

This section provides information on unique properties throughout the WIS 23 corridor and how Section 4(f) or Section 6(f) designation was determined. This discussion of Section 4(f) and 6(f) resources is different from the information presented in the 2014 Limited Scope Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (LS SFEIS) as follows:

- The Taycheedah Creek Wetland Mitigation Site, located in the southwest corner of the existing
  US 151 and WIS 23 interchange, is not discussed in this document. It was previously determined
  that Section 4(f) did not apply to this property because the US 151 and WIS 23 interchange is no
  longer included in the alternatives being considered. This determination has not changed.
  Discussion about the site is incorporated by reference (2014 LS SFEIS).
- For the St. Mary's Springs Academy site, the 2014 LS SFEIS noted there was no longer a Section 4(f) use of the property. That status has not changed. All of the build alternatives are the same in the vicinity of the property. The site is briefly summarized in Section 4.7 B-6 and the full discussion is incorporated by reference (2014 LS SFEIS).
- The 2014 LS SFEIS included a Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding for the Old Wade House State Park. The property is no longer a state park and is now called the Wade House Historic Site. This document provides the Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding for the Wade House Historic Site. See Section 5.4. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funds were used for the Wade House Historic Site. Based on review of property title information, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) determined the WIS 23 right of way was recognized at the time of the grant award and is considered a pre-existing condition on the property. The WDNR has cleared LWCF interests for the purpose of WIS 23 reconstruction and Section 6(f) replacement lands are not required. See Sections 5.1 and 5.2.
- Table 5.2-1 Unique Properties in this section was changed to remove the Taycheedah Wetland Mitigation Site because it is no longer in the project limits and to add discussion of the Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive, Rustic Road R63 (County S), and snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails throughout the study corridor. None of the added unique resources are Section 4(f) or 6(f) properties; the additions were made based on comments provided at the 2017 indirect and cumulative effects workshop and following the 2017 public involvement meeting.

This section also provides information on the Sippel archaeological site to explain how it qualifies for an exception for Section 4(f) approval, as discussed in the 2014 LS SFEIS.

Yellow highlight signifies updates since the May 2018 Limited Scope Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LS SDEIS). Minor changes to grammar, punctuation, and usage are not highlighted. Highlighting of a figure or table title signifies updated or new information.

#### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

State and federal laws and rules have been enacted to protect and preserve resources. These protections influence the decision-making process for transportation projects. The following paragraphs summarize regulations that protect and preserve resources within the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The remainder of this section primarily focuses on Section 4(f) properties.

#### A. Section 4(f)

The United States transportation bill of 1966 included the Section 4(f) provision that required FHWA and state departments of transportation to not use or acquire right of way from publicly owned parks, recreational areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or public and private historic sites unless:

- There is no feasible and prudent avoidance alternative to the use of land, and
- The action includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from such use, or

• FHWA determines that the use of the property, including measures to minimize harm, will have a *de minimis* (insignificant) impact, as defined in 23 CFR 774.17, on the property.

Since 1966, this provision has been brought forth with subsequent highway transportation bills, acts, and codes. The United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Section 4(f) law is contained in 49 USC 303, 23 USC 138, and FHWA's regulations and final rule is contained in 23 CFR 774. Section 4(f) applies only to the actions of agencies within the USDOT, including FHWA. FHWA is responsible for Section 4(f) applicability determinations, evaluations, findings, and overall compliance for highway projects.

The WIS 23 alternatives affect several Section 4(f) properties in which Section 4(f) de minimis findings are being made.

## B. Section 6(f)

Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act requires that the conversion of lands or facilities acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund monies [previously LAWCON, now Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)] for uses associated with highway improvements be coordinated with the US Department of Interior. When properties with LWCF funding are needed for highway improvements, typically replacement land conversions are required. The National Park Service (NPS), US Department of Interior, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), are responsible for approval of LWCF monies and land conversion requests. The WIS 23 alternatives affect one Section 6(f) property. A second Section 6(f) property is located within the study area, but the WIS 23 right of way was recognized at the time of the grant award and is considered a pre-existing condition on the property. The property's Section 6(f) interests have been cleared for the WIS 23 project and a Section 6(f) conversion was not required.

#### C. Wetlands

Wetlands in themselves are not a Section 4(f) or Section 6(f) property. However, in the identification of Section 4(f) impacts and screening of unique properties, there are two wetland mitigation banks potentially affected by the alternatives that were considered. Sometimes wetland mitigation banks have "covenants" associated with the underlying property, causing impacts to them to function similarly as a Section 6(f) or stewardship funding impact.

#### D. Section 106

There are numerous laws and regulations that address the preservation of cultural and historic resources. One that frequently affects highway projects is Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties. Regulations governing the implementation of Section 106 are set forth in 36 CFR Part 800.

Section 106 is addressed in Sections 4.6 B-5 and 4.6 B-6. If a property has been identified as historic through the Section 106 consultation process, then the property may be protected under Section 4(f). There are several historic properties noted in this section.

#### 5.2 LISTING OF UNIQUE RESOURCES

Table 5.2-1 lists 14 resources or properties<sup>1</sup> within the WIS 23 corridor that are unique and may have special protections. Four of these properties have a Section 4(f) use. Some Section 4(f) resources are coincident with other Section 4(f) resources. Coordination with WDNR resulted in identification of two properties considered Section 6(f) properties.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Changes to the chart from the 2014 LS SFEIS include removal of the Taycheedah Wetland Mitigation Site because it is no longer in the project limits, and the addition of four resources based on comments made at the 2017 Indirect and Cumulative Effects Workshop and following the 2017 public involvement meeting.

# Table 5.2-1 Unique Resources

Table 5.2-1 Uniqu	e Resources	
Resource/ Property Name and Location	Description/Comments	Section 4(f) and 6(f) Applicability
Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (KMSF-NU) Near Greenbush, between County A and County S	The northern unit contains approximately 30,000 acres of forestlands. Outdoor recreation is the primary use. Owned and administered by WDNR. LCWF was used for property purchase.	A Section 4(f) <i>de minimis</i> impact finding is included in Section 5.3. This effect finding combines the KMSF-NU with the IAT/Equestrian Trail because the resources are coincident.  A Section 6(f) evaluation is included as Section 5.6.
Ice Age Trail (IAT)  Within KMSF-NU	Designated a National Scenic Trail and is Wisconsin's only State Scenic Trail. The trail is administered by the NPS in cooperation with the WDNR and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation. The trail crosses WIS 23 near Julie Road within the KMSF-NU Management Area.	A Section 4(f) de minimis impact finding is included in Section 5.3. This effect finding combines the IAT with the KMSF-NU and the State Equestrian Trail because the resources are coincident.
State Equestrian Trail  Adjacent to IAT	The bridle trail winds through the forest (39.5 miles). It is owned and maintained by WDNR. The trail crosses WIS 23 near Julie Road within the KMSF-NU Management Area.	A Section 4(f) de minimis impact finding is included in Section 5.3. This effect finding combines the State Equestrian Trail with the KMSF-NU and the IAT because the resources are coincident.
Old Plank Road Trail  Adjacent to  WIS 23 in  Sheboygan  County	This 17-mile trail on WisDOT-owned right of way is a maintained multiuse trail that accommodates bicyclists, runners, walkers, in-line skaters, horseback riders, moped users, Nordic skiers, and snowmobiles on 10 feet of asphalt and 8 feet of turf. The trail parallels WIS 23 from the city of Plymouth to the town of Greenbush, linking with the IAT in the KMSF-NU.	Not considered a Section 4(f) resource according 23 CFR 774.13(f) which provides an exception for Section 4(f) as follows: "(3) Trails, paths, bikeways, and sidewalks that occupy a transportation facility right-of-way without limitation to any specific location within that right-of-way, so long as the continuity of the trail, path, bikeway, or sidewalk is maintained," Old Plank Road Trail continuity will be maintained.
Wade House Historic Site Town of Greenbush	The former Old Wade House State Park property discussed in the 2014 LS SFEIS is no longer a state park. It is now owned by the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) and is now called Wade House Historic Site. The property includes over 500 acres of land surrounding several historic structures on the NRHP. The nearest historic structure is 1/4 mile south of WIS 23. A section of the Old Plank Road Trail extension will pass through the north end of the property. A new visitor center/carriage museum adjacent to WIS 23 opened in 2013.	A Section 4(f) finding of <i>de minimis</i> impact on parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges and a finding of <i>de minimis</i> impact on historic property is included in Section 5.4.  Based on WDNR's review of property title information, the Wade House Historic Site received LWCF monies and is a Section 6(f) property. WIS 23 right of way is considered a pre-existing condition.  As a result, WDNR cleared LWCF interests for the purpose of WIS 23 reconstruction and Section 6(f) replacement lands are not required. Refer to the July 19, 2018 letter from WDNR in Appendix C.

# Table 5.2-1 Unique Resources

Table 5.2-1 Uniqu	T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T	
Resource/ Property Name and Location	Description/Comments	Section 4(f) and 6(f) Applicability
Wetland Enhancement and Mitigation lands on Wade House property  Town of Greenbush	During the Robinson Hurling Dam restoration project, on the north end of the former Old Wade House State Park (no longer a park), the WHS constructed a wetland mitigation and enhancement site south of WIS 23. Coordination with state (WHS/WDNR) and federal agencies (USACE) has not identified covenants or permit conditions placed on existing mitigation lands.	No Section 4(f) impacts because its primary purpose is wetland mitigation, not a refuge, and therefore it is not a Section 4(f) property according to 23 CFR 774.11 and FHWA's Section 4(f) Policy Paper Question 1A (July 20, 2012). A discussion of the unique property is provided in this factor sheet.
St. Mary's Springs Academy City of Fond du Lac	This is a privately owned Catholic high school with several potentially historic structures on the property that are eligible for the NRHP.	Because of revisions in the historic boundary prior to the 2014 LS SFEIS, there is no longer a Section 4(f) use of the property. The property is noted but has no stipulations in the amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on April 24, 2018. See Section 4.7 B-6 for the MOA. WisDOT committed to move a statue for the owners in a letter dated May 31, 2013 and included in Section 5 of the 2014 LS SFEIS.
St. Mary's Springs Athletic Field City of Fond du Lac	This is a privately owned Catholic high school athletic field and is not used by the general public.	Not considered a Section 4(f) property according to 23 USC 138 because it is privately owned.
Sippel Archaeological Site 47 SB-394	Historic Euro-American homestead site that is about 0.3 acres in size and is eligible for the NRHP.	The Sippel Site is discussed in Section 5.5. It qualifies for an exception for Section 4(f) approval. 23 CFR 774.13(b) states that an archaeological site can be excepted from Section 4(f) status when the resource has minimal value for preservation in place and the SHPO does not object to this finding.
Pit Road Wetland Mitigation and Enhancement Site Town of Forest	The 3.6-acre wetland mitigation site north of WIS 23 at Pit Road was created to offset wetland losses from a previous WIS 23 project between Fond du Lac and Sheboygan in the late 1980s and early 1990s.	No Section 4(f) impacts because its primary purpose is wetland mitigation, not a refuge, and therefore it is not a Section 4(f) property according to 23 CFR 774.11 and FHWA's Section 4(f) Policy Paper Question 1A (July 20, 2012).
Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive	The Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive extends 115 miles from Elkhart Lake in Sheboygan County to Whitewater Lake in southeastern Walworth County. This scenic route generally follows county and local roads and is on County A where it crosses WIS 23 in the town of Greenbush.	The route is not considered a Section 4(f) property because the scenic route designation is not intended to create a park or recreation area within the meaning of Section 4(f) according to FHWA's Section 4(f) Policy Paper, Question 22 (July 20, 2012).
Rustic Road R63 (County S)	This Rustic Road extends 2.4 miles on County S from WIS 23 north to the town of Glenbeulah.	The road is not considered a Section 4(f) property because the Rustic Road designation is not intended to create a park or recreation area within the meaning of Section 4(f). FHWA's Section 4(f) Policy Paper Question 22 (July 20, 2012).

