



# Public Service Commission

600 East Boulevard Ave  
Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480  
701-328-2400  
ndpsc@nd.gov

Sheri Haugen-Hoffart

Randy Christmann

Jill Kringstad

*sent via email only*

January 21, 2026

Kathy Duttonhefner  
Natural Resources Management Coordinator  
ND Parks & Recreation Department  
1600 East Century Ave., Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
kgduttonhefner@nd.gov

Dear Ms. Duttonhefner:

The Public Service Commission is planning reclamation activities in 2026 and 2027 at an Abandoned Mine Land (AML) site near Cartwright, North Dakota. All project work will be completed by contractors selected through a competitive bidding process.

As part of the project approval process, our office requests concurrence that the proposed reclamation work will not adversely affect any properties that NRPRD owns, leases, or manages; properties protected under the Land and Water Conservation Fund; rare plants; and ecological communities established through the Natural Heritage Program. Please reply regarding this proposed project by **February 20, 2026**.

The 2026 and 2027 Cartwright AML Projects: An open mine entrance will be sealed by pumping grout into the mine entrance. Exploratory drilling will locate potential abandoned underground coal mine workings near a rural residence. The open mine entrance is within 100 feet of the Fairview Bridge and Cartwright Tunnel Trail, which is a popular, state-promoted tourism attraction. The mine entrance closure and exploratory drilling are expected to be conducted between August and November 2026. If mine voids are found during exploratory drilling, grout will be pumped to fill the mine voids during the 2027 construction season. The estimated cost for the project is \$100,000 in 2026 and \$100,000 in 2027. The attached map provides more information and shows the proposed project location.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the project manager, Brett Job, at [bjob@nd.gov](mailto:bjob@nd.gov) or 701-328-4073.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Emmer  
Director  
Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Enclosure

cc via email only: Christine Dirk ([cdirk@nd.gov](mailto:cdirk@nd.gov))

AML\2026\Cartwright\ATP\Concurrence Letters\2026\_Advsry\_auth\_to\_proceed\_ltr\_1-21-26



# Public Service Commission

Sheri Haugen-Hoffart

Randy Christmann

Jill Kringstad

600 East Boulevard Ave  
Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480  
701-328-2400  
ndpsc@nd.gov

*sent via email only*

January 21, 2026

William Peterson, Ph.D.  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State Historical Society of North Dakota  
612 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830  
billpeterson@nd.gov

Dear Dr. Peterson:

The Public Service Commission is planning reclamation activities in 2026 and 2027 at an Abandoned Mine Land (AML) site near Cartwright, North Dakota. All project work will be completed by contractors selected through a competitive bidding process.

As part of the project approval process, our office requests concurrence that the following proposed reclamation work will not adversely affect any historical or archaeological resources. Please reply regarding this proposed project by **February 20, 2026**.

The 2026 and 2027 Cartwright AML Projects: An open mine entrance will be sealed by pumping grout into the mine entrance. Exploratory drilling will locate potential abandoned underground coal mine workings near a rural residence. The open mine entrance is within 100 feet of the Fairview Bridge and Cartwright Tunnel Trail, which is a popular, state-promoted tourism attraction. The mine entrance closure and exploratory drilling are expected to be conducted between August and November 2026. If mine voids are found during exploratory drilling, grout will be pumped to fill the mine voids during the 2027 construction season. The estimated cost for the project is \$100,000 in 2026 and \$100,000 in 2027. The attached map provides more information and shows the proposed project location.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the project manager, Brett Job, at [bjob@nd.gov](mailto:bjob@nd.gov) or 701-328-4073.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Emmer".

Jonathan Emmer  
Director  
Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Enclosure

AML\2026\Cartwright\ATP\Concurrence Letters\2026\_Advsry\_auth\_to\_proceed\_ltr\_1-21-26



# Public Service Commission

Sheri Haugen-Hoffart

Randy Christmann

Jill Kringstad

600 East Boulevard Ave  
Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480  
701-328-2400  
ndpsc@nd.gov

*sent via email only*

January 21, 2026

Mr. Karl Rockeman, P.E.,  
Director, Division of Water Quality  
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality  
4201 Normandy Street  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
krockema@nd.gov

Dear Mr. Rockeman:

The Public Service Commission is planning reclamation activities in 2026 and 2027 at an Abandoned Mine Land (AML) site near Cartwright, North Dakota. All project work will be completed by contractors selected through a competitive bidding process.

