

4.3.5 Wildlife

Rulemaking was conducted with the intent to update the list of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species (Minnesota Rules, part 6134.0100 to 6134.0400), with new listings becoming effective on August 19, 2013. The FEIS will consider any new listings, or changes in the previous listings, associated with the updated list.

4.3.5.1 Federal Lands

4.3.5.1.1 Land Exchange Proposed Action

The federal land portion of the Land Exchange Proposed Action is similar to the Mine Site previously discussed, but extends further north and west and excludes the privately owned land bordering Dunka Road to the south of the Mine Site. Section 4.2.5.1 provides further discussion of the existing conditions on the Mine Site and associated federal lands.

The acres of key habitat present on the federal lands, along with the associated SGCN (and RFSS), are included in Table 4.3.5-1 below.

Table 4.3.5-1 Key Habitat, Cover Types, and Associated Species for the Federal Lands within the Land Exchange Proposed Action and Land Exchange Alternative B

Key Habitat Type, Cover Types, and Management Indicator Habitats	Associated Wildlife Species ¹	Land Exchange Proposed Action (Acres)	Land Exchange Alternative B (Acres)
1. Mature Upland Forest, Continuous Upland/Lowland Forest: aspen forest/aspen-birch forest, jack pine forest, mixed pine-hardwood forest (MIHs 1-13)	Rock vole, northern goshawk, veery, whip-poor-will, eastern wood-peewee, yellow-bellied sapsucker, ovenbird, Canada warbler, spruce grouse, Cape May warbler, winter wren, Boreal chickadee, boreal owl, wood thrush, black-backed woodpecker, bald eagle, black-throated blue warbler, bay-breasted warbler, great gray owl, three-toed woodpecker	5,719.7	4,258.1
2. Open Ground, Bare Soils: disturbed/ developed (no MIH)	Laurentian tiger beetle	63.8	29.1
3. Grassland and Brushland, Early Successional Forest (no MIH)	Franklin's ground squirrel, American badger, Le Conte's sparrow, eastern meadowlark, brown thrasher, white-throated sparrow, sharp-tailed grouse, golden-winged warbler, American woodcock, northern harrier, sedge wren, common nighthawk, black-billed cuckoo, bobolink, tawny crescent	651.8	439.1
4. Aquatic Environments: Existing LTVMC Tailings Basin, Partridge River, Embarrass River, former LTVSMC mine pits, wetlands, rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands, etc. (MIH 14)	American black duck, American bittern, swamp sparrow, common loon, northern rough-winged swallow, semipalmated sandpiper, American golden-plover, greater yellowlegs, buff-breasted sandpiper, eastern red-backed salamander, common snapping turtle, bog copper, disa alpine	60.1	26.3

Key Habitat Type, Cover Types, and Management Indicator Habitats	Associated Wildlife Species¹	Land Exchange Proposed Action (Acres)	Land Exchange Alternative B (Acres)
5. Multiple Habitats (MIHs 1-14)	Gray wolf ² (1-4 ³), <i>Canada lynx</i> ² (1-4), rose-breasted grosbeak (1, 3), Macoun's arctic (1, 3), least flycatcher (1, 3), <i>Connecticut warbler</i> (1, 3), <i>olive-sided flycatcher</i> (1, 4), grizzled skipper (2, 3), Nabokov's blue (2, 4), wood turtle ² (1, 3, 4)	NA ⁴	NA
Total		6,495.4	4,752.6

17 Source: MDNR 2006b.

18 ¹ Plain text indicates SGCN species; italicized text indicates RFSS species; plain text indicates SGCN species identified as likely
 19 to be present at the Mine Site or Plant Site but not targeted in surveys.

20 ² Canada lynx, gray wolf, bald eagle, and wood turtle are or have recently been listed as ETSC species as discussed in detail in
 21 the ETSC species section.

22 ³ Numbers refer to the Key Habitat Types (1-4) where those species may occur or are known to occur.

