



White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

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November 13, 2014

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 95
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Council Members:

White Earth Nation is grateful for the recommendation of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council ("LSOHC") at its October 7, 2014 meeting to fund our project in the amount of \$2,188,000. We are very excited by the prospect of protecting wildlife habitat and preventing forest fragmentation on over 2,000 acres of forestland, riparian corridors, and meadows adjacent to existing public and tribal lands. We have submitted our draft Accomplishment Plan to the LSOHC and look forward to continuing with the process to achieve our shared conservation objectives.

At the October 7th meeting, the question was raised whether our project could be re-designed such that Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") would own the project site with White Earth Nation given full management control of the property, including full application of tribal hunting and fishing regulations to the property.

We appreciate the suggestion of fostering closer working relations with DNR. White Earth Nation works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") and has worked cooperatively with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service ("USFWS") on conservation projects. We welcome the opportunity to develop a similar working relationship with DNR. In fact, there are existing wildlife management areas ("WMAs") within the boundaries of White Earth Indian Reservation where we believe such a cooperative management structure would be mutually beneficial and help bring additional resources from White Earth Nation to these WMAs to improve conservation and habitat protection.

White Earth Nation identified, developed, and presented the project that the LSOHC recommended for funding. We evaluated the project based on its compatibility with White Earth Nation's Integrated Resource Management Plan and the project site's proximity to existing lands owned and managed by White Earth Nation. We also determined that White Earth Nation's real estate, wildlife, forestry, and environmental staff has the capacity to manage the project site to enhance its wildlife habitat values and expand hunting opportunities to tribal and non-tribal members.

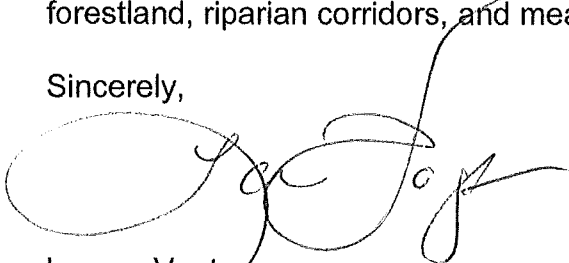
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White Earth Nation has been in regular communication with DNR since the October 7th LSOHC meeting. As of last week, DNR was still conducting an internal review of the project site to determine if the department has an interest in owning the site. In light of White Earth Nation's involvement over the past several months in identifying, developing, and presenting the project to the LSOHC, and DNR's ongoing review process to determine whether the department is interested in owning the project site, it is not appropriate to re-design the project such that DNR owns the project site.

We are confident in the ability of our staff to manage the property to foster its wildlife habitat values and achieve the objectives of the 2008 Legacy Amendment. We also understand and support the terms of the LSOHC grant agreement that would apply to White Earth Nation (or any other successful grant applicant for land acquisition) that establishes the potential for ownership of the property to transfer to the State of Minnesota should we not manage the property consistent with the conservation requirements of the grant.

Again, thank you for your recommendation to fund White Earth Nation's project. We look forward to continuing to make progress toward protecting more than 2,000 acres of forestland, riparian corridors, and meadows.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lorena Vogt', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the word 'Sincerely,' and above the printed name.

Lorena Vogt
Tribal Land Manager