

SEP 5 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

Ms. Diane Brusoe
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster St.
Madison WI 53707

August 28, 2013

Dear Ms. Brusoe,

I write today in response to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) draft conceptual alternatives for resource management and recreational opportunities at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.

As you know, the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area represents the Wisconsin DNR's (WDNR) portion of the 7,354-acre Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I have worked and lived near the BAAP in Sauk County for more than thirty years. For more than fifteen years I have been actively involved in the public process to shape a positive future for the Badger lands. I was honored to serve on the multi-stakeholder Badger Reuse Committee, representing the Community Conservation Coalition for the Sauk Prairie (now The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance). The WDNR was also an active and consistent partner on the Committee and in follow-up actions to establish the Badger Oversight and Management Commission.

Since its completion in 2001, the committee's consensus Badger Reuse Plan (BRP) has provided the foundation for collaborative decision-making at Badger. It recommended cooperative management of the Badger property as a whole, and recognized several broad categories of use that could and should be integrated in doing so: ecological restoration, conservation agriculture, education and research, and recreation. It was on the basis of the Badger Reuse Plan's consensus vision and recommendations that the WDNR was requested property at Badger, and that the U.S. Department of Interior/National Park Service, serving as the WDNR's federal partner, approved that request.

All those who have worked for so long on Badger have of course been eager to see the WDNR move forward with master planning; this presents an important next step in the realization of the BRP. In many ways I am pleased with, and appreciate, what I read in the WDNR's preliminary vision statement and goal statements, and the draft conceptual alternatives. These statements and alternatives recognize the important ecological, cultural, educational, and recreational values that are inherent in the property, and that the Badger Reuse Committee recognized in crafting the reuse plan.

However, I am deeply disappointed by the limited choices offered in the draft conceptual alternatives, and their failure to reflect the full vision of the BRP and the subsequent legal agreements to move toward implementation of the BRP.

Alternative 1 (“No Action”): I recognize that that this alternative is always presented in planning documents. However, it is disappointing that the WDNR provides no information in this document of the consequences of such a choice. In particular, it fails to note the landscape degradation that would take place should such a path be followed. We are already seeing the effects at the property: over the last decade, grazing leases have been curtailed and many sites disturbed as infrastructure has been removed. Without active restoration work, the Badger landscape is being, and will continue to be, overtaken by invasive species, with detrimental effects on native plant communities, grassland birds, species of conservation concern, and biological diversity in general. It will be unfit for recreational use, or for most of the other values identified and uses embodied in the BRP. **Alternative 1 is unacceptable for these reasons.**

Alternative 2 (“Ecological Restoration Emphasis”): In its emphasis on extensive ecological restoration and educational activities, this alternative recognizes two of the main uses recommended in the BRP that ought to be incorporated in a preferred alternative. **I prefer Alternative 2 for these reasons, but only with serious reservations.** It fails to incorporate the BRP’s clear call for conservation agriculture and low-impact recreation; for the development of appropriate educational facilities and interpretive opportunities; for scientific research; and for active collaboration with other Badger landowners and stakeholders. It fails to state, and highlight, how ecological restoration can and should be integrated with recreational, agricultural, educational, and research opportunities.

Alternative 3 (“Outdoor Recreation Emphasis”): This alternative has several positive features that ought to be incorporated in a preferred alternative: it includes some degree of ecological restoration; it recognizes the educational, historical, and scenic values of the Badger property; it includes low-impact recreational trails; it calls for a visitor center (though such a center should not be placed near the railroad corridor, where it would contribute to the fragmentation of the open Badger landscape and grassland bird habitat); it recognizes potential hiking and biking connections to Devil’s Lake State Park.

These positive features of Alternative 3 are offset, however, by its significant flaws, and accepting this alternative as is would be detrimental to the landscape, to local communities, to the collaborative relationships among Badger landowners and stakeholders, and to the people of the region and the state of Wisconsin.

- The segregation of the WDNR lands at Badger into distinct “zones” in this and the other alternatives undermine the Badger Reuse Plan’s primary emphasis on management of the Badger property as whole. The inclusion of a “special use zone” that isolates specific activities is especially indicative of the limits of this approach when applied to Badger. Instead of dividing this Badger property into “zones” that specify often conflicting activities in different areas, the WDNR should adopt an approach that collaboratively plans for inclusive, complementary, and interconnected activities on the entire property.

- This alternative, like the others, also fails to indicate in any way how these proposed uses will affect, and be affected by, the activities of the WNDR's neighbors and partners at the Badger property, the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center and the Ho-Chunk Nation. Neither does it provide the public with any information about the private neighbors of Badger, or the broader regional context of the property.
- This alternative includes provisions for high-impact recreational activities—"motorized recreation opportunities" and "shooting range opportunities"—that should be removed from consideration. The proposed "Special Use Zone" should not be included in any preferred alternative. The "Special Use Zone" is inappropriate for such many reasons:
 - The land parcel is among the highest quality grassland habitats in all of Badger, and supports significant breeding populations of grassland bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need. This nearly one-square-mile block of grassland and savanna habitat supports high populations of rare and declining grassland birds including Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown Thrasher, Willow Flycatcher, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow. The impacts of the proposed high-impact uses on grassland birds and other wildlife has not been documented or analyzed.
 - The parcel contains one of the best preserved and highest quality relict tallgrass prairies in Badger, and in all of Sauk County. Citizen volunteers have been working for years to restore this special remnant.
 - The parcel is adjacent to a number of neighboring private landowners who will be directly affected by the impacts of such uses.
 - The parcel is surrounded on the other three sides by land owned and used by the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center. The proposed "special uses" will have serious and detrimental effects on their operations.
 - The proposed "special uses" will generate a significant and detrimental amount of noise, affecting neighboring landowners, wildlife and domestic livestock, other recreational users, and the general quality of the quiet and peaceful environment of the Badger lands.
 - The parcel contains contaminated soils that would inevitably be disturbed by motorized recreational use.
 - The parcel is too simply too small for motorized recreation, and will result in concentrated impacts on the land, water, plant communities, and wildlife, as well as an unsatisfying recreational experience. It would constitute not a *trail* per se, but a *track*. This is by definition a high-impact recreational use.
 - Other opportunities for shooting exist nearby—at least 17 other shooting ranges within a 30-mile radius of Badger.
 - The parcel has at its heart a historic pioneer cemetery, the Thoenke Cemetery, where many families still in the immediate vicinity of Badger have relatives buried. Many of these families were among those removed from the property in 1942 to make way for construction of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Respect alone demands that this place be treated not as a playground, but as a sacred space, important in the history and lives of Wisconsin's citizens.
- In addition to all these and other specific reasons for the inappropriate inclusion of the "Special Use Zone," these proposed uses clearly run counter to the letter and spirit of the

Badger Reuse Plan and the WDNR land transfer agreement with the U.S. National Park Service. The BRP specifies that recreational uses should be “low-impact in nature,” “compatible with other uses,” and “have no significant detrimental impacts on the cultural and natural features of the property.” These provisions of the reuse plan were built into the NPS-WDNR land transfer agreement. Inclusion of this inappropriate proposal for a “Special Use Zone” has already done great damage to the many years of trust-building and collaborative planning that has marked Badger’s recent history—and that has in fact resulted in this opportunity for the WDNR on behalf of the people of Wisconsin. The WDNR can take a positive step back toward healthy relationships at Badger by removing this inappropriate proposal in its preferred alternative.

- Alternative 3 is lacking in other ways. In its heavy emphasis on recreation, it downplays the importance of educational and research. It makes no mention at all—nor do the other two alternatives—of conservation and sustainable agriculture. These are essential components of the Badger Reuse Plan. Badger has already served as a vital research and education site. The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, for example, has hosted hundreds of students, from Sauk County school children to advanced UW-Madison graduate students. Similarly, Badger provides unique opportunities to show how conservation and agriculture can and must work together for the good of Wisconsin’s land, water, wildlife, people, economy, and future. These were the creative opportunities that we all recognized in crafting the Badger Reuse Plan. The WDNR’s planning effort so far fails to build upon, or even recognize, them. The preferred alternative should seize these opportunities and build them into its preferred alternative.

To address these shortcomings in the WDNR’s draft conceptual alternatives, many long-standing Badger stakeholders have prepared and approved an Alternative 4 (“Conservation/Low-Impact Recreation Emphasis”). This alternative adopts and adapts many of the specific and general provisions of WDNR Alternatives 2 and 3, and brings them into closer conformity with the provisions of the Badger Reuse Plan and the NPS-WDNR land transfer agreement. I have attached Alternative 4 to this letter. As of my writing, Alternative 4 has been officially endorsed by:

- the Badger Oversight and Management Commission (including the Ho-Chunk Nation and the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center)
- the Town of Sumpter
- the Town of Prairie du Sac
- the Village of Prairie Du Sac
- the Village of Sauk City
- the City of Baraboo
- the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance
- Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger
- the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- the Badger History Group.

The WDNR has invited comments on its existing draft alternatives, encouraging citizens to note the specific elements of the alternatives that they support or oppose. **Along with these many**

organizations and municipalities, and with the thousands of my fellow citizens that they represent, I submit Alternative 4 as my summary of preferences for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.

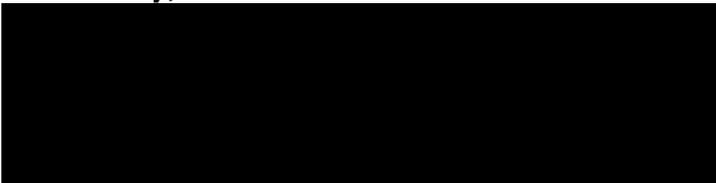
In submitting these comments, I am asking the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources simply to keep the promises that it made—to the people of Wisconsin, to our community, to the other Badger stakeholders, and to its partners over the last fifteen years at Badger—and to work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its master planning.

My last comment is to encourage all those involved within the WDNR to return to the Badger Reuse Plan. I encourage you to review again the clear and specific language that I and my fellow committee members (including my WDNR colleagues) included, and especially the statement of nine key consensus values. These are the values that we arrived at through painstaking listening, learning, and talking. These are the values that have ultimately provided the WDNR with this opportunity. They are also the filters through which we reviewed the vast array of proposed uses put before us in 2000-2001. They are the filters that the WDNR's planning effort should and must respect in order to realize the vision we share. I recommend especially Value 5:

“Uses and activities at the Badger property contribute to the reconciliation and resolution of past conflicts involving the loss and contamination of the natural environment, the displacement of Native Americans and Euro-American farmers, and the effects of war.”

We honor the land, its life, its history, its future, and each other by respecting that commitment.