23 ⁴ NA = not applicable

24 4.3.5.1.2 Land Exchange Alternative B

25 As shown on Table 4.3.5-1, each of the key habitat types and MIH categories that are found on
 26 the federal lands of the Land Exchange Proposed Action are also found on federal lands of the
 27 Land Exchange Alternative B. Acreages of each habitat category are correspondingly reduced
 28 for the Land Exchange Alternative B.

29 4.3.5.2 Non-federal Lands

30 4.3.5.2.1 Tract 1 – Hay Lake Lands

31 Federally and State-listed Species and Species of Special Concern

32 Tract 1 is not located in an LAU but is located in designated lynx critical habitat. No Canada
 33 lynx or their sign have been observed on the non-federal lands during surveys (AECOM 2011b;
 34 AECOM and 2011c). The Tract 1 parcel is also located in Wolf Zone 2. Radio-collared wolves
 35 have been recorded in the vicinity and evidence of wolves was observed during 2009 wildlife
 36 surveys. Trumpeter swans, state-listed as threatened, were identified on the Hay Lake parcel
 37 during wildlife surveys (AECOM 2011b) and habitat for the Laurentian tiger beetle, state-listed
 38 as threatened, is present at the former sand and gravel pit on the parcel. Both NHIS records and
 39 surveys of the parcel failed to identify individuals or signs of the remaining federally and state-
 40 listed species, including wood turtle, horned grebe, Wilson's phalarope, or common tern.

41 Wildlife surveys also looked for species of special concern. No federally or state-listed species of
 42 special concern were observed. Though bats were observed on the parcel, the species was not
 43 determined and may potentially include eastern pipstrelle and/or northern myotis.

44 Species of Greatest Conservation Need

45 As discussed in Section 4.2.5.1.2, the potential presence of SGCN can be correlated to the
 46 presence of their corresponding habitat. Table 4.3.5-2 below lists the SGCN (and RFSS) by the
 47 key habitat types and cover types present in the Nashwauk Uplands ecological subsection.

48 Tract 1 is located in the Nashwauk Uplands ecological subsection. The species found in this
49 subsection are listed in Table 4.3.5-2 below.

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50 **Table 4.3.5-2 Key Habitat and Cover Types of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and**
 51 **Regional Forester Sensitive Species for Tract 1 in the Nashwauk Ecological**
 52 **Subsection**

Key Habitat Type, Cover Types, and Management Indicator	Associated Wildlife Species¹	Tract 1 (Acres)
1. Mature Upland Forest, Continuous Upland/Lowland Forest: aspen forest/aspen-birch forest, jack pine forest, mixed pine-hardwood forest (MIHs 1-13)	<i>Northern goshawk</i> , veery, whip-poor-will, eastern woodpeewee, yellow-bellied sapsucker, ovenbird, Canada warbler, spruce grouse, Cape May warbler, winter wren, boreal chickadee, wood thrush, black-backed woodpecker, <i>bald eagle</i> , <i>great gray owl</i> , <i>three-toed woodpecker</i>	2,978.8
2. Open Ground, Bare Soils: disturbed/developed (no MIH)		0.0
3. Grassland and Brushland, Early Successional Forest (no MIH)	Franklin's ground squirrel, American badger, Le Conte's sparrow, eastern meadowlark, brown thrasher, white-throated sparrow, sharp-tailed grouse, golden-winged warbler, American woodcock, northern harrier, sedge wren, common nighthawk, black-billed cuckoo, red-headed woodpecker, bobolink, tawny crescent	1,696.3
4. Aquatic Environments: <u>rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands, etc.</u> , <u>existing LTVMC Tailings Basin, Partridge River, Embarrass River, former LTVSMC mine pits, wetlands</u> (MIH 14)	American black duck, American bittern, swamp sparrow, common loon, red-necked grebe, northern rough-winged swallow, dunlin, semipalmated sandpiper, short-billed dowitcher, American golden-plover, Virginia rail, greater yellowlegs, buff-breasted sandpiper, eastern red-backed salamander, common snapping turtle, bog copper, <i>disa alpine</i> , <i>ebony boghaunter</i>	251.1
5. Multiple Habitats (MIHs 1-14)	Gray wolf ² (1-4 ⁽³⁾), Canada lynx ² (1-4), <i>eastern pipistrelle</i> (1,3), rose-breasted grosbeak(1,3), least flycatcher (1,3), <i>olive-sided flycatcher</i> (1,4), <i>Connecticut warbler</i> (1,3), peregrine falcon(1-3), Macoun's arctic (1,3), <i>Nabokov's blue</i> (2,4), <i>grizzled skipper</i> (2,3), <i>Quebec emerald</i> (3,4)	NA ⁵
Total⁴		4,926.2

