Intra-Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation Form

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Date Submitted: 3/12/2020

For assistance with Section 7 reviews, go to Region 3's Section 7 Technical Assistance website:
http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/s7process/

I. Region: Great Lakes Region

II. Service Activity (Program) and Geographic Area or Station Name:

National Wildlife Refuge System; Huron National Wildlife Refuge

III. List Species (including proposed and candidate Species) or critical habitat (including proposed) found within action area:

Canada lynx *(Lynx canadensis)*, gray wolf *(Canis lupus)*, northern long-eared bat *(Myotis septentrionalis)*, and red knot *(Calidris canutus rufa)*

No critical habitats at this location.

IV. Describe Location including County, State and Township, Section & Range or other specific location information *(**attach map)*:

Huron Island National Wildlife Refuge is located 3 miles off the south shore of Lake Superior in Marquette County, Michigan. The Refuge totals 147 acres and is comprised of 8 islands.

V. Description of proposed action *(attach additional pages as needed)*:

The refuge is proposing to manage cultural resources associated with Huron National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) in accordance with the refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2013) and draft Cultural Resource Management Plan. Under the draft Cultural Resource Management Plan the preferred alternative is to preserve the privy and oil house, lighthouse, assistant keepers quarters, and demolish and remove the boat house, barracks, fog signal, and all Site Features such as the tram railway, fuel storage tanks, septic pump system, flagpole, radio tower, in-ground concrete vaults, and utility poles and other electrical infrastructure. A full description of the proposed action can be found in the draft Cultural Resource Management Plan.

VI. Description of effects *(attach additional pages as needed)*:
Explain the anticipated effects of the action on species and critical habitats listed in item III. Beneficial and adverse effects, as well as actions to avoid or minimize adverse effects, should be identified.

Canada lynx *(Lynx canadensis):* The Canada lynx is protected under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species. Historically the lynx was found from Alaska across Canada and into the northern U.S. states. Currently, the best available information indicates that Canada lynx in the Upper Peninsula are likely limited to a small number of dispersing individuals. There have been no documented records of a lynx on any of the Huron islands. It prefers habitat of a mix of evergreens and hardwoods, such as maple and birch; interspersion of mature and young forest. Although the forest type on Huron is characterized as a boreal transition type and may be suitable for dispersing lynx and its' prey the snowshoe hare, the island is too small to support an isolated population. Managing cultural resources will not change the current forest habitat conditions on the Huron Islands. Furthermore, it is expected that there will be no effects on this species as it is not present on the refuge.

Gray wolf *(Canis lupus):* The gray wolf is protected under the Endangered species act as endangered in the upper Midwest states, including Michigan. Gray wolves once ranged from coast to coast from Alaska to Mexico in North America. Wolves are present in Marquette county and may visit the refuge in the winter when ice has formed over Lake Superior but are not residential to the island. Activity to support the implementation of the cultural resource plan will occur from June to October when wolves would not be present on any island, thus there will be no effect to this species.

Red knot *(Calidris canutus rufa):* Red knots breed in the tundra of the central Canadian Arctic and overwinter on the southern tip of South America (Tierra del Fuego), in northern Brazil, throughout the Caribbean, and along the southeastern and Gulf coasts of the U.S. into Mexico. There is no red knot habitat (sand beaches or mudflats) on the island where actions will occur and there have been no documented records of red knot presence on the refuge. As they are not present, there will be no effect.

Northern long-eared bat *(Myotis septentrionalis):* The northern long-eared bat is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and has a final 4(d) rule, which specifically defines the "take" prohibitions for this species. Northern long-eared bats spend winter hibernating in caves and mine in the southern united states and are not found in Michigan during the cold winter months. During the summer, northern long-eared bats roost singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines. This bat has also been found rarely roosting in structures, like barns and sheds. There have been no documented records of northern long-eared bats on the islands. Bat species may utilize the buildings associated with the cultural resource management plan for roosting during summer months. It is unlikely a northern-long eared species will be encountered during the project. However, the refuge will use the Service’s January 5, 2016 biological opinion for northern long-eared bat and 4(d) Rule Streamlined Consultation framework for determinations made. Projects will be entered into the online determination key available through the Information Planning and Consultation website - IPaC (https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/).

