



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
The State of Minnesota

State Office Building, Room G95 100 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

July 5, 2016

Commissioner Tom Landwehr  
Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Regarding: Mississippi River Northwoods

Dear Commissioner Landwehr,

During its June 29, 2016 meeting, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) discussed its concerns regarding the Mississippi River Northwoods (MRNW) property in Crow Wing County (ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd . 3(b)). Within that conversation, the Council discussed various potential actions at its disposal to help settle what the Council views as expansion of recreational trail activity that will likely be adversarial to wildlife and habitat (i.e. Crow Wing County's designation of 11.5 miles of existing trails within the MRNW property as "multiple use recreation trails"). Among other factors, such as high trail density, "open" use status of all remaining trails, and proposed construction of a parking area and picnic area, Council consensus appears to be that this designation of trails is leading to an almost certain intensification of all-terrain vehicle activity upon MRNW that could be antagonistic to wildlife habitat health and is incongruent with the original intent of the appropriation.

Per the Council's deliberation and a motion passed by voice vote, please consider this letter a request from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for DNR to cease any further activity related to the MRNW property with respect to any trail-oriented grants or grant requests.

The Council appreciates your consideration of this matter and appreciates the efforts of you and your staff on behalf of conserving and protecting Minnesota's natural resources.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Johnson".

Mark W. Johnson  
Executive Director

Cc: LSOHC Members  
Mark Liedl, Crow Wing County Land Services Director