



HO-CHUNK NATION

December 5, 2016

Diane Brusoe, Property Planning Section Chief
John Pohlman, Planner
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P O Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Dear Ms. Brusoe and Mr. Pohlman:

The following comments are being submitted in response to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") Draft Master Plan for the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area ("SPSRA").

As you are aware, 1552.5 acres of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant ("BAAP") are now held in Reservation Trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of the Ho-Chunk Nation. This land is for the use and benefit of the Ho-Chunk Nation and their People.

The Ho-Chunk recognize the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) property as part of their aboriginal lands that span the southern two thirds of Wisconsin from the Green Bay area westward into Minnesota and then south including areas of northern Illinois. Within this area lays thousands of years of ancestors, traditional villages and spiritual sites attributed to the Ho-Chunk People. Specifically, the BAAP property falls within a cultural district that is an important part of a Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) associated with the Day-wa-kun-chunk, or Holy Lake (Devils Lake) area. Historically, the areas south of Day-wa-kun-chunk provided an area where traditional crops such as corn, squash and beans could be readily farmed, medicinal plants could be gathered and seasonal game could be harvested. Along with this, there are culturally significant sites still spiritually and physically intact which the Ho-Chunk recognizes. The Ho-Chunk People consider the BAAP property an important part of what makes this area spiritually whole.

In respecting this history and the land, the Nation has developed a land management plan that focuses on the restoration and enhancement of the natural habitats at Badger including prairie, wetlands and oak savanna. Restoration and land management is intended to be a cooperative effort with stakeholders and landowners including the Wisconsin DNR. Restoration activities will complement the future establishment of a bison herd on the Badger property and promote conservation agriculture as a land management tool. These concepts are the building blocks for

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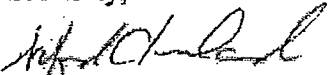
Badger becoming a model of cooperation and are part of the shared vision summarized in the final report of the Badger Re-use Committee ("BRC"). The 21 member BRC, consisting of stakeholders and various governments, clearly defined nine key values to guide consideration of future use with the premise that Badger lands provide remarkable opportunities for the protection, enhancement, use, restoration, and enjoyment of the property's unique natural and cultural features.

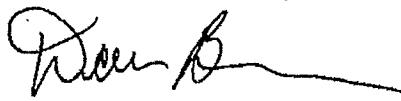
The Wisconsin DNR's proposed dual sport motorcycle use is inconsistent with the values and criteria found in the BRC report and conflicts with the missions of the surrounding landowners. Dual sport motor cycle use would generate more noise than that resulting from low impact recreation activities such as hiking and biking. This noise will affect the Nation's use of the property and may also affect the Nation's bison herd once established. Dual sport motorcycle use would also result in user conflicts with low impact users and create environmental concerns with soil erosion, spread of invasive species and potential impacts to previously remediated sites. This being said, the Nation is very supportive of the proposed low impact recreation trail systems that would promote a healthy lifestyle and provide opportunities for educational outreach.

In closing, the Nation requests that dual sport motorcycle use not be allowed on WDNR lands at the SPSRA. In addition, although a shooting range is no longer included in this master plan, the Nation is not supportive of a shooting range at the SPSRA in the future, due to issues previously identified related to noise and user conflicts. Moreover, the idea of allowing the introduction of lead through a shooting range contradicts the efforts of the last several years to address environmental issues at the Badger property. Future land use and management of the property should focus on conservation with opportunities for low impact recreation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Master Plan for the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area.

Sincerely,


Wilfrid Cleveland
President, Ho-Chunk Nation


Darren Brinegar
Vice President, Ho-Chunk Nation

cc: Wisconsin Congressional delegation