Table 5.2-1 Unique Resources

Table 5.2-1 Uniqu	e Resources	
Resource/ Property Name and Location	Description/Comments	Section 4(f) and 6(f) Applicability
Snowmobile Trails	There are several snowmobile trails along the WIS 23 project corridor with 2 mapped trail crossings in Fond du Lac County and 2 mapped crossings in Sheboygan County. Snowmobilers use both county and state trails and private snowmobile club trails on private land. Snowmobiling is allowed on the Old Plank Road Trail.	The snowmobile trails are not considered a Section 4(f) resource according to 23 CFR 774.13(f) which provides an exception for Section 4(f) as follows: "(3) Trails, paths, bikeways, and sidewalks that occupy a transportation facility right-of-way without limitation to any specific location within that right-of-way, so long as the continuity of the trail, path, bikeway, or sidewalk is maintained," The continuity of the trails will be maintained.
		In addition, Section 4(f) does not apply to trails on privately owned lands unless there is a public easement allowing the public to use the trail and the easement can be interpreted as public ownership for Section 4(f) purposes. FHWA's Section 4(f) Policy Paper Question 15D (July 20, 2012).
ATV Trails	There are no known mapped ATV trails along the project corridor. A local ATV club identified a winter-only ATV/snowmobile trail crossing of WIS 23 just west of Triple T Road. The club also indicated Hillview Road is an ATV road route, with ATV crossing of WIS 23 on Hillview Road. Both of these crossings are in the town of Forest.	The ATV trails are not considered a Section 4(f) resource according 23 CFR 774.13(f) which provides an exception for Section 4(f) as follows: "(3) Trails, paths, bikeways, and sidewalks that occupy a transportation facility right-of-way without limitation to any specific location within that right-of-way, so long as the continuity of the trail, path, bikeway, or sidewalk is maintained." The continuity of the trails will be maintained.
		In addition, Section 4(f) does not apply to trails on privately owned lands unless there is a public easement allowing the public to use the trail and the easement can be interpreted as public ownership for Section 4(f) purposes. FHWA's Section 4(f) Policy Paper Question 15D (July 20, 2012).

Figure 5.2-1 schematically illustrates locations of the resources listed in Table 5.2-1. Figure 5.2-2 illustrates the various snowmobile and ATV trails in more detail.

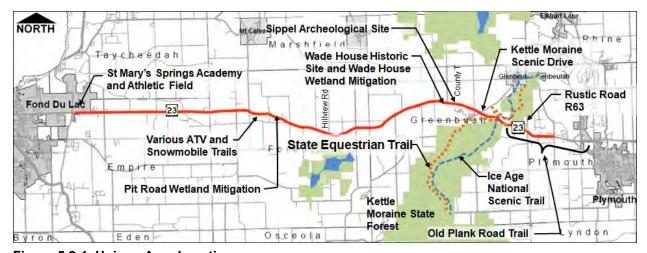


Figure 5.2-1 Unique Area Locations



Figure 5.2-2 Snowmobile and ATV Trail Locations

Sections 5.3, 5.4, and 5.5 provide Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact findings or reasons why Section 4(f) approvals are not needed for:

- The KMSF-NU, IAT, and State Equestrian Trail.
- Wade House Historic Site.
- The Sippel Archaeological site.

Other resources not discussed in Section 5 are reviewed in Sections 4.7 B-6 and 4.7 B-8.

Section 5.3 has been updated to incorporate the three build alternatives under consideration.

Wisconsin

Federal Highway Administration

Finding of De Minimis Impact on Parks, Recreation Areas, and Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges

# 5.3 NORTHERN UNIT OF THE KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST, ICE AGE TRAIL/STATE EQUESTRIAN TRAIL

#### A. Summary of Effect

WIS 23 crosses the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (KMSF-NU) in the town of Greenbush in Sheboygan County. At this location, the Ice Age Trail (IAT)/State Equestrian Trail, a Section 4(f) resource, crosses WIS 23. A Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding for the IAT/State Equestrian Trail was incorporated in the 2010 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the WIS 23 corridor. A Section 4(f) evaluation or finding was not included in the 2010 FEIS for the state forest because at that time the forest was not viewed as a Section 4(f) property because of its multiple uses. The 2010 FEIS did include a Section 6(f) evaluation, including mitigation, for the state forest because Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies were used within the forest. Section 5.6 provides Section 6(f) documentation for the KMSF-NU.

Since the publication of the 2010 FEIS, FHWA determined the KMSF-NU is a Section 4(f) property and this Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding addresses impacts to three resources that are coincident at this location, the KMSF-NU and the IAT/State Equestrian Trail.

The land needed from the KMSF-NU for the 4-lane On-alignment Alternative was purchased from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in 2014. WisDOT transferred replacement lands to the WDNR in 2016.

#### B. Project Description and Effects

#### 1. WIS 23 Project

A No-Build Alternative and three build alternatives are considered in this document. Corridor preservation is an option associated with each of the build alternatives that preserves right of way for possible future transportation improvements and designates WIS 23 as an expressway. In Wis. Stat. § 84.295(10), WisDOT is given the authority to establish locations and right-of-way widths for future freeways or expressways. Resources within the corridor preservation areas are not impacted by the act of preservation, except that property owners wishing to erect or alter a structure within that mapped right of way must give WisDOT a 60-day notice before beginning that construction. If WisDOT receives a notice, they will either acquire the property or approve the construction to move forward. If approval is given and in the future WisDOT determines transportation improvements are needed within the preserved area, the property owner will be compensated as part of the normal WisDOT acquisition process. The statute also states that if notice is not given to WisDOT, compensation will not be made by WisDOT for structure improvements occurring within the corridor preservation area. In the future, if WisDOT determines that transportation improvements are needed within these preserved areas, subsequent environmental documentation would be prepared to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts and costs. The alternatives in the vicinity of the KMSF-NU, IAT/State Equestrian Trail are described as follows:

No-Build Alternative—This alternative consists of routine maintenance activities on the existing roadway.

Passing Lane Alternative—This alternative reconstructs the existing 2-lane facility and adds two passing lanes in the eastbound direction and two passing lanes in the westbound direction. Two

suboptions exist for this alternative. One does not install left-turn lanes on WIS 23 at higher volume intersections. The other installs left-turn lanes at several intersections. No right of way is required from the KMSF-NU.

Corridor Preservation Associated with Passing Lane Alternative—Corridor preservation would preserve the right of way needed to convert WIS 23 to a 4-lane facility and for potential future grade separations and interchanges. The corridor preservation area through the KMSF-NU would be north of the existing roadbed for the added westbound lanes. Land was acquired based on the decision in the 2014 LS SFEIS before the Record of Decision (ROD) was vacated. In the 2014 LS SFEIS, the land acquired was identified as Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) applicable lands. A Section 4(f) de minimis finding was made and mitigation for the associated acquisition impact has already been completed. In the future, if WisDOT determines that transportation improvements are needed within these preserved areas, subsequent environmental documentation would be prepared to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts and costs.

Hybrid Alternative—This alternative expands WIS 23 to a 4-lane expressway on the existing WIS 23 alignment from County K to just beyond County G. East of County G, WIS 23 is reconstructed as a 2-lane highway and adds one passing lane in the eastbound direction and one passing lane in the westbound direction. In the area of the KMSF-NU, the Hybrid Alternative is identical to the Passing Lane Alternative.

Corridor Preservation Associated with Hybrid Alternative—This corridor preservation is identical to the corridor preservation associated with the Passing Lane Alternative in the area of the KMSF-NU.

4-lane On-alignment Alternative (Preferred Alternative)—This alternative creates a 4-lane divided highway along the existing alignment from US 151 in Fond du Lac to County P in Plymouth. In the area of the KMSF-NU, the existing roadbed will carry the eastbound lanes, and the westbound lanes will be constructed north of the existing roadway. The additional right of way needed from the KMSF-NU would be north of the existing roadbed for the added westbound lanes. Land was acquired based on the decision in the 2014 LS SFEIS before the ROD was vacated. In the 2014 LS SFEIS, the land acquired was identified as Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) applicable lands. A Section 4(f) de minimis finding was made and mitigation for the associated acquisition impact has already been completed.

Corridor Preservation Associated with 4-lane On-alignment Alternative (Part of the Preferred Alternative)—There is no impact in the area of the KMSF-NU since the 4-lane alternative has no preservation areas proposed in this area.

#### 2. Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest

The 4-lane On-alignment Alternative would require 2.21 acres from 3 sections of the KMSF-NU that border WIS 23. WIS 23 impacts to the state forest cannot be avoided because the state forest is on both sides of WIS 23. While Passing Lane and Hybrid Alternatives do not have a Section 4(f) use of the property, corridor preservation associated with the Passing Lane and Hybrid Alternatives would preserve the same acreage needed for the 4-lane On-alignment Alternative. Alternatives that fully avoid the KMSF-NU require a substantial relocation of WIS 23 for two or more miles and the extension of the project beyond Plymouth. These impacts are so great that they are not prudent.

WisDOT acquired the 2.21 acres of right of way from three sections of the KMSF-NU after the 2014 LS SFEIS in August 11, 2014 before the ROD was vacated. To mitigate these WIS 23 impacts to the KMSF-NU, WisDOT purchased 4.275 acres of land adjacent to the state forest west boundary. WisDOT transferred ownership to WDNR on February 18, 2016 to satisfy conditions associated with the Section 4(f) *de minimis impact finding and Section 6(f) conversion requirements* in the 2014 LS SFEIS. A portion of this land would be used for the rerouting of the IAT/State Equestrian Trail and providing a grade-separated crossing for the trails under WIS 23.