Sincerely,



Member, Badger Reuse Committee (2000-2001)
 Founding member, Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance

CC: Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Gracideer
 Senator Ron Johnson
 Senator Tammy Baldwin
 Representative Mark Pocan
 Elyse LaForest, U.S. National Park Service
 State Senator Jon Erpenbach
 State Representative Fred Clark
 Sauk County Board Chair Marty Krueger
 BOMC Chair William Wenzel

BADGER OVERSIGHT MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Recommendation on Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Draft Conceptual Land Use Alternatives

ALTERNATIVE 4

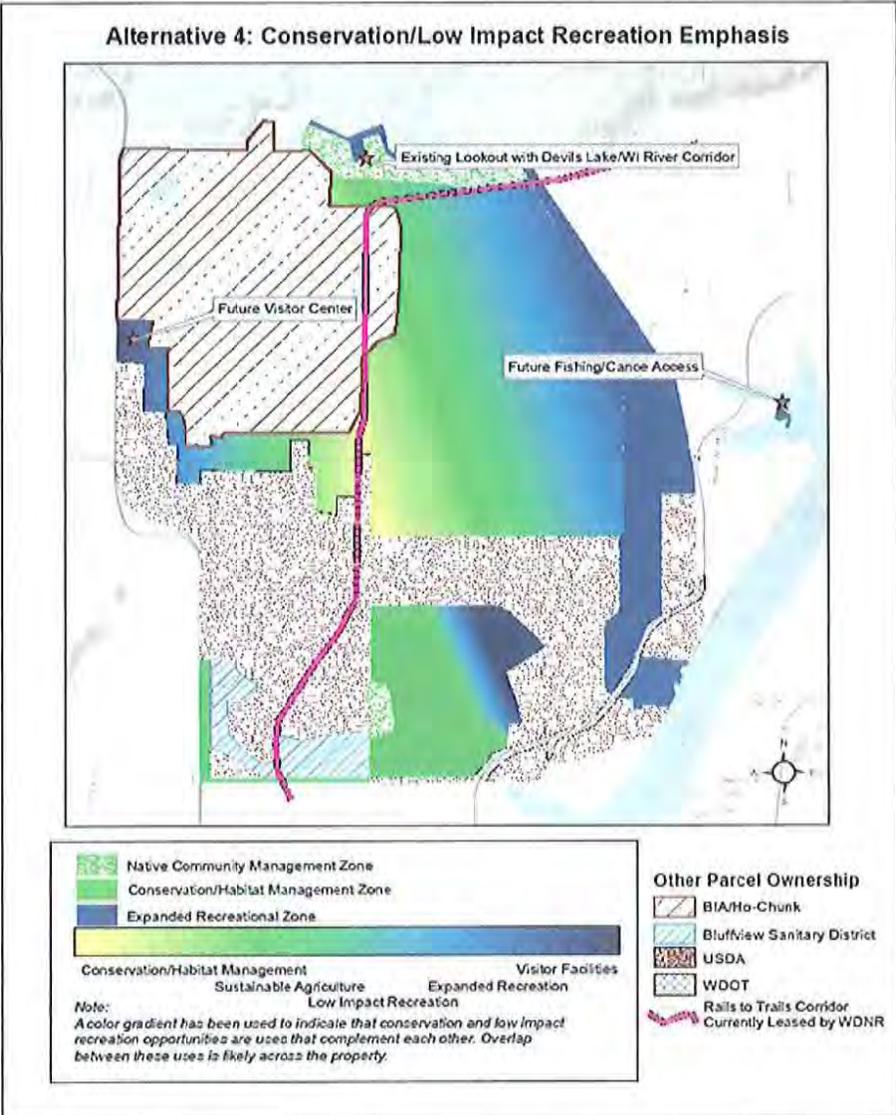
Conservation/Low Impact Recreation Emphasis

The 2001 Badger Reuse Plan was an agreement entered into by 21 representatives of local, state, federal and tribal units of government as well as neighboring landowners, businesses, school districts and nonprofits. The plan emphasizes conservation and low-impact recreational activities and it is still in effect. The National Park Service agreement with DNR (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources) also emphasizes conservation and low-impact recreational activities. Alternative 4 below continues this emphasis on conservation and low-impact recreation uses.

Under this management alternative, emphasis is placed on land uses and management objectives that complement each other and those of the surrounding land owners, enhancing the health, culture, and economy of the Badger lands and the surrounding community. This alternative views current planning and implementation efforts as the most recent expression of a long history of human activity on the Sauk Prairie, and as an opportunity to honor the sacrifices and contributions of our ancestors. It acknowledges the legacy of conflict that has marked previous chapters of human experience on the Sauk Prairie, and advances the process of reconciling these conflicts.

Healing the land is an essential step in that process, and at Badger, healing the land is a "re-creational" activity of the first order. Ecological restoration projects, aided by collaborative agricultural, educational, and scientific research programs, will support enhanced understanding and appreciation of Badger's wildlife and its natural and cultural history, and demonstrate new ways to secure healthy, thriving human and natural communities. The history of all the people who have made the Sauk Prairie home over thousands of years will be shared. That history will include the story of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant and will continue through the current efforts to develop and implement the consensus vision for the future of this long contested site.

Opportunities for outdoor recreation will include traditional activities (such as hunting and fishing) that have long been among the varied uses of the Badger property, and that contribute importantly to greater awareness of Badger's full conservation value. Of particular value are the property's important populations of grassland birds. The presence of these birds and other wildlife will attract thousands of visitors, as wildlife viewing continues to expand in popularity in the coming decades. Because the benefits of peace and quiet are among the most rapidly diminishing natural resource values in our contemporary environment, and consequently are among the frequently most sought after, a wide variety of low-impact recreational activities will be accommodated. The opportunity to explore the Badger property, especially given the promise of a regional recreational trail linking the



Sauk Prairie Recreation Area to nearby major regional trails, will draw thousands more to the area. Their experience of the area will be enhanced by interpretive trail signage and guided tours.

Eventually, the creation of a Visitor Center will serve as a focal point for orienting visitors and as a destination for students of all ages interested in exploring Sauk Prairie's unique geological, ecological, and human history. Visitors will be encouraged to participate in on-site restoration and citizen science projects.

Because agriculture is such a fundamental component of the Wisconsin economy and landscape, and will remain an essential tool for economic development and land stewardship in the future, creative opportunities will be provided for local family farm operators to participate in collaborative conservation agriculture research projects. Badger's landscape includes not only the SPRA but lands now held by the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center and potentially the Ho-Chunk Nation, offering a unique and remarkable opportunity to study new ways to combine agricultural production with the conservation and restoration of soils, water, wildlife, forests, grasslands and wetlands.

Research and demonstration of innovative conservation agriculture practices such as managed, rotational livestock grazing to help control invasive plants and woody vegetation will benefit the land, our farming neighbors, Badger's recreational users, and the people of Wisconsin. Private landowners, volunteers, students, and community organizations will come to Badger and play an active role in these land restoration and stewardship activities. As Badger's landowners work together with visitors, neighbors, and partners, a changing landscape of row crop, pasture, restored prairies and savannas, and woodlands will provide a valuable model, showing how Wisconsin's land can support an agricultural economy that enhances farm families, local economies and farm communities, and healthy populations of native birds and other wildlife, in a public setting that can be enjoyed and appreciated by generations to come.



Specific Activities and Uses consistent with Conservation and Low Impact Recreation:

- Implement plan elements specified in the Badger Reuse Plan;
- Restore large, unfragmented tracts of grassland, wetland and shrubland (Habitat Management Zone)* to support native and migratory birds and wildlife;
- Restore remnants of native natural communities and the species they support (Native Community Management Zone)*; limit access to pedestrian use;
- Provide low-impact porous non-paved recreation trails that complement the topography and resource management;
- Preserve and enhance key vistas through vegetation management;
- Selectively site and construct (through community partnerships) a new visitor center with interpretation and educational opportunities;
- Provide interpretation and education opportunities about this property's history and geographic location, acknowledge Ho-Chunk Nation history and Euro-American histories and displacements, and the design, operation and decommissioning of the Badger Army Ammunitions Plant;
- Provide facilities such as a classroom, parking area, staging area, wash station and bathrooms near the Visitor's Center in the Habitat Restoration Zone;
- Identify and improve primary auto access roads through the property and deconstruct roads no longer needed. Limit vehicle access;
- Provide interpretation and education opportunities for schools and universities;
- Use volunteers to promote community participation in education and to help restore natural communities;
- Provide outdoor research opportunities for ecologists, scientists and students;
- Develop parking, picnic areas and viewing areas in the Expanded Recreational Zone* and to a lesser degree in the Habitat Restoration Zone*;
- Develop a fishing pier, canoe/carry-in boat access, and picnic area at the Lake Wisconsin parcel;
- Provide a multiple use trail connecting the Sauk Prairie area, Merrimac area, and Devil's Lake State Park via Burma road consisting of hiking and biking and a seasonal snowmobile trail on an agreed upon route;
- Designate parcel "M" and "M1" as a Habitat Restoration Zone*;
- Remove any unwanted infrastructure, buildings or debris that remains on the property, with the exception of infrastructure that may provide bat habitat and support bat research.

Note (*): The use of the term "Zone(s)" above is to maintain compatibility with language in other DNR proposed alternatives; BOMC members feel this term in most cases is too restrictive and exclusive for Badger lands which often have characteristics of one or more zone types in one area. Exclusive use zones may conflict with the first Value of the Badger Reuse Plan: to manage Badger as a whole.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

As individual stakeholder members of the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC), Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger, Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation strongly urge the public to contact the WDNR with your **SUPPORT** for **BOMC ALTERNATIVE #4** by August 30, 2013. Comments may be sent to Diane Brusoe, DNR Planner - LF/6, Wisconsin Department Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or email Diane.Brusoe@wisconsin.gov.

Dear Diane:

I have lived in the housing development known as Maple Park for a little over 14 years. When we bought our house the ammo plant was being decommissioned by the army and plans were already being discussed and settled upon on what the area would be used for once the army got it cleaned up. The Army determined the clean-up would get **most** contaminants out of the soil, **but not all**. Already at that time, it was pretty much determined to be split three ways; between the Ho-Chunk Nation, which would most likely use it for grazing buffalo; Dairy Forage, which would use it for planting and dairy forage; and the DNR, which agreed to turn it back to prairie and use it for quiet recreation such as trails for walking, hiking and hiking so as not to disturb the soil. Also they did not want to disturb the many nesting birds (some of which are on the threatened and/or the endangered species list). If these birds lose their nesting sites, we will effectively be responsible for the extinction of these species as this is the only nesting site some species use.

Now after everyone in the Sauk Prairie thought things were pretty much settled, the DNR comes up with the idea of putting in a shooting range and an ATV track.

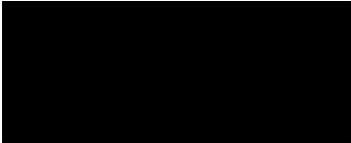
This will really disturb the soil. I would like to know if the DNR plans to pay the medical bills for everyone around the plant that will now get to breathe in the dust turned up from the soil the ATVs disturb. Since the DNR wants the shooting range to be unmanned (I don't believe that is even legal, every shooting range I know of has a range master present when there is a shoot) I would like to know if the DNR is going to carry the liability insurance for this range. And I would also like to know if the DNR is going to hire someone to clean up the range since people may bring targets to shoot at, but will also bring cans, glass jars, watermelons, you name it and that will leave a mess. I would also like to know who contacted the NRA to get their backing for the shooting range. I have a feeling the NRA will not continue support when they receive letters from NRA members against this plan. We have some good quality gun clubs in the surrounding area, but if people from Madison can come up here and shoot for free, the gun clubs will lose members.

This is not a liberal versus conservative issue. I voted for Scott Walker. I contributed to his campaign. I am not a liberal and many of my friends are not liberals, but we are conservationists. The conservation movement began with the help of hunters by Pres. Teddy Roosevelt, a **Republican**. We are all stewards of the land, no matter what our politics. This is the only large area of prairie and savannah we have in this state.

This is a local issue. It was the people of Sauk Prairie who were displaced by the ammo plant and it is the people of Sauk Prairie who are again trying to be displaced by the DNR. Please reconsider and vote for Alternative 4.

