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This notice and accompanying application materials may be sent electronically or by mail. The LGU may opt to send a summary of the application to members of the public upon request per 8420.0255, Subp. 3.

Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Technical Evaluation Panel Form

This form can be used to document TEP findings and recommendations related to WCA decisions, determinations, enforcement and pre-application reviews.

Local Government Unit: Redwood SWCD	County: Redwood
Landowner/Applicant: City of Redwood Falls, Keith Muetzel	
Agent/Representative(s): Bolton & Menk, Mark Perry	
Project Name: Redwood Falls Southeast Development Area	Project No. (if any):
Project Location: SE ¼ Section 5 and NE ¼ SW ¼ Section 8, Paxton Twp, Redwood County	

Purpose of TEP Findings/Recommendation - check all that apply and describe

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-application review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Review (related to WCA Decision) <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program Eligibility <input type="checkbox"/> WCA Determination Request <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Describe:
--

Meeting Type – check all that apply and specify dates as applicable

<input type="checkbox"/> In-Person Meeting(s), Date(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onsite Review(s), Date(s): 7/9/21	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Exchanges (email, skype, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
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Findings and Recommendations

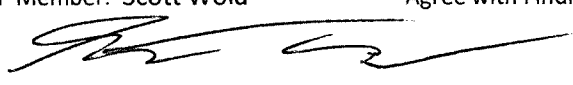

Notice of this project was sent out on 6/18/21 to TEP panel members John Hansel (BWSR) and Jeff Zajac (DNR). On 7/9/21 Members of the TEP panel, with new LGU member Jim Doering abstaining met onsite to review the wetland identified in the application. Some concerns were raised over the delineated sizes of W12 and W8. W8 appeared on the ground to not encompass the entire wetland basin. Upon review of the soils, it appears that the hydric soils were limited to the identified area. Since no flags were present for W12 (in CRP), onsite questions were raised if the outline on the map of W12 actually contained all of the apparent wetland area. John Hansel took GPS coordinates while walking around the area, following the vegetative changes. Upon review in the office, the area was roughly the same size as identified on the map. Additionally, we were informed that this area was not purchased by the City for their project, and so no foreseeable impacts are anticipated. TEP recommends approval of the application.
<input type="checkbox"/> Attachment(s) (specify):

DNR Protected Waters and Shoreland Protection Zone

Will the project/activity affect DNR public waters, DNR public waters wetlands or wetlands within the shoreland protection zone? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, DNR representative is a member of the TEP. <i>yes</i>

Signatures

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LGU TEP Member: Jim Doering	Agree with Findings & Recommendations: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Signature: James Doering	Date: 7/19/2021

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWCD TEP Member: Scott Wold		Agree with Findings & Recommendations: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Signature: 		Date: 7-30-21	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BWSR TEP Member: John Hansel		Agree with Findings & Recommendations: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Signature: 		Date: 7-16-2021	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DNR TEP Member: Jeff Zajac		Agree with Findings & Recommendations: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Signature: Jeffrey Zajac		Date:	
<small>Digitally signed by Jeffrey Zajac Date: 2021.07.29 08:29:35 -05'00'</small>			

April 27, 2021

Angie Smith
Bolton & Menk
7533 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

RE: Redwood Falls Housing and Industrial Development
T112 R35 S5 & S8, Redwood falls, Redwood County
SHPO Number: 2021-1536

Dear Angie Smith:

Thank you for consulting with our office during the preparation of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the above-referenced project.

Due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase I archaeological survey be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys, please visit the website preservationdirectory.mnhs.org, and select "Archaeologists" in the "Search by Specialties" box.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Specialist, at kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers
Environmental Review Program Manager

July 19, 2021

James Doering
Public Works Project Coordinator
City of Redwood Falls
333 S. Washington Street
PO Box 526
Redwood Falls, MN 56283-0526

RE: Redwood Falls Southeast Development Project
T112 R35 S5 & S8, Paxton Twp, Redwood County
SHPO Number: 2021-1536

Dear James Doering:

Thank you for continuing consultation on the above referenced project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (Minn. Stat. 138.665-666) and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat. 138.40).

We have reviewed the cultural resources survey report titled *Phase I Archaeological Survey for Redwood Falls Southeast Development Project, Paxton Township, Redwood County, Minnesota* (June 2021) as prepared by Bolton & Menk. According to the report, one archaeological site was identified within the project area, site **21RW0136**. We agree with your consultant's recommendation that this site is **not eligible** for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, based on information that is available to us at this time, we conclude that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places and no significant archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Specialist, at kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers
Environmental Review Program Manager



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

June 8, 2021

Correspondence # ERDB 20210284

Angie Smith
Bolton & Menk, Inc.
7533 Sunwood Drive NW, Suite 206
Ramsey, MN 55303

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Redwood Falls Housing & Industrial Development,
T112N R35W Sections 5 and 8, Redwood County

Dear Angie Smith,

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to known occurrences of rare features. Given the project details provided with the data request form, I do not believe the proposed project will negatively affect any known occurrences of state-listed threatened or endangered 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](#).