#### 3. IAT/State Equestrian Trail

The IAT is designated as a National Scenic Trail and is Wisconsin's only State Scenic Trail. The IAT highlights the Ice Age landscape features while providing access to some of the state's natural areas. In the WIS 23 project area, the IAT is located within the KMSF-NU and crosses WIS 23 near Julie Lane. The IAT is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) with cooperation from the WDNR and the IAT Alliance. Within the KMSF-NU, the trail is maintained by the WDNR. The IAT is shown on Figure 5.3-1.

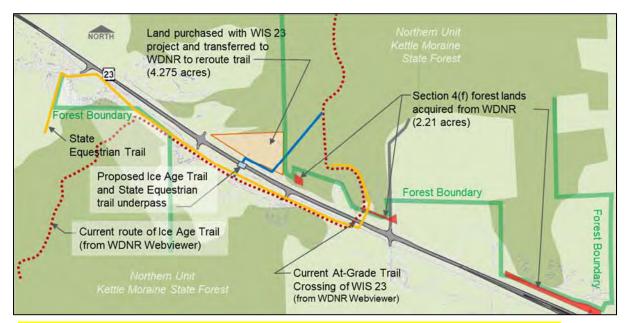


Figure 5.3-1 Passing Lane and Hybrid Alternatives - Section 4(f) Effects, Existing and Proposed Routes of IAT/State Equestrian Trail

The State Equestrian Trail is a bridle trail that travels the length of the KMSF-NU. Horseback riders are able to access 12 campsites from the trail where equestrians are permitted to camp with their horses. In the WIS 23 project area, the State Equestrian Trail travels along WIS 23 for approximately one mile and then joins the IAT as the two trails cross WIS 23 at the same location. The State Equestrian Trail is identified on Figure 5.3-1.

To mitigate WIS 23 impacts to the KMSF-NU and the IAT/State Equestrian Trail, WisDOT has purchased right of way and will construct a grade-separated underpass that will allow trail users to travel underneath WIS 23. WDNR will reroute the trail north of the new crossing. A grade-separated underpass will be provided for any build alternative selected. A total of 2.21 acres of Section 4(f) land was purchased following issuance of the 2014 LS SFEIS/ROD, prior to it being vacated. See Figure 5.3-1 for Section 4(f) impacts for the Passing Lane and Hybrid Alternatives and Figure 5.3-2 for Section 4(f) impacts for the 4-lane On-alignment Alternative and corridor preservation associated with build alternatives. Figure 5.3-3 illustrates the proposed IAT underpass.

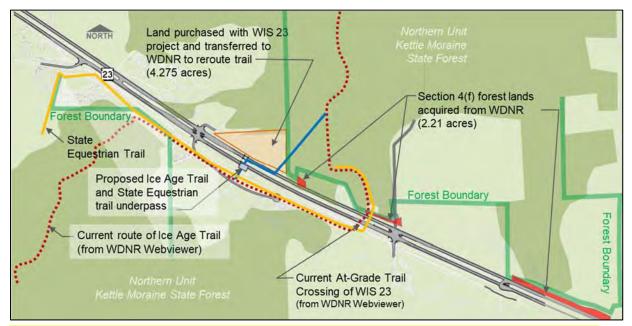


Figure 5.3-2 4-lane On-alignment Alternative and Corridor Preservation Associated with Build Alternatives - Section 4(f) Effects, Existing and Proposed Routes of IAT/State **Equestrian Trail** 

C. Activities, features, and attributes that qualify the Kettle Moraine State Forest and IAT/State Equestrian Trail for protection under Section 4(f)

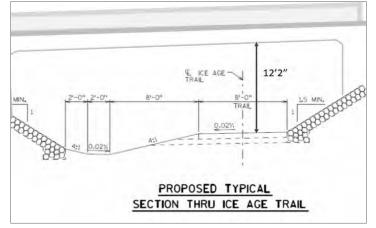
Section 4(f) requires consideration of the following types of properties in the development of transportation facilities:

- Parks and recreational areas of national, state, or local significance that are both publicly owned and open to the public.
- Publicly owned wildlife and Figure 5.3-3 IAT Grade Separation waterfowl refuges of national, state, or local significance that are open to the public to the extent that public access does not interfere with the primary purpose of the refuge.
- Historic sites of national, state, or local significance in public or private ownership regardless of whether they are open to the public.

The following paragraphs describe how Section 4(f) applies to the KMSF-NU, the IAT, and the State Equestrian Trail.

1. Northern Unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest

The KMSF-NU is a Section 4(f) property under the first two bullets. It covers almost 30,000 acres of forested and glacial landscapes. There are geologic landmarks throughout the forest including Dundee Mountain (a huge, conical hill called a kame) and Greenbush Kettle (a hole formed by the melting of buried ice chunks).



The WDNR states the forest is known for its glacial features. The state forest has multiple uses including recreation, hunting, boating, wildlife management, and preservation. Figure 5.3-4 illustrates the extent of the state forest. The figure also illustrates the many recreational activities that take place within the state forest, such as hiking, biking, boating, and horseback riding. In the vicinity of WIS 23, the state forest is occupied by the IAT/State Equestrian Trail. The IAT is administered by the NPS with cooperation from the WDNR and the IAT Alliance. Within the state forest, both the IAT and State Equestrian Trail are maintained by the WDNR.

The master plan for the KMSF-NU was prepared in 1991. In its land use classifications, the area affected by the WIS 23 project is classified for extensive recreation. The classifications from the master plan are shown in Figure 5.3-5. Discussions with the Park Superintendent, at the time of coordination, indicate the area needed for the WIS 23 project primarily serves as roadside buffer as well as a WIS 23 crossing location for the IAT/State Equestrian Trail.

All the land needed for the 4-lane On-Alignment and corridor preservation associated with the Passing Lane and Hybrid Alternatives is located on the north side of WIS 23.

Figure 5.3-6 shows photographs of the KMSF-NU areas impacted by the WIS 23 project.

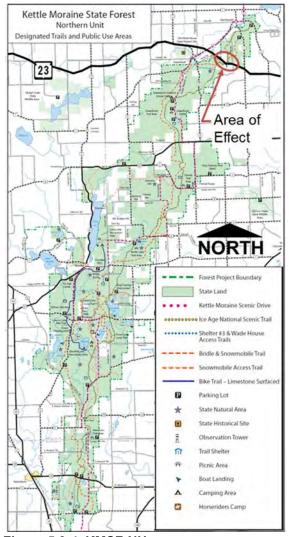


Figure 5.3-4 KMSF-NU



Figure 5.3-5 KMSF-NU Master Plan Land Use Classifications

#### 2. IAT/State Equestrian Trail

The IAT and State Equestrian Trail are Section 4(f) resources under the criteria of the first bullet, recreational areas of national, state, or local significance. The IAT and the State Equestrian Trail in the WIS 23 corridor are located inside the KMSF-NU. The IAT is one of only eleven National Scenic Trails in the United States. The trail is used for walking, hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Horseback riding is also permitted in the section directly adjacent to WIS 23. The State Equestrian Trial is located in the KMSF-NU and provides the opportunity to camp. It includes 41 miles of trails open in late April through mid-November. The main trail winds the length of the forest for 33 miles. Figure 5.3-7 shows the portion of the IAT/State Equestrian Trail that crosses WIS 23.



Figure 5.3-6 Areas of Kettle Moraine State Forest Affected by WIS 23 Project

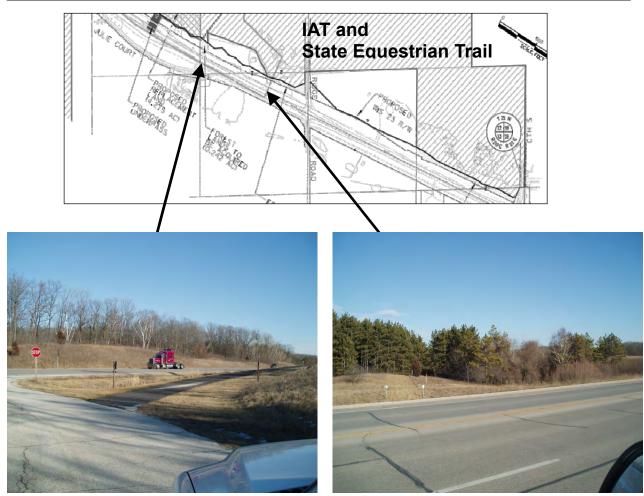


Figure 5.3-7 IAT and State Equestrian Trail Photos

#### D. Transportation Use of Section 4(f) Resources

The 4-lane On-alignment Alternative with Corridor Preservation is the Preferred Alternative. For the Preferred Alternative or corridor preservation associated with the Passing Lane Alternative or Hybrid Alternative, the WIS 23 project would acquire or preserve land needed to convert the existing 2-lane roadway to a divided 4-lane expressway. For these alternatives, in the vicinity of the KMSF-NU the existing 2-lane roadbed will carry the eastbound lanes. The westbound lanes will be constructed north of the existing roadbed. The land needed from the KMSF-NU will be used to construct the two westbound lanes and the slopes and ditches associated with the westbound lanes. There are 2.21 acres of forest land needed and WisDOT has purchased this right of way based on the decision in the 2014 LS SFEIS before the ROD was vacated. The existing IAT/State Equestrian Trail crossing is an at-grade crossing. The WIS 23 project will shift the trail west and provide a grade-separated (underpass) crossing of the WIS 23 roadway. For the Passing Lane or Hybrid Alternatives, the right of way already purchased would not be required but could be part of the corridor preservation associated with the Passing Lane or Hybrid Alternatives. The grade-separated (underpass) crossing of the WIS 23 roadway, a condition of the purchase, previous *de minimis* impact finding, and Section 6(f) agreement, would be provided with any alternative.

# E. No Adverse Effect on Activities, Features, and Attributes of Section 4(f) Properties

The areas adjacent to WIS 23 are primarily used as roadside border as well as a crossing for the IAT/State Equestrian Trail. Currently trail users must travel along the south side of WIS 23 until they reach an at-grade crossing of WIS 23 about 400 feet west of Ridge Road.

Three Section 4(f) resources (KMSF-NU, IAT, State Equestrian Trail) and one Section 6(f) resource (KMSF-NU) are located together. The proposed mitigation measures support all three

designations/properties. To mitigate the effects of the WIS 23 project, WisDOT purchased a 4.275-acre triangle of land and transferred it to WDNR on February 18, 2016. WisDOT will install a grade-separated trail crossing under WIS 23 near this triangle when improvements to WIS 23 are constructed. The underpass and added forest land will provide a safer trail crossing of WIS 23 and provide more direct trail routing. Twin single span bridges could provide the trail underpass and allow natural lighting to facilitate wildlife movements. Discussions with the Park Superintendent indicated that these route changes are viewed as a benefit to park and trail users for improved route safety and directness. Figure 5.3-8 shows the location and acreage of the land needed (and already purchased) for the 4-lane On-alignment Alternative as well as the replacement lands that were acquired and transferred to the WDNR.

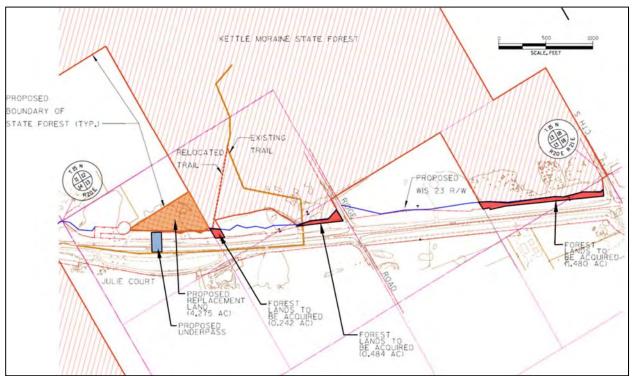


Figure 5.3-8 Right of Way Purchased and Replacement Land Transferred for Kettle Moraine State Forest

#### F. Managing Authority Agreement with Section 4(f) De Minimis Impact Finding

Mr. Jerry Leiterman, the Superintendent of the KMSF-NU at the time of coordination, was informed that FHWA is pursuing a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding for the IAT and the State Equestrian Trail. On December 17, 2007, Mr. Leiterman wrote that the project does not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes of the trails in this area and that he agrees with the Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding. Figure 5.3-9 provides a copy of his 2007 written concurrence. In spring of 2013, Mr. Leiterman was also informed that FHWA is pursuing a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding for the impacts to the KMSF-NU. Mr. Leiterman wrote that he agrees that the project will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes of the KMSF-NU. Figure 5.3-10 provides a copy of the 2013 written concurrence.

Mr. Thomas L. Gilbert was the NPS representative managing the IAT through 2011. Mr. Gilbert was informed that FHWA is pursuing a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding. On November 21, 2007, Mr. Gilbert agreed with the Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding. Figure 5.3-11 provides a copy of his written concurrence. On September 11, 2013, the NPS concurred with the *de minimis* finding. On September 15, 2017, the NPS stated it is their expectation that FHWA and WisDOT maintain their commitment to a grade-separated crossing where WIS 23 and the IAT intersect. The September 2013 and September 2017 correspondence are provided in Appendix C.



# State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor Matthew J. Frank, Secretary Gloria L. McCutcheon, Regional Director Kettle Moraine State Forest N1765 Highway G Campbellsport, Wisconsin 53010 Telephone 262-626-2116 FAX 262-626-2117

2001 PEC 19 A 9 38

Wist. - 1873

December 17, 2007

Mr. Robert J. Wagner WIS 23 Project Manager Department of Transportation Northeast Regional Office 944 Vanderperren Way PO Box 28080 Green Bay, WI 54324-00800

Dear Mr. Wagner:

This letter is in reference to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WI DOT) Highway 23 Project in Sheboygan County as it relates to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR), Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit Equestrian Trail.

In the WIS 23 Project Area, the State Forest Equestrian Trail crosses WIS 23 near Julie Road. Currently, both the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the State Forest Equestrian Trail cross WIS 23 via an at-grade crossing. The proposed WIS 23 improvements will include modification of the trail alignments and a new slab-span bridge and underpass will be constructed to allow trail users to safely cross below the highway. The grade separation crossing and trail modifications will enhance the constructive use and safety of both trails.

The trails will be located within WI DOT right-of-way along the north and south sides of WIS 23 and through the crossing, for a distance of about 2,000 feet. As agreed to by the cooperating agencies, WI DOT, WI DNR and National Park Service, the State Forest Equestrian Trail will cross below WIS 23, with a specifically designed bridge with a minimum width and height of twelve feet with a natural bottom. The underpass will be shared by both hikers and horseback riders.

With the construction of the proposed WIS 23 improvements, avoiding impacts to the State Forest Equestrian Trail is not feasible, but we do not think the proposed WIS 23 expansion will have an adverse effect on the activities, features or attributes of the trail system. Consequently, we concur with your conclusions and the de minimis impact finding.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Do not he sitate to contact me if you have further questions in this matter.

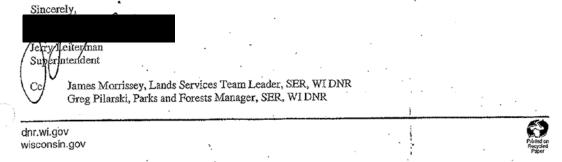


Figure 5.3-9 Letter from WDNR State Forest Superintendent for IAT/State Equestrian Trail

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern Unit
N 1765 CTH G
Campbellsport WI 54010

2013 JUN 5 PM 1 44 WISDOT-NE REGION

Scott Walker, Governor Cathy Stepp, Secretary Telephone 608-266-2621 Toll Free 1-888-936-7463 TTY Access via relay - 711



May 31, 2013

Robert J. Wagner WisDOT Northeast Region 944 Vanderperren Way Green Bay, WI 54304

Re: WIS 23 Project I.D. 1440-13/15-00

Dear Mr. Wagner:

This letter is in reference to the Wisconsin Department of Transportion (WisDOT) Highway 23 Project in the Sheboygan County as it relates to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern Unit.

The WisDOT's proposed WIS 23 Highway Project will require 2.21 acres of state forest land to be acquired for highway use. To mitigate this impact, Wis DOT will transfer 4.275 acres of land to the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern Unit. In addition, WisDOT will provide a common, grade-separation trail crossing for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the state forest equestrian trail.

With the construction of the proposed WIS 23 improvements, avoiding impacts to the state forest is not feasible. However, we do believe the mitigation plan proposed by WisDOT is acceptable. In addition, we agree on the following:

(1) Agree with the mitigation measures being proposed, and

(2) Agree that with these mitigation measures, the WIS 23 project will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes of the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern Unit qualitying it for protection under Section 4(f).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Jerry Leiterman Superintendent

Cc: Jason Quast, Assistant Forest Superintendent
Paul Sandgren, Acting SER Parks and Forests Manager, WI DNR
James Jackley, SER Land Agent, WIDNR
Jim Morrisey, SD Real Estate Supervisor, WIDNR

dnr.wi.gov wisconsin.gov Naturally WISCONSIN



Figure 5.3-10 Letter from WDNR State Forest Superintendent for Northern Unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest



# United States Department of the Interior

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Ice Age & North Country National Scenie Trails

700 Rayovac Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53711-2468

XG1: 105 1 0 20

L7619 (IATR)

November 21, 2007

Mr. Robert J. Wagner
WIS 23 Project Manager
Department of Transportation
Northeast Regional Office
944 Vanderperren Way
P.O. Box 28080
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54324-0080

Dear Mr. Wagner:

We appreciate very much the initiative and cooperation of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in providing for the needs of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST) where it interfaces with your Highway 23 project in Sheboygan County.

The design of the project to include slab-span bridges on both the eastbound and westbound lanes, allowing the Ice Age NST, the equestrian trail, and wildlife to pass under the roadway, is an excellent solution for providing safe crossings for these purposes. We agree that this solution, rather than having any adverse effect on the trails, actually enhances them and makes them more attractive to users. Consequently, we concur with your conclusions and your pursuing a de minimis impact finding.

Working with you and the other partners to reach this solution for Highway 23 and the Ice Age NST has been a satisfying experience. We believe it is a model and sets the standard for working together when our respective projects interface.

Thank you for continuing to consult with us. If you have any further questions about this matter, do not he state to contact us at 608-441-5610.

Sincerely,
Thomas L. Gilbert

Superintendent

Figure 5.3-11 Letter from NPS Trail Superintendent for IAT/State Equestrian Trail

#### G. Public Opportunity to Review and Comment on Effects

The public was provided the opportunity to review and comment on the effects of the project on the protected activities, features, and attributes of the Section 4(f) resources. This opportunity was provided at the public hearing for the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement held on February 24, 2010, at the UW Fond du Lac campus in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Only one public comment was received regarding the trail and forest mitigation and it was in support of the grade-separated crossing of WIS 23. Additional opportunities were provided at public involvement meetings held April 29, 2013 and October 12, 2017 and at the public hearing held June 19, 2018, all at the UW Fond du Lac campus in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Some comments were received following the 2013 public hearing favoring the proposed grade separation for the IAT. In a letter following the 2013 public meeting, the village of Glenbeulah suggested that the funding used for the IAT grade separation would be better used providing an interchange at County A.

The following are summaries of correspondence and other contacts with interested parties related to the Section 4(f) and 6(f) property. Copies of meeting minutes and correspondence are available from the WisDOT Northeast Region.

- 1. On March 5 and March 6, 2002, WisDOT held two public informational meetings. No comments were received about the KMSF-NU.
- 2. On August 28, 2002, WDNR sent an initial environmental review letter. This letter mentions the KMSF-NU, the IAT, and the State Equestrian Trail.
- 3. On February 12 and February 17, 2003, WisDOT held two public informational meetings. There were no comments related to the KMSF-NU.
- 4. On November 6, 2003, the NPS requested consultation on all future documents and environmental review process. The NPS requests that future development provide for safer crossings than currently exist for the IAT.
- 5. On December 19, 2003, WisDOT had a meeting with FHWA, NPS, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). FHWA will require a grade separation if a 4-lane facility is built. The USFWS would like accommodations for wildlife crossing and FHWA agreed. NPS stated the KMSF-NU has dual designations as a forest and a scientific reserve. It was a concern that the KMSF-NU is designated Section 6(f) and how this will affect the project.
- 6. On January 15, 2004, Plymouth Trail Riders sent a letter stating their interest in the IAT and the State Equestrian Trail crossing. They recommended a tunnel for the trail crossing.
- 7. On January 28, 2004, WisDOT met with the WDNR, NPS, USFWS and other groups to discuss the IAT. Conclusions from the meeting include the following:
  - There will be a grade-separated crossing underneath WIS 23.
  - · Both trails will share the crossing.
  - Width of the crossing will be a minimum of 12 feet with a natural bottom.
  - Crossing will be within the Julie Road connection.
  - The median for WIS 23 will be 60 feet wide.
  - WisDOT will mitigate land as necessary for the KMSF-NU.
- 8. On February 6, 2004, WisDOT had a meeting to review the IAT with agencies and Fond du Lac County. Based on comments, WisDOT determined that a grade separation will occur with the trails underneath WIS 23. The width of the crossing will be a minimum of 12 feet and it will have a natural bottom. The crossing location will be within the Julie Road connections with WIS 23. The

median of the 4-lane highway will be 60 feet wide. WisDOT will mitigate land as necessary for KMSF-NU.

- 9. In March 2004, WisDOT held a public involvement meeting. A few comments related to the trail crossings were received stating concern about the trail crossing WIS 23.
- 10. On March 11, 2004, WDNR sent a review of the Draft Purpose and Need Statement. Within the letter WDNR discussed the KMSF-NU. The conceptual plan meets WDNR's objectives for the IAT, the State Equestrian Trail, and for wildlife travel.
- 11. On March 31, 2004, The USFWS sent a letter reviewing the IAT, the State Equestrian Trail, and a wildlife crossing. The agency agrees with the grade-separated crossing and requests to be involved in final design.
- 12. On January 5, 2005, WisDOT held a public hearing for the DEIS. No comments were received about the KMSF-NU.
- 13. On February 7, 2006, WDNR sent a final concurrence letter in accordance with the NEPA-404 process. The WDNR concurred with Alternative 1, the 4-lane On-alignment alternative; however, the concurrence did not indicate that the project must be built or that a permit will be issued.
- 14. On March 13, 2006, WisDOT held an agency update meeting and an IAT crossing discussion. The slab span bridge and box culvert options were reviewed.
- 15. On April 17, 2006, the Plymouth Trail Riders sent a letter to WisDOT. The letter stated their preferred alternative for the State Equestrian Trail in the KMSF-NU was the slab span construction.
- 16. On May 17, 2006, WDNR sent a letter to WisDOT reviewing the IAT, and State Equestrian Trail in the KMSF-NU. Impacts to the State Equestrian Trail in the KMSF-NU were reviewed with the Northern Kettle Moraine Chapter and the Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association. This letter recommended the second alternative, which was the underpass for both trails. This would remove hikers and horseback riders from the highway's visual and noise impacts.
- 17. On July 20, 2006, WisDOT held two public involvement meetings. No comments were received about the KMSF-NU.
- 18. On September 29, 2006, WisDOT held a status meeting. This meeting reviewed the KMSF-NU. It was determined that the property is a Section 6(f) property with WDNR jurisdiction.
- 19. On September 19, 2007, WisDOT held a meeting with WDNR for the KMSF-NU. The meeting discussed the conversion process and possible mitigation properties.
- 20. On June 10, 2008, the WDNR and the WisDOT drafted a commitment to replace lands that will be acquired from the KMSF-NU. The commitment was signed by WDNR on June 13, 2008 and signed by WisDOT on June 30, 2008.
- 21. On February 24, 2010, WisDOT held a public hearing for the SDEIS. Many comments related to keeping the road on existing alignment to minimize impacts to natural resources, farms, homes, and businesses. One comment was received in support of the grade-separated crossing of WIS 23.
- On March 2, 2010, WisDOT held an agency meeting. One topic of the meeting was the KMSF-NU. The crossing, the replacement land, and what agency coordination has occurred were reviewed.
- 23. On June 3, 2011, the NPS approved the Northern Unit Kettle Moraine Felling Acquisition. They agreed to converting 2.21 acres of land and adding 4.275 acres of replacement land.

- 24. On April 29, 2013, a public involvement meeting was held and the public was provided an opportunity to comment on effects to the IAT and State Equestrian Trail and impacts to the KMSF-NU. There were no comments received that specifically mentioned these resources.
- 25. On August 28, 2013, a public hearing was held and the public was provided an opportunity to comment on record regarding effects to the IAT and State Equestrian Trail and impacts to the KMSF-NU. Some comments were received favoring the proposed grade separation for the IAT.
- 26. On September 15, 2017, the NPS maintained their expectation that a grade separated crossing of the IAT and State Equestrian Trail would be constructed with any build alternative.
- 27. On October 12, 2017, a public involvement meeting was held and the public was provided an opportunity to comment on the effects to the IAT and State Equestrian Trail and impacts to the KMSF-NU. There were no comments received that specifically mentioned these resources.
- 28. On June 19, 2018, a public hearing was held, and the public was provided an opportunity to comment on the effects to the IAT and State Equestrian Trail and impacts to the KMSF-NU. There were no comments received that specifically mentioned these resources.

#### H. Section 4(f) De Minimis Impact Finding

The preceding documentation presented the following:

- 1. A description of the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the IAT, the State Equestrian Trail, and the KMSF-NU for protection under Section 4(f).
- 2. The transportation use of the Section 4(f) property.
- 3. How the transportation use by any of the build alternatives under consideration does not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes previously described. In making this determination, consideration was given to impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation or enhancement measures incorporated into the project.
- 4. Mr. Jerry Leiterman, the Superintendent of the KMSF-NU at the time of coordination, and manager of the trails inside the forest, has been informed that FHWA may make a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding under Section 4(f) and may use Mr. Leiterman's written concurrence that the project does not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f) in making that finding.
- 5. Mr. Thomas L. Gilbert, the NPS manager of the IAT until 2011, was informed that FHWA may make a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding and may use Mr. Gilbert's written concurrence that the project does not adversely affect the previously described activities, features, and attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f) in making that finding.
- 6. The public has been afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the effects of the project on the protected activities, features, and attributes of the Section 4(f) resource.

The 2010 FEIS and 2014 LS SFEIS included a Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding for the Old Wade House State Park based on a right of way impact to approximately six acres of park land for the Old Plank Road Trail extension. The 2014 LS SFEIS *de minimis* impact finding stated the project would have no adverse effect on the property's activities, features, and attributes that qualify the property for Section 4(f) protection. The *de minimis* impact finding further indicated that it would not have any adverse effect to properties on the NRHP within the park boundary. The property is no longer designated as a state park and is now called the Wade House Historic Site. This document updates the Section 4(f) *de mimimis* based on the updated right of way impact to four acres of the property, its use as a recreation area, and additional build alternatives considered. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funds were used for the Wade House Historic Site. Based on review of property title information, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) determined the WIS 23 right of way was recognized at the time of the grant award and is considered a pre-existing condition on the property. The WDNR has cleared LWCF interests for the purpose of WIS 23 reconstruction and Section 6(f) replacement lands are not required.

#### Wisconsin

Federal Highway Administration

Finding of *De Minimis* Impact on Parks, Recreation Areas, and Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges
Finding of *De Minimis* Impact on Historic Property

#### 5.4 WADE HOUSE HISTORIC SITE AND WETLAND ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION SITE

#### A. Summary of Effect

The Wade House Historic Site is located in the east portion of the corridor near Plymouth and just west of the KMSF-NU. Located on the south side of WIS 23, the site is run by the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) and is an educational, living history portrayal of a restored stagecoach inn built around 1850. The Wade House Historic Site contains three structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). WIS 23 impacts are distant from the historic boundaries associated with the three structures on the NRHP (1/4 mile from the nearest building). The property includes over 500 acres of land. The Mullet River runs roughly parallel to WIS 23 through the property, approximately 800-1000 feet south of the highway. A visitor center and carriage museum located approximately 150 feet from WIS 23 were opened in 2013. See Figure 5.4-1.



Figure 5.4-1 Wade House Historic Site

The Wade House Historic Site is a Section 4(f) resource. Because the property received LWCF monies, it is also a Section 6(f) property. Based on WDNR's review of property title information, WIS 23 right of way is considered a pre-existing condition. As a result, WDNR cleared LWCF interests for the purpose of WIS 23 reconstruction and Section 6(f) replacement lands are not required. Refer to the July 19, 2018 letter from WDNR in Appendix C.

Prior to 2014, the Wade House Historic Site was designated as Old Wade House State Park, but the designation as a state park was removed by WDNR in the period 2014 to 2016 and the property name was changed to Wade House Historic Site. The area affected by WIS 23 is screened from the property and primarily serves as open space and wetland restoration area.

For this project, a Parks, Recreation Areas, Wildlife, and Waterfowl Refuges Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding with components from the Historic Property Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding is used. A Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding for the site was incorporated in the 2010 FEIS and 2014 LS SFEIS. FHWA has maintained its determination that the Wade House Historic Site and Wetland Enhancement and Mitigation Site is still a Section 4(f) resource with a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding. The information provided below is consistent with what was presented in the 2014 LS SFEIS with updates on additional build alternatives considered in this document.

#### B. Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Applicability

The Wade House Historic Site has had a varied history with both WDNR and WHS. Table 5.4-1 lists pertinent events in the property's history.

Table 5.4-1 Wade House Events

Date	Action
1950s	Wade house restored by Kohler Foundation and transferred to state of Wisconsin to be
	operated as a state park.
1960	Robinson-Herring sawmill and 97 acres of property were purchased and assembled
	into the state park.
1/27/1971	WDNR purchases land adjacent to WIS 23. WDNR also receives LWCF funding in
	1971. It is unclear what the funding was used for.
7/23/1996	WDNR transfers property to WHS. It remains listed as a state park. WHS actively
	manages the site as a living museum.
11/2004	WisDOT releases DEIS. Document says Old Wade House State Park is a Section 4(f)
	property, but no impact will occur to it.
12/2009	WisDOT releases SDEIS and FEIS, and alternative refinements (Old Plank Road Trail
and	extension) impact Old Wade House State Park. FEIS incorporates de minimis impact
6/2010	finding based on its designation as a state park. October 17, 2006 letter from WHS
	director, acting as manager of the property, states impacts are de minimis and
	improvements are mutually beneficial. (See Figure 5.4-4)
12/2/2011	WisDOT purchases lands needed from Old Wade House State Park from WHS.
2013	Old Wade House State Park opens visitor center and carriage museum adjacent to
	WIS 23.
7/2013	WisDOT releases LS SDEIS and LS SFEIS. Documents include a de minimis finding
3/2014	for Old Wade House State Park to fulfill requirements. Section 4(f) status and de
	minimis finding are based on its designation as a state park and the October 17, 2006
	letter from WHS, acting as manager of the property.
2014 to 2016	Old Wade House State Park is removed from state park listing. Name changed to
	Wade House Historical Site.
<mark>2018</mark>	WDNR clears LWCF interests for the purpose of WIS 23 reconstruction and
	Section 6(f) replacement lands are not required.

#### C. Project Description and Effects

A No-Build Alternative and three build alternatives are considered in this document. Corridor preservation is an option associated with each of the build alternatives that preserves right of way for possible future transportation improvements and designates WIS 23 as an expressway. In Wis. Stat. § 84.295(10), WisDOT is given the authority to establish locations and right-of-way widths for future freeways or expressways. Resources within the corridor preservation areas are not impacted by the act of preservation, except that property owners wishing to erect or alter a structure within that mapped right of way must give WisDOT a 60-day notice before beginning that construction. The statute also states that if notice is not given to WisDOT, compensation will not be made by WisDOT for structure improvements occurring within the corridor preservation area. In the future, if WisDOT determines that transportation improvements are needed within these preserved areas, subsequent environmental documentation would be prepared to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts and costs. The alternatives in the vicinity of the Wade House Historic Site are described as follows:

No-Build Alternative—This alternative consists of routine maintenance activities on the existing roadway. Passing Lane Alternative—This alternative reconstructs the existing 2-lane facility and adds two passing lanes in the eastbound direction and two passing lanes in the westbound direction at various locations along the corridor. None of the passing lane locations are in the vicinity of the Wade House Historic Site. The Passing Lane Alternative would extend the Old Plank Road Trail, a multiuse path, along the south side of the existing roadway along the Wade House Historic Site. The right of way for the Old Plank Road Trail in the vicinity of the Wade House Historic Site was acquired based on the decision in the 2014 LS SFEIS before the ROD was vacated.



