

APPENDIX F
Correspondence



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ice Age and North Country
National Scenic Trails
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18(IATR)
Marathon/Langlade Counties

October 19, 2004

Ms. Patricia Leavenworth
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200
Madison, Wisconsin 53717

Dear Ms. Leavenworth:

We request informal consultation with your agency to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended.

The National Park Service in cooperation with our two partners for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, is conducting a planning process in Marathon and Langlade Counties, Wisconsin, to identify a corridor within which the trail will be located. The purpose of this process is to identify possible route locations for the trail, define a boundary within which Federal and State monies may be used to acquire lands for the trail, and fulfill Federal and State environmental compliance requirements. Since all participation in the Ice Age NST project is voluntary, the trail's ultimate location will be determined by the willingness of landowners to sell lands or grant permission to cross their property. Eminent domain will not be used on this project. The proposed corridor is approximately 51 miles long and 1-5 miles wide. Within this "corridor of opportunity," the partners will work to secure lands, generally 200-1,000 feet wide, on which to establish the trail. The corridor transects the eastern half of Marathon County from south to north, crossing into Langlade County in a southwest to northeast direction before joining an existing section of the Ice Age NST near Mueller Lake Town Park.

The Marathon County portion of the trail will generally follow the undulating terrain of the Hancock, Almond, and Elderon moraines deposited 10-16,000 years ago. The Langlade County portion of the trail will generally follow the Hancock and Almond moraines. The proposed corridor already contains approximately 10 miles of existing Ice Age NST that takes the hiker north from the Mountain Bay State Trail near the Ringle area through the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park. The partnership is working to connect this existing trail segment to Portage County and to the existing segment in Langlade County.

The corridor passes through or near the communities of Galloway, Bevent, Elderon, Ringle, Hatley, and Antigo. Collectively, these areas provide support facilities such as trailheads, parking, water, lodging, and phones.

Glacial remnants include the three recessional moraines which are situated in the far eastern part of the county. Other glacial elements include boulder fields, kames, lakes, potholes, and kettle ponds. The Plover River, the county's largest trout stream, also runs through the proposed corridor. The corridor contains numerous public lands and has the potential to link state fisheries areas, three county parks, including Dells of the Eau Claire County Park and State Natural Area, and several county forest units.

At this time we are gathering information on Federally-listed species within the project area. Please send us a list of species that could potentially be affected by the project. This information will be used to evaluate potential impacts of various alternatives outlined within the environmental assessment.

Enclosed are maps of the proposed corridor and existing trail that fall within the following legal description:

Marathon County:

Franzen	T26N R10E, Sections 4-9, 15-17, 20-23, 25-28, 34-36
Bevent	T26N R9E, Section 1
Reid	T27N R9E, Sections 1-2, 11-14, 23-25, 35-36
Elderon	T27N R10E, Sections 6-7, 18-19, 30-32
Ringle	T28N R9E, Sections 1-2, 11-14, 22-27, 35-36
Norrie	T28N R10E, Sections 6-7, 18-19, 30-31
Easton	T29N R9E, Sections 12-13, 22-26, 35-36
Plover	T29N R10E, Sections 1-4, 7-11, 15-19, 30-31
Harrison	T30N R10E, Sections 24-26, 34-36

Langlade County:

Rolling	T30N R11E, Sections 1-3, 8-17, 19-22, 27-33
Norwood	T30N R12E, Sections 3-10, 17-18
Antigo	T31N R11E, Sections 12-13, 23-27, 33-36
Polar	T31N R12E, Sections 7-10, 15-22, 27-34

Statewide, the scope of this project consists of developing a hiking trail that generally follows the terminal and recessional moraines and other significant glacial features left by the last glacial advance some 10,000 years ago. Portions of the trail may be developed for cross-country skiing. However, uses such as horseback-riding or mountain bike-riding will not be allowed. The trail will consist primarily of a brushed footpath that is 2-4 feet in width. In sloping areas, side-hill construction will be utilized. Sapling-size trees and other understory brush will be cleared to a 4-foot width and 8-foot height. Where it is necessary to cross wetland areas, small boardwalks and bridges will be constructed. The standards that guide the development of the trail are contained in the "Ice Age National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use" and "Ice Age National Scenic Trail, A Handbook for Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance."

We will appreciate your cooperation in this planning process and any input you can provide within your area of expertise and jurisdiction. If you have questions concerning the project, please contact Pam Schuler, Ice Age NST Manager at 608-441-5610 or pam_schuler@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

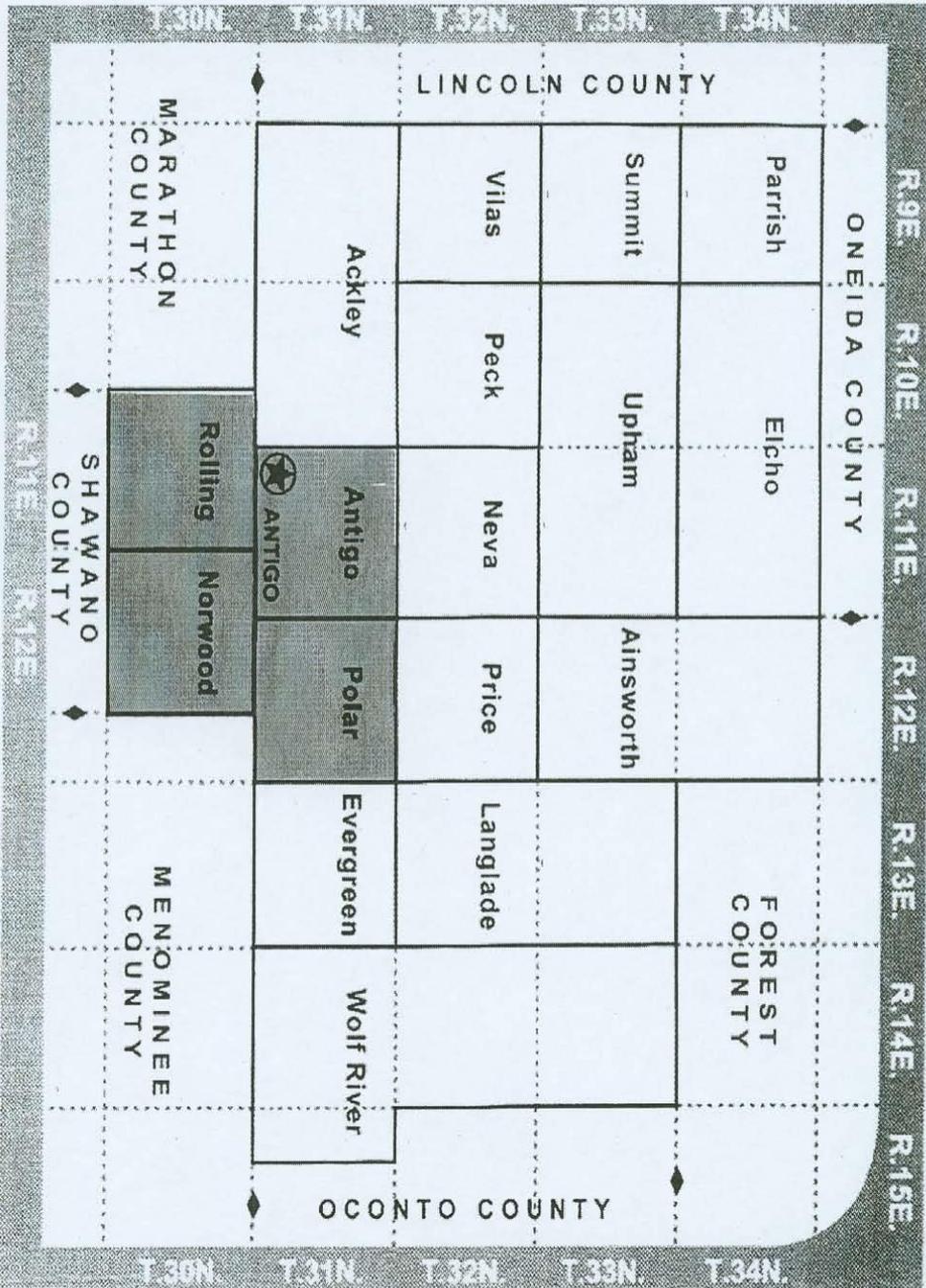


Pamela J. Schuler
Acting Superintendent

PJS:kk

Enclosures 2

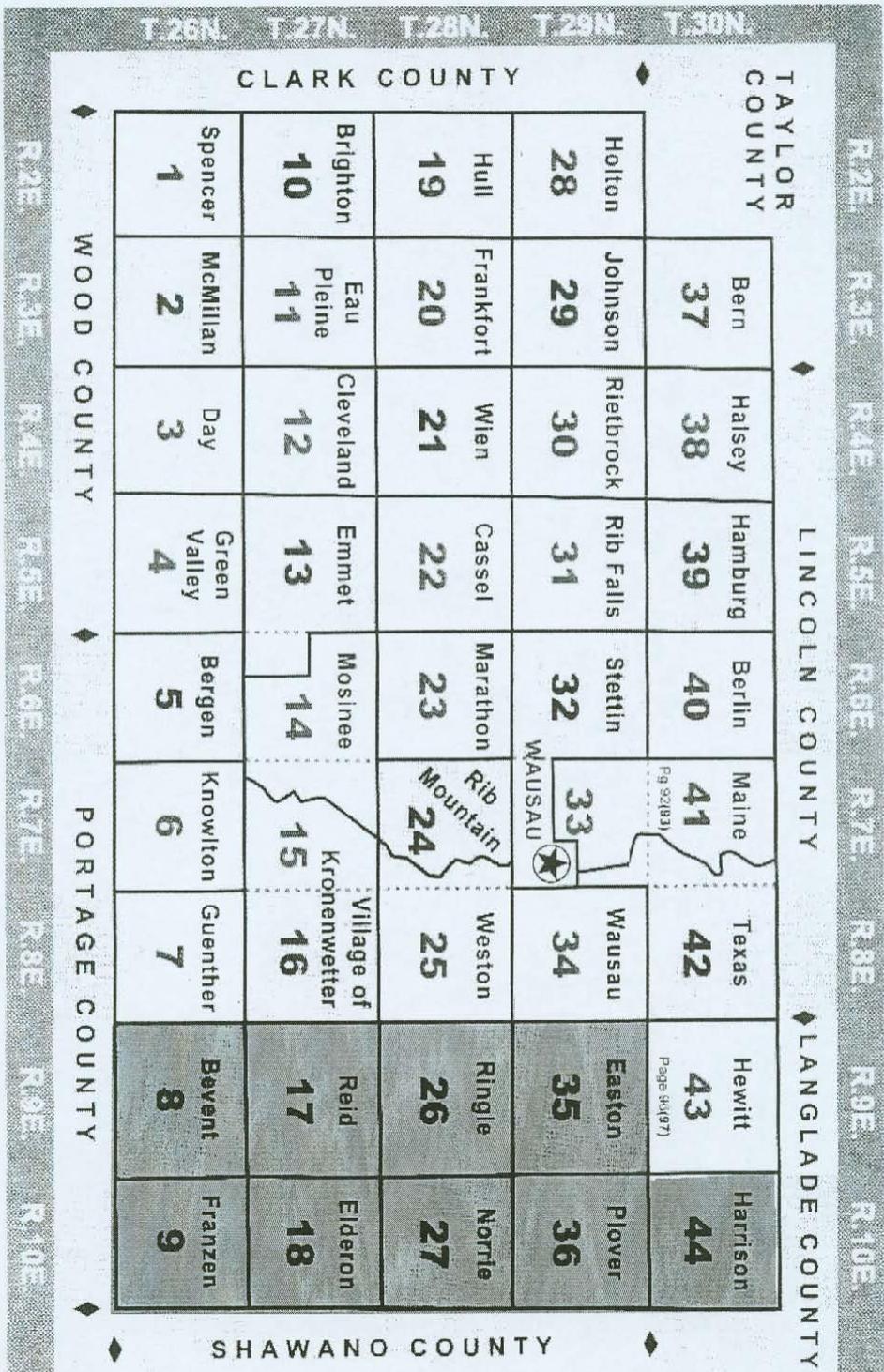
Proposed Ice Age National Scenic Trail Planning Corridor- Langlade County