As part of the project approval process, our office requests concurrence that the following proposed reclamation work will not adversely affect any surface or groundwater resources. Please reply regarding this proposed project by **February 20, 2026**.

The 2026 and 2027 Cartwright AML Projects: An open mine entrance will be sealed by pumping grout into the mine entrance. Exploratory drilling will locate potential abandoned underground coal mine workings near a rural residence. The open mine entrance is within 100 feet of the Fairview Bridge and Cartwright Tunnel Trail, which is a popular, state-promoted tourism attraction. The mine entrance closure and exploratory drilling are expected to be conducted between August and November 2026. If mine voids are found during exploratory drilling, grout will be pumped to fill the mine voids during the 2027 construction season. The estimated cost for the project is \$100,000 in 2026 and \$100,000 in 2027. The attached map provides more information and shows the proposed project location.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the project manager, Brett Job, at [bjob@nd.gov](mailto:bjob@nd.gov) or 701-328-4073.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Emmer".

Jonathan Emmer  
Director  
Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Enclosure



# Public Service Commission

Sheri Haugen-Hoffart

Randy Christmann

Jill Kringstad

600 East Boulevard Ave  
Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480  
701-328-2400  
ndpsc@nd.gov

*sent via email only*

January 21, 2026

Luke Toso  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
3425 Miriam Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926  
luke\_toso@fws.gov

Dear Mr. Toso:

The Public Service Commission is planning reclamation activities in 2026 and 2027 at an Abandoned Mine Land (AML) site near Cartwright, North Dakota. All project work will be completed by contractors selected through a competitive bidding process.

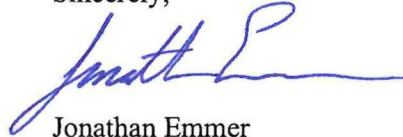
As part of the project approval process, our office requests concurrence that the proposed reclamation work will not adversely affect any threatened, endangered, or rare plant or animal species. Please reply regarding this proposed project by **February 20, 2026**.

The 2026 and 2027 Cartwright AML Projects: An open mine entrance will be sealed by pumping grout into the mine entrance. Exploratory drilling will locate potential abandoned underground coal mine workings near a rural residence. The open mine entrance is within 100 feet of the Fairview Bridge and Cartwright Tunnel Trail, which is a popular, state-promoted tourism attraction. The mine entrance closure and exploratory drilling are expected to be conducted between August and November 2026. If mine voids are found during exploratory drilling, grout will be pumped to fill the mine voids during the 2027 construction season. The estimated cost for the project is \$100,000 in 2026 and \$100,000 in 2027. The attached map provides more information and shows the proposed project location.

The combined project area is 2.5 acres, but we will only be disturbing approximately 0.25 acres. The construction will be conducted near roads with no critical habitat. We believe that our project should have "no effect", "may affect but is not likely to adversely affect", or "may affect but is not likely to jeopardize" any threatened, endangered, or rare animal or plant species identified. Also attached is the auto-generated species list from the IPAC website and our species specific findings. Bat surveys were conducted on 9/24/25 and 10/28/25 to determine if bats inhabit the open mine entrance. No bats were observed, and the inspection reports are also attached.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the project manager, Brett Job, at [bjob@nd.gov](mailto:bjob@nd.gov) or 701-328-4073.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Emmer  
Director  
Abandoned Mine Lands Division

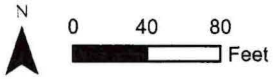
Enclosures

cc via email only: Jerry Reinisch ([jerry\\_reinisch@fws.gov](mailto:jerry_reinisch@fws.gov))

AML\2026\Cartwright\ATP\Concurrence Letters\2026\_Advsry\_auth\_to\_proceed\_ltr\_1-21-26

# 2026 Cartwright AML Project

T151N, R104W  
Section 35  
Cartwright, ND  
McKenzie County  
ND PSC AML Division



Highway 200



## Legend

 Cartwright Working Area



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office  
3425 Miriam Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926  
Phone: (701) 250-4481 Fax: (701) 355-8513



In Reply Refer To:

01/16/2026 18:36:46 UTC

Project Code: 2026-0037598

Project Name: 2026 and 2027 Cartwright AML Projects

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:

### **Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act**

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/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (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. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please 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. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. 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.