Figure 5.4-2 Passing Lane and Hybrid Alternatives at Wade House Historic Site

Corridor Preservation Associated with Passing Lane Alternative—This consists of preserving the right of way needed to convert WIS 23 to a 4-lane facility and designates WIS 23 as an expressway. The preserved right of way would be on both sides of the existing roadbed. On the north side, it would be used for future westbound lanes. On the south side, the Old Plank Road Trail would need to be relocated because of the RCUT design in this area. The land on both sides of WIS 23 was acquired based on the decision in the 2014 LS SFEIS before the ROD was vacated. Only the approximately four acres of right of way on the south side of the existing roadbed was acquired from the Wade House Historic Site.

Figure 5.4-2 shows the Passing Lane and Hybrid Alternatives at the Wade House Historic Site. The area in orange represents land that would be needed to construct the Passing Lane and Hybrid Alternatives. The area in pink represents land that would be included in corridor preservation for the two alternatives.

Hybrid Alternative—This alternative expands WIS 23 to a 4-lane expressway on the existing WIS 23 alignment from County K to just beyond County G. East of County G, WIS 23 is reconstructed as a 2-lane highway and adds one passing lane in the eastbound direction and one passing lane in the westbound direction. In the area of the Wade House Historic Site, the Hybrid Alternative is identical to the Passing Lane Alternative.

Corridor Preservation Associated with Hybrid Alternative—This is identical to the corridor preservation associated with the Passing Lane Alternative in the area of the Wade House Historic Site.

4-lane On-alignment Alternative (Preferred Alternative)—This alternative would construct a 4-lane divided highway along the existing alignment from US 151 in Fond du Lac to County P in Plymouth. In the area of the Wade House Historic Site, the existing roadbed will carry the eastbound lanes, and the westbound lanes would be constructed north of the existing roadway. Travelers from the east on WIS 23 would need to make a U-turn to access the property. This alternative would also extend the Old Plank Road Trail, a multiuse path, along the south side of the existing roadway along the Wade House Historic Site and would require about four acres of right of way from the property.

Corridor Preservation Associated with 4-lane On-alignment Alternative (Part of the Preferred Alternative)—There is no impact to the Wade House Historic Site since the 4-lane alternative has no corridor preservation proposed in this area.

See Figure 5.4-3 showing the 4-lane On-alignment Alternative at the Wade House Historic Site. The area in orange represents the land needed for the 4-lane On-alignment Alternative. The land on both sides of WIS 23 was acquired based on the decision in the 2014 LS SFEIS before the ROD was vacated. Only the approximately four acres of right of way on the south side of the existing roadbed was acquired from the Wade House Historic Site.



Figure 5.4-3 4-lane On-alignment Alternative at Wade House Historic Site

D. <u>Activities, Features, and Attributes that Qualify the Wade House Historic Site for Protection Under Section 4(f)</u>

Section 4(f) requires consideration of the following types of resources in the development of transportation facilities:

- Parks and recreational areas of national, state, or local significance that are both publicly owned and open to the public.
- Publicly owned wildlife and waterfowl refuges of national, state, or local significance that are open
  to the public to the extent that public access does not interfere with the primary purpose of the
  refuge.
- Historic sites of national, state, or local significance in public or private ownership regardless of whether they are open to the public.

The Wade House Historic Site, although no longer designated as a state park, is publicly owned and the property is open to the public. Recreational activities are available throughout the property. A new visitor center and carriage museum located just south of WIS 23 opened in 2013. The property offers horse-drawn transportation and wooded walking trails to connect the new facility to the site's historic core. It qualifies as a Section 4(f) resource under the first bullet because the land can be used for recreational purposes, is publicly owned and open to the public. Wade House Historic Site operates as a historical museum managed by the WHS. It qualifies as a Section 4(f) resource under the third bullet because there are three properties on the NRHP on the south side of the property, opposite WIS 23. These resources include the following:

- The Sylvanus Wade House was listed on the NRHP in 1971 and on the State Register of Historic Places in 1989.
- The Robinson-Herrling Sawmill was listed on the NRHP in 1984 and on the State Register of Historic Places in 1989.
- The Charles Robinson House was listed on the NRHP in 1984 and on the State Register of Historic Places in 1989.

The two homes were originally located directly on WIS 23 until the 1980s when WIS 23 was rerouted north of Greenbush. Figure 5.4-4 shows the location of these historic resources compared to the current location of WIS 23.

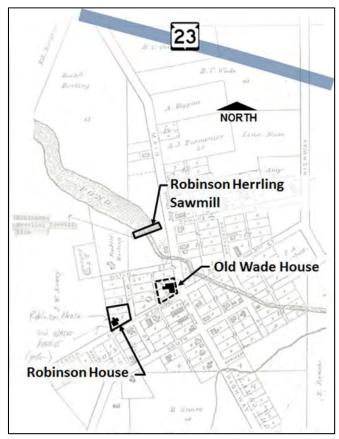


Figure 5.4-4 Wade House Historic Site Buildings on NRHP

WIS 23 impacts are distant from the historic properties associated with the historic site (1/4 mile from the nearest building). The area affected by WIS 23 is screened from the historic properties and primarily serves as open space.

The Wade House Historic Site (Figure 5.4-1) provides an educational, living history of Wisconsin settlement with opportunities for recreational uses such as extensive walking trails and horse-drawn carriage rides. Open spaces and wooded areas are also available for recreation. The Wade House was an early stagecoach inn and was restored by the Kohler Foundation of Kohler, Wisconsin. It was built by Silvanus Wade between 1847 and 1851. The halfway house became an important stagecoach stop on the plank road between Sheboygan and Fond du Lac. Meetings for the discussion of Civil War issues and early railroad construction were held in the inn. The Wesley Jung Carriage Museum is also located in the park and has a large collection of carriages and wagons. The museum focuses on the history of horse-drawn transportation in the state. As previously mentioned, the park also has the reconstructed Herrling sawmill, which is a working water-powered mill listed on the NRHP.

The Wade House Wetland Enhancement and Mitigation Site (Figure 5.4-5) was created during the Herrling Sawmill and Dam restoration project in the late 1990s. The USACE issued a permit, 1996-04005, allowing for wetland mitigation and enhancement south of WIS 23. As part of the WIS 23 build alternatives, the Old Plank Road Trail extension will be placed south of WIS 23 near wetlands adjacent to the Wade House Wetland Enhancement and Mitigation site. The Wade House Historic Site managers are aware of this. In 2012 the Wade House Historic Site constructed a Visitors Center/Carriage Museum north of the main building area near the future Old Plank Road Trail. No impacts are anticipated to the Wade House Visitor Center and park managers view the trail as a benefit. Coordination with the State Historical

Society, WDNR, and USACE has not identified covenants or permit conditions placed on existing wetland mitigation lands. WisDOT will continue to coordinate with WDNR and USACE.

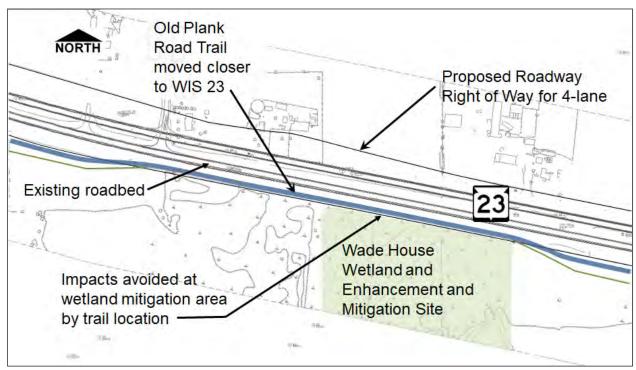


Figure 5.4-5 Wade House Wetland Enhancement and Mitigation Site

#### E. Transportation Use of the Section 4(f) Property

For the build alternatives, the WIS 23 project would either reconstruct the existing 2-lane roadway or expand it to a divided 4-lane expressway. The 4-lane On-alignment Alternative with Corridor Preservation is the Preferred Alternative. In the vicinity of the Wade House Historic Site, expansion would be constructed north of the existing roadbed. From the Wade House Historic Site, approximately 4 acres that is currently open for recreational use is required for the proposed extension of the Old Plank Road Trail. The trail improvements would be constructed with WIS 23 improvements. The trail improvements would enhance the use of both the trail and the Wade House Historic Site. The trail will be distant from the historic resources on the property.

#### F. No Adverse Effect on Activities, Features, and Attributes of Section 4(f) Properties

Representatives of the WHS, as managers of the Wade House Historic Site, view the trail as an enhancement and support its construction. There are no adverse effects on the recreational activities available to the public or features of the property. The Old Plank Road Trail extension provides another access mode to the property which is a positive attribute. The historic boundaries for the three properties on the NRHP are distant from a WIS 23 improvement. Because of this, there is no adverse effect to properties on the NRHP. Measures to minimize or mitigate harm to the Wade House Historic Site and avoid impacts to the Wetland Enhancement and Mitigation site will include the following:

- WisDOT will provide restoration and landscaping of disturbed areas.
- WisDOT will provide access to the Old Plank Road Trail through the property.
- WisDOT will decrease the distance between WIS 23 and the trail to avoid impacts to the Wade House Wetland Enhancement and Mitigation site.
- WisDOT has provided access to the property off of WIS 23.

#### G. Managing Authority Agreement with Section 4(f) De Minimis Impact Finding

The WHS, as managers of the Wade House Historic Site, was notified of FHWA's intent to use its written concurrence of the appropriate determination for possible use in making a *de minimis* impact finding. Concurrence with a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding was obtained from the WHS in a letter stating that the project does not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes of the Wade House Historic Site or Wetland Enhancement and Mitigation Site. Figure 5.4-6 provides a copy of this written concurrence.



Headquarters Bulking 816 State Street Madison, WI 53706-1482 608-264-6400

Office of the Director Office: 608-264-6440 Fax: 608-264-6542 Web: www.wisconsinhistory.org

October 17, 2006

Mr. Robert J. Wagner P.E. WIS 23 Project Manager Division of Transportation Northeast Regional Office P.O. Box 28080 Green Bay, WI 54324-0080

Dear Robert,

Thank you for taking the time to travel to Greenbush on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to discuss the Department of Transportation's plans for the expansion of WIS 23 with David Simmons, Site Director of the Wade House Historic Site. David appreciated your sharing both the broad overview as well as detailed access and right-of-way effects of the expansion as it will unfold within the town of Greenbush and on the Wade House Historic Site property fronting WIS 23.