Proposed Corridor



Proposed Ice Age National Scenic Trail Planning Corridor- Marathon County



Proposed Corridor



Also sent to:

Ms. Patricia Leavenworth
State Conservationist
natural Resources Conservation Service
8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200
Madison, Wisconsin 53717

Mr. Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Mr. Bruce Matzke
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
567 D'Onofrio Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53719

Mr. Charlie Peters
District Chief
U.S. Geological Survey
8505 Research Way
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562-3581

Mr. Michael Pfenning
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
190 5th Street, East
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1638

Ms. Jo Rywer
Acting Deputy Director of Planning
USDA Forest Service
626 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 100
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Eastern Region

626 East Wisconsin Ave.
Suite 800
Milwaukee, WI 53202

File Code: 1950/2350-3/2600-1

Date: NOV 02 2004

Ms. Pamela J. Schuler
Acting Superintendent
Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Dear Ms. Schuler:

Thank you for your October 19, 2004 letter, requesting information for the proposed corridor for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Listed species information may be obtained from our website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wildlife/tes/tes_lists.htm. The corridor is adjacent to the Lakewood District, of Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest; therefore, I have forwarded your letter to the district with a request that they provide any additional information. Future inquiries regarding federally listed species in the project area may be directed to Scott Anderson, Wildlife Biologist, Lakewood-Laona Ranger District at (715) 276-6333. The district mailing address is 15085 State Road 32, Lakewood, Wisconsin 54138. Please direct other inquiries related to this segment of the trail to Lakewood-Laona District Ranger, Harv Skjerven at the address.

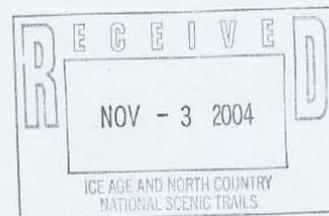
If you have any questions, please contact Jim A McDonald at (414) 297-3659 or jamcdonald@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

JO REYER
Deputy Director, Planning & Resource Information Management

cc:

Anne Archie
Donna Hepp
John Romanowski
Joel H Skjerven
Stephen Mighton



Caring for the Land and Serving People

Printed on Recycled Paper





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
190 FIFTH STREET EAST
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1638

November 22, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Project Management and Development Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division

SUBJECT: D18(IATR), Marathon/Langlade Counties

Ms. Pamela J. Schuler
Acting Superintendent
National Park Service
Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Dear Ms. Schuler:

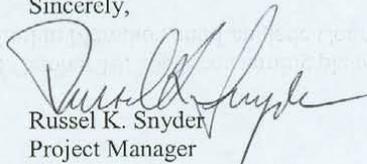
We are responding to your letter of October 19, 2004, concerning planning to identify a corridor for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Marathon and Langlade Counties, Wisconsin.

No St. Paul District real estate or current projects are located within the vicinity of the proposed trail corridor. Information on threatened and endangered species in the area can be obtained through coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

You should contact the State Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin about significant cultural resources sites in the trail corridor and whether a cultural resources survey is necessary.

The Corps of Engineers has regulatory authority over work in navigable waters under Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 and over the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands and other aquatic areas, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If the project includes the discharge of dredged or fill material into any water of the United States, including wetlands, a Section 404 permit would be required. The crossing of any navigable water of the United States would require a Section 10 permit. A description of any wetland or waterbody crossing should be submitted to the Regulatory Branch of the Corps of Engineers for review and determination of permit requirements. More information can be obtained from Mr. Robert J. Whiting, Chief, Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 190 Fifth Street East, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1638, telephone (651) 290-5376.

Sincerely,



Russel K. Snyder
Project Manager



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

DEC 09 2004

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:
R-19J

Pamela J. Schuler
Acting Superintendent
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53711



Re: Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Dear Ms. Schuler:

Thank you for your letter dated October 19, 2004, which was received on November 23, 2004. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) agrees to cooperate with the National Park Service (NPS) for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail planning process, as you requested. Project proponents are attempting to identify possible route locations for the trail, define a boundary within which Federal and State monies may be used to acquire lands for the trail, as well as fulfill Federal and State environmental compliance requirements. The corridor transects the eastern half of Marathon County crossing into Langlade County before joining an existing section of the Ice Age NST near Mueller Lake Town Park.

U.S. EPA agrees to review documentation and address issues falling under our agency's jurisdiction with the expectation that the project will accurately reflect our views and concerns. This is a typical activity for our agency under Section 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508). U.S. EPA retains its independent review and comment function under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. In addition, we have one tool which may be useful. The Critical Ecosystem Assessment Model evaluates the condition of Midwestern ecosystems using undeveloped land cover as of 1992. This program can be used in conjunction with other sources of information to assist in identifying a suitable corridor.

In your request letter, you asked the U.S. EPA to send a list of species that could potentially be affected by the project. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Green Bay Ecological Services Office, and the appropriate Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources office. These agencies, respectively, maintain lists of Federal and State listed threatened and endangered species and will be better suited to facilitate a full review of the effects of this project on listed species or areas designated as critical habitat.

We look forward to collaborating with the NPS on this project. My staff contact on this project is Kathleen Kowal, who can be reached at (312) 353-5206 or kowal.kathleen@epa.gov. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ice Age and North Country
National Scenic Trails
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18(IATR)
Marathon/Langlade Counties

October 19, 2004

Ms. Deanne Bahr
NAGPRA Contact Representative
Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska
305 North Main
Reserve, Kansas 66434

Dear Ms. Bahr:

We request informal consultation with your Nation to fulfill National Park Service responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

The National Park Service in cooperation with our two partners for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, is conducting a planning process in Marathon and Langlade Counties, Wisconsin, to identify a corridor within which the trail will be located. The purpose of this process is to identify possible route locations for the trail, define a boundary within which Federal and State monies may be used to acquire lands for the trail, and fulfill Federal and State environmental compliance requirements. Since all participation in the Ice Age NST project is voluntary, the trail's ultimate location will be determined by the willingness of landowners to sell lands or grant permission to cross their property. Eminent domain will not be used on this project. The proposed corridor is approximately 51 miles long and 1-5 miles wide. Within this "corridor of opportunity," the partners will work to secure lands, generally 200-1,000 feet wide, on which to establish the trail. The corridor transects the eastern half of Marathon County from south to north crossing into Langlade County in a southwest to northeast direction before joining an existing section of the Ice Age NST near Mueller Lake Town Park.

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The corridor passes through or near the communities of Galloway, Bevent, Elderon, Ringle, Hatley, and Antigo. Collectively, these areas provide support facilities such as trailheads, parking, water, lodging, and phones.

Glacial remnants include the three recessional moraines which are situated in the far eastern part of the county. Other glacial elements include boulder fields, kames, lakes, potholes, and kettle ponds. The Plover River, the county's largest trout stream, also runs through the proposed corridor. The corridor contains numerous public lands and has the potential to link state fisheries areas, three county parks, including Dells of the Eau Claire County Park and State Natural Area, and several county forest units.

At this time we are gathering information on Federally-listed species within the project area. Please send us a list of species that could potentially be affected by the project. This information will be used to evaluate potential impacts of various alternatives outlined within the environmental assessment.

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Harrison	T30N R10E, Sections 24-26, 34-36

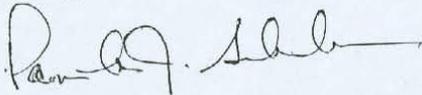
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Polar	T31N R12E, Sections 7-10, 15-22, 27-34

Statewide the scope of this project consists of developing a hiking trail that generally follows the terminal and recessional moraines and other significant glacial features left by the last glacial advance some 10,000 years ago. Portions of the trail may be developed for cross-country skiing. However, uses such as horseback-riding or mountain bike-riding will not be allowed. The trail will consist primarily of a brushed footpath that is 2-4 feet in width. In sloping areas, side-hill construction will be utilized. Sapling-size trees and other understory brush will be cleared to a 4-foot width and 8-foot height. Where it is necessary to cross wetland areas, small boardwalks and bridges will be constructed. The standards that guide the development of the trail are contained in the "Ice Age National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use," and "Ice Age National Scenic Trail, A Handbook for Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance."

We will appreciate your cooperation in this planning process and any input you can provide within your area of expertise and jurisdiction. If you have questions concerning the project, please contact Pam Schuler, Ice Age NST Manager, at 608-441-5610 or pam_schuler@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Schuler
Acting Superintendent

PJS:kk

Enclosures 2

Also Sent to:

Mr. Don Abney
Principal Chief
Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Route 2, Box 246
Stroud, Oklahoma 74079

Mr. Eugene Bigboy, Sr.
Chairman
Bad River Band of Lake Superior
Tribe of the Chippewa
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

Mr. Robert Chicks
President
Stockbridge Munsee Community
of Wisconsin
N8476 Mo-He-Con-Nuck Road
Bowler, Wisconsin 54416

Ms. Christina Danforth
Chairperson
Oneida Tribe of Indians of
Wisconsin
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, Wisconsin 54155

Mr. Raymond M. DePerry
Chairman
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa
88385 Pike Road, Highway 13
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814

Mr. Elmer "Jay" Emery
President
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of
Wisconsin
P.O. Box 45287
Hertel, Wisconsin 54845

Mr. Harold Frank
Chairman
Forest County Potawatomi
Community of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 340
Crandon, Wisconsin 54520

Mr. Larry Garvin
Repatriation Representative
Ho-Chunk Nation
P.O. Box 667
Black River Falls, Wisconsin
54615-0636

Ms. Sandra L. Rachal
Chairwoman
Sokaogon Chippewa Community,
Mole Lake Band
3086 State HIGHWAY 55
Crandon, Wisconsin 54520

Mr. Henry St. Germaine, Sr.
President
Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa
P.O. Box 67
Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin
54538

Mr. Louis Taylor
Chairman
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa
13394 West Trepania Road,
Building 1
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843

Mr. Alex Walker
Tribal Chairman
Sac and Fox Tribe of the
Mississippi in Iowa
349 Meshwaki Road
Tama, Iowa 52339-9629

Ms. Lisa Waukau
Chairwoman
Menominee Indian Tribe of
Wisconsin
P.O. Box 910
Keshena, Wisconsin 54135



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ice Age and North Country
National Scenic Trails
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (IATR)
Marathon County

May 19, 2005

Dear Landowners and Interested Individuals:

It has been 4 months since our January 2005 Open House meetings for the proposed Marathon County Ice Age National Scenic Trail corridor and we are still receiving comments. Before too much time passes, we want to express our appreciation and thanks for your interest and taking the time to attend the meetings and/or provide written comments regarding the proposed corridor. Your comments have been very thoughtful and helpful to us. We would like to provide you with an overview of them, clarify some issues, and brief you on the next steps required to complete the planning process in Marathon County.