53 Source: MDNR 2006b.

54 ¹ Plain text indicates SGCN species, italicized text indicates RFSS species.

55 ² Canada lynx, gray wolf, bald eagle, and wood turtle are or have recently been listed as ETSC species as discussed in detail in
 56 the ETSC species section.

57 ³ Numbers refer to the Key Habitat Types (1-4) where those species may occur or are known to occur.

58 ⁴ Total acres may be more or less than presented due to rounding.

59 ⁵ NA = not applicable

60 **Regional Forester Sensitive Species**

61 With the possible exception of the northern myotis, no RFSS species were observed during
 62 surveys of Tract 1. Potential Superior National Forest RFSS and their habitat on Tract 1 are
 63 listed on Table 4.3.5-2.

64 ***Other Wildlife Species***

65 Other wildlife species, including species of tribal concern, were observed during surveys of Tract
66 1. Species observed, or their sign, include bear, white-tailed deer, fox, otter, beaver, and moose.

67 Sections [4.2.5](#), [4.2.9](#), [5.2.5](#), and [5.2.9](#) discuss ~~on a broader level the ecological subsections, large~~
68 ~~landscapes, and connected ecosystems~~ [species of importance to the Bands](#).

69 **4.3.5.2.2 Tract 2 – Lake County Lands**

70 ***Federally and State-listed Species and Species of Special Concern***

71 Tract 2 is split into two parcels, Lake County Lands North and Lake County Lands South. Lake
72 County North is located in LAU 16 and Lake County South is located in LAU 22. Both are in
73 designated lynx critical habitat. No Canada lynx or their sign have been observed on the non-
74 federal lands during surveys (AECOM 2011b; [AECOM and 2011c](#)). While no lynx or their sign
75 have been observed on the Tract 2 parcels, denning habitat may be present. Areas of blowdown
76 or logging slash where there is both vertical and horizontal cover may be used by lynx for
77 denning sites (Moen 2009).

78 Both Tract 2 parcels are located in federal Wolf Zone 2 and Minnesota Wolf Zone A. Wolf sign
79 was observed on Lake County North during 2010 wildlife surveys. Both NHIS records and
80 surveys of the parcel failed to identify individuals or signs of the remaining federally and state-
81 listed species or species of special concern.

82 ***Species of Greatest Conservation Need***

83 The Lake County North parcel is located in the Laurentian Uplands ecological subsection and the
84 Lake County South parcel is located in the North Shore Highlands ecological subsection. Table
85 4.3.5-3 below lists the SGCN (and RFSS) by the key habitat types and cover types present at
86 Tract 2.

87 **Table 4.3.5-3 Key Habitat and Cover Types of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and**
88 **Regional Forester Sensitive Species for Tract 2 in the Laurentian Uplands**
89 **and North Shore Highlands Ecological Subsections**

