



Doug Burgum, Governor
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January 16, 2019

William O'Donnel
Grassland Supervisor
Attn: Oil and Gas Development SEIS
2000 Miriam Circle
Bismarck, ND 58501

RE: Oil and Gas Development Supplemental EIS

Dear Mr. O'Donnel,

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the above referenced Oil and Gas Development Supplemental EIS.

Our agency scope of authority and expertise covers recreation and biological resources (in particular rare plants and ecological communities). The project as defined may affect state park lands that we manage and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) recreation projects that we coordinate. A map with LWCF project locations has been attached. All LWCF sites received assistance from the federal LWCF program and are under protection of section 6(f) of the LWCF Act. Any property taken from within the 6f boundary of these sites must be replaced with property of equal market value. Should any public or private utilities need to be added or relocated on the LWCF recreational lands, the NDPRD must be consulted prior to any action taken. Please contact Genny Giese, LWCF Grants Coordinator, at 701-328-5364 or gegiese@nd.gov if additional LWCF information is needed.

If not carefully planned, Oil and gas development can have potential significant impacts to the viewshed of Sully Creek State Park, the Theodore Roosevelt Elkhorn Ranch Natural Area, the Little Missouri River and the Maah Daah Hey trail. These remote, scenic resources are key to the state's tourism industry and contribute significant economic benefit to the western ND economy. The supplemental EIS must recognize the critical importance of protection of these resources.

The North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database has been reviewed to determine if any plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Please see the attached spreadsheet and map for more information on plant and animal species of concern, and significant ecological communities

Because this information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be species of concern or otherwise significant ecological communities in the area that are not represented in the database. The lack of data for any project area cannot be construed to mean that no significant features are present. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources. Regarding any reclamation efforts, we recommend that any impacted areas be revegetated with species native to the project area.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal and ecological community conservation, management and inter-agency cooperation to date. For additional information please contact Kathy Duttonhefner, Natural Resources Division at NDPRD, at 701-328-5370 or kgduttonhefner@nd.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental EIS.

Sincerely,

Jesse Hanson

Jesse Hanson, Deputy Director
ND Parks and Recreation Department

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Play in our backyard!