The purpose of the planning process and the open house meetings are to identify a general location for the trail and actively involve the public in this decision-making process. For those of you who did not attend the open houses, all were conducted in a similar manner. Maps and aerial photos of the proposed corridor were on display. Representatives from the National Park Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and Marathon County Parks Department were present to answer questions and provide additional information. Each open house featured a presentation about some aspect of the project including geology, cultural history, and natural history of the county.

The number of people who signed in at the three meetings totaled 93. Many of these people were accompanied by family or friends. Verbal comments were obtained from all interested individuals attending the open houses. A total of 14 written comments have been received to date.

During the open houses and through the comment sheets received, a number of questions and concerns were raised regarding development of the trail. Attached is a summary of the most common questions and corresponding responses.

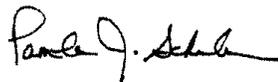
What happens next in the planning process? At the January 2005 open houses a proposed "corridor of opportunity" for the trail was presented to landowners, public officials, and the general public for their input. Utilizing the input received at the meetings and the criteria for placing the trail--geologic features, existing trail, availability of public lands, and opportunities for aesthetic, educational, and recreational experiences--we have begun to identify possible route options for the trail within that corridor. This will take time. Landowners that did not attend the open houses may be contacted to talk about the possibility of hosting the trail on their property. We have also begun writing a Trailway Plan and Environmental Assessment that will incorporate comments we received during the open houses and discuss the environmental and sociological impacts which may result from the trail. We plan to have copies of a draft version of this document available for the next series of open house meetings, which will be held in the spring of 2006. The purpose of the second series of open house meetings is to obtain input regarding the possible route options. In response to several comments received during the first round of meetings, we will also include an informational presentation and question and answer period. After this series of meetings, the planning process will conclude.

The partners involved in the Ice Age National Scenic Trail recognize that its completion will take a very long time since all participation in this project is voluntary. It will not be finished in the next year or in the next several years. It will happen slowly as landowners voluntarily give permission for the trail or sell lands or easements for the trail. It may take 10, 20, or more years to complete the trail. Until a protected trail route is established, it may be temporarily routed along road right-of-ways and on areas where public access for hiking is less than permanent.

In the meantime, we invite you to explore and enjoy the Ice Age National Scenic Trail as it currently exists in Marathon County. This segment of the trail has the potential to be one of the best. If you would like to see trail builders in action, on July 14-17, 2005, a Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) trail rehabilitation project will take place at Dells of the Eau Claire County Park. This 3-day event is being sponsored by the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation's Marathon County Chapter. On Saturday, August 13, 2005, there will be a follow-up hike for the public to showcase the work done by the MSC on this 2.5 mile segment. We welcome all of you who wish to attend. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information.

I hope this information is useful and answers many of your questions. If you would still like to comment, please send letters to us, the National Park Service, here in Madison.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Schuler
Manager, Ice Age National Scenic Trail

PJS:kk

Enclosures 2

Answers to Questions and Comments about the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Marathon County

Planning

1. How do we determine where the trail will be located?

There are a number of factors that help us identify at least a general location for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST). The first consideration is proximity to the terminal moraines and other glacial features left by the last advance of continental glaciers. While the last great glacial advance covered most of North America approximately 10-16,000 years ago, nowhere are there better examples of continental glaciations than in the State of Wisconsin. The primary purpose of the Ice Age NST is to protect and interpret these features--moraines, kames, kettle ponds, outwash plains, erratics, melt-water channels, and more--as well as provide a footpath to explore this unique landscape. Throughout the state, the landmark feature that the Ice Age NST generally follows is the moraines--the large hills and ridges of glacial till dumped over time by the advancing and receding mile-high sheet of ice. The moraines in Marathon County are aligned in a north-south direction and are located in the far eastern portion of the county.

Other factors that help determine location are significant cultural or biological resources that the glacier influenced, existing trail, linkage to public lands and towns for support facilities and interpretive opportunities, provision for a varied and scenic hiking experience, and reasonable directness of route. The Ice Age NST has existed in Marathon County since the early 1970s. Today there are 13 miles of trail that wind from the Ringle Area to the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park. There are also two county parks--Dells of the Eau Claire and Mission Lake--that lie on the moraines, one north and one south of the Village of Hatley and State Highway 29.

Since the Ice Age NST is a statewide trail that spans 30 counties, another factor that influences the placement of the trail are existing trail segments and approved Ice Age NST corridor plans in adjacent counties. To Marathon County's northeast, Langlade County has 54.5 miles of existing Ice Age NST, the southern terminus of which is Polar. On Marathon County's southern border, the Corridor Planning Process for Portage and Waupaca Counties was completed in the late 1990s. That process identified a corridor for the trail in those counties that would enter Marathon County on its far southeastern corner.

Once all of the significant geological, biological, cultural features as well as the public lands and existing features are mapped, a wide corridor, approximately 3-5 miles in width, is then wrapped around them. This corridor is an opportunity zone within which the trail can be established. The corridor is intentionally designed wide enough to allow flexibility in working with landowners to site the trail. It also defines the area where state or federal dollars can be used to purchase lands or provide grants to others to purchase land for the trail. The corridor itself has no legal standing; it is not a recorded instrument. It simply defines the geographic limits of the National Park Service (NPS), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation's (IAPTF) involvement with the project. Since all participation in the Ice Age NST project is voluntary, ultimately it is the landowner that determines where the actual trail will be located.

2. Why must the trail be continuous?

The law which created the Ice Age NST in 1980 (Public Law 96-370) calls for the development of "a trail of approximately one thousand miles extending from Door County, Wisconsin to Interstate Park in Saint Croix County, Wisconsin, generally following the route described in "On the Trail on the Ice

Age – A Hiker’s and Biker’s Guide to Wisconsin’s National Scientific Reserve and Trail.”
Discontinuous, isolated segments of the trail would fail to meet the legislative intent set by Congress.

Uses

3. What kinds of uses will be allowed on the trail?

The primary uses of the Ice Age NST in Marathon County will be hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, and where designated, cross country skiing. In general, horses, bikes, and snowmobiles are not allowed on the trail except for those sections that follow State Recreational Trails such as the Mountain-Bay, Military Ridge, Ahnapee, and Tuscobia. ATVs are never allowed. Occasional travel on or across the trail with motorized vehicles by the landowner or manager for the purpose of managing and using their land is permitted. If necessary, various structures such as stiles, gates, or fences can be strategically placed along the trail to discourage undesirable uses from occurring.

4. How does hunting affect use of the trail?

Hunting is permitted on many of the publicly-owned lands where segments of the trail exist. On most of these lands, the Ice Age NST is closed during gun deer season. Segments of the trail on privately-owned land are open to hunting only by permission of the landowner.

5. Can county highways be used for part of the trail?

The Ice Age NST is meant to be a continuous overland (off-road) trail. This does not preclude the use of short sections of lightly-used town or county roads (usually less than one mile) or bridges when necessary in order to cross rivers, lakes, interstate highways, dams, etc. Where segments of existing Ice Age NST are presently routed on public roads, they cannot be designated as the official route, but rather as temporary road connectors. Typically, when the trail follows roads it is to provide hikers with a designated route between completed segments of the trail. When this occurs, the road’s right-of-way should be wide enough for the trail to be established safely beyond the shoulder and/or drainage ditch. Locating the trail within a public road right-of-way should be kept to a minimum so that the trail user is not continuously exposed to motor vehicle traffic.

6. Will remote portions of the trail get much use?

It is difficult to predict the level of use for the Ice Age NST through Marathon County. Based on patterns of use of other long-distance trails, segments located near populated areas will receive more use than those in remote areas. Some trail users prefer the experience afforded by more remote trail segments.

Trail Building and Maintenance

7. Who constructs and maintains the trail?

While the Ice Age NST is a cooperative effort involving many public agencies and private organizations, the primary builders and maintainers of the trail are the volunteers organized by the IAPTF. IAPTF volunteers have built and continue to maintain nearly 600 miles of Ice Age NST now open for public use statewide, including the 13 miles that exist in Marathon County. Volunteers are organized into chapters that are responsible for various segments of trail. Once a trail segment is constructed, chapters have scheduled work days to keep it cleared and signed, and structures in good repair. They also monitor the trail for litter, safety, and misuse. In addition to the volunteers, the IAPTF has a Mobile Skills Crew, a statewide program whose purpose is to train volunteers to build high quality trail to a sustainable standard and provide the user with a positive experience. Other sponsored programs such as the Wisconsin Conservation Corp, the Sprite program, and county youth conservation corps have also constructed and rehabilitated many miles of trail.

8. How do you prevent the trail surface from becoming a muddy mess with erosion causing it to become “braided?”

Development of the trail varies depending on the terrain through which it passes. As long as the trail is on fairly level ground and stable soil, it is typically easy to maintain. However, once the trail begins to climb or descend, the stability of the trail tread becomes a factor. The best way to prevent erosion is to employ high-quality construction techniques from the start. The Mobile Skills Crew holds workshops for volunteers to train them how to correctly engineer (or design) a trail. For trail construction and maintenance standards, including “plumbing” (controlling water on the trail), they use the Ice Age NST Handbook for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance. This handbook provides detailed information about trail structures that are necessary for safe passage over wet areas and topographical or human barriers.

9. How will you site support facilities such as overnight camping, bathrooms, and water for the trail?

Support facilities for the trail are frequently part of an existing facility. In the early stages of the Corridor Planning Process, public lands and towns are identified that could provide trailheads/parking lots, overnight accommodations, food, bathrooms, and water for users of the trail. The standards for their placement and spacing are outlined in the Ice Age NST Handbook for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance. For example, according to the standards, a trailhead/parking lot should be provided every 5 miles if use is high, and every 8 miles when actual use is low. Every trail segment is different and decisions will be site specific. If additional support facilities are needed beside what exists, Ice Age NST representatives will work with the county, towns, and property owners to find a solution that is amenable to all concerned. Regarding Marathon County, there are numerous public lands and towns within the proposed corridor that will probably be able to meet most of the Ice Age NST’s needs.

10. Will trail users trespass on my property? Will I lose my privacy?

The Ice Age NST in Marathon County would be clearly marked advising the recreational user to stay on the trail. Based on patterns of use on Ice Age NST segments in other areas of the state and on other long-distance trails, such as the Appalachian Trail, hikers respect the use agreements with the local landowners. Hikers, as a group, tend to have a strong land ethic and respect the rights of others. Should law enforcement be needed, it is provided by the county sheriff’s department and others that have legal jurisdiction over areas through which the trail passes. Landowners who voluntarily agree to allow the trail on their property will be fully involved in determining exactly where the trail crosses their land, so they can ensure that they are comfortable with the distance between their residence (or other buildings) and the trail.

11. Are landowners legally liable for injuries to trail users?

If you sell your land to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation for Ice Age NST purposes, the liability rests with them. If you do not sell any property but rather grant permission for the trail to cross your land, you will be covered by the Wisconsin liability law (Wisconsin Statutes 895.52). This recreational liability law gives considerable protection from liability. Landowners who receive less than \$2,000 per year for allowing recreational use of their land would be liable only for injuries they willfully cause with the intent to harm recreational users. Landowners are not required to keep their property safe for recreational users. The Wisconsin Supreme Court has upheld the validity of this law, citing the Legislature’s clear intent to encourage private landowners to open their lands to recreational use by the public.

12. If an indigent hiker were to be injured on the trail, would the local township be liable for any unpaid emergency medical costs?

According to the Wisconsin Towns Association, a statewide membership group created to protect the interests of the state's 1,264 towns and improve town government, township liability would be the same as that associated with the provision of emergency services to other indigent individuals. Marathon County Department of Social Services, charged with administration of general and emergency medical relief for the county, advised that if an injured person were eligible for Medicaid, emergency medical charges would be reimbursed through the individual's county of residence. If an individual does not have insurance or does not qualify for Medicaid, there may be no way for the county to recover costs, just as with any other indigent person.

As part of a 2-year study initiated in 1999 [State Parks and their Gateway Communities: Development and Recreation Planning Issues in Wisconsin (G3773) PR-466 2002], the following describes the majority of state trail users that were interviewed. Their average age was 45, with 75% reporting that they were married. They were employed full-time in occupations categorized as "managerial/professional" or "technical/sales/administration," with 15% being retired. More than 90% of those interviewed had high school diplomas and almost 70% had post-secondary degrees. This suggests that most trail users are financially stable and responsible.

13. Must I sell my land for the Ice Age NST? I don't want the government to take my property for the trail.

No. All property transactions relating to the Ice Age NST are strictly on a willing seller basis. There is no obligation for any private landowner to either sell or donate land for the Ice Age NST or to permit the trail to cross their lands. Land purchases funded with assistance from the State Stewardship Program are based upon appraisals of fair market value made by independent appraisers. Conservation easements or donations of land to IAPTF or the government for the trail are fully deductible for both federal and state income tax purposes.

14. What are contractual obligations in relation to sale of Managed Forest Law/Forest Crop Law properties?

The Wisconsin Managed Forest Law replaced the Forest Crop Law in 1986. Contract lengths vary and can run for periods of 25 or 50 years depending on which law and the year lands were entered. These lands can be sold and the contract transferred if it meets the eligibility requirements and the new owner completes and files a Notice of Conveyance and Petition for Transfer Form. Typically, the landowner is liable to pay a penalty for early withdrawal and/or failure to follow the terms of the contract. However, if the WDNR buys the land, the landowner is not subject to any penalty. Landowners should contact the WDNR forester for specific details about the sale or transfer of these properties.

15. If I allow a Conservation Easement on my property, will I still be responsible for payment of taxes on it?

Yes. When a conservation easement is purchased for the trail, the landowner still owns the land and therefore pays the taxes. An easement does not transfer ownership of the land, but gives to the purchaser of the easement certain specified rights for use or management of that portion of the property (as agreed upon between the two parties), such as the right of public passage over the property for hiking within the boundaries of the easement area. In addition, fee simple purchase or outright purchase of an agreed upon parcel of land is an option for landowners who no longer want to own their land or pay taxes.



Victoria A. Doud
PRESIDENT

October 29, 2004

Pamela J. Schuler
National Park Service
Ice Age Scenic Trails
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Schuler,

The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians welcomes the opportunity to be informed and participate in the planning of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Marathon and Langlade Counties. It is somewhat confusing in your choice of words requesting informal consultation with the Band to fulfill the National Park Service's responsibility under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. How is informal consultation defined and how will informal consultation influence how the trail is developed?

I also want to take the opportunity to inform the National Park Service the Lac du Flambeau Band has reserved hunting, fishing and gathering rights in the ceded territory located in Marathon and Langlade Counties. The Band will be very interested and determined to understand how these trails may impact our ability to exercise the treaty rights. The Band is particularly interested in whitetail deer, black bear, wild turkey, waterfowl, walleye, muskellunge, wild rice, white birch, cedar, sugar maple, sage and other medicinal plants. It is also important to contact Mr. Jim Schlender, Executive Administrator of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission at PO Box 9, Odanah, Wisconsin 54891. The Great Lakes Indian Fish Wildlife Commission will be able to provide more information on Chippewa Treaty Rights and a comprehensive list of species that the Ice Age National Scenic Trail may potentially affect.

Clearly it is understood the federal government and its agencies through Treaties and Executive Orders have a trust responsibility to federally recognized Tribes and subsequently a government-to-government relationship exists. Because of this special relationship, Treaty Rights along with culturally significant sites must be protected and preserved.

Please note Mr. Henry St. Germaine is no longer the Tribal President of the Band. Address all future correspondence to Ms. Victoria Doud, President, PO Box 67, Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin 54538 (715-588-4206).

Sincerely,

Victoria Doud
President

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

P.O. Box 67 - Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin 54538 • (715) 588-4205 • FAX (715) 588-2734



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ice Age and North Country
National Scenic Trails
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18(IATR)
Marathon/Langlade Counties

December 8, 2004

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
Mr. Neal Kmiecik
P.O. Box 9
Odana, Wisconsin 54891

Dear Mr. Kmiecik:

Recently we began a corridor planning process for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST) in Marathon and Langlade Counties, Wisconsin. As part of this process we contacted the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. Tribal President Victoria Doud requested that we contact your office for additional information on Chippewa Treaty Rights and a comprehensive list of species that may be affected potentially by the trail.

The goal of the planning process in Marathon and Langlade Counties is to identify a corridor within which the trail will be located. The purpose of this process is to identify possible route locations for the trail, define a boundary within which Federal and State monies may be used to acquire lands for the trail, and fulfill Federal and State environmental compliance requirements. The National Park Service is leading this effort in cooperation with our two partners in the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST)--the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation. The proposed corridor is approximately 51 miles long and 1 to 5 miles in width. Within this "corridor of opportunity," the partners will work to secure lands, generally 200 to 1,000 feet wide, on which to establish the trail. The corridor transects the eastern half of Marathon County from south to north crossing into Langlade County in a southwest to northeast direction before joining an existing section of the Ice Age NST near Mueller Lake Town Park.