Sincerely,





August 29, 2013

TO: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
c/o Ms. Diane Brusoe <Diane.Brusoe@wisconsin.gov>
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Badger Army Ammunition Plant – Support Alternative 4

The former ammunition plant property in Sauk County is *not* the place for WI-DNR to build a shooting range and ATV track.

We expect WI-DNR to have the courage to hold true to its mission:

- *To protect and enhance our natural resources: our air, land and water; our wildlife, fish and forests and the ecosystems that sustain all life.*
- *To provide a healthy, sustainable environment and a full range of outdoor opportunities.*
- *To ensure the right of all people to use and enjoy these resources in their work and leisure.*
- *To work with people to understand each other's views and to carry out the public will.*
- *And in this partnership consider the future and generations to follow.*

Is WI-DNR proposing to give away Badger to just two groups—shooters and ATV riders—whose activities conflict greatly with many others? We hope not, but that's how it appears.

Guns and ATVs at Badger will create noise and intrude on the enjoyment of those who want to engage in low-impact activities such as hiking, bird watching, biking, cross-country skiing, fishing, and hunting. How will loud shooting and roaring ATVs protect our natural resources in a way that is healthy and sustainable? Other opportunities to engage in these high-impact activities abound within an hour's drive from Badger . . . 40 shooting ranges and three ATV tracks.

Alternative 4, developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission, is a model of common sense that meets the wishes of local and statewide groups. We urge that WI-DNR support Alternative 4 and thereby accomplish the agency's mission by preserving the ecological, cultural, and educational values at Badger for generations to come.



RECEIVED

2013

August 28, 2013

FACILITIES AND LAND

Dear DNR and Diane Brusoe,

The Badger Re-use Plan, the result of years of collaborative cooperative work by many people, gave part of the land, 3,400 acres!, to the DNR for prairie restoration and "low impact recreational uses."

Suddenly we learn that the DNR is considering an ATV track, a paintball battlefield and a long-range rifle shooting range! Such uses are not compatible with any of the Badger Re-use Plan.

The restored prairie will help stabilize the contaminated soil at Badger. There are still very dangerous chemicals in the soil now. An ATV track will open this all up as wheels churn through open soil creating clouds of contaminated dust. Not worth the risk! Prairie cover is needed here, for everyone's health.

Restored prairie will help many species of grassland birds, who, as a group, are threatened by so much habitat loss. Less than 1% of our original prairie land is left in Wisconsin. Every acre counts! Noisy ATVs, paintball wars and rifles are not compatible with the goal of prairie restoration to secure habitat for grassland species. They are not "low-impact" uses!

Lastly, a huge amount of clean-up remains for the Army to complete the original, agreed-upon clean-up plan of water and soil at Badger. The Army wants to do less than a best-practice clean-up. The DNR needs to be involved in this long effort to hold the Army accountable to the most complete possible clean-up. The contaminated ground-water plume is moving, endangering everyone. This needs to be dealt with before it can't be dealt with! Restored prairie will help stabilize the contaminated soil. It is imperative, therefore, that the DNR do everything in its power to demand the Army's compliance. Creating additional problems at Badger with an ATV track, paintball battles and a shooting range will interfere with what your main job and goal should be: securing truly safe soil and water at Badger.

Please! DO THE RIGHT THING!

Thank you! Sincerely,

cc: To Diane Brusoe
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

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FACILITIES AND LANDS

Dear Mayor Paul Soglin

Let me reintroduce myself prior to unfolding my proposal to that dilemma of DNR land development/OLD WAR AMMUNITIONS which is proposed DNR possession that being the 3,400 acres it would own and manage.

My name is Puglis Ficinsky. I was the owner of the 843 Jennifer St. property which I restored in 1988, a completed restoration in 1989 of T.C. McCarthy's residence I was ridiculed and teased at that time by some for spending what was needed to restore an old home to its grander presence. McCarthy was one of Madison's most influential and preeminent builders of the 19th century in Madison, WI. You awarded me with the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation of May 17, 1989. It took courage to persevere to impress upon our great city the profound importance of Madison's Legacy and Heritage of the Past. T.C. McCarthy was the builder of our magnificent State Capitol. And in truth it is still to this day a timeless spectacular beauty without rival in all 50 states. T.C. McCarthy was the builder of Science Hall 1885-1887, University of Wisconsin Chemistry Laboratory 1885-1886. The

Gymnasium/Armory 1892-1894 and the Boathouse
1894, Dean of the College of Agriculture. Home at
10 Babcock Drive, ~~1897~~, The Capitol Heating and
Power Plant 1909, The Camp Randall Memorial
Arch 1912, St Patrick's Church in Madison 1888
The Knight Hotel. The Chemistry Building 1935-1936
The Law Building 1891-1893, Lathrop Hall 1908-1910
St Paul's University Chapel 1909, The Baptist
Church 1902, The Presbyterian Church 1892
The Sixth Ward School 1894, Seventh Ward
School 1900. 3 of the 5 National Historic
Landmark Buildings are associated with T.C.
McCarthy in Madison. In tribute to those
of the past as well present who teach through
their efforts of negotiation, gratitude and
acknowledgement are equal in importance
to a lasting Legacy of Madison's Integrity
as a World Influence. I respect and
praise your decisive decision making
abilities and influence therefore I propose
my idea to that DNR Badger Land
of 3,400 acres controversy. John Chapman
better known as Johnny Appleseed was an
American pioneer and orchardist born
in 1774 and died in 1845. In a tribute
to our American folk hero, I thought
to plant apple trees on the entire
3,400 acres would be as American as

apple pie. while we pay homage to our great past, as well 1,000 to 2,000 small one to two bedroom bungalows cabins, one on each acre of land to be rented to employees of the John Chapman Valley Orchard as well the remaining contemporary cabins could be rented to tourists year-round from \$1,000 dollars a week that would translate into 100 cabins/bungalows @ \$1,000.00 per week into \$100,000.00 dollars or one million dollars for 1,000 cabins or \$2 million dollars for 2,000 cabins in peak season of the John Chapman's Valley Apple orchard in full bloom in Spring... for one week. If luck would have it and the bike path I would propose around it's perimeter would as well bring tourists of like mind and environmental awareness and 10 months out of the year - all 2,000 cabins/bungalows were rented that would translate into a revenue of approximately (\$2,000,000.00 a week) times 4 weeks a month equals Eight Million dollars times that by 10 months out of the year's average would equal revenue of \$80,000,000.00 and that

does not get factor in the wholesale price of the apples as roughly 20 apples trees per acre at only (worse case scenario) 10 bushels per tree - still would produce 200 bushels of apples per acre times 3,000 acres would equal 600,000.00 bushels of apples. \times \$10.00 a bushel equals \$2,000.00 dollars per acre. \$2,000.00 per acre times 3,000. acres equals Six Million dollars.

JOB'S are key factors now as is the importance of a sustainable future. The Devils Lake area, HoChunk casino proximity to the Dells tourist attractions would undoubtedly manage to support such a (much more prudent) proposal, for local and state revenue as well needed and deserved. This could be a feather in ones cap for all proponents of this proposal as well environmentalists would hail it sound. Bee's would produce the best honey and plenty of it in that area adding more potential revenue to the site. As well a large Lodge/cabin for gift shop Bakery/coffee shop Biking apparel - Johnny Appleseed (the label) bike rentals, as well a conference center.

4.

for arborists, bee keepers, Summit
meetings re; environmental/food
sustainability. Let's please everyone
and not just a few - and be that
entrepreneurial spirit we American
Wisconsiners are from. The apple
doesn't fall to far from the tree.

Let's do something smart and
beautiful we can all agree upon
as well be proud of and work for
that better future JOBS, FOOD,
Health and Fitness. Beautify
environment and restore our integrity
to that which is our true nature
and legacy.

LET'S PLEASE MAKE IT AN
APPLE PIE ORDER.

Thank You
Respectfully
Submitted

Jimmy Hendrix inspired

There are us amongst you and there are those amongst us. And as though we are as much of the past we are as much the future as you are.

Today is not so far away from some dream which in reality was indeed that which was the past. I have been in the tower white as well some of you have only to fall again to that which we come from. I remind you how - The soul and the heart binds us and somehow heals. Life can be a weary road and travel it we must. As well you know many have died upon it. Somehow the spirit of them does come to revive us. Today the sweet corn was green as always and its kernels sweeter than it's ever been. The sky was blue after the rain storm and sing - all the birds did. We are now here and someday gone. It is love they say which brings us back. Do as you will as I am sure you must. You are not so important today as all your tomorrows might be to someone else, and worn as all of yesterday's and worn out - cherished still to some as the future is bright to others. We all at times hurt from the inside out ... and to smile through it when your heart wants only for to cry is that which we all

have a right of passage.

The ships that sailed to find new hope and salvation are miracles of us. You now are as important today as all the cumulative yesterdays past. No matter good nor not so good. All of your tomorrow's dreams can redefine and shape a future as great and grander than any of those of the past be it humble or it be grand. It's your heart and it's a mighty soul that steers this ship through treacherous seas. The northern star no matter how near no matter how far is still that guiding light to that higher ground which you will find. It's that stubborn will that hurts you, it is that stubborn will that heals, and it is that stubborn will that finds us all...

I gave up when stubborn didn't work and nearly lost myself. What works for one may not be the best for another.

To pursue what can be of for the betterment of others is always noble and you will be remembered for it.

I had this dream as I awoke and opened my eyes I saw an owl blink its eyes in some surprise. It was perched partly on my shoulder and partly on my

chest. I was somewhat on my side lying
on rubble and rocks beside some river
or stream. It was night time of course
and I had been severely beaten and
felt quite mangled. --- so I passed out.

I had this dream again and again.
I always wake up to see the owl blink
it's eyes and then take flight. Now I
feel the results of that night's beating.
I could have died - but some wise bird
wouldn't allow it. We all have battles.
We fight and some of it is a war. So
may your resolve be mighty, your
heart be true and your soul be wise
with powerful wings that disappear
when you do.

POSTSCRIPT: I know this is riddled with metaphor but
it is still that which appeals to some with higher
intellect. akin to that of political rhetoric and
it's speech, of old gaurd and the new. A heroic
speech is not lost on those who have been...
..heroic.

Diane Brusoe
Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster St.
Madison, WI 53707

SUBJECT: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

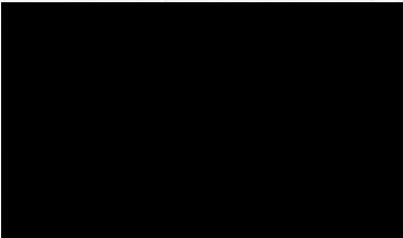
Ms. Brusoe,

Please register my support for including motorized vehicles (Alternative 3).

While there are hundreds of areas in southern Wisconsin for the "nature based outdoor activities" groups that want exclusive use of Badger, there is nothing available for motorized vehicles without travelling 2+ hours. This site is perfect for motorized use. It has been a noisy wasteland for 50+ years. A drop of oil from a motor can't pollute the site any more and a motorcycle will never make as much noise as the choppers that flew at tree top level over Badger for decades.

Please open this area up to motorized vehicles.

Thank you for your time,



RECEIVED
OCT 9 9 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

Diane Brusoe
101 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707

RECEIVED
MAY 11 2011
FACILITIES AND LANDS

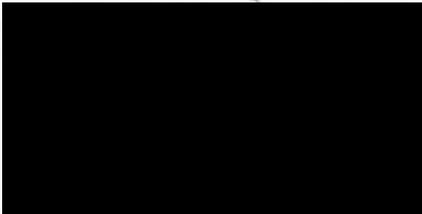
Dear Diane Brusoe,

I am writing to ask the DNR to grant motorized off highway vehicles (OHV) access to the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP). I support Option 3.

While most of the registered OHVs in the state are from southern Wisconsin, there is no place to ride them in the south. With the number of vehicles we are talking about, there is no doubt that they could support an OHV park at BAAP.

As far as the anti-OHV people that I see on the news, they already have plenty of places to go – they need to be tolerant of others and share a small fraction of the public land with OHVs. Devil's Lake, Parfrey's Glenn, Mirror Lake, Natural Bridge, Baxter's Hollow and Pine Hollow are all within minutes of BAAP. They can go to any of these places and not hear or see anything. OHVs currently have to travel 3 or 4 hours to find a suitable place to ride.

Living only a few minutes from BAAP, I can't wait to volunteer to start building OHV trails. Thank you for including motorized vehicles in this plan!



RECEIVED

MAY 10 2013

FACILITIES AND LANDS

Diane Bruso
101 S Webster St
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Ms. Bruso,

Please implement Alternative #3 at the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area.

Thank You

P.S. While it is probably outside the official scope of this survey, I see that other groups are offering amendments, so I will do the same:

I own a jeep and numerous ATVs, UTVs and dirt bikes. I have been involved with various clubs in the construction and maintenance of off road trails for 30 years. I have toured the site and have viewed in on Google Earth. In my opinion, there is not enough room allocated for jeeps, UTVs and ATVs. They typically need miles and miles of 10 to 15 feet wide trails - which you cannot feasibly squeeze into this site. If you do, the land will become a mess and no one will be happy.

I recommend that you only include single-track motorcycles in the plan. I would lay the trail out to be tight and winding (to limit speed and noise.) I would also require the rear tire on the motorcycles to be trial tires (to limit erosion) and set/enforce a low db standard. Make the fine significant enough that word gets around and people self police the noise.

This amendment is a workable compromise to minimize the impact on the naturalists and the neighbors. Single-track motorcycles on a properly designed trail will be transparent to others, Jeeps and ATVs will create animosity.

Thank you for listening.



Aug. 28, 2013

Diane Brusoe
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PO BOX 7921
101 S Webster ST
Madison WI 53707-7921

Re: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Proposed Master Plan

Dear Ms Brusoe,

We would like to express our deep concern for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) proposed new master plan for the 3,800 acres of the former 7,300-acre Badger Army Ammunition Plant, now designated as the *Sauk Prairie Recreation Area*, and our significant disappointment in the WDNR's action regarding this property.

First, we feel we shouldn't need to write this letter to respond to a proposed new master plan for this acreage that is, in part, contrary to the *2001 Badger Reuse Plan*. The WDNR was one of 21 participants of the Badger Reuse Committee that spent nearly 14 years deliberating and collaborating during a fully public process to reach a consensus of how to conserve and manage this property. The WDNR was one of the signers of the Committee's final report, known as the *2001 Badger Reuse Plan*.

Rarely does society see such a diverse group of interests—numerous municipalities, nations, agencies and community stakeholders—collaborate, for more than a decade, to achieve a balanced and united vision for present and future generations to conserve a large tract of unique natural spaces and working lands. Moreover, it is equally rare to witness such a democratic process unfold so successfully. As one of the partners in that process, **the WDNR owes it to the people of Wisconsin to honor its participation and signature in the *Badger Reuse Plan*.**

Moreover, the **WDNR has legal obligation** to adhere to the terms of the land transfer agreement in which it entered with the U.S. National Park Service, which include emphasizing conservation and assuring low-impact recreational uses. If the WDNR does not adhere to these terms, the agreement stipulates the Park Service has reversionary interests that can be exercised into perpetuity and could include removing land ownership from the WDNR.

Land use planning and long-term thinking cannot exist within election cycles, but must be grounded as deeply as prairie roots in consideration for future generations. I, Nichelle Martin, have served as a citizen volunteer on my rural township's plan commission for eight years during which time I lead the two-year comprehensive land-use plan rewriting process where we had 50

citizens help rewrite our land-use plan in 2006. My husband, Paul E. Martin, attended many of the first Badger Reuse Committee meetings in the early 1990s when he was a Town of Merrimac town board supervisor. We have learned first-hand how we should approach managing our natural resources from a broad and long perspective.

Second, we **oppose Alternative 3's proposed 562-acre Special Use Zone for off-road sport vehicles and a shooting range** within the *Sauk Prairie Recreation Area*, which are incompatible uses to those in the *2001 Badger Reuse Plan*. Further, these types of recreational uses are incompatible with the existing land uses surrounding the *Recreation Area*, in particular the residential development near and adjacent to that proposed Special Use Zone. There is no justifiable reason we can identify for the WDNR to have included this high-impact-use provision in its proposed master plan for this property, and indeed, it is legally questionable given the previously executed land-transfer agreement with the Park Service.

There are numerous venues nearby and in the greater area surrounding the *Sauk Prairie Recreation Area* for shooting sports at long ago established and locally owned conservation clubs. Further, there are ample opportunities within established infrastructure in northern Wisconsin for recreating with off-road, motorized sport vehicles. There the population and housing densities are lower and this recreational use serves a utilitarian purpose to keep forest roads accessible for managing that habitat.

We don't think the numerous homeowners along the west side of Lake Wisconsin, or the campers filling our most visited state park, Devil's Lake State Park, will appreciate or tolerate the noise and dust generated by shooting firearms and people driving recreational vehicles. We have family members who live three miles from our home and when they operate their ATVs and dirt bikes on the trails through their farm we hear them. Sound generated from those types of motors travels readily and far exceeds the decibel levels of agricultural implements used on the same property.

Additionally, the proposed Special Use Zone includes the highest quality prairie-savanna remnant on the entire Badger property, which supports significant breeding populations of grassland bird species of Greatest Conservation Need (see <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/profiles.asp>). This nearly one-square-mile block of habitat hosts high populations of rare and declining grassland birds including Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown Thrasher, Willow Flycatcher, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow.

Plus, the proposed area for off-road vehicles includes one of the important pioneer cemeteries within the *Recreation Area*, the Thoenke Cemetery, and a unique geological feature, the drainage channel of glacial Lake Merrimac, which is still visible after 12,000 years. It is beyond belief that anyone would consider it appropriate to drive ATVs over these features!

Third, we support only conservation, ecological restoration, education, sustainable agriculture and low-impact recreation in all of the *Sauk Prairie Recreation Area* including the WDNR's 3,800 acres, along with the highest degree of environmental cleanup to ensure these goals and uses are able to be implemented successfully. The *Sauk Prairie Recreation Area* presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become a critical corridor connecting the extensive natural resource of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway to the Baraboo Range National Natural Landmark and Devil's

Lake State Park, and to restore the rare prairie ecosystem.

Educational opportunities within this property are essential to move people through the process of learning, understanding and eventually desiring to conserve. Unencumbered access for quiet, human-propelled recreation that allows one to move within the landscape as part of the ecosystem is of primary importance to us, and is essential to the educational process.

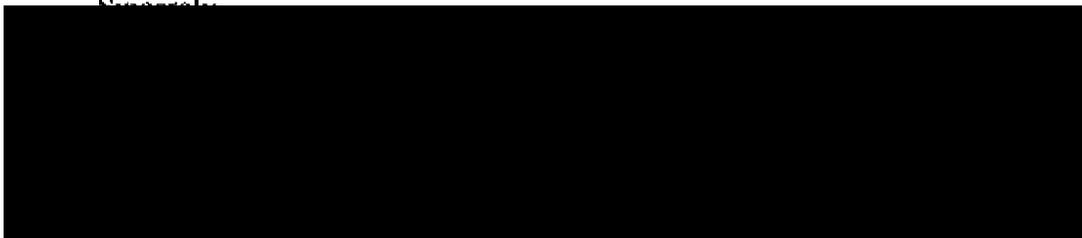
Fourth, we are also concerned that none of the WDNR's proposed three alternatives include agriculture, which has been part the property's recent history and occurs at the adjacent USDA Dairy Forage Research Center and other privately owned farms. The USDA and the University of Wisconsin Madison have collaborated to conduct research and education at the *Recreation Area*, and it should continue to serve as a research site for the life sciences, offering a living laboratory for how food production and conservation can and should coexist naturally.

Finally, rather than the three alternatives of the WDNR's proposed master plan, **we support the Alternative 4** proposed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC), which includes members of local, county, tribal, state and federal government and numerous community stakeholders. This fourth alternative integrates the most appropriate uses within the WDNR's proposed three alternatives that are consistent with the *2001 Badger Reuse Plan*. Likewise, the BOMC Alternative 4 is a realistic, reasonable, long-term balance of low-impact, nature-based recreation for locals and tourists along side ecological restoration, conservation and environmental education facilitated by a visitor's center. And this mix of uses is compatible and complementary to the adjacent and nearby agricultural working lands, rural residences, Baraboo Range, Lower Wisconsin Riverway and Devil's Lake State Park.

We, the citizens of Wisconsin and its elected officials and public employees, must serve as wiser land stewards for the *Sauk Prairie Recreation Area* than the proposed master plan suggests. We are the current caretakers of this community that doesn't belong to us but to which we belong, as do the generations of humans and wildlife species that follow us.

Thank you for your and the WDNR's consideration.

Sincerely,



August 28, 2013

RECEIVED
AUG 29 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

Attn: Diane Brusca
WDNR

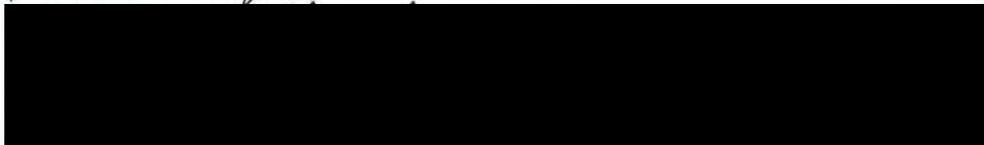
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Ms. Brusca:

This letter is to express my support for BOMC alternative #4. I believe that this opportunity to conserve the Badger lands for ecological restoration, education, sustainable agriculture and very low-impact recreation should be seized. And this unique vast acreage become an environmental legacy for future generations.

I believe the state can find other lands less environmentally sensitive and less of an impact on other recreational activities for ATV trails and shooting ranges. Adams County seems to be much more suited to those types of activity and could benefit economically from such activity.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED
AUG 29 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

August 27, 2013

Re: Badger Army Ammunition Plant

Attn: Diane Brusoe

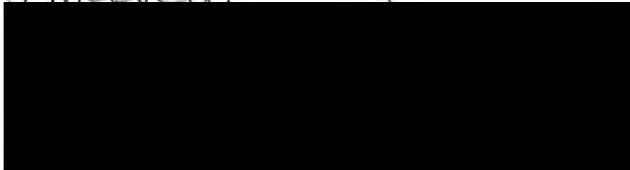
I support the "Alternative 4" plan for making the best use of the Badger site.

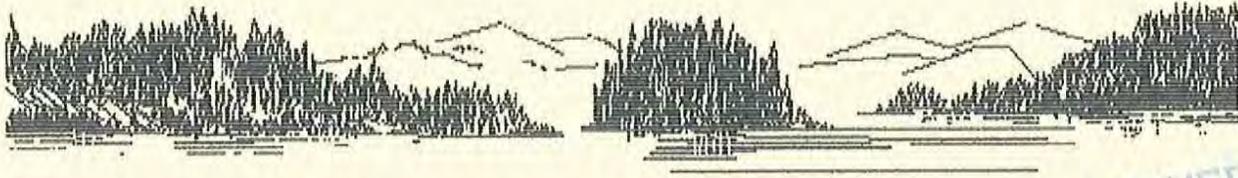
Environmental preservation and well being is best for serving the largest proportion of our population.

Please do not destroy what has been gifted back to us.

Alternative 4 is the way.

Sincerely,





RECEIVED
AUG 28 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

August 28, 2013

Diane Brusoe, DNR Planner - LF/6
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Ms. Brusoe,

I am writing to express my opinions about the plans for the DNR lands located in the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP).

As a resident of Sauk County when the Badger Reuse Committee (BRC) was formed, I attended many of the meetings and remember how remarkable it was to see 21 different stakeholders work through their various concerns and ideas. The process was an inspiring example of democracy in action. Most of the meetings were open to the public, time was set aside for public comment and the end result was a consensus which was unanimous. The historic Badger Reuse Plan (BRP) was signed by representatives of all the many organizations and government agencies and jurisdictions that participated. It was this long, respectful and productive process that put the 3800+ acres in the lap of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

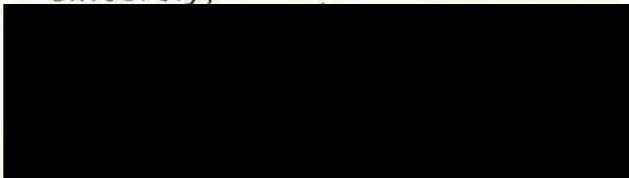
So it is clear in my mind that the spirit and intent of the BRP should be honored and followed. This means no ATV's, no shooting ranges or other high impact recreational activities. The Badger Oversight Management Committee's Alternative 4 seems the best choice to make the BRC's vision for Badger a reality.

Occasionally at the BRC meetings I would speak up for the living things that do not speak our language. We share this beautiful planet with so many incredible species that have so much to teach us, though it is difficult for us humans to open our hearts, minds, eyes and ears to these "others". While we debate the pros and cons of how best to utilize the BAAP acres, I ask you to consider the "others", whose voices are not always heard. Although our understanding may be incomplete, it is easy to imagine that all they would ask for would be to be left alone.

My own preference for the BAAP would be to close the gates to all the people who do not already have business there, such as the Dairy Forage folks, Cherrie Nolden and her goats and the people whose relatives rest in the beautiful cemeteries. Three times a year, spring, summer and fall, open the gates for the rest of us to drive through as we did on August 24, 2013. I believe this is closest to Alternative 1 in the DNR's scheme, and an unlikely one. However it seems the fairest choice to all the living things already there to whom humans are the most invasive species of all.

Thank you for the opportunity to tour the BAAP recently. And for reading all of the opinions of those of us who are concerned about the future of this amazing treasure. Your work on this project and your service to the people of Wisconsin are appreciated.

Sincerely,



cc: Mark Aquino, Regional Director, WDNR
Fred Clark, WI Assembly District 81
Jon Erpenbach, WI Senate District 27
Mark Pocan, U.S. Representative District 2
Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Senate

RECEIVED
AUG 28 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS



Diane Brusoe
DNR Planner –LF/6
P. O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Ms Bruscoe:

Reference: DNR Plan for Badger Ordinance Property

As a concerned tax payer I would like to register my desire for the Badger Ordinance Property to be used in the Alternative 4 proposal. When so many people have spent so much time and worked so hard together to come up with something that was agreeable with residents, town boards, village boards and property owners one wonders why the wheel needs to be reinvented. Please stick with Alternative 4 and get on with the plan.

Sincerely





mikerwin7909@gmail.com

Gmail

More

1 of 358

Compose

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Important

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Drafts (9)

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Globe University in WI

Farm an MRA Bachelor 4

Alternative #4 for future use of the old Badger Army Munitions Plant.

I make my choice while being an active, life-time hunter and fisher and farmer as well as agriculture and environment reporter. Subtract two miles from my Bluff-top farm southward. Now look down from high in Honey Creek Township on Freedom Road. Now you can see, as I have for 40 years, the working farms and lazy prairie land in and outside the old Plant. As an insider, grandson of a WWII plant manager, I know the plant's smoke, the stink on its workers' clothes, and the bondage of land and people during WWII and the active Vietnam War Years. I experienced all these in person.

And now all, in and outside my mind, are being transformed into the proposed Restorative dream offered in Alternative #4.

You're reading thousands of emails. I honestly doubt you'll read this to its close. Your chore is superhuman. I thank you sincerely. I pity you a little too.

To close: Rod and gun clubs abound in our region. I count ten or more. Let these folks sight-in guns and coach kids. Trails for snowmobiles and ATVs and terrain bikes abound on shared and private lands too. Let their muffled and too-often unmuffled sounds not demolish nature talks and bob-o-link musical measures.

W

Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

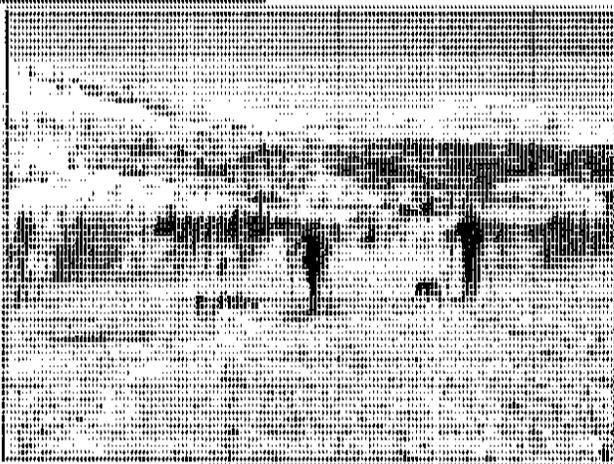
Of the alternatives, the Outdoor Recreation Emphasis is the most inconsistent with the Preliminary Vision Statement. Motorized recreation, shooting ranges, extensive parking areas and bathrooms, and extensive road building is not in keeping with the vision statement. The proper use of the land requires an emphasis on conservation and low-impact recreation. The principles identified in the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan should act as a guide for how the land should be used. I endorse the Conservation/Low Impact Recreation Emphasis.

Ecological restoration and conservation should be the primary focus. The land should be managed as a whole and not partitioned into smaller parcels. Resources should be first be applied to the restoration of grasslands, preservation of native natural communities and habitats, enhancement of key vistas, finding opportunities for environmental research, and other similar land enhancing/environmental reasonable activities.

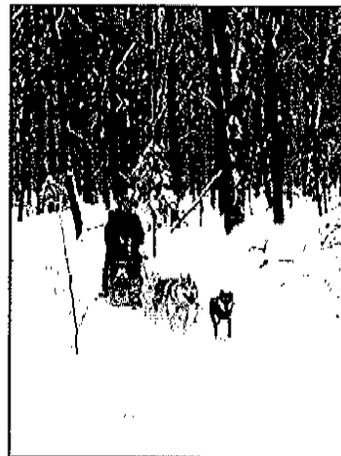
Only after that first priority of ecological restoration is fully flushed out, then DNR should look for opportunities for low-impact recreation activities. Recreational activities should be limited and tempered by the first priority of environmental restoration and conservation. Low-impact recreation opportunities include activities that minimize harm to the environment. I believe it should include activities such as fishing, hiking, picnicking, and cross-country skiing.

A few multi-use trails should be designed to wind around the perimeter with a few smaller trails connecting the various habitats or environments. Use of the trails should be limited to hiking, snow shoeing, skiing, and skjoring and other low-impact activities. As a recreational dog-musher, I ask for no special trails, no groomed trails, just the ability to make use of the multi-use trails in the late fall and winter. Pictured below are images of dog sledding and skjoring. Both dog sledding and skjoring can co-exists with other multi-use trail activities, and have a following in Southern Wisconsin. Governor Nelson State Park near Madison created a skiing/skjoring trail where dogs are allowed. I believe it has worked well and could be used as a model for this type of trail use in other state-owned lands.

If I can provide any additional information about dog sledding and skjoring, please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED]



SKIJORING



DOG SLEDDING

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Diane Brusoe

Regarding: use of the former Badger Ordinance property

My husband [REDACTED] and my choice for the use of the former Badger Ordinance property is Alternative Plan 4 - low impact use.

My husband is a former science teacher of 35 years and we are members of a number of conservation/environmental organizations and believe that this would be the best use for this property.

A few years back, our nephews were into motor cross and had a trail that they practiced on on the family farm. We saw first hand the amount of damage this activity did to the land with a lot of ruts and a great deal of erosion. That experience has been a part of our decision to choose low impact use.

We also enjoy guns and target practice. We are fortunate to live in the country and can do this on our own property on a limited basis. We also know that there are a number of Rod and Gun organizations in the area where people can shoot. Recently we read that there were about thirty shooting ranges in a thirty- mile radius of the Badger property which would give anyone who wants to do some shooting the opportunity to do so.

I try to be open-minded and listen to the pros and cons. When I asked my son for his opinion, his response was to consider the number of places in the area for each of the proposed activities. There are a number of large areas for bird watching, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc. There are a number of opportunities for shooting. As for the ATVs, I am not well informed about those opportunities. I did check the Internet and found that there are trails in 28 counties in Wisconsin.

Due to the information we have and our belief in conservation and protecting the environment, we have come to the conclusion that Alternative Plan 4 is the best choice for the citizens of Wisconsin.

Thank you for the opportunity for citizen in-put.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Aug 26, 2013

Diane Brusoe
101 South Webster St.
Madison Wi. 53707

RECEIVED
AUG 27 2013
FACILITIES AND LAND

Re: Badger use plan

Dear Ms. Brusoe,

The enclosed letter to the editor was given to the Baraboo News nearly a week ago, so I expect it will never see ink cause of my smart mouth of the city. We were forced into the city under the "Smart Growth" land grab.

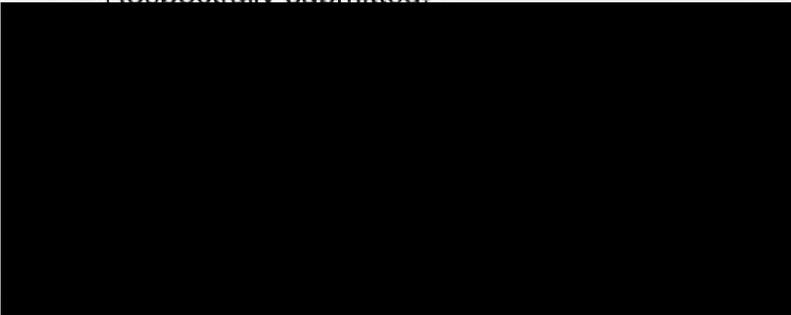
As far as the range portion goes, I was an infantry Sgt. in Viet Nam in 1968. I was on the State Patrol pistol team in 1978. I started the range program when I went to the Sauk Co Sheriffs Dept. in 1979 and was range master and special weapons trainer till I retired. I have had my fill of guns. Range safety, stray bullets, and excessive noise is nothing but more "spin". The noise of Hwy 12 with its Harley's and semi engine brakes would drowned it out. What do they say about the Sauk Prairie trap club right down the road? I could not say what the usage would be.