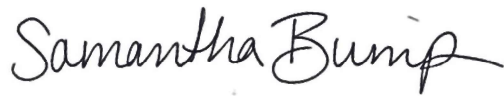
The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, 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 construction has not occurred within one year as additional review may be required.

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. 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. Please include a copy of this letter in any state or local license or permit application. An invoice will be mailed to you under separate cover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha Bump". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Samantha" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bump".

Samantha Bump
Natural Heritage Review Specialist
Samantha.Bump@state.mn.us

Links: DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html
USFWS IPaC Tool
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Project information

NAME

Redwood Falls SE Development

LOCATION

Redwood County, Minnesota



DESCRIPTION

Some(Proposed residential, commercial and industrial development on two parcels approximately 324 acres total. The site will include approximately 230 mixed single-family and multi-family residential homes and commercial/retail areas on the SW parcel (208 acres) and light industrial on the NE parcel (116 acres). Project construction is anticipated to begin in the spring 2022.)

Local office

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office

☎ (952) 252-0092

📠 (952) 646-2873

MAILING ADDRESS

4101 American Blvd E

Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

4101 American Blvd E

-}

Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/section7/s7process/step1.html>

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Log in to IPaC.
2. Go to your My Projects list.
3. Click PROJECT HOME for this project.
4. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

1. Species listed under the [Endangered Species Act](#) are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the [listing status page](#) for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. [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.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME

STATUS

Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis***Threatened**

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045>

Flowering Plants

NAME

STATUS

Prairie Bush-clover *Lespedeza leptostachya***Threatened**

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4458>

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf>

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ

[below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON (IF A BREEDING SEASON IS INDICATED FOR A BIRD ON YOUR LIST, THE BIRD MAY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA SOMETIME WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED, WHICH IS A VERY LIBERAL ESTIMATE OF THE DATES INSIDE WHICH THE BIRD BREEDS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE RANGE. "BREEDS ELSEWHERE" INDICATES THAT THE BIRD DOES NOT LIKELY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA.)
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Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Breeds May 20 to Jul 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 and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

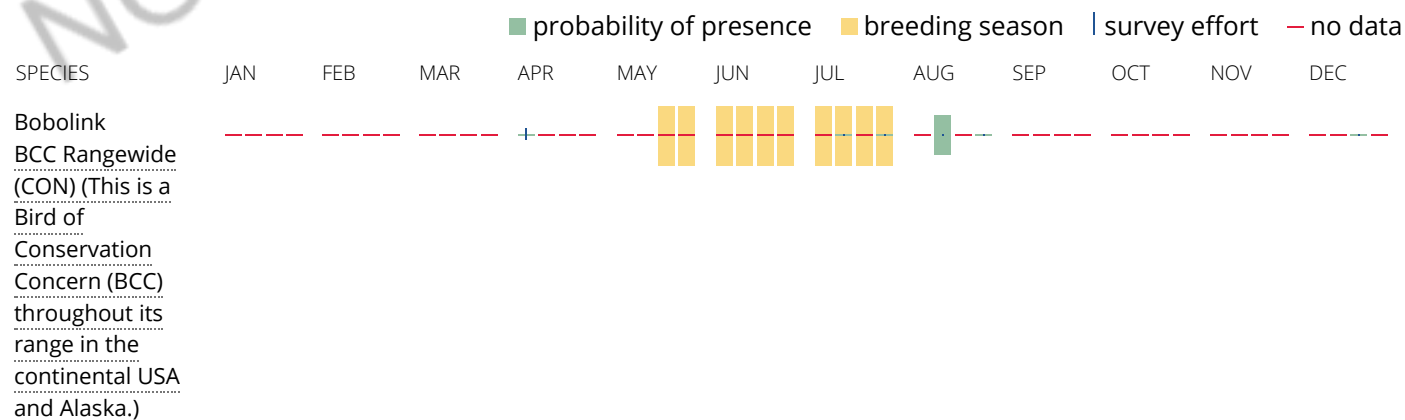
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (—)

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

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and

avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [AKN Phenology Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide](#), or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide](#). If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird

impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

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 AT THIS LOCATION.

Fish hatcheries

THERE ARE NO FISH HATCHERIES AT THIS LOCATION.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

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.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

RIVERINE

[R2UBG](#)

[R4SBCx](#)

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the [National Wetlands Inventory website](#)

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION