

1a. To get to the dKeys you will need to **Log In**, you can do that right away or when you get further along.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
BETA
IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation

LOG IN

IPaC is a project planning tool that streamlines the USFWS environmental review process

GET STARTED LOG IN

Integrate the environmental review process into your project design
Quickly and easily identify USFWS managed resources and suggested conservation measures for your project.

- Explore species and habitat
See if any listed species, critical habitat, migratory birds or other natural
- Conduct a regulatory review
Log in and define a project to get an official species list and evaluate potential
- Build a biological assessment
Consultation Package Builder (CPB) replaces and improves on the original

is a beta version of IPaC

2. You will need to enter the location of your project. Select the **continue** button when you are done.

1 Find location

2 Define area

3 Confirm

Verify the area where project activities will occur

Modify the shape by clicking and dragging the vertices or clicking on a solid vertex to remove it

AREA: 209.96 mi²

CONTINUE

START OVER

1b. If you haven't already logged in, you will need to log in at this point. Below is a sample log in page.

All agency computer systems may be monitored for all lawful purposes, including but not limited to, ensuring that use is authorized, for management of the system, to facilitate protection against unauthorized access, and to verify security procedures, survivability and operational security. Any information on this computer system may be examined, recorded, copied and used for authorized purposes at any time.

All information, including personal information, placed or sent over this system may be monitored, and users of this system are reminded that such monitoring does occur. Therefore, there should be no expectation of privacy with respect to use of this system.

This is a Privacy Act System of Records. Please review the [ECOS Privacy Act Statement](#).

Email address

Password

Show password

Sign in

[Create an account](#)

3. Next you will need to hit the **define project** button.

The screenshot shows the 'Explore location' interface. At the top, the header includes 'Explore location' and 'LOCAL OFFICE ND ESFO'. On the right, it shows the location 'LaMoure and Stutsman counties, North Dakota' with a 'CHANGE LOCATION' link. The main content area is titled 'Endangered species' and contains text about listed species and NOAA Fisheries. A sidebar on the left lists resources: 'ENDANGERED SPECIES' (6), 'MIGRATORY BIRDS' (12), 'COASTAL BARRIERS', 'FACILITIES' (2), and 'WETLANDS' (1). Below the list is a 'PRINT RESOURCE LIST' button. A 'What's next?' box contains instructions and a blue 'DEFINE PROJECT' button, which is circled in red. Below the sidebar, there are tabs for 'THUMBNAILS' and 'LIST', and a section for 'Mammals' featuring a 'Threatened' Northern Long-eared Bat.

ersion of IPaC

4. You can add your project name and a project description. Entering a detailed project description will help the biologists reviewing the use of the dkeys. Be sure to include specific details on the various components of your project, including timing, duration, and intensity. Please be sure your description addresses the “effects of the Action” (i.e., includes any applicable secondary actions).

The screenshot shows the 'Define project' form. The header is the same as the previous screenshot. The form title is 'Define project' with a subtitle: 'Define a project at this location to evaluate potential impacts, get an official species list, and make species determinations.' There are two input fields: 'Project name' with the text 'test' and 'Project description' with the text 'test'. The 'Project description' field has a character count of '4/4000 characters' and an 'OPTIONAL' label. At the bottom of the form are 'SAVE' and 'CANCEL' buttons.

5. To get to the dKeys press the **start review** button

The screenshot shows a web interface for a project named "test". The main content area features a map of North Dakota with a blue polygon highlighting a specific region. Below the map, the location is identified as "LaMoure and Stutsman counties, North Dakota" and the creation date is "July 18, 2022". There are also indicators for "1 MEMBER" and "1 DOCUMENT".

On the right side, there is a "What's next?" section. It contains the following text:

What's next?

ESA REVIEW
Review this project's effects on listed species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as part of the overall regulatory review.

START REVIEW

SPECIES LIST
Requesting an official species list is now part of IPaC's ESA Review.

REQUEST SPECIES LIST

Below this, there is a "Local office" section for the "North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office", which is marked as the "LEAD" office. Contact information includes phone numbers (701) 250-4481 and (701) 355-8513.

At the bottom left, there is a "Resources" section.

6. Hit the **continue** button.

Note: If you don't need an official species list you can **skip** this step to get to the dkeys

Endangered Species Act Review

EXIT REVIEW

Step-by-step consultation process

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) Review in IPaC is a streamlined, step-by-step consultation process. The steps below prepare you for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or provide official documentation if consultation is not necessary.

- 1 Request an official species list**
An official species list must be requested for projects conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by a Federal agency. Projects unaffiliated with a Federal agency may skip this step.
- 2 Evaluate determination keys**
Determination Keys are up-front analyses from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that streamline the consultation process for common project types. Each determination key starts with a qualification interview to see if the key is appropriate for your project.
- 3 Evaluate effects to remaining species through the Consultation Package Builder**
When you have listed species in your project area that have not been addressed by a determination key, IPaC's project analysis tool is used to further analyze your project. The process assists you in making effect determinations and results in a document (i.e., Biological Assessment or other environmental review document) that can be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consultation.
- 4 Finalize your consultation package**
Print your project documents to PDF.