Key Habitat Type, Cover Types, and Management Indicator Habitats	Associated Wildlife Species¹	Tract 2 (Acres)
1. Mature Upland Forest, Continuous Upland/Lowland Forest: aspen forest/aspen-birch forest, jack pine forest, mixed pine-hardwood forest (MIHs 1-13)	Rock vole, <i>northern goshawk</i> , veery, whip-poor-will, eastern wood-peewee, yellow-bellied sapsucker, ovenbird, Canada warbler, spruce grouse, Cape May warbler, winter wren, boreal chickadee, <i>boreal owl</i> , wood thrush, black-backed woodpecker, <i>bald eagle</i> , black-throated blue warbler, <i>bay-breasted warbler</i> , <i>great gray owl</i> , <i>three-toed woodpecker</i>	337.2
2. Open Ground, Bare Soils: disturbed/ developed (no MIH)	Laurentian tiger beetle	0.0
3. Grassland and Brushland, Early Successional Forest (no MIH)	Franklin's ground squirrel, American badger, Le Conte's sparrow, eastern meadowlark, brown thrasher, white-throated sparrow, sharp-tailed grouse, golden-winged warbler, American woodcock, northern harrier, sedge wren, common nighthawk, black-billed cuckoo, bobolink, red-headed woodpecker, tawny crescent	38.9
4. Aquatic Environments: <u>rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands, etc.</u> , <u>existing LTVSMC Tailings Basin, Partridge River, Embarrass River, former LTVSMC mine pits, wetlands</u> (MIH 14)	American black duck, American bittern, swamp sparrow, common loon, northern rough-winged swallow, dunlin, semipalmated sandpiper, short-billed dowitcher, American golden-plover, Virginia rail, greater yellowlegs, buff-breasted sandpiper, ruddy turnstone, white-rumped sandpiper, marsh wren, Hudsonian godwit, whimbrel, common tern, eastern red-backed salamander, common snapping turtle, Blanding's turtle, bog copper, <i>disa alpine</i> , extra-striped snaketail, <i>ebony boghaunter</i>	5.8
5. Multiple Habitats (MIHs 1-14)	Gray wolf ² (1-4 ⁽³⁾), Canada lynx ² (1-4), <i>eastern heather vole</i> (1,3), eastern pipistrelle (1,4), smoky shrew (1,3), <i>northern myotis</i> (1,4), <i>eastern pipistrelle</i> (1,3), eastern spotted skunk (1,3), rose-breasted grosbeak (1,3), least flycatcher (1,3), <i>olive-sided flycatcher</i> (1,4), <i>Connecticut warbler</i> (1,3), peregrine falcon(1-3), <i>wood turtle</i> ² (1,3,4), four-toed salamander (1,4), Macoun's arctic (1,3), <i>Nabokov's blue</i> (2,4), <i>grizzled skipper</i> (2,3), <i>Quebec emerald</i> (3,4)	NA ⁴
Total		381.9

90 Source: MDNR 2006b.

91 ¹ Plain text indicates SGCN species, italicized text indicates RFSS species.

92 ² Canada lynx, gray wolf, bald eagle, and wood turtle are or have recently been listed as ETSC species as discussed in detail in
93 the ETSC species section.

94 ³ Numbers refer to the Key Habitat Types (1-5) where those species may occur or are known to occur.

95 ⁴ NA = not applicable

96 **Regional Forester Sensitive Species**

97 No RFSS species were observed during surveys of Tract 2. Potential Superior National Forest
98 RFSS and their habitat on Tract 2 are listed on Table 4.3.5-3.

99 ***Other Wildlife Species***

100 Other wildlife species, including species of tribal concern, were observed during surveys of Tract
101 2. Species observed, or their sign, include grouse, white-tailed deer, beaver, raven, snowshoe
102 hare, and moose.