The Marathon County portion of the trail will generally follow the undulating terrain of the Hancock, Almond, and Elderon moraines deposited 10-16,000 years ago. The Langlade County portion of the trail will generally follow the Hancock and Almond moraines. The proposed corridor already contains approximately 10 miles of existing Ice Age NST that takes the hiker north from the Mountain Bay State Trail near the Ringle area through the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park. The partnership is working to connect this existing trail segment to Portage County and to the existing segment in Langlade County.

The corridor passes through or near the communities of Galloway, Bevent, Elderon, Ringle, Hatley, and Antigo. Collectively, these areas provide support facilities such as trailheads, parking, water, lodging, and phones.

Glacial remnants include the three recessional moraines which are situated in the far eastern part of the county. Other glacial elements include boulder fields, kames, lakes, potholes, and kettle ponds. The Plover River, the county's largest trout stream, also runs through the proposed corridor. The corridor contains numerous public lands and has the potential to link state fisheries areas, three county parks, including Dells of the Eau Claire County Park and State Natural Area, and several county forest units.

Enclosed are maps of the proposed corridor and existing trail that fall within the following legal description:

Marathon County:

Franzen	T26N R10E, Sections 4-9, 15-17, 20-23, 25-28, 34-36
Bevent	T26N R9E, Section 1
Reid	T27N R9E, Sections 1-2, 11-14, 23-25, 35-36
Elderon	T27N R10E, Sections 6-7, 18-19, 30-32
Ringle	T28N R9E, Sections 1-2, 11-14, 22-27, 35-36
Norrie	T28N R10E, Sections 6-7, 18-19, 30-31
Easton	T29N R9E, Sections 12-13, 22-26, 35-36
Plover	T29N R10E, Sections 1-4, 7-11, 15-19, 30-31
Harrison	T30N R10E, Sections 24-26, 34-36

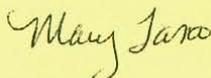
Langlade County:

Rolling	T30N R11E, Sections 1-3, 8-17, 19-22, 27-33
Norwood	T30N R12E, Sections 3-10, 17-18
Antigo	T31N R11E, Sections 12-13, 23-27, 33-36
Polar	T31N R12E, Sections 7-10, 15-22, 27-34

Statewide the scope of this project consists of developing a hiking trail that generally follows the terminal and recessional moraines and other significant glacial features left by the last glacial advance some 10,000 years ago. Portions of the trail may be developed for cross-county skiing; however, uses such as horseback riding or mountain bike riding will not be allowed. The trail will consist primarily of a brushed footpath that is 2-4 feet in width. In sloping areas, side-hill construction will be utilized. Sapling size trees and other understory brush will be cleared to a 4-foot width and 8-foot height. Where it is necessary to cross wetland areas, small boardwalks and bridges will be constructed. The standards that guide the development of the trail are contained in the "Ice Age National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use," and "Ice Age National Scenic Trail, A Handbook for Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance."

We appreciate your cooperation in this planning process and any input you can provide within your area of expertise and jurisdiction. If you have questions concerning the project, please contact Pam Schuler, Ice Age NST Manager, at 608-441-5610.

Sincerely,



Mary Tano
Trail Planner, Ice Age NST

MT:kk

Enclosures 2

GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

P. O. Box 9 • Odanah, WI 54861 • 715/682-6619 • FAX 715/682-9294



• MEMBER TRIBES •

MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community
Keweenaw Bay Community
Lac Vieux Desert Band

WISCONSIN

Bad River Band
Lac Courte Oreilles Band
Lac du Flambeau Band
Red Cliff Band
St. Croix Chippewa
Sokaogon Chippewa

MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Band
Mille Lacs Band

January 6, 2005

Ms. Mary Tano
Trail Planner, Ice Age NST
700 Rayovac Dr., Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711



Dear Ms. Tano:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 2004 in which you describe the planning process for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Marathon and Langlade Counties, Wisconsin. The Voigt Intertribal Task Force (Task Force) of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) has authorized the submission of these comments regarding the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, which have been prepared by Commission staff.

The Task Force points out that its comments are submitted from the ceded territory perspective. These comments are not intended to preclude comments by individual tribes pursuant to their sovereign prerogatives. The Task Force encourages the National Park Service to solicit comments from tribes which may be affected by this trail.

The member tribes of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission enjoy retained usufructory rights within the territories ceded to the U.S. government in the treaties of 1837 and 1842. Hunting, fishing and gathering rights were retained in these two treaties in order to preserve the life way and cultural heritage of the Ojibwe Indians. During the exercise of these treaty rights literally hundreds of species of plant and animal are used. The proposed trail corridor passes through these ceded territories and thus may impact the exercise of these treaty rights.

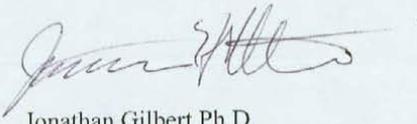
The Federal government has a unique trust responsibility to American Indian tribes, including the member tribes of the Commission. This trust responsibility has been recognized and acknowledged by various government agencies including the USDA Forest Service – Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and the National Park Service – Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. In the various planning documents prepared by these agencies, treaty rights have been preserved through the use of the phrase: “Nothing in this plan or its implementation is intended to modify, abrogate, or otherwise adversely affect tribal reserved or treaty-guaranteed rights”. At the very minimum the tribes encourage the Ice Age National Scenic Trail plan to include the same language.

There may be opportunities for the tribes and Commission to work with the National Park Service – Ice Age Trail to enhance the exercise of treaty rights through ecosystem management

and the preservation of biodiversity. To this end I would like to request more information about the Ice Age Trail including the "Ice Age National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use" and "Ice Age National Scenic Trail, A Handbook for Trail Design, Constructions and Maintenance" and any other planning documents relating specifically to this trail.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss these opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Gilbert", written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Gilbert Ph.D.
Wildlife Section Leader

cc James Schlender, Executive Administrator
James Zorn, Policy Analyst
Neil Kmiecik, Biological Services Director
Karen Danielsen, Ecologist