B. Determination *(Select one and corresponding response if applicable)*

Determination	**Response request from Ecological Services**
☒ No Effect on species/critical habitat list species/critical habitat: Canada lynx *(Lynx canadensis)*, gray wolf *(Canis lupus)*, and red knot *(Calidris canutus rufa)*	☐ Concurrence *(optional)*
☐ Not Likely to Adversely Affect species/critical habitat list species/critical habitat:	☐ Concurrence
☐ Likely to Adversely Affect species/critical habitat list species/critical habitat:	☐ Formal Consultation
☐ Likely to Jeopardize candidate or proposed species/critical habitat list species/critical habitat:	☐ Formal Conference
☐ Not Likely to Jeopardize candidate or proposed species/critical habitat list species/critical habitat:	☐ Concurrence

SARA SIEKIERSKI Digitally signed by SARA SIEKIERSKI Date: 2020.03.12 14:38:08 -04'00'

Signature
[Supervisor at originating station]

3/12/2020

Date

Reviewing Ecological Services Office Evaluation *(check all that apply)*:

A. ☐ **Concurrence** ☐ **Nonconcurrence**

Explanation for nonconcurrence below:

B. ☐ **Formal Consultation Required**

List species or critical habitat unit below:

C. ☐ **Conference Required**

List species or critical habitat unit below:

Name of Reviewing ES Office: _____

Signature:_____Date: _____

Figure 1. Huron National Wildlife Refuge Regional Location Map - Google Maps

GoogleMaps Huron National Wildlife Refuge

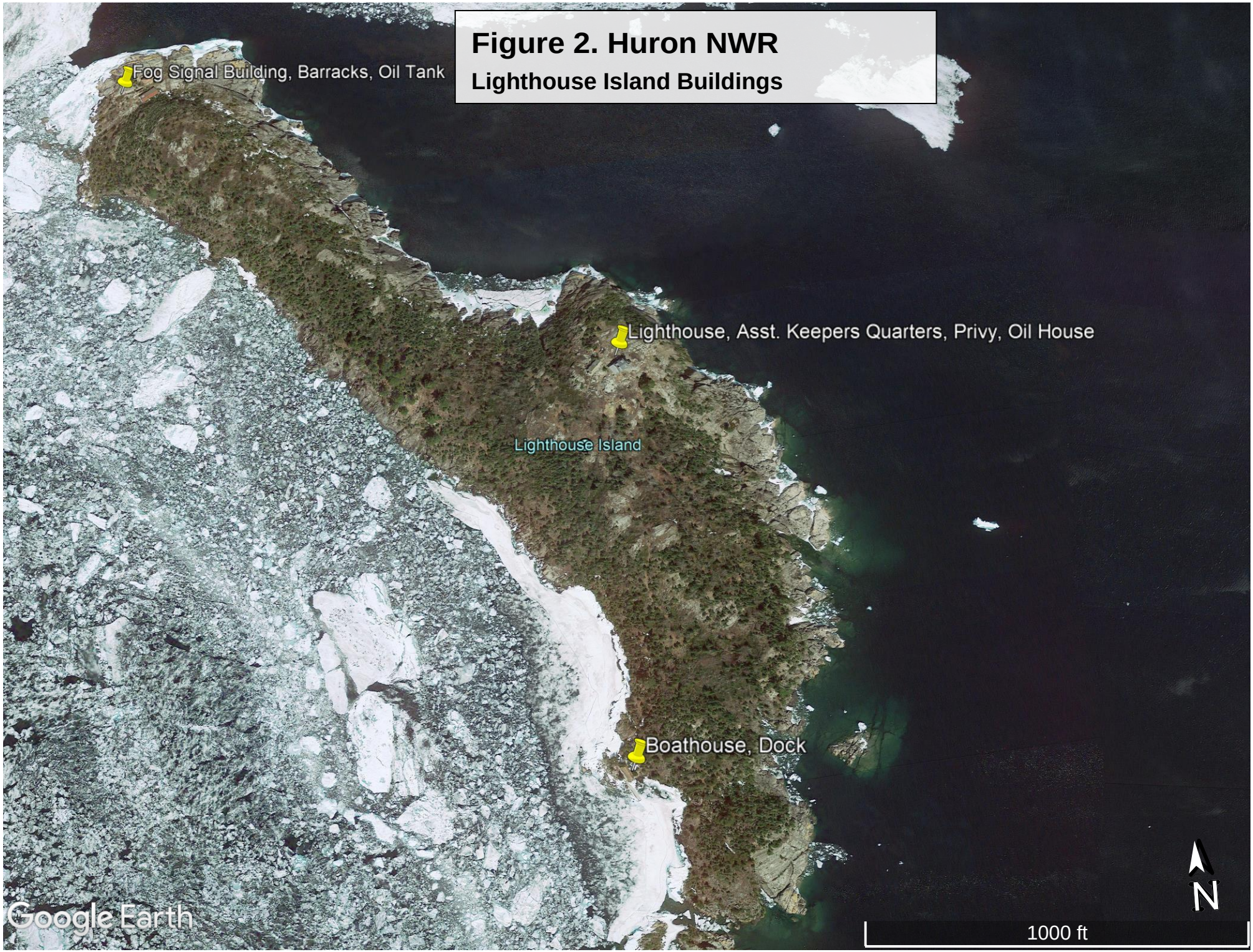

Figure 2. Huron NWR

Lighthouse Island Buildings