My interest is that there is no public use for ATVs anywhere in Sauk or Columbia county. BOW is accessible from Hwy 78, for Columbia County and the interstate, and with the expansion of Hwy 12, would give access to Sauk, Dane and points South. Snowmobiles can use road shoulders, ditches and right of ways. ATVs can't. ATVs pay registration fees even if the machine is private use only. Snowmobiles don't.

I am sure the "Squeaky wheels" will get their way, but I can't believe how selfish they are, that ten thousand acres in Devils lake, Parfreys Glen, the Nature Conservancy, Natural Bridge, and the miles of Rustic Roads is not enough in the immediate area. They want it all. I would ask that there be no registration required in any counties that get nothing for their fees. I wouldn't count on that either.

Well, I guess it's time to shut my big mouth, and go for a walk in our woods to get my blood pressure back down. Thanks for your time.

Respectfully submitted,



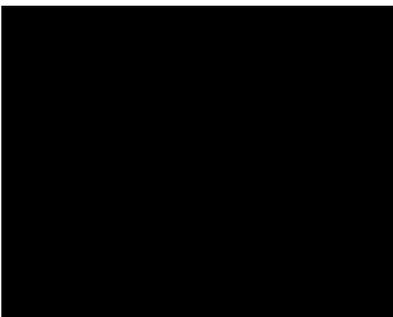
I normally hold my feelings in, but I have had enough of the "It's all ours, go somewhere else". I'm not talking about: If you don't like the capital singers, don't go. We will disrupt the Devils Lake centennial celebration because the Governor is there. You can go to one of the other observances.

I am writing about the Badger use plan in reference to a weapons range and ATV use. I own weapons (gasp). You tell me to get my own land for target practice. I did that before you ever moved into your mansion with your bluffs in view. Then along came the City of Baraboo and forced us into their city while the people of the Town of Greenfield sat quiet. I can no longer discharge a weapon in our twenty two acres of woods. I can hunt, but was expected to pay fifty dollars for a city permit and ten dollars for a criminal history check. Now you tell me to go to some quarry to shoot.

I also own a Honda ATV. (double gasp) I bought it to use around the woods and house and to ice fish in Canada. Even though there is not public use anywhere in Sauk or Columbia counties, I must pay a thirty dollar registration fee. I cannot operate on the roadway. I cant ride on the shoulders. No riding in the ditches or anywhere on highway right of way, no matter how far from the roadway, even along our own woods. Fees for no service. This reminds me of paying city taxes. You tell me to go to another county to find public use. I have yet to see registration stickers on your walking shoes, skis, or birding binoculars.

Then there is the endless spin. Noise: ATVs are quieter than any jet ski or power boat on Lake Wisconsin. Where is my "serenity" when I go fishing. My farts are louder than my ATV. Erosion: It is normally not an issue on a flat prairie. After a good rain, go up to the Devils Lake bluffs above Stienke basin and check the erosion along the hiking and biking trails. ATVs will violate the cemetery: I will put a big potted plant in there on Memorial Day. It will be stolen by someone before an ATV can get to it. R.I.P. Hikers may be hit by an ATV: Hikers will be hit on an ATV trail, not on a hiking train. My alderperson says that there is more trickle-down money in hikers than in ATV money. That is your opinion. My opinion is that many streets in Baraboo would bring in big dollars as ATV and snowmobile routes. Drinking ATV drivers: You are more at risk on the highways with the texters and cell phoneaholics.

Not to worry, I am sure you will get your way, or you will be holding a sing-along in the middle of the ATV trail. Stand your ground.....Please.



RECEIVED

August 26, 2013



Ms. Diane Brusoe
DNR Planner - LF/6
POBox 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Ms. Brusoe:

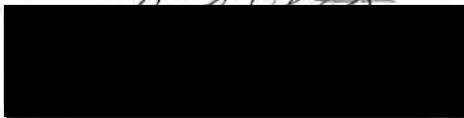
Nothing marks Wisconsin's contribution to the security of the United States better than the Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Baraboo. It served this country reliably over thirty years through three major wars, World War Two, Korea, and Vietnam. The nation could not have done without it. The great factory, once the largest of its kind in the world, now stands dismantled and vacant, an old soldier who has done his duty and should not be forgotten.

In essence, the Badger site is a war grave or historic battlefield, a place to be treated with respect. It holds a truly important role in the history of Wisconsin and the nation. To open it to recreational vehicles and shooting sports would be a desecration. Much of the pressure on DNR to do precisely this is coming from some of the same vested interests who sought to dam the Kickapoo River for a recreational lake, a project narrowly averted and now considered a disastrous idea.

The state and the public would be better served by helping Badger revert to a natural state, something like the UW's Arboretum at Madison, a proven tourist attraction. We already have the experts to do this and the cost would be relatively low. The one addition that should be there is a proper museum celebrating Badger's historical significance. This might include replicas of some of the factory's apparatus and examples of weapons that used its powder.

Keep in mind that preserving our environment, as well as our history, is of growing concern to an increasing number of people. I am one of them.

Yours truly,



First of all thank you for allowing the public the second opportunity to view the property. I wasn't able to make the first one and am grateful for the opportunity. Having worked in the rocket finishing area I never was North of the road going East of the main gate. I was impressed with the 6 million gallon water reservoir and the view over looking the prairie from there was impressive. The two cemeteries that were highlighted were very well kept and were full of I suspect relatives. I too had relatives transplanted to the Windsor and DeForest area. I wanted to view the property before I made my decision as to which option that I felt was best for the property and for the people to enjoy it. With that said I feel that the best option would be alternate #4 because it would make available to the many interests the most opportunities to enjoy the property. I don't feel that the rifle range is a good choice as there are several in the 50 mile surrounding area. Also this would mean that a DNR employee would be needed on site during the range's hours of operation. As for the ATV/UTV trails I oppose them as well. I did read in the local paper (SP Star) that the proposed trail would be roughly 4 miles long. As you look at existing trails around the state the trails are much longer generally between communities and with stops at mom and pop establishments along the way. The proposed trail wouldn't be connected to any existing ATV/UTV trails and therefore would be an 4 mile loop within the property. Alternate # 4 best resembles the wish of the Badger Reuse Plan of 2001 that conservation and low impact recreational activities are priority #1.

RECEIVED
Respectfully,

[Redacted Signature]

FACILITIES AND LANDS

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AUG 27 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

August 25, 2013

Ms Diane Brusoe, DNR Planner -- LF/6
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

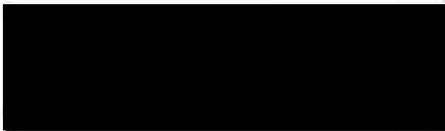
Dear Ms Brusoe:

I am writing in regard to the Sauk Prairie property of the former Badger Ordinance Works and now under the control of the DNR. As a long time resident of the area, I am strongly in favor of it being restored to its natural, beautiful state in accordance with the wishes of the local community.

The natural beauty and features of this property are unique and I feel that it would be a crime if it were to be fouled as a roaring ATV course, shooting range or paint ball war zone.

Please retain its beauty and natural features.

Respectfully yours,



August 25, 2013

Diane Brusoe, DNR Planner

PO Box 7921

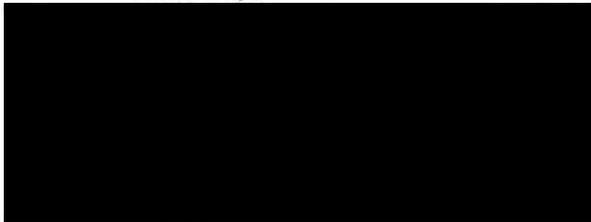
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Ms. Brusoe,

I am writing about the various proposals for the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area. Yesterday I took the tour of the area and spent some time at the history museum. I was struck by the beauty and the peace of the area. This area is truly a very special place—close to several population centers, yet very quiet, very spacious, and with many areas that seem untouched, despite all the previous human activities on the site.

After this experience I am completely in support of alternative 4 for this site. Why would we allow the peace and the beauty of this unusual site to be destroyed by ATVS? Why would we not preserve what this site offers? ATVs and rifle ranges can be situated on just about any piece of property; there is no good argument for putting them here. Let people enjoy this area without being subjected to other people's noisy machines roaring up and down the hills, without hearing gunfire in the background.

Sincerely,



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AUG 27 2013

REGULATORY AND LANDS

RECEIVED
AUG 28 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

August 26, 2013

Diane Brusoe DNR planner - LF/6
P O BOX 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

RE BADGER ARMY AMMO PLANT

Dear Ms Brusoe:

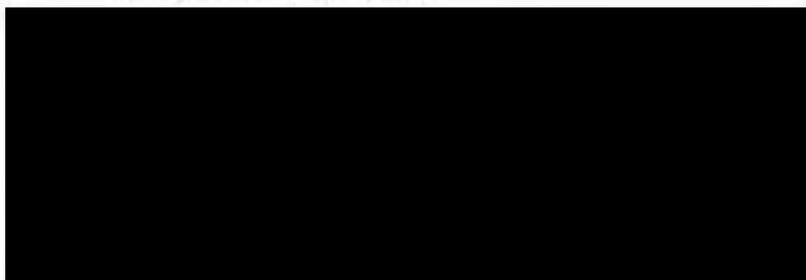
I grew up in Sumpter Township during the time the government kicked the farmers off their land, refused to pay adequately for their losses, and generally made the rest of the farmers disgusted with the government.

We now have a chance to enjoy a restored prairie, with trails for hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, taking photo, etc.

The last thing that should happen to that land is getting torn up for ATVS or loud rifle range noises.

Please reconsider.

Very truly yours,



Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Brusoe, Diane M - DNR
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2013 7:31 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: FW: Comments on DNR Proposals for Badger
Attachments: Comments to DNR.docx

I replied to this message.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 8:15 PM
To: Brusoe, Diane M - DNR
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments on DNR Proposals for Badger

Dear Ms. Brusoe:

Please accept my attached comments on the DNR re-use plan proposed for Badger. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

Comments by [REDACTED] representing himself, regarding Badger Reuse Plan

Contact information: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The current process to develop a plan for reusing Badger Army Ammunition Plant that is currently being pursued by the Department of Natural Resources has three major flaws that render the process, regardless of which of the three outcomes that are chosen, inadequate to accomplish the DNR's mission. The DNR plan is also bereft of local support and disrespectful to the families of landowners who lost their land when the plant was first sited and built by the federal government. The three primary flaws are:

1. The plan does not build substantively on the extensive Badger Reuse Plan that had already been established through a thorough, consensus-building process (a plan to which the DNR is signatory),
2. the plan ignores the potential of the Badger lands as a 7,000 acre whole by focusing on only DNR lands, and
3. the plan misses the greatest potential for Badger which is to demonstrate how agriculture and conservation can be compatibly implemented on the same lands.

Developing the tools that can effectively link agriculture and conservation is a primary state and national interest that can be uniquely accomplished at Badger because of the geographic scale Badger represents as a whole, because of the complementary characteristics within the three primary landowners (DNR, Ho-Chunk Nation and USDA), and because of the consensus that has already been forged between the future landowners and the local community.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

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AUG 28 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

August 22, 2013

Diane Brusoe, Planner
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, LF/6
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Comments to Draft Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Master Plan Alternatives

Dear Diane,

We met on an earlier occasion. I am a 30+ year career conservation biologist, I've been involved in planning diverse large-scale conservation areas (including in Florida, Nicaragua and Vietnam, to name a few), and I spent most of a year under contract to the Army (1998-1999) developing an ecological restoration plan for 1,300 acres in the northeast region of the Badger property; you've referenced this document in the 2012 "Regional & Property Analysis."

