



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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July 10, 2026

Memorandum

To:

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Environmental Services Section
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
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Subject: Confirmation that talus/rock crevices in the action area are not likely to contain winter roosts or hibernation sites for northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats and/or that the proposed action would not affect those habitat types for northern long-eared or tricolored bats that may use them.

This document transmits U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Service Field Office (MN-WI ESFO) Confirmation that, based on the Project description, Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) Supplemental Talus/Rock Crevice Determination Key Guidance, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Endangered Resources Review (ERR), the action area for the Project is not likely to contain winter roosts or hibernation sites for Northern Long-Eared Bats (NLEB) or Tricolored Bats (TCB) and/or that the proposed action would not affect those habitat types for NLEB or TCB that may use them.

According to the Determination Key, one or more of the following characteristics applies to the Project:

1. Talus or anthropogenic/naturally formed rock outcrops/faces/cliffs are known to be present within the action area;
2. The Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) database indicates that the project is within 0.5-mile of algalic talus slopes, dry cliff, glaciare talus, moist cliff, and talus forest;
3. WisDOT's GeoPortal Talus & Rock Natural Communities Map indicates that the project overlaps with one or more 5-mile buffer(s) around natural communities; and

4. Aerial imagery and Google Street View/WisDOT Photolog indicates that talus or anthropogenic/naturally formed rock outcrops/faces/cliffs are present within the action area.

In consideration of reaching these findings, WisDOT commits to the following Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMM):

1. Talus/Rock AMM 1: Project activities will avoid direct impacts to talus and anthropogenic/naturally formed rock outcrops/faces/cliffs during the bat overwintering period (Nov. 1 to April 14, inclusive).
2. Talus Rock AMM 2: Project activities will avoid destroying or significantly diminishing the extent/quality of talus and anthropogenic/naturally formed rock outcrops/faces/cliffs that may be suitable as bat overwintering habitat.

Please contact the Service if the project changes or new information reveals effects of the proposed action to proposed or listed species or habitats is no longer covered to the extent described in this Memorandum. If you have any questions, please contact Darin Simpkins, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at (920)866-1739, or via email at darin_simpkins@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

**DARIN
SIMPKINS**

Darin Simpkins
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
WisDOT Liaison

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