For more information about the consultation process, see an [overview of Section 7](#).

CONTINUE

Endangered Species Act Review

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EXIT REVIEW

- 1 Request an official species list**
- 2 Evaluate Determination Keys
- 3 Analyze project (optional)
- 4 Download documentation

Step 1: Request an official species list

An official species list is a letter from the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office that assists in the evaluation of potential impacts of your project. It includes a list of species that should be considered under [Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act, a project tracking number, and other pertinent information from the field office.

Does this project require an official species list?

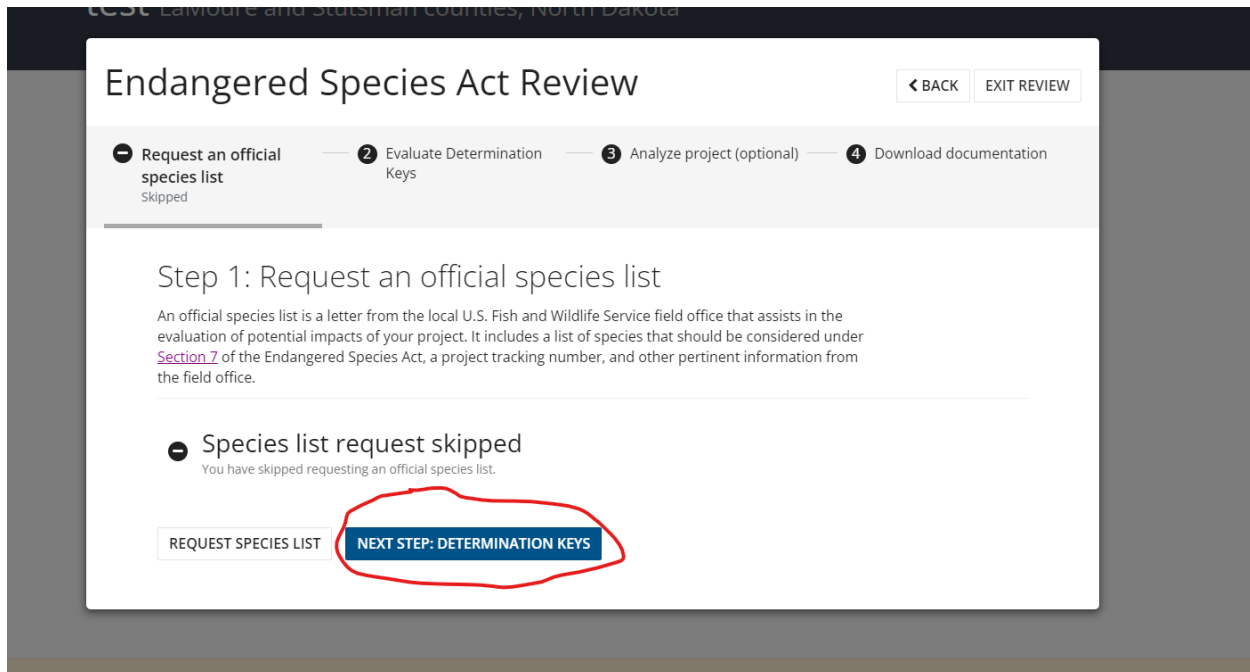
Federal agencies are required to "request of the Secretary of Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action" ([Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act).

This requirement applies to projects that are **conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed** by any Federal agency.

YES, REQUEST A SPECIES LIST

SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY

7. Hit next step: determination keys to move on.



8. To run the North Dakota state-wide dkeys, go to the **evaluate** button under North Dakota Determination Key

Step 2: Evaluate determination keys

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has performed up-front analyses for certain project types, agencies, and species. The analyses have been compiled into *determination keys*, a simple interview process to help you arrive at a recommended determination for some species in your project area.

There are 3 determination keys that may apply to your project. Each determination key starts with a qualification interview to see if the key is appropriate for your project.

- FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Consultation for Transportation Projects affecting NLEB or Indiana Bat
Release date: July 12, 2022
The key is intended for projects funded or authorized by FHWA, FRA, or FTA, that may affect the endangered Indiana bat and/or the threatened northern long-eared bat, which requires consultation with the USFWS under Section 7 of the ESA.

EVALUATE SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY

- North Dakota Determination Key
Release date: June 22, 2022
This determination key allows an action agency to initiate a streamlined consultation process for determining a project's potential effects on federally listed species.

EVALUATE SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY

- Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) Consultation and 4(d) Rule Consistency
Release date: May 27, 2022
This key expedites the optional streamlined consultation framework for the NLEB for Federal agencies & provides users who are not with or representing Federal agencies a mechanism to ensure their actions are consistent with the NLEB 4(d) rule.

EVALUATE SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY

9. Click **check if my project qualifies**.

North Dakota Determination Key

Release date: June 22, 2022

Welcome to the North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office's determination key (DKeys)! This is a new tool designed to speed up consultations and reduce regulatory burdens for projects that will have no adverse impacts on endangered species. A DKey is a logically-structured set of questions which can assist you in determining whether a project qualifies for a predetermined consultation outcome. Many smaller or low impact projects may be able to use this key to receive a concurrence letter from the North Dakota Field Office.

Species covered by this key

This key covers the following species expected to occur in this project area:

BIRDS

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*
Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa*
Whooping Crane *Grus americana*

INSECTS

Dakota Skipper *Hesperia dactorae*

The following species, also covered by this key, are not expected to occur in this project area:

Pallid Sturgeon *Scaphirhynchus albus*
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid *Platanthera praecleara*

Critical habitats covered by this key

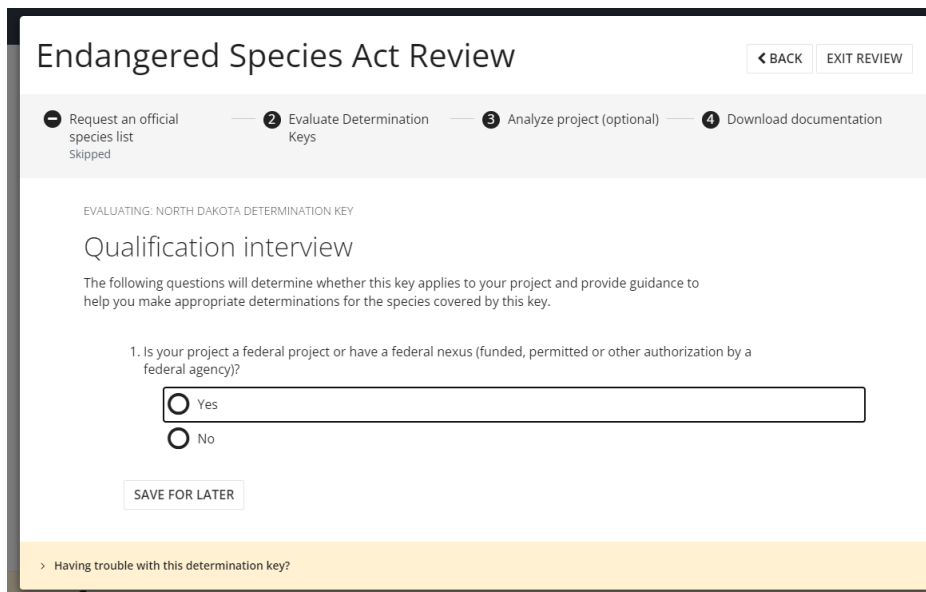
This key covers the critical habitats for the following species expected to occur in this project area:

None

For more information about this determination key, including a list of all potential questions, refer to the [detailed overview](#).



The Dkey will ask you a series of yes/no questions. Select the appropriate radio button to indicate your response. If you make an incorrect selection, you can click on Change Answer to go back and change your response. For some questions, you can click on hyperlinks or hover over underlined text to get additional clarification. Some questions, called “semantic questions”, are answered for you automatically based on previous input or spatial data embedded within the Dkey.



10. When you are done answering the questions if you qualify, you can generate a consistency letter. You will need to put in name, number, type of project, agency, etc.

Endangered Species Act Review

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EXIT REVIEW

1 Request an official species list
Skipped

2 Evaluate Determination Keys

3 Analyze project (optional)

4 Download documentation

Determination

You have determined your project will have no effect to the species covered by this determination key. Review the guidance below and generate a letter documenting your determination for your records.

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the species covered by this key. Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

If you think the determination results from this key should be different based on your answers, please contact the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office.

Generate a consistency letter for your records

GENERATE CONSISTENCY LETTER

VIEW / CHANGE ANSWERS

test LaMoure and Stutsman counties, North Dakota

Endangered Species Act Review

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EXIT REVIEW

1 Request an official species list
Skipped

2 Evaluate Determination Keys

3 Analyze project (optional)

4 Download documentation

Determination

You have determined your project will have no effect to the species covered by this determination key. Review the guidance below and generate a letter documenting your determination for your records.

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the species covered by this key. Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

VIEW CONSISTENCY LETTER

CONTINUE

11. Finally, submit project information to USFWS.

Endangered Species Act Review

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1 Request an official species list
Skipped

2 Evaluate Determination Keys

3 Analyze project (optional)

4 Download documentation

Determination

You have reached a determination of may affect - not likely to adversely affect based on this determination key. Review the guidance below and request USFWS concurrence for this project.

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)" as outlined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office Determination Key.

As the action agency, you may request concurrence for the determination of may affect - not likely to adversely affect for the covered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will issue an automated concurrence letter supporting your determination.

The concurrence letter will contain information about the project and the determination key result.

If you think the determination results from this key should be different based on your answers, please contact the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office.

Do you want to submit this project for USFWS concurrence?

YES, SUBMIT TO USFWS

[VIEW / CHANGE ANSWERS](#)

[CANCEL](#)