103 Sections 4.2.5, 4.2.9, 5.2.5, and 5.2.9 discuss species of importance to the Bands.

104 ~~A distinct list of wildlife species important to the Bands is not available. Sections 4.2.9 and 5.2.9~~
105 ~~discuss on a broader level the ecological subsections, large landscapes, and connected~~
106 ~~ecosystems important to the Bands.~~

107 **4.3.5.2.3 Tract 3 – Wolf Lands**

108 ***Federally and State-listed Species and Species of Special Concern***

109 Tract 3 is split into four parcels, Wolf Lands 1, 2, 3, and 4. Wolf Lands 1 is located in LAU 16
110 and Wolf Lands 2 through 4 are located in LAU 22. All are within designated lynx critical
111 habitat. No Canada lynx or their sign have been observed on the non-federal lands during
112 surveys (AECOM 2011b; ~~and~~ AECOM 2011c). While no lynx or their sign have been observed
113 on the Tract 3 parcels, denning habitat may be present. Areas of blowdown or logging slash
114 where there is both vertical and horizontal cover may be used by lynx for denning sites (Moen
115 2009).

116 All Tract 3 parcels are located in federal Wolf Zone 2 and Minnesota Wolf Zone A. Wolf sign
117 was observed on Wolf Lands 3 and 4 during 2010 wildlife surveys. Both NHIS records and
118 surveys of the parcel failed to identify individuals or signs of the remaining federally and state-
119 listed species or species of special concern.

120 ***Species of Greatest Conservation Need***

121 The Wolf Lands parcels are located in the Laurentian Uplands ecological subsection. The species
122 of greatest conservation need and habitat that may be found in this subsection are listed on Table
123 4.3.5-4.

124 **Table 4.3.5-4 Key Habitat and Cover Types of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and**
125 **Regional Forester Sensitive Species for Tract 3 in the Laurentian Uplands**
126 **Ecological Subsection**

Key Habitat Type, Cover Types, and Management Indicator Habitats	Associated Wildlife Species ¹	Tract 3 (Acres)
1. Mature Upland Forest, Continuous Upland/Lowland Forest: aspen forest/aspen-birch forest, jack pine forest, mixed pine-hardwood forest (MIHs 1-13)	Rock vole, <i>northern goshawk</i> , veery, whip-poor-will, eastern wood-peewee, yellow-bellied sapsucker, ovenbird, Canada warbler, spruce grouse, Cape May warbler, winter wren, boreal chickadee, <i>boreal owl</i> , wood thrush, black-backed woodpecker, <i>bald eagle</i> , black-throated blue warbler, <i>bay-breasted warbler</i> , <i>great gray owl</i> , <i>three-toed woodpecker</i>	1,479.4
2. Open Ground, Bare Soils: disturbed/ developed (no MIH)	Tiger beetle	0.0
3. Grassland and Brushland, Early Successional Forest (no MIH)	Franklin's ground squirrel, American badger, Le Conte's sparrow, eastern meadowlark, brown thrasher, white-throated sparrow, sharp-tailed grouse, golden-winged warbler, American woodcock, northern harrier, sedge wren, common nighthawk, black-billed cuckoo, bobolink, tawny crescent	96.5
4. Aquatic Environments: <u>rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands, etc.</u> <u>existing LTVMC Tailings Basin, Partridge River, Embarrass River, former LTVSMC mine pits, wetlands</u> (MIH 14)	American black duck, American bittern, swamp sparrow, common loon, northern rough-winged swallow, semipalmated sandpiper, American golden-plover, greater yellowlegs, buff-breasted sandpiper, eastern red-backed salamander, common snapping turtle, bog copper, <i>disa alpine</i> , <i>ebony boghaunter</i>	0.0
5. Multiple Habitats (MIHs 1-14)	Gray wolf ² (1-4 ⁽³⁾), Canada lynx ² (1-4), <i>eastern heather vole</i> (1,3), eastern pipistrelle (1,4), smoky shrew (1,3), <i>eastern pipistrelle</i> (1,3), rose-breasted grosbeak (1,3), least flycatcher (1,3), <i>olive-sided flycatcher</i> (1,4), <i>Connecticut warbler</i> (1,3), Macoun's arctic (1,3), <i>Nabokov's blue</i> (2,4), <i>grizzled skipper</i> (2,3), <i>Quebec emerald</i> (3,4)	NA ⁵
Total⁴		1,575.9

127 Source: MDNR 2006b.

128 ¹ Plain text indicates SGCN species, italicized text indicates RFSS species.

