

Amanda Brazee

From: Amanda Brazee
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 9:55 AM
Subject: FW: MDHA Letter - FA 02 - Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition Project
Attachments: MDHA LSOHC Ltr. 9.10.15.pdf; MDHA ATV Policy 9.19.15.pdf

Members:

Attached is information from the MN Deer Hunters Association following their presentation at last week's Council hearings.

Regards,

Amanda

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From: Craig Engwall [<mailto:craig.engwall@mndeerhunters.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 9:28 AM
To: Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>; Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>; Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>
Subject: MDHA Letter - FA 02 - Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition Project

Good morning -

Please find attached a letter from MDHA and a resolution re: ATV use. I'm sending this to all of you as I know that Mark will be out of the office until Monday. This letter and resolution address some of the questions that were raised by Council members during our presentation. I would greatly appreciate it if you could distribute these as appropriate. Thank you.

Regards,

Craig Engwall

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September 10, 2015

Mark Johnson
Executive Director
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
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St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: FA 02 – Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition Project

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA), I want to thank you and the members of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for providing MDHA the opportunity to present its habitat project proposal last week.

During our presentation, Council members had several questions pertaining to the proposed management of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on any lands acquired by MDHA through appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. While MDHA's presentation and handout provided some information regarding the proposed management of ATVs and public recreation on acquired parcels, we would now like to further expand upon the information provided last week.

Attached is a "Resolution Regarding ATV Use on Lands Acquired with Outdoor Heritage Funds" that has been approved by the MDHA Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be presenting this resolution to the full MDHA Executive Board at its next meeting on September 19 with a recommendation that it be adopted. We believe that the management parameters set forth in the resolution provide the opportunity for responsible recreational use of acquired lands that is compatible with the habitat objectives of both MDHA and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

Mark Johnson
September 10, 2015
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MDHA has a rich, 35-year legacy of protecting, restoring and enhancing habitat across Minnesota. MDHA members take great pride in the Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition Project proposal and are committed to making it a shining habitat success story for the Outdoor Heritage Fund and for the State of Minnesota. Thank you again for affording MDHA the opportunity to present it project proposal to the Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig L. Engwall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Craig L. Engwall
Executive Director

MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION re:
ATV USE ON LANDS ACQUIRED WITH OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) has applied for Outdoor Heritage Funds to acquire lands in Wadena, Cass and Hubbard Counties to protect and restore threatened forest habitat; and

WHEREAS, the goal of MDHA in fulfilling its habitat mission is to protect and restore habitat lands through its Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Project (Project); and

WHEREAS, any acquired Project lands will be open for the public to access; and

WHEREAS, to achieve its habitat goals, MDHA must and will manage the public's use of Project lands in a responsible manner that protects habitat and furthers the objectives of the Outdoor Heritage Fund;

WHEREAS, Cass and Hubbard Counties adhere to the highest standards of forest management that incorporates responsible pedestrian and vehicular route placement and maintenance;

NOW THEREFORE, MDHA resolves as follows with respect to Project lands acquired and owned by MDHA with appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund:

1. MDHA shall inventory and map all existing pedestrian and vehicular routes on Project lands. MDHA will not expand recreational routes beyond the existing inventory, unless they are created for non-motorized recreational purposes.
2. In managing recreational use on project lands, MDHA will communicate and coordinate with adjoining state and county land managers. Further, MDHA will utilize best management practices and follow the Minnesota Forest Resources Council's Forest Management Guidelines for Forest Recreation Management.
3. With respect to ATV use on Project lands, MDHA will not permit use beyond that which would be permitted by:
 - a. The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Minn. Rules 6100.1950, on state forest lands adjacent to the MDHA lands; or
 - b. The County, pursuant to its ordinances and forest management plan, on County managed forest lands adjacent to the MDHA lands in that County.

ATV use will not compromise the ecological integrity of forest habitat protected with Outdoor Heritage Funds.

4. MDHA may close either pedestrian or vehicular routes temporarily or permanently for forest management purposes or to create areas for non-motorized recreation.

5. MDHA will incorporate pedestrian and vehicular route management and monitoring into its forest management plans. Route management will be amended as appropriate to ensure healthy forest habitat.

Approved/Rejected:

By the MDHA Executive Board on September 19, 2015

Mark Strege, Secretary