The Baraboo Hills represent the most iconic landscape in southern Wisconsin. They are the "Appalachians" of the Midwest. The state's 3,800-acre stake in the Badger property, lying in the shadow of the Baraboo Hills, deserves the very best and most innovative comprehensive plan imaginable to complement the unique spectacle of the Hills and the legacy of conservation there. After all, there will likely never be a similar opportunity for the state to acquire such an extensive tract of land in the southern half of Wisconsin.

I'd like to offer specific comments to the three draft alternative plans for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area that your team has developed through the early stages of the master planning process.

Alternative 1: No Action. I understand that the "no action" alternative must always be presented. Such an option would do nobody any good. In light of the considerable disturbance at the property due to the removal of infrastructure in recent years, the land would become a dense and impenetrable thicket of undesirable invasive species were there limited management of the land. This is a poor alternative.

Alternative 2. Ecological Restoration Emphasis. In principle, this is a wonderful idea and a favorable alternative. There are few opportunities to restore large tracts of land to some semblance of original vegetation, and grassland and savanna ecosystems are amongst our scarcest resources in the state. Certainly, a large share—perhaps the majority—of the Badger property should be restored and managed for native prairie and savanna grading to oak woodland at the northern end of the property.

Diane Brusoe/DNR

August 22, 2013

Page 2

Remnant wetlands on the property can also be restored, thereby improving their desirability to wetland species.

I would argue that extensive ecological restoration with a goal of attracting grassland and savanna birds and other species to the area does not preclude certain types of low impact, low density recreation. If done properly, natural landscapes and their wildlife inhabitants can coexist with a modicum of recreational activities. A good example is the nearby 1,800-acre Riverland Conservancy; their landscape scale ecological management has attracted considerably more grassland birds to the region, yet hiking on their extensive trail system has little to no impact on the nesting birds.

Alternative 3: Outdoor Recreation Emphasis. I find the site-specific “segregated land use” approach in this alternative to be, at best, unimaginative. Accepting this alternative in its entirety would do the people of the region and the state a disservice. Instead of splitting a large property into “zones” that allow specific and often conflictive activities in different areas, the entire property should instead be planned for *inclusive, complementary and interconnected activities* over the whole parcel. Furthermore, planning for and within the 3,800-acre parcel should take a *regional approach* that includes integrating uses and activities with those of the adjoining 9,000-acre Devil’s Lake State Park, the extensive Riverland Conservancy property and the Ice Age Trail, not to mention the State’s “neighbors” at the Badger site, Dairy Forage Research Center and Ho Chunk.

Any proposed recreational activities on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area should conform to the guidelines established in the Badger Reuse Plan (and signed by DNR Leadership); that is, low-impact recreation. Hiking, biking, skiing, bird-watching and other similar activities are low-impact. Motorized recreation (translate: ATVs) and a shooting range are NOT low-impact activities and should be dismissed outright from this iconic parcel of land. I trust that DNR will uphold its commitment to the Badger Reuse Plan and avoid incorporating any high impact recreation into the final Master Plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.

The adjoining Devil’s Lake State Park is Wisconsin’s most visited state park and attracts anywhere from 1.7 to 2.0 million visitors a year. Every one of those visitors to Devils Lake enjoys low impact recreation – hiking, biking, swimming, canoeing, and skiing, among others. There are no motor boats on the lake and no ATVs on the trails. It is precisely for this reason that the park is so popular! The visitation at Devil’s Lake clearly demonstrates a huge demand for low-impact recreation close to our large Midwestern metropolitan areas. The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area presents a natural opportunity to expand such recreational activities.

Planning high impact recreation for a clear minority of citizens on a large parcel of land at the Badger site would preclude low-impact recreation by larger numbers of citizens. ATVs and shooting ranges are to a landscape like smoking is to an eating establishment. It only takes a few to ruin the experience of

Diane Brusoe/DNR

August 22, 2013

Page 3

others. Based on numbers alone (and arguably, the positive economic impact to nearby communities), DNR would better serve citizens by planning a system of hiking, biking and ski trails in the so-called "Special Use Zone" of Alternative 3. Even were all the registered ATV owners in the state to converge on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area, their numbers would be nothing like the current visitor numbers at Devil's Lake. The same can be said for those who want a shooting range. As there are various shooting ranges in Sauk and Columbia Counties, they can presumably satisfy the demand for such activities.

I find the idea of a "Special Use Zone" (interpret: "Sacrifice Zone") for motorized recreation and a shooting range in one of the best parcels of land at Badger to be repugnant in light of the importance of the site to grassland wildlife. The land within this proposed Special Use Zone is probably the least impacted and best grassland habitat in all of Badger; bird surveys by DNR's ornithologist Mike Mossman have clearly demonstrated that this area is of critical importance to grassland and savanna species. That area includes one of the best preserved relict hillside prairies in Sauk County, not to mention several kettle wetlands. It would be antithetical of the agency to manage this area for high-impact recreation while destroying habitat for rare species that it manages elsewhere.

Instead of segregating recreation in this "zone" from recreation in the other parcels of land, an attempt should be made to achieve some degree of connectivity to the rest of the Badger land by collaborating with USDA's Dairy Forage Research Center, whereby low impact recreational users would have a seamless connection from the River to the core of Devil's Lake State Park. Arguably, a robust network of hiking or even bicycle trails at Badger would likely get far greater use than either an ATV trail system or a shooting range.

Generally, I don't feel that any of the alternatives proposed in the Draft Master Plan offers the best opportunity for Badger. It feels like Alternatives 2 and 3 are presented in a mutually-exclusive fashion; a better alternative would include elements of both of these alternatives (minus high impact recreation). In fact, the Badger Oversight Management Commission is endorsing a composite alternative (Alternative 4) that includes ecological restoration and low-impact recreation in a more harmonious plan. That would be the closest to an alternative that I would endorse, as well.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I will be very interested in seeing the next steps in this planning process; please keep me on the list of citizens to receive periodic updates.



Copies:

Members of Wisconsin Legislature

Natural Resources Board

Sept 1, 2013

Diane Brusca

P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

RECEIVED
SEP - 5 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

Ms Brusca:

I am writing in response to the article
in Opinion & Commentary in the Cap Times
Aug 29 - Sep 3, 2013.

I am in favor of "Alternative 4" to cover
use of acreage at the Badger Army
Ammunition Plant land. In our
world today we need quiet, peaceful areas
in which to ^{to} recoup from the noises we
encounter daily. I don't know who the
Thoecke family was but their cemetery
sounds like an ideal place to sit and
reflect on those who came to Wisconsin
to have a life here many years ago.

The restoration of a site for grass-
land birds sounds like a bonus

Please add my name to any list
of Alternative 4 supporters
Thank you

AUG 22 2013

Diane Bruscoe, DNR Planner
90 Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921

Dear Ms. Bruscoe,

I'd like to go on record as opposing use of the former Badger Outanance land for a rifle range, all terrain vehicle track, or a paint ball area. Unlike most other outdoor recreation (such as hiking, hunting, trapping, etc.) these proposed activities all require extensive and destructive alteration of the natural landscape. In addition, both a rifle range and an off-road vehicle track would create unacceptable noise that would greatly detract ^{from} ~~from~~ the enjoyment of the area by other users.

That the DNR would propose something like this is in the same category as allowing frac-sand mining adjacent to the lower Wisconsin Riverway.

Crazy!

Sincerely,



AUG 22 2013

Aug. 21, 2013

To: DNR Planner Diane Brusoe

I'm writing in regards to the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area issue. I support Alternative 4, which calls for restoring the prairie and allowing only low-impact recreational uses (a previously agreed-upon plan). I join a vast majority of local and state-wide citizens' views on this matter - to keep this area quiet and pristine.

Ever since Walker appointees began taking over the State DNR, I've noticed a very disturbing trend: The transformation of a respected conservation agency into a group that seems to want to turn our beloved state into a private hunt club for a tiny fraction of special interests.

(Recent examples: Opening State Parks to Trapping/Hunting, The Mackenzie Center Overhaul, Cathy Stepp's inflammatory propaganda over native fishing quotas, and the recent "Giggles the Fawn" fiasco)

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

AUG 21 2013

August 17, 2013

Diane Brusoe
DNR Planner -- L.F/6
Wisconsin Department Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707

Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

We're writing this letter in support of Alternative 4 land use plan proposed by the Badger Oversight and Management Commission.

We were very involved in the early activities of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance and the hearings to develop the Badger Reuse Plan, and [REDACTED] was one of the photographers who helped create the show "Inside the Fence" with the Badger History Group.

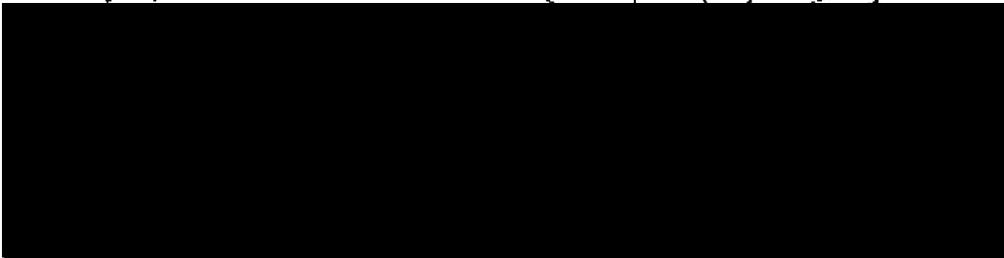
From the very beginning, the efforts to create the Badger Reuse Plan brought together a variety of community and regional voices. As a participant, the DNR, agreed with the consensus that this area be preserved as a natural and low impact recreation area, and that it be used as an important educational tool to benefit present and future generations. These concepts were, in fact, the basis for the agreement the DNR made to acquire the property.

There were always a minority of voices wanting a variety of other uses, as there are now. But uses contrary to the Badger Reuse Plan were considered and rejected by neighbors, communities, local and regional governments, and the DNR.

Recently the Town of Sumpter has also voiced support of Alternative 4 and the Dairy Forage Research Center has stated that ATV and shooting range proposals would cause harm and disruption to their use of the property.

We plead with the DNR to respect the wishes of the community and groups that have spent years developing a plan that will heal the land. Alternative 4 is a plan that will do that and a plan that, through participation on the Badger Reuse Committee, the DNR has already endorsed.

Thank you,



AUG 21 2019

Dear Sirs;

I am a homeowner in Sanb County and use the local parks frequently. I'm writing in support of BOMC Alternative 4 because it does not include vehicle trails or shooting ranges. If these 2 uses are present, my family would not use the new park that we have supported & looked forward to. How could you possibly propose to despoil the great prairie with engine pollution & noise accompanied by constant gun shots.

Please don't ruin a natural spot. There are certainly many other spots for vehicles & guns. Your proposal is like putting a strike post in an art museum.

AUG 20 2013



Dear Persons,

I have a modest proposal concerning the controversy that has emerged with the addition of new constituent groups into the planning for the Badger lands. It seems to me that a possible solution would be to expand the pie. The long, careful and heart-invested work of the Badger Reuse Committee resulted in the low impact recreation/ecological restoration model restated in Proposal 4. Yet the DNR proposed plans and subsequent hearings and public comments have brought to light some legitimate recreational needs in our area.....the most prominent seems to be the lack of regional ATV trails.

