



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

October 16, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

Please consider the support of our organizations to the State of Wisconsin's Wild Waters Working Forest Legacy project under consideration for the FY2014 Federal Forest Legacy Program funds. This forest is important to the local and regional economy by providing timber-based jobs and numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The Wild Waters Working Forest is centered in a landscape surrounded by the Nicolet National Forest, Forest, Florence and Marinette county land and over 80,000 acres of other working forest easements. At over 9000 acres the Wild Waters Working Forest provides sustainable timber production and outdoor public recreation in the area and supports diverse wildlife habitat. These lands are managed for high value northern hardwood saw timber and veneer as well as other forest products. The forests of the Wild Waters project directly impact 50 timber-related jobs. Wood products procured from this sustainably managed forest are utilized by more than 15 local and regional mills and in turn supporting numerous other jobs.

The Wild Waters Working Forest has been managed enviably for more than a century by a family dedicated to sustainable forest management, however this is not without risk. Unique properties as this are under increasing demand which often results in conversion and parcelization. A working forest easement will ensure this land will always be available for timber production, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation and will continue to provide intrinsic values to a growing society.

Most of the industrial forest land in Wisconsin is now owned by investment organizations with the primary goal of providing financial return to investors. This trend has resulted in significant forest conversion and fragmentation. The result is an overall loss of land for timber production, outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat. In northeastern Wisconsin counties, approximately 30% of housing is recreational or second home property. This is the result of the exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities resulting from the abundance of lakes, trout waters and large forest blocks providing public access as well as the close proximity to urban areas such as Chicago, Green Bay, Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

A conservation easement on the Wild Water Legacy Forest is critically important for keeping productive forestland intact for a strong economy, healthy local tax base, recreational use, and to ensure protected

lands remain for the future enjoyment of generations to come. Partners in Forestry is a Cooperative based organization, acting as dedicated advocates to maintaining properly managed working forest lands for all the values provided to a growing population. Productive forest lands as this project provide economic, social, recreational and intrinsic value to the public, and many of the effects of forest fragmentation are counter to the needs of the same. We encourage you to give every consideration to this very viable project which we are proud to support. If I can answer any questions about our interest in this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With respect,

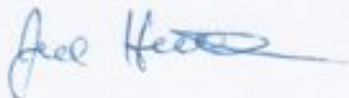
Joe Hovel, Director
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