129 ² Canada lynx, gray wolf, and bald eagle are or have recently been listed as ETSC species as discussed in detail in the ETSC
130 species section.

131 ³ Numbers refer to the Key Habitat Types (1-4) where those species may occur or are known to occur.

132 ⁴ Total acres may be more or less than presented due to rounding.

133 ⁵ NA = not applicable

134 **Regional Forester Sensitive Species**

135 No RFSS species were observed during surveys of Tract 3. Potential Superior National Forest
136 RFSS and their habitat on Tract 3 are listed on Table 4.3.5-4.

137 ***Other Wildlife Species***

138 Other wildlife species, including species of tribal concern, were observed during surveys of Tract
139 3. Species observed, or their sign, include white-tailed deer, fox, marten, snowshoe hare, beaver,
140 and moose.

141 ~~Sections 4.2.5, 4.2.9, 5.2.5, and 5.2.9 discuss species of importance to the Bands.~~

142 ~~Sections 4.2.9 and 5.2.9 discuss on a broader level the ecological subsections, large landscapes,~~
143 ~~and connected ecosystems of wildlife species important to the Bands.~~

144 **4.3.5.2.4 Tract 4 – Hunting Club Lands**

145 ***Federally and State-listed Species and Species of Special Concern***

146 Tract 4 is located in LAU 4 and is located in designated lynx critical habitat. No Canada lynx or
147 their sign have been observed on the non-federal lands during surveys (AECOM 2011b;
148 ~~AECOM~~ and 2011c). The Tract 4 parcel is also located in Federal Wolf Zone 2 and Minnesota
149 Wolf Zone A. Both NHIS records and surveys of the parcel failed to identify individuals or signs
150 of federally and state-listed species and species of special concern.

151 ***Species of Greatest Conservation Need***

152 Tract 4 is located in the Border Lakes ecological subsection. Table 4.3.5-5 lists the species of
153 greatest conservation need and habitat that may be found in this subsection.

154 **Table 4.3.5-5 Key Habitat and Cover Types of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and**
155 **Regional Forester Sensitive Species for Tracts 4 and 5 in the Border Lakes**
156 **Ecological Subsection**

Key Habitat Type, Cover Types, and Management Indicator Habitats	Associated Wildlife Species¹	Tract 4 (Acres)	Tract 5 (Acres)
1. Mature Upland Forest, Continuous Upland/Lowland Forest: aspen forest/aspen-birch forest, jack pine forest, mixed pine-hardwood forest (MIHs 1-13)	Rock vole, <i>northern goshawk</i> , veery, whip-poor-will, eastern wood-peewee, yellow-bellied sapsucker, ovenbird, Canada warbler, spruce grouse, Cape May warbler, winter wren, boreal chickadee, <i>boreal owl</i> , wood thrush, black-backed woodpecker, <i>bald eagle</i> , black-throated blue warbler, <i>bay-breasted warbler</i> , <i>great gray owl</i> , <i>three-toed woodpecker</i>	105.7	30.6
2. Open Ground, Bare Soils: disturbed/ developed (no MIH)	Laurentian tiger beetle	0.0	0.0
3. Grassland and Brushland, Early Successional Forest (no MIH)	Le Conte's sparrow, eastern meadowlark, brown thrasher, white-throated sparrow, golden-winged warbler, American woodcock, northern harrier, sedge wren, common nighthawk, black-billed cuckoo, bobolink, tawny crescent	45.0	0.0
4. Aquatic Environments: <u>rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands, etc.</u> existing LTVMC Tailings Basin, Partridge River, Embarrass River, former LTVSMC mine pits, wetlands (MIH 14)	American black duck, American bittern, swamp sparrow, common loon, northern rough-winged swallow, semipalmated sandpiper, American golden-plover, greater yellowlegs, buff-breasted sandpiper, ruddy turnstone, white-rumped sandpiper, black tern, red-necked grebe, eastern red-backed salamander, common snapping turtle, <i>disa alpine</i> , <i>ebony boghaunter</i>	9.6	0.2
5. Multiple Habitats (MIHs 1-14)	Gray wolf ² (1-4 ⁽³⁾), Canada lynx ² (1-4), <i>eastern heather vole</i> (1,3), smoky shrew (1,3), <i>eastern pipistrelle</i> (1,3), rose-breasted grosbeak (1,3), least flycatcher (1,3), <i>olive-sided flycatcher</i> (1,4), <i>Connecticut warbler</i> (1,3), rusty blackbird (1,4), Macoun's arctic (1,3), <i>Nabokov's blue</i> (2,4), <i>grizzled skipper</i> (2,3), <i>Quebec emerald</i> (3,4)	NA	NA ⁵
Total⁴		160.3	30.8