The Act requires that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by Federal agencies not jeopardize federally threatened or endangered species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. To fulfill this mandate, Federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representative) must consult with the Service *if they determine their project and associated actions "may affect" listed species or critical habitat*. If Federal agencies or their non-federal representatives determine their project and associated actions will have "no effect" on listed species, their habitats, or designated critical habitat, consultation is not required. However, if a "no effect" is determined, we recommend that you maintain a written record in support of your conclusion.

### **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

Additionally, while not all are listed as threatened or endangered, eagles and migratory birds

have protections under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The BGEPA prohibits take which is defined as, “pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, destroy, molest, or disturb” (50 CFR 22.3). Disturb is defined in regulations as, “to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.”. The MBTA makes it unlawful without a waiver to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, or sell birds listed as migratory birds, including eagles. The statute does not discriminate between live or dead birds and also grants full protection to any bird parts including feathers, eggs, and nests.

### **Service Property Interests**

As part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Service administers fee title Refuge and Waterfowl Production Areas, as well as wetland and grassland easements, throughout North Dakota. For exact locations of Service interest lands, please contact the appropriate Wetland Management Districts (WMD) for guidance regarding FWS easements.

Northwest ND WMD Complex: Kyle Flanery, (701) 768-2548

Eastern ND WMD Complex: Dave Azure, (701) 285-3341

Central ND WMD Complex (also covers south and west): Todd Luke, (701) 442-5474

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- 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:

### **North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office**

3425 Miriam Avenue

Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

(701) 250-4481

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2026-0037598

Project Name: 2026 and 2027 Cartwright AML Projects

Project Type: Subsurface Reclamation - Coal

Project Description: The 2026 and 2027 Cartwright AML Projects: An open mine entrance will be sealed by pumping grout into the mine entrance. Exploratory drilling will locate potential abandoned underground coal mine workings near a rural residence. The open mine entrance is within 100 feet of the Fairview Bridge and Cartwright Tunnel Trail, which is a popular, state-promoted tourism attraction. The mine entrance closure and exploratory drilling is expected to be conducted between August and November 2026. If mine voids are found during exploratory drilling, grout will be pumped to fill the mine voids during the 2027 construction season. The estimated cost for the project is \$100,000 in 2026 and \$100,000 in 2027. The attached map provides more information and shows the proposed project location.

### Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@47.85943655,-103.96378449364002,14z>



Counties: McKenzie County, North Dakota

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 7 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 Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, 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.

- 
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
<p>Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>  General project design guidelines:  <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/9654.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/9654.pdf</a></p>	Endangered

**BIRDS**

NAME	STATUS
<p>Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i></p> <p>Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered.  There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a>  General project design guidelines:  <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/9588.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/9588.pdf</a></p>	Threatened
<p>Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i></p> <p>There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864</a>  General project design guidelines:  <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/8763.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/8763.pdf</a></p>	Threatened
<p>Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i></p> <p>Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population  There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758</a>  General project design guidelines:  <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/9885.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/9885.pdf</a></p>	Endangered

**FISHES**

NAME	STATUS
<p>Pallid Sturgeon <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162</a>  General project design guidelines:  <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/9555.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/9555.pdf</a></p>	Endangered

**INSECTS**

NAME	STATUS
<b>Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i></b> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Proposed Threatened
<b>Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee <i>Bombus suckleyi</i></b> Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/9852.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U4Z7A24PLFDOPN4B2VM64K54KM/documents/generated/9852.pdf</a>	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.

## 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.

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: State of North Dakota  
Name: Brett Job  
Address: 600 E Boulevard Ave.  
Address Line 2: 13th Floor Dept. 408  
City: Bismarck  
State: ND  
Zip: 58505  
Email: bjob@nd.gov  
Phone: 7019579684

## **Endangered Species List Determinations:**

### **Northern Long-eared Bat – Endangered**

The range for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) includes North Dakota, where the bat has been observed during the summer in the Turtle Mountains, Missouri River Valley and the Badlands. Summer habitats most frequently used in North Dakota are the mixed deciduous stands dominated by cottonwoods along the Missouri River and the Little Missouri River in western North Dakota. No NLEB hibernacula or occupied maternity roost trees are known in North Dakota. This project is closing an abandoned mine entrance between August and November, outside of the NLEB's pup season. AML staff conducted bat surveys on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. No bats were observed entering or exiting the abandoned mine entrance. AML Division finds activities proposed with this project **“may affect but is not likely to adversely affect”** the continued existence of the Northern Long-eared Bat.

