

mn DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

June 11, 2020

Mr. David Hartwell, Chair, david@dbhartwell.com
Mr. Ron Schara, Vice-chair, ron@mnbound.com
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
95 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Hartwell and Mr. Schara:

Thank you for working with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff on an approach to streamline the DNR habitat roving crew proposals. I appreciate your leadership in spotting opportunities for innovation and your patience in working through what I understand was a complex exercise. I am excited to put forward, for consideration of the full Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), a proposal that consolidates all DNR roving crews onto a single proposal. This approach offers several advantages. Perhaps most significantly, it will provide crews with flexibility, allowing them to work on multiple habitat types, thereby enhancing efficiency. In addition, it will reduce the complexity of developing, managing, and reporting on these crews across multiple, staggered proposals; and it will afford more consistent and predictable funding, improving our ability to attract and retain talented employees.

I understand that our modified approach to roving crews comes at a time when the LSOHC is grappling with a number of pandemic-related uncertainties. Please know that the DNR understands these challenges. Recognizing the fiscal environment, we are proposing a more modest package of FY 22 proposals, relative to recent years. As always, we ready to answer any questions you and your fellow Council members may have on our proposals.

In addition to your leadership in helping us develop this streamlined approach to roving crews, I want to thank you more broadly for your dedicated service on the Council. The Outdoor Heritage Fund is integral to supporting conservation work in the public's interest, enabling work far beyond what the DNR and our partners could accomplish without it. We deeply value your ongoing partnership.

Sincerely,



Sarah Strommen, Commissioner

Cc: Mark Johnson, Executive Director, LSOHC, mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn
Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner, DNR
Dave Olfelt, Director, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife