

Project Name	Interactive Unique Species Inventory	Date	7/01/2026
To / Contact info	BCWD Board of Managers		
Cc / Contact info	Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator		
From / Contact info	Jimmy Marty, Sarah Voje		
Regarding	Interactive Unique Species Inventory		

EOR proposes the following scope of services for the unique species inventory based on 2026 budget recommendations and initiatives from the 2017-2026 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) and carried forward in the Draft 2027-2036 WMP:

Ecological Health 4.8.4, Goal A, Implementation Item 1: 4.8.A.1:

- Create and maintain a unique species database using shared observation tools that allow community scientists, BCWD, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and other volunteers to pool their observations. Regularly publish updates of the unique species inventory and incorporate findings into educational and outreach materials.

Background

In 2015 the BCWD conducted a rare and unique species inventory to assess the extent and ecological quality of natural habitat throughout the watershed. Highlighted in the 2017-2026 WMP, the survey focused on three of the BCWD's primary landforms (Headwaters Region, Brown's Creek Middle Reach & Brown's Creek Gorge) each directly connected to Brown's Creek. A primary goal of the inventory was to document the plants, wildlife and invertebrate species that depend on the Brown's Creek corridor, fostering greater public awareness of and investment in the restoration and protection of this valuable resource. Through field surveys, biological sampling, and desktop analysis a comprehensive species list was developed for both vegetation and fauna across the surveyed landforms.

Since this update BCWD has identified additional species which should be added to the inventory. CAC members have been keeping a comprehensive list of plants, animals and bird populations at the 110th street property, and aquatic plant surveys have documented rare species and first observations (County records) for Washington County. The rise of citizen science tools such as iNaturalist and eBird also provides a robust quantity of species observation data that could be integrated into the inventory.

The existing species inventory is fragmented across multiple deliverables from the original 2015 effort and is documented in Appendix F of the Draft 2027-36 Land and Water Resources Inventory. While the Land and Water Resources Inventory provides a comprehensive summary of District resources, its technical depth and format make it inaccessible to a general audience. This scope of work will translate the inventory into a public-facing outreach product that effectively communicates the ecological significance of the Brown's Creek corridor and the species that depend upon it.

As part of the 2026 budget EOR proposed to update the inventory list and create a public engagement tool for users to view and participate in the inventory of unique species. This scope will:

- 1) Update the inventory with new observations.
- 2) Provide database infrastructure to easily update with future observations and provide the means for citizen science contributions.

EOR will work with BCWD staff to determine the best way to present the inventory for public interaction and outreach.

Proposed Scope of Work

Task 1: Update Unique Species Inventory Database

The current Unique Species inventory list will be updated with new species observations and compiled into a tabular database. EOR will cross reference available data such as DNR's NHIS dataset, EOR data, CAC data, iNaturalist, and eBird. Unique species will be filtered by DNR protection status (state-listed special-concern, threatened, or endangered; Species in Greatest Conservation Need) as well as for unique (e.g. regionally uncommon) and charismatic traits.

EOR fee: 10 hours = \$1,680

Assumptions: Assumes BCWD will provide CAC data. Only datasets referenced will be used unless otherwise provided. NHIS data is sensitive and per DNR agreement the specific locations of species will not be shared to public.

Task 2: iNaturalist Project

EOR will create a 'Collection' iNaturalist project. The project will contain a description, general statistics on observations and well as a project journal section where users or District staff can engage with the community. Observations will be limited to the BCWD boundary, include all dates recorded and may include additional iNaturalist project filters as determined in collaboration with District staff.

EOR Fee: 7 hours = \$1,176

Assumptions: There will be one round of review by District staff.

The following table summarizes the total costs for this project:

Task	Estimated hours	Cost
1. Task 1- Updating database with updated datasets.	10	\$1,680
2. Task 2 - iNaturalist Project	7	\$1,176
Total	17	\$2,856

Board Action

1. Authorize this scope of work for the Interactive Unique Species Inventory not to exceed \$2,856 from account numbers 910-0000 Education and Outreach.

Figure 1. Example of graphic from 2015 inventory.