157 Source: MDNR 2006b.

158 ¹ Plain text indicates SGCN species, italicized text indicates RFSS species.

159 ² Canada lynx, gray wolf, and bald eagle are or have recently been listed as ETSC species as discussed in detail in the ETSC
160 species section.

161 ³ Numbers refer to the Key Habitat Types (1-4) where those species may occur or are known to occur.

162 ⁴ Total acres may be more or less than presented due to rounding.

163 ⁵ NA = not applicable

164 **Regional Forester Sensitive Species**

165 No RFSS species were observed during surveys of Tract 4. Potential Superior National Forest
166 RFSS and their habitat on Tract 4 are listed on Tables 4.3.5-5.

167 **Other Wildlife Species**

168 Other wildlife species, including species of tribal concern, were observed during surveys of Tract
169 4. Species observed, or their sign, include white-tailed deer, fox, marten, snowshoe hare, beaver,
170 and moose.

171 Sections 4.2.5, 4.2.9, 5.2.5, and 5.2.9 discuss species of importance to the Bands.
172 ~~While a distinct list of wildlife species important to the Bands is not available, Sections 4.2.9 and~~
173 ~~5.2.9 discuss on a broader level the ecological subsections, large landscapes, and connected~~
174 ~~ecosystems important to the Bands.~~

175 **4.3.5.2.5 Tract 5 – McFarland Lake Lands**

176 **Federally and State-listed Species and Species of Special Concern**

177 Tract 5 is located in LAU 42 and is located in designated lynx critical habitat. No Canada lynx or
178 their sign have been observed on the non-federal lands during surveys (AECOM 2011b;
179 AECOCM and 2011c). The Tract 5 parcel is also located in federal Wolf Zone 2 and Minnesota
180 Wolf Zone A. Wolf sign was observed on the parcel in October 2011. Both NHIS records and
181 surveys of the parcel failed to identify individuals or signs of the remaining federally and state-
182 listed species.

183 Wildlife surveys also looked for species of special concern. No federally or state-listed species of
184 special concern were observed. Though bats were observed on the parcel, the species was not
185 determined and may potentially include eastern pipstrelle and/or northern myotis.

186 **Species of Greatest Conservation Need**

187 Like Tract 4, Tract 5 is located in the Border Lakes ecological subsection. Table 4.3.5-5 provides
188 a list of species of greatest conservation need and habitat that may be found in this subsection.

189 **Regional Forester Sensitive Species**

190 With the possible exception of the northern myotis, no RFSS species were observed during
191 surveys of Tract 5. Potential Superior National Forest RFSS and their habitat on Tract 5 are
192 listed on Table 4.3.5-5.

193 **Other Wildlife Species**

194 Other wildlife species, including species of tribal concern, were observed during surveys of Tract
195 5. Species observed, or their sign, include bear, white-tailed deer, fox, raven, and beaver.

196 Sections 4.2.5, 4.2.9, 5.2.5, and 5.2.9 discuss species of importance to the Bands. Sections 4.2.9
197 and 5.2.9 discuss on a broader level the ecological subsections, large landscapes, and connected
198 ecosystems important to species of tribal concern.