### **Whooping Crane – Endangered**

The project area is within the principal migration route of the Whooping Crane. The likelihood of Whooping Cranes occurring in the area is very low because desirable stop-over roosting habitat does not exist in the area and Whooping Crane feeding sites are often found adjacent to roosting sites. It has been well documented that Whooping Cranes avoid human disturbances. Work for this project is being completed next to a rural residence and the Fairview Bridge and Cartwright Tunnel Trail, which is a popular tourist attraction. AML Division finds activities proposed with this project will have **“no effect”** to the continued existence of the Whooping Crane.

### **Piping Plover – Threatened**

The Piping Plover is a migratory bird that can occur in North Dakota from mid-April through August. Suitable habitat for the species is generally characterized as sparsely vegetated shorelines usually associated with alkaline wetlands and sandbars and shorelines associated with major river systems. Work for this project is being completed from August to November. The AML Division finds activities proposed with this project will have **“no effect”** to the continued existence of the Piping Plover.

### **Rufa Red Knot – Threatened**

The Rufa Red Knot is a medium sized shorebird that migrates annually between its breeding grounds in the central Canadian Arctic and several wintering regions, including the Southeast United States and Northeast Gulf of Mexico. This species could potentially migrate over North Dakota. Available information indicates this species may use inland saline lakes as stopover habitat during its migration. Work for this project is being completed next to a rural residence and the Fairview Bridge and Cartwright Tunnel Trail system along the Yellowstone River. The AML Division finds activities proposed with this project will have **“no effect”** to the continued existence of the Rufa Red Knot.

### **Pallid Sturgeon - Endangered**

The Pallid Sturgeon is a ray-finned fish endemic to the waters of the Missouri River and lower Mississippi River basins. This species can be found in the Missouri River Basin in North Dakota, primarily in the upper Missouri River upstream of Lake Sakakawea and in the Yellowstone River near the confluence of the two rivers. Work for this project is being completed next to a rural residence and within

100 feet of the Fairview Bridge and Cartwright Tunnel Trail system along the Yellowstone River, but not on the Yellowstone River. The AML Division finds activities proposed with this project will have “**no effect**” to the continued existence of the Pallid Sturgeon.

#### **Monarch Butterfly – Proposed Threatened**

The Monarch Butterfly is a proposed threatened species. The Monarch requires habitat with Milkweed as a larval host plant and floral nectar sources for adults. Monarchs found in North Dakota are comprised of the eastern range Monarchs. The Monarch Butterfly could potentially be in and around the work project if Milkweed is present in the project area. The AML Division finds the activities proposed with this project “**may affect but is not likely to jeopardize**” the continued existence of the Monarch Butterfly.

#### **Suckley’s Cuckoo Bumble Bee – Proposed Endangered**

The Suckley’s Cuckoo Bumble Bee is a proposed endangered species. The Suckley’s Cuckoo Bumble Bee is an obligate social parasite and are entirely dependent on social bumble bee hosts to collect pollen and rear their young. The species has a broad historical range and has been found in various habitat types including prairies, grasslands, meadows, urban and agricultural areas, and woodlands. The last confirmed sighting in the United States was in 2016 in Oregon. The AML Division finds the activities proposed with this project “**may affect but is not likely to jeopardize**” the continued existence of the Suckley’s Cuckoo Bumble Bee.

**Memorandum**

**TO:** Jonathan Emmer, Director - Reclamation and AML Divisions  
Matthew Fischer, Assistant Director – AML Division

**From:** Michael Howe

**Date:** September 26, 2025

**Subject:** Fairview Bridge Bat Survey – September 24, 2025

On September 24, 2025, I conducted a bat survey of the mine portal located next to the Fairview Bridge east abutment (47.859081, -103.964178). The temperature was in the 70's, clear skies, and no wind. I viewed the portal between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM CT. Sunset occurred at 7:49 pm and last light was 8:19 pm. No bats were observed entering or exiting the mine portal.

**Memorandum**

**TO:** Jonathan Emmer, Director - Reclamation and AML Divisions  
Matthew Fischer, Assistant Director – AML Division

**From:** Scott Besmer

**Date:** October 30, 2025

**Subject:** Fairview Bridge Bat Survey – October 28, 2025

On October 28, 2025, I conducted a bat survey of the mine portal located next to the Fairview Bridge east abutment (47.859081, -103.964178). The temperature was in the 50's, clear skies, and slight breeze. I viewed the portal between 4:30 PM and 7:02 PM CT. Sunset occurred at 6:40 pm and last light was 7:00 pm. No bats were observed entering or exiting the mine portal.