



PARTNERS IN FORESTRY LANDOWNERS COOPERATIVE
6063 Baker Lake Road
Conover, WI 54519

October 16, 2012

Tony L. Ferguson, Director
Area Director
USDA Forest Service
Northeast Area, S&PF
11 Campus Boulevard, Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Dear Director Ferguson:

Partners in Forestry is happy to offer support for the State of Wisconsin's Forest Legacy application under the "Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest" project. The State of Wisconsin has ranked this as their number one Forest Legacy project, and I encourage the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to include this project in its fiscal year (FY) 2014 President's budget for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) within the Land and Water Conservation Fund account.

This funding is important to allow the State to complete the second phase of this extraordinary opportunity to protect 67,285 acres of undeveloped forestland—the largest conservation effort in Wisconsin's state history. The first phase was completed in August, and FLP funding will provide the necessary match to State funds to complete the second phase and secure a working forest easement on the remaining 22,667 acres.

Being a member of the Wisconsin Forest Stewardship Committee I had the pleasure to tour this property, just weeks ago, and in turn offered very positive reviews of the features in this project to our board and membership.

For several reasons the Douglas County pine barrens is a treasure in the northwest corner of Wisconsin, and is well deserving of perpetual conservation under the FLP. The economic, social and intrinsic values are important to a growing population.

The economic importance of this project is critical to the local and regional economy. This land has been managed for timber production for seven decades and supports numerous jobs both directly and indirectly.

With 3.5 million people within a three hour drive, the open space with road and trail network offers very easy access for diverse public recreation. The 47 miles of trail include a segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Hunting, fishing, hiking and bird watching are only a few of the recreational activities here.

The large undeveloped forest land is important to protect water in the Brule and St. Croix watersheds and drinking water to neighboring communities, as well as the integrity of the wild lakes spotting this project. The sandy soils in the barrens are testimony to the importance of protecting the shallow groundwater resource. Within this highlands is the headwaters from which flows water to the Mississippi River via the scenic St. Croix and to Lake Superior via the Boise Brule River.

The barrens offer a unique habitat for rare wildlife including the Kirtland Warbler and the Karner Blue butterfly, as the management includes significant rotating stands of jack pine. The ever rotating areas of pine offer different age stands valuable to a vast array of different wildlife.

Partners in Forestry is a member based Cooperative striving to maintain the benefits of the regions northern forests for members and the public at large. Within the greater forest landscape we recognize the social, economic, ecological and intrinsic importance of the northern forests to a growing society. With this goal we are proud to support the Brule-St. Croix Forest Legacy Project and hope you will give this important project strong consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions concerning our support.

Sincerely,

Joe Hovel, Director
Partners in Forestry Landowner Cooperative
6063 Baker Lake Road
Conover, WI 54519
phone: 715-479-8528
partnersinforesstry@gmail.com
www.partnersinforesstry.com

cc: Nicole Potvin (FR/4)
Forest Legacy Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S Webster St
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

With 3.5 million people within a three hour drive, the open space with road and trail network offers very easy access for diverse public recreation. The 47 miles of trail include a segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Hunting, fishing, hiking and bird watching are only a few of the recreational activities here.

The large undeveloped forest land is important to protect water in the Brule and St. Croix watersheds and drinking water to neighboring communities, as well as the integrity of the wild lakes spotting this project. The sandy soils in the barrens are testimony to the importance of protecting the shallow groundwater resource. Within this highlands is the headwaters from which flows water to the Mississippi River via the scenic St. Croix and to Lake Superior via the Boise Brule River

The barrens offer a unique habitat for rare wildlife including the Kirtland Warbler and the Karner Blue butterfly, as the management includes significant rotating stands of jack pine. The ever rotating areas of pine offer different age stands valuable to a vast array of different wildlife.

Partners in Forestry is a member based Cooperative striving to maintain the benefits of the regions *northern forests for members and the public at large*. Within the greater forest landscape we recognize the social, economic, ecological and intrinsic importance of the northern forests to a growing society. With this goal we are proud to support the Brule-St. Croix Forest Legacy Project and hope you will give this important project strong consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions concerning our support.

Sincerely,



Joe Hovel, Director
Partners in Forestry Landowner Cooperative
6063 Baker Lake Road
Conover, WI 54519
phone: 715-479-8528
partnersinforesstry@gmail.com
www.partnersinforesstry.com

cc: Nicole Potvin (FR/4)
Forest Legacy Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S Webster St
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707