There seems to me to be good reasons why it would be unwise to locate ATV trails in the Badger lands: environmental, ecological, residential, etc.....so could the need be met elsewhere in our region more wisely? My thought turns to Blackhawk Ridge. Could ATV trail development there be more scenic, more interesting for riders, less disruptive of unique ecological potential and an acceptable alternative to ATV rider groups? Given the geography of the Blackhawk Ridge site, I don't think it would be difficult to respect residential neighbors and to avoid the precious historical sites found there. I realize that there are potential problems that would need to be addressed....including the compatibility of ATVs with existing horse and hiking trails at Blackhawk ridge and undoubtedly a myriad of political, jurisdictional and financial issues; but from my perspective as a long-time casual user of the Blackhawk Ridge property both before and after it passed into the DNR's jurisdiction, that location does have under-developed potential for additional uses.

I have not been convinced by the debate and conversations that I have had that there is a legitimate need for a new rifle range regionally, but perhaps I am insufficiently informed. I assume that the DNR has available to it regionally other locations where a rifle range could be sited that would allow the noise generated by a rifle range to be in less proximity to concentrated residential property and less likely to interfere with competing needs of fragile species, low impact recreation and the dreams for a reborn prairie habitat. It seems to me that a less open site could be found where there would be natural sound mitigation, if planners assess that the need for a rifle range regionally is legitimate.

In short, perhaps planners could both respect the unique promise and problems of the Badger Lands and address recreational needs that have arisen by considering and offering other regional siting options specifically Blackhawk Ridge.



08-13-13

Diane Brusoe

101 S. Webster Street

Madison, WI 53707

Dear Ms. Brusoe,

I would like to take this opportunity to weigh in on the debate about the proposed "Sauk Prairie Recreation Area" or the land formerly used by the Badger Army Ammunition Plant.

I am very disappointed and upset to hear that the DNR is actually considering something so very awfully inappropriate as shooting ranges and ATV trails. How very wrong! This idea goes in direct contrast to the very carefully developed Badger Reuse Plan that took years of devoted and hard work by the members of the Badger Reuse Committee and the members of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance Board of which I myself used to be a member of. People such as Curt Meine, Charlie Luthin, Gail Lambarty and Alison Duff and many others of like mind have put their very heart and soul into developing a restoration plan for BAAP based on predominantly restoring and preserving the priceless ancient tallgrass prairie ecosystem that once thrived there but now is in great danger of being ruined by a hasty attempt to satisfy demands of the noisy, motorized gun crowd that really cares nothing much at all about preserving such a beautiful, majestic landscape but merely wants another place to play in without any concern about the harmful effects of their careless actions.

I would respectfully ask you to review the reasons why allowing ATV's and shooting ranges on the property would be incompatible with the Badger Reuse Plan that the surrounding community members have heartily endorsed. These being:

- Such uses, as noted above, run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan and the reuse process to which we have all been committed.
- They explicitly contradict provisions in the DNR's agreement with the National Park Service.
- They will have detrimental impacts on neighboring landowners within Badger, and neighboring private landowners outside Badger.
- They will have detrimental impacts on other recreational users and visitors at Badger.
- They will have detrimental impacts on the sound environment of Badger, which is unique in southern Wisconsin for its degree of quiet.
- The impacts of these proposed uses on grassland birds and other wildlife has not been documented or analyzed.

- The area in which these uses are proposed includes, among other features, one of the important pioneer cemeteries of Badger (the Thielke Cemetery), the highest quality prairie/savanna remnant on the entire Badger property, and a unique geological feature – the drainage channel of glacial Lake Merrimac, still visible after 12,000 years.

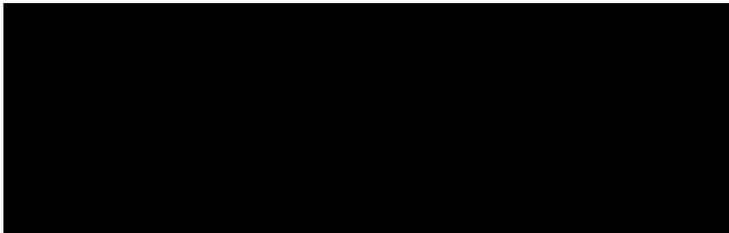
I have personally spent many hours onsite at Badger as a restoration volunteer with SPCA and I wish to extend my support for Alternative 2 now under consideration.

I support:

- Emphasis placed on ecological restoration of the tallgrass prairie and its biological community of native plants, birds, animals and insects based on the principles and guidelines of the Badger Reuse Plan.
- I encourage the construction of an interpretive visitor center that can be used to educate visitors about the benefits of prairie restoration and the history of the Sauk Prairie and Badger Army Plant.
- The idea of allowing motorized use along with a shooting range should be abandoned.

Thank You Very Much!

Respectfully and very sincerely,



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August 15, 2013

Ms. Diane Brusoe

DNR Planner

P.O. Box 7921

Madison, Wisconsin 53707.7921

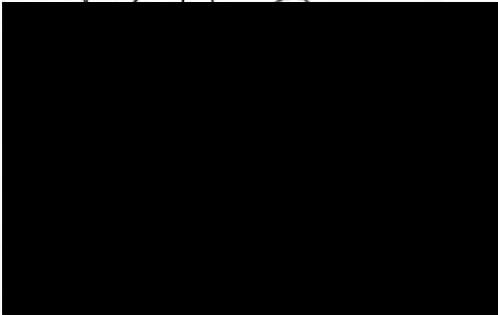
Dear Ms. Brusoe:

RE: Badger Reuse Plan

I think it is a grave mistake to include high impact activities such as ATV trails and a shooting range in the midst of quiet recreation and land restoration. Wisconsin already has lots of places to practice shooting and ride ATV trails. Why despoil this wonderful site.

The DNR promised to implement the conditions of the Badger Reuse Plan. If it does not follow through to do just that the DNR will lose credibility. This is an issue of great importance and I expect the DNR to act honorably.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area of the letter.

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AUG 11 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

[REDACTED]

Diane Brusoe, Planner DNR

101 S. Webster St. P.O. Box 7921, Madison Wis., 53707-7021

August, 4, 2013

Dear Ms. Brusoe,

I am writing in support of the BOMC Alternative #4.

I am sure the DNR with all the wisdom at their disposal will see that this is a reasonable alternative. It takes into consideration acknowledgement of all the communities and natural resources and is totally comprehensive. It does not weigh too heavily towards one focus – it should not engender more costs – it does not propose more or lengthy maintenance.

I grew up in [REDACTED] My father worked at the plant. I have been terribly concerned about the area for a very long time.

Thank you for accepting my support - trusting in the belief that cool heads will prevail.

[REDACTED]

8/10/13

Dear Ms Brusoe,

My name is [REDACTED] I am representing myself although many family members, friends, and colleagues share my views and feelings. This letter addresses the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area (SPRA).

I left the City of Milwaukee in 2001 to practice dentistry in the quiet, rural City of Mauston, WI. On retiring I moved to Baraboo, WI as my primary residence. I also enjoy a small cabin in the quiet northwoods of Prosser Isle township. The great outdoors has always meant much to me and my family. We all enjoy various outdoor activities including sports, fishing, hunting, backpacking, canoe/kayaking etc. I have used ATVs and rifle ranges. I am a WDNR Conservation Patron.

My wife and I decided to live and raise our family in Wisconsin because of its natural beauty and to provide dental care in an impoverished area of the State. We had the best of both worlds. The Baraboo Range is one of our favorite areas of the State and that is why we moved here. In the Baraboo Range lies the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. The SPRA is unique and historical. I truly believe the SPRA should be kept low impact on nature. I believe the SPRA should not allow "non traditional uses".

The SPRA has already been polluted with ongoing monitoring and continual clean up. The noise pollution and damage that will result from ATVs and a rifle range would be horrible for visitors,

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surrounding residents and the land. I know because I have been around ^{and used} high impact toys.

In conclusion please keep the vision and spirit of the Ridger ReUse Plan alive which is incorporated into BOMC Alternative 4. Keep the SPRA "low impact". Please do not support the "Special Use Zone" as described in the DNR Alternative 3. The world is too noisy. Smell ^{and listen to} the sounds and fragrances of quiet.

Sincerely



p.s. Does someone actually read and respond to these mailings? Guess I'm skeptical on this one.

Diane Brusoe, DNR Planner
LF/6, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Ms. Brusoe,

As you know, the DNR has proposed three alternatives for the Badger Ordnance property. The Badger Oversight Management Commission, which includes members of various communities, has proposed a fourth alternative. It offers a balance of low-impact recreation which would make the area more accessible and useful to a large number of people.

This includes: hunting, biking, hiking and cross-country skiing, with family activities, conservation, outdoor education (with a visitor center) and other nature-based recreation.

This proposal compliments the surrounding areas and would boost the local economy.

Please consider and implement this proposal. Wisconsinites deserve well-balanced use of their state's natural areas.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and name of the sender.

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August 9, 2013



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
c/o Diane Brusoe
Re: Master Planning Process, Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

The agency's three alternatives presented to the public are each flawed, though Alternative #3 is most obviously inappropriate for this site. The agency was an active participant in the creation and adoption of the Badger Reuse Plan but appears to reject that now. Even Alternative 2, which comes closest to the Badger Reuse Plan, lacks important elements.

The DNR should instead adopt the plan put forward recently by the Badger Oversight Management Committee, which they call Alternative #4. Surely you can find a better and more appropriate place for a shooting range and/or an ATV park than this site with its important wildlife habitat and native plant communities.

Lastly, the agency appears to be inviting legal action by the Federal Government to enforce the terms of the property transfer to the State. The best way to avoid this is to adopt the proposed Alternative #4.

Thank you.



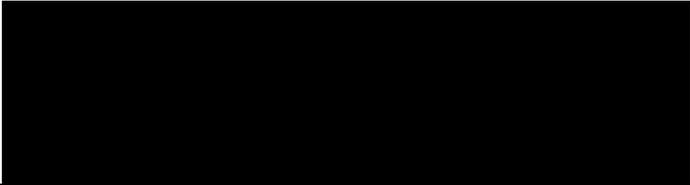
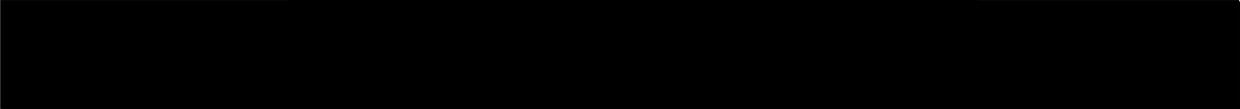
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I am in support of
the BOMC alternative
to Badger Ordance Property,
Low impact recreation.

I have lived in Sauk
Prairie all of my life -
and have been looking
forward to quiet hikes
thru this property.

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

August 9, 2013

Diane Brusoc
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Re: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Master Plan Alternatives

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed alternatives.

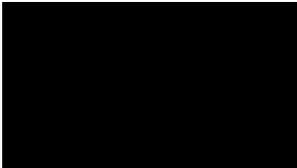
Alternative 3 is clearly inappropriate for this site and unnecessary as well. It is inappropriate because it likely would disturb critical bird habitat as well as high quality native plant communities. It is unnecessary because "active recreation" is readily available at neighboring Devils Lake State Park. As for the two most objectionable proposed use, the DNR is currently working with Columbia County on a proposed Shooting range, while there must be some played out gravel pit that would be a more appropriate host for ATV and motorcycle trails.

I encourage you to immediately adopt the alternative supplied by the Badger Oversight Management Committee (#4). Not only is this alternative