In your follow-up letter of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, you outlined the plan for the Old Plank Road Trail to be extended along the south side of WIS 23, crossing the Wade House property along a right-of-way approximately 15 to 20 feet in width. These plans have been discussed within the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Sites, and staff concurs that as described in the abovementioned letter, the extension of the Trail would have a de minimis affect on the Wade House Historic Site.

One area of concern is the articulation of the extended Old Plank Road Trail with a new Wade House Interpretive Center planned for construction atop a knoll on the south side of WIS 23 near mark 950 (reference Plan and Profile, State Hwy 23 Eastbound, Sheet E). We fully anticipate that the proximity of the Trail with the Interpretive Center will be mutually beneficial but do want to reference the addition of this building which is not now part of the landscape in question.

Please feel free to be in touch with David Simmons (920-526-3271) should you have any questions.



Figure 5.4-6 Letter from State Historical Society

Subsequent follow-up correspondence with the WHS provides information regarding covenants associated with the wetland mitigation site on the property. This correspondence is shown in Figure 5.4-7. As a result of these comments, the Old Plank Road Trail was aligned closer to WIS 23 to avoid and minimize impacts to the wetland mitigation area to the extent possible.

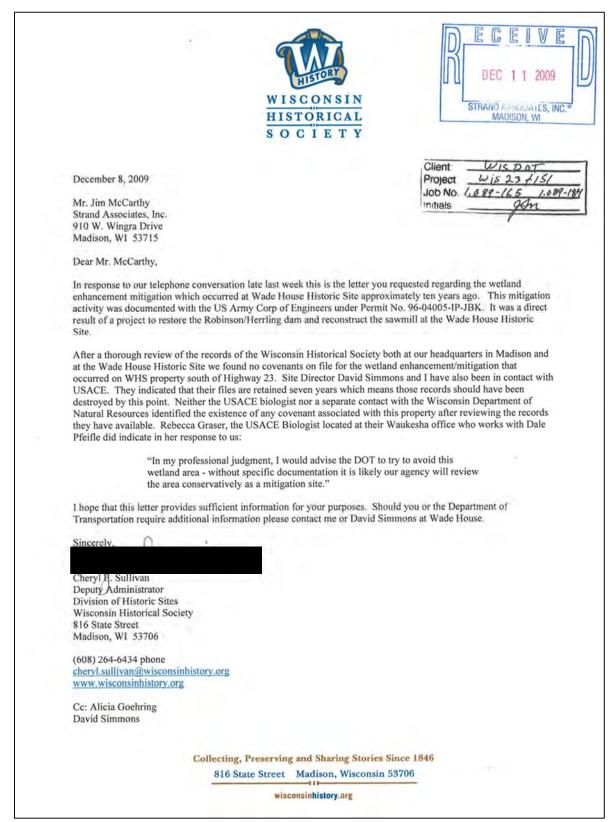


Figure 5.4-7 Letter from State Historical Society

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has participated in Section 106 consultation and signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the project and the associated Area of Potential Effect. On April 20, 2018, SHPO signed the Section 106 form and on April 24, 2018, SHPO signed Amendment 2 to the MOA (executed on May 31, 2018). There is no adverse effect to properties on the NRHP that are within the boundaries of the Wade House Historic Site. The MOA and Section 106 form are provided in Section 4.7 B-6.

#### H. Public Opportunity to Review and Comment on Effects

The public was provided the opportunity to review and comment on the effects of the project on the protected activities, features, and attributes of the Section 4(f) property. This opportunity was provided at the UW Fond du Lac campus in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin during the February 24, 2010 public hearing for the SDEIS, during the October 12, 2017 public involvement meeting, and most recently during the June 19, 2018 public hearing for the 2018 LS SDEIS. Provided below are summaries of correspondence and other contacts with interested parties related to the Section 4(f) property. Copies of meeting minutes and correspondence are available from WisDOT Northeast Region.

- 1. On March 5 and March 6, 2002, WisDOT held 2 public informational meetings. No comments were received about the Old Wade House State Park.
- 2. On August 28, 2002, WDNR sent an initial environmental review letter. This letter mentions the Old Wade mitigation site.
- 3. On February 12 and February 17, 2003, WisDOT held 2 public informational meetings. No comments were received about the Wade House Historic Site.
- 4. In March 2004, WisDOT held a public informational meeting. No comments were received about the Wade House Historic Site.
- 5. On January 5, 2005, WisDOT held a public hearing for the DEIS. No comments were received about the Wade House Historic Site.
- 6. On February 7, 2006, WDNR sent a final concurrence letter in accordance with the NEPA-404 process. The WDNR concurred with Alternative 1; however, the concurrence did not indicate that the project must be built or that a permit will be issued.
- 7. On July 20, 2006, WisDOT held 2 public informational meetings. No comments were received about the Wade House Historic Site.
- 8. On September 15, 2006, WisDOT sent a letter to the Wade House Site Director. The letter asks for concurrence that the trail will have a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact.
- 9. On October 17, 2006, the WHS sent a letter to WisDOT agreeing with the Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact on the Wade House Historic Site.
- 10. On December 8, 2009, the WHS sent a letter to the WisDOT with information on the wetland mitigation site. There were no covenants associated with the property; however, the site would most likely be reviewed conservatively as a mitigation site.
- 11. On February 24, 2010, WisDOT held a public hearing for the SDEIS. Many comments were related to keeping the road on existing alignment to minimize impacts to natural resources, farms, homes, and businesses. No specific comments were received on the Wade House Historic Site.
- 12. On April 29, 2013, a public informational meeting was held and the public was provided an opportunity to comment on the effects to the Wade House Historic Site.
- 13. On August 28, 2013, a public hearing was held and the public was provided an opportunity to comment on record regarding the effects to the Wade House Historic Site. Some comments were

received regarding entering the park with the proposed RCUTs with the 4-lane On-alignment Alternative.

- 14. On October 12, 2017, a public involvement meeting was held and the public was provided an opportunity to comment on the effects to the Wade House Historic Site. No comments were received about the Wade House Historic Site.
- 15. On June 19, 2018, a public hearing was held for the 2018 LS SDEIS and the public was provided an opportunity to comment on the effects to the Wade House Historic Site. One comment was received regarding safe turning movements for westbound vehicles on WIS 23 that turn left to the Wade House Historic Site. The concern was that vehicles slow to make the turn and other vehicles traveling west on WIS 23 drive on the gravel shoulder to get around the turning vehicle. The Preferred Alternative, 4-lane On-alignment with Corridor Preservation, will provide a left-turn bay for westbound vehicles at the Wade House Historic Site access drive.

## I. Section 4(f) De Minimis Impact Finding

The preceding documentation presented the following:

- 1. A description of the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the Wade House Historic Site for protection under Section 4(f).
- 2. The transportation use of the Section 4(f) property.
- How the transportation use does not adversely affect the previously described activities, features, and attributes. In making this determination, consideration was given to impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation or enhancement measures incorporated into the project.
- 4. The WHS, as manager of the property, has been informed that FHWA may make a Section 4(f) de minimis impact finding and may use its written concurrence that the project does not adversely affect the previously described activities, features, and attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f) in making that finding. The WHS has provided that concurrence in a letter dated October 17, 2006.
- 5. The WHS, acting as the SHPO, was consulted in establishing the Area of Potential Effect for the project.
- 6. The WHS, acting as the SHPO, has signed a MOA for the project, which does not indicate any adverse effect to properties on the NRHP that are within the boundaries of the Wade House Historic Site.
- 7. The public has been afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the effects of the project on the protected activities, features, and attributes of the Section 4(f) resource.

The Data Recovery Plan for the Sippel Archaeological Site has been completed. Changes describe how current alternatives under consideration impact the site.

#### 5.5 SIPPEL SITE

#### A. Background

The Sippel Site is a homestead of approximately 0.3 acres that will be impacted by the Passing Lane, Hybrid and 4-lane On-Alignment Alternatives. Initial archaeological investigations have been completed, a Data Recovery Plan was prepared (April 2007), and WisDOT has completed consultation with interested parties. Data recovery occurred between September 29 and October 24, 2014. A January 2018 archaeological studies status assessment for WIS 23 indicated the field investigations associated with the data recovery efforts at the Sippel Site have been completed. The assessment was approved by SHPO. The signed Section 106 form and signed MOA are provided in Section 4 (Figures 4.7 B-6.2 and 4.7 B-6.3).

The Sippel site was located on the rolling ground moraine landscape midway between Lake Michigan and the southern end of Lake Winnebago. The Sippel Site is a nineteenth century homestead that extends 185 feet by 70 feet. The artifact assemblage contains a large quantity of construction hardware, domestic, personal, and food-related debris. The Sippel Site represents a mid-nineteenth century Yankee homestead/farm occupied between 1848 and 1875 by one or two Yankee immigrant families from New England.

Impact to the site is unavoidable for any of the alternatives. At this location, it is not possible to alter the alignment to avoid impacts without creating additional relocations on the south side of WIS 23. Figure 5.5-1 illustrates the location of the site with respect to the Passing Lane, Hybrid, and 4-lane On-Alignment Alternatives. The 4-lane On-alignment Alternative would affect much of the site. The Passing Lane and Hybrid Alternatives would affect less of the site, however corridor preservation associated with the Passing Lane, Hybrid and 4-lane On-alignment Alternatives would encompass the same area affected by the 4-lane On-alignment Alternative.

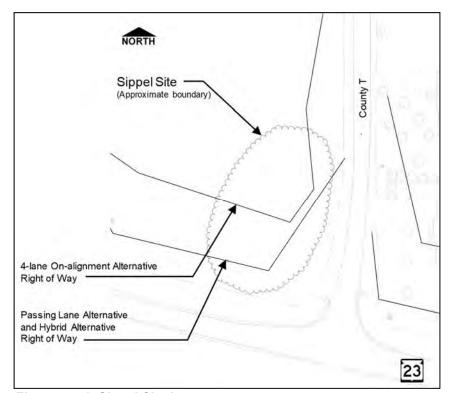


Figure 5.5-1 Sippel Site Impacts

#### B. Section 4(f) Applicability

The Sippel Archaeological Site qualifies for an exception from Section 4(f) approval requirements according to CFR 774.13(b). The archaeological site is eligible for the NRHP, and the FHWA concludes that the archaeological resource is important because of what can be learned by data recovery and has minimal value for preservation in place. Figure 5.5-2 shows communication from FHWA to SHPO regarding the application of CFR 774.13(b) to the Sippel Site.

From: Bacher-Gresock, Bethaney (FHWA)

Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 3:15 PM

To: Draeger, Jim R - WHS (Jim.Draeger@wisconsinhistory.org)

Cc: Bacher-Gresock, Bethaney (FHWA); Becker, James - DOT (James.Becker@dot.wi.gov); Wagner, Robert - DOT (Northeast Region) (Robert.Wagner@dot.wi.gov); VanPrice, Kathie - DOT (Kathie.VanPrice@dot.wi.gov); Banker, Sherman J - WHS (Sherman.Banker@wisconsinhistory.org); Cook, Kimberly A - WHS (Kimberly.Cook@wisconsinhistory.org)

Subject: INFORMATION - WisDOT Project ID 1440-15/15-00 Wis 23 - FHWA finding regarding Section 4(f) applicability of the Sippel archeological site (47SB394)

Mr. Jim Draeger, Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer:

The purpose of this email is to inform the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office (hereinafter SHPO) of the Federal Highway Administration – Wisconsin Division Office's (hereinafter FHWA-WI) finding that the Sippel archeological site (47SB394), eligible for the National Register, meets regulatory criteria excepting it from Section 4(f) approval per 23 CFR 774.13(b).

#### 23 CFR 774.13 Exceptions

The Administration has identified various exceptions to the requirement for Section 4(f) approval. These exceptions include, but are not limited to:

. . .

(b)Archeological sites that are on or eligible for the National Register when:

(1)The Administration concludes that the archeological resource is important chiefly because of what can be learned by the data recovery and has minimal value for preservation in place. This exception applies both to situations where data recovery is undertaken and where the Administration decides, with agreement of the official(s) with jurisdiction, not to recover the resource; and

(2) The official(s) with jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) resource, have been consulted and have not objected to the Administration finding in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

This finding does not subsume the FHWA-WI's legal requirement or responsibility to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or the implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800. All commitments, including the data recovery plan, identified in the attached Amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between the Federal Highway Administration and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office Regarding Construction on STH 23 CTH K to CTH P (WisDOT Project ID 1440-13/15-00, WHS #06-0864/FD/SB) Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties, Wisconsin (signed by your office March 19, 2013) remain in full effect.

Unless the SHPO objects, the FHWA-WI interprets the SHPO's signed agreement with the MOA reflection of consultation and lack of objection to this Section 4(f) exception. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions regarding the Sippel site finding of exception to Section 4(f) approval.

Bethaney Bacher-Gresock

Major Projects - Environmental Lead FHWA - Wisconsin Division Office City Center West 525 Junction Road, Suite 8000 Madison WI 53717

Figure 5.5-2 Email Correspondence to SHPO Regarding Sippel Site

Section 5.6 is renumbered from the former Section 5.7 in the 2014 LS SFEIS. Other than completed land transfers there are no other substantive changes from the 2014 LS SFEIS.

# 5.6 NORTHERN UNIT OF THE KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST SECTION 6(F) CONVERSION

## A. <u>Description of Resource and Applicability of Section 6(f)</u>

The Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (KMSF-NU) covers nearly 30,000 acres of forested and glacial landscapes. There are geologic landmarks throughout the forest including Dundee Mountain (a huge, conical hill called a kame) and Greenbush Kettle (a hole formed by the melting of buried ice chunks). The WDNR states the forest is known for its glacial features. The state forest has multiple uses including recreation, hunting, boating, wildlife management, and preservation. The forest includes about 133 miles of trails. LWCF funds were used for the purchase on multiple occasions for land acquisition for the forest. The KMSF-NU is shown in Figure 5.6-1.

The KMSF-NU had approximately 2.21 acres of land acquired for highway right of way. These 2.21 acres were acquired in three sections along the north side of WIS 23. As part of the Section 6(f) conversion request, WisDOT purchased a 4.275-acre triangle of replacement land and transferred it to the state forest (WDNR) on February 18, 2016. The land will be used to install a grade-separated trail crossing under WIS 23 to offset effects to the IAT and the State Equestrian Trail. The underpass and added forestland will provide a safer trail crossing of WIS 23 and provide more direct trail routing. Coordination with the WDNR and the NPS has been completed. The replacement land that was transferred to the KMSF-NU is shown in Figures 5.6-2 and 5.6-3.

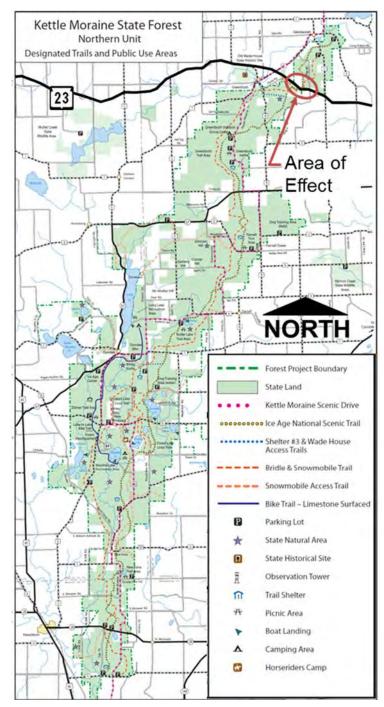


Figure 5.6-1 Northern Unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest

In the 2014 LS SFEIS, FHWA

determined that KMSF-NU is a Section 4(f) property and the Section 4(f) *de minimis* effect finding is included in Section 5.3.

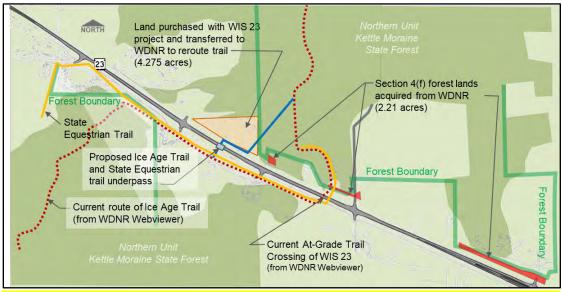


Figure 5.6-2 Section 6(f) Land Conversion and Boundaries for Passing Lane and Hybrid Alternatives

Figure 5.6-4 shows a letter from the United States Department of Interior approving an amendment to the state forest boundary, which includes conversion of state forestlands to highway right of way and transfer of replacement lands to state forest. Figure 5.6-5 shows the amendment to the project agreement for conversion of Section 6(f) properties. On September 11, 2013, the NPS concurred with the *de minimis* finding. On September 15, 2017, the NPS stated it is their expectation that FHWA and WisDOT maintain their commitment to a grade-separated crossing where WIS 23 and the IAT intersect. The September 2013 and September 2017 correspondence are provided in Appendix C.

The KMSF-NU had approximately 2.21 acres of land acquired for highway right of way. These 2.21 acres were acquired in three sections along the north side of WIS 23. As part of the Section 6(f) conversion request, WisDOT has purchased a 4.275-acre triangle of replacement land and transferred it to the state forest (WDNR) on February 18, 2016. The replacement land will be used to install a grade-separated trail crossing under WIS 23 to offset effects to the IAT and the State Equestrian Trail. The underpass and land for a rerouted trail will provide a safer trail crossing of WIS 23 and more direct trail routing.

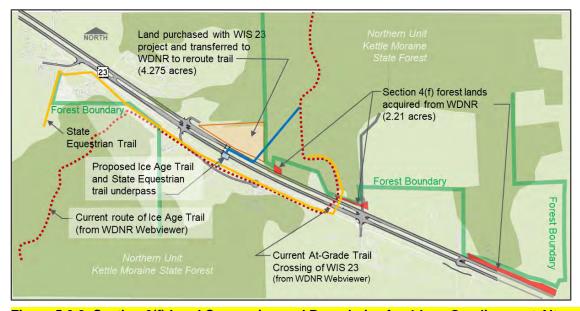


Figure 5.6-3 Section 6(f) Land Conversion and Boundaries for 4-lane On-alignment Alternative



# United States Department of the Interior

#### National Park Service

Midwest Region 601 Riverfront Drive Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4226



JUN 0 3 2011

Ms. Lavane J. Hessler
Outdoor Recreation Grants Manager
Bureau of Community Financial Assistance
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Ms. Hessler:

This is to inform you of the approval for Amendment No. 1 to Land and Water Conservation Fund project 55-00708, Northern Unit Kettle Moraine Felling Acquisition. This converts 2.2 acres of land and adds 4.275 acres of replacement land.

Enclosed are your copy of the amendment and Standard Form 424. Any questions you have related to this conversion may be directed to me at 402-661-1548.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Edmondson Outdoor Recreation Planner

Enclosures 2



Figure 5.6-4 US Department of Interior Letter

TOURDD OF LINES	300 1 3 200	000 ( 000	
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE	The state of the s	STATE_	Wisconsin
NATIONAL PARK SERV	Ser Carles and Arms.	Project Am	endment No. 1
	AMENDMENT TO PROJEC  (OMB No. 1024-003), October		r
THIS AMENDMENT To agreed upon by the Unite Service and by the State o Conservation Fund Act of	d States of America, acting t f Wisconsin		is hereby made an ector of the National Par to the Land and Wate
	States, in mutual consideration an amendment, do promise a		ses made herein and in th
That the above mentioned	agreement is amended by add	ding the followin	g:
The 6(f)(3) boundary is amo 4.275 acres to the park bound	ended by deleting 2.2 acres from ndary for Kettle Moraine State		
4.275 acres to the park bounds In all other respects the specifications relevant the		Forest - Northern is an amenda	n Unit.
4.275 acres to the park bounds In all other respects the specifications relevant the	e agreement of which this reto, shall remain in full force amendment as of the date enter	Forest - Northern is an amenda	n Unit.
4.275 acres to the park bound in all other respects the specifications relevant the hereto have executed this a	e agreement of which this reto, shall remain in full force amendment as of the date enter	is an amenda e and effect. In ered below.	n Unit.
In all other respects th specifications relevant the hereto have executed this a THE UNITED STATES OF BY  (Signature LAND & WATER C	e agreement of which this reto, shall remain in full force amendment as of the date enter of AMERICA	is an amenda e and effect. In ered below.	nent, and the plans an witness thereof the partic
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In all other respects the specifications relevant the hereto have executed this a THE UNITED STATES OF BY (Signature LAND & WATER CONTROLLED FUND PROJECTION (Title)  National Park Service United States Department	e agreement of which this reto, shall remain in full force amendment as of the date enter of AMERICA  e) ONSERVATION CT OFFICER	is an amenda e and effect. In ered below. STATE	Wisconsin (State)  (Signature)  and J. Hessler (Name)
In all other respects the specifications relevant the hereto have executed this:  THE UNITED STATES OF BY  (Signature LAND & WATER CONTROL PROJECT (Title)  National Park Service United States Department  Date  Estimated Burden Statement: The public reporting and maintaining data, and complising stateming	e agreement of which this reto, shall remain in full force amendment as of the date enter of AMERICA  e) ONSERVATION CT OFFICER	is an amendance and effect. In ered below.  STATE  By  Lav	Wisconsin (State)  (Signature)  and J. Hessler (Name)  ASLO (Title)

Figure 5.6-5 Amendment to Project Agreement

