



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

Mr. Eran Sandquist
Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Minnesota State Coordinator
410 Lincoln Ave S (Box 91)
South Haven, MN 55382

Ms. Jessica Lee
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Coordinator
500 Lafayette Road, Box 20
St. Paul, MN 55155

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Re: Grant Agreement No. B40660 – Pheasants Forever Inc / Big Kandi Lake WPA Land Acquisitions

Dear Mr. Sandquist and Ms. Lee:

Pursuant to Minnesota Laws 2009, Chapter 172, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 5(a), Pheasants Forever, Inc. (Grantee) applied for and received Outdoor Heritage Funding through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (Grantor) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (Grant Agreement No. B40660) to acquire lands in fee and convey the land to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Grant Agreement and Minnesota Law imposes several requirements on the Grantee before the Grantee may convey the land acquired under the grant agreement. Specifically, the grant agreement requires: (1) the review and approval of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) prior to conveying any interest in real property acquired under the grant (see Grant Agreement No. B40660, Section 4.7(e) and 4.8(b), and (2) Minnesota Laws 2009, Chapter 172, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 14(b).

Approval of Exemption - Based on the above authority and agreements, and the authority vested in me by the LSOHC, I hereby approve an exemption from all grant requirements that may apply

to the United States, as transferee, except for the following:

- Use annual funding, as appropriated, for the management, maintenance, and stewardship of the land conveyed by the Grantee to the United States. All management, maintenance, and stewardship shall be in compliance with the applicable Minnesota Comprehensive Conservation Plan;
- Manage the lands conveyed as Waterfowl Production Areas as defined in the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act and this management shall include the restoration of grasslands and wetlands which shall be protected in perpetuity;
- Provide the State of Minnesota with a copy of a tract map and deed of land conveyed by the Grantee to the United States;
- Submit an annual report on the status of the real property to the LSOHC or its successor; and,
- Maintain the Waterfowl Production Areas that includes the land transferred to the United States under the Grant Agreement, as open for public recreation according to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. Under Minnesota Statutes 2014, Section 97A.056, Subdivision 19(b), lands acquired by fee with money appropriated from the outdoor heritage fund that are held by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must be open to the public taking of fish and game during the open season; which is consistent with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, United States Code, title 16, section 668dd, et seq.

Approval of Transfer - Based on the purpose and intent of Minnesota Laws 2009, Chapter 172, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 5(a), the above authority, and agreements, and the authority vested in me by the LSOHC, I hereby approve the request of Pheasants Forever, Inc., to convey to the United States all land or interests in land acquired under Grant Agreement No. B40660.

Yours truly,



Mark Johnson
Executive Director

cc: LSOHC members
Mr. Tom Landwehr, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Ms. Danielle Kepford, Senior Realty Officer, United States Fish and Wildlife Service