

APPROVAL OF ASHLAND COUNTY SPECIES AND HABITAT CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, Ashland County manages approximately 40,500 acres of County Forest Lands along with numerous recreational trails and facilities which are managed for multiple benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tri-colored Bat are expected to be listed as federally endangered in 2023 and the Little Brown Bat is under review for listing; and

WHEREAS, the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan have jointly developed the Lakes States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan in order to receive an incidental take permit for forest management activities issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, Ashland County plans to engage in activities that could result in the incidental take of the bats and seeks to be included in under the Incidental Take Permit issued to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, Ashland County will comply with the terms of the Species and Habitat Conservation Agreement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee and the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, in consideration of the needs to conserve the bat populations in Wisconsin while continuing multiple use management consistent with the Ashland County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, hereby agree to enter into a Landowner Agreement and Certificate of Inclusion into the Lakes States Forest management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Forest Administrator be authorized to sign the agreement and submit this document to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Submitted for adoption this ____ day of _____, 2023 by:

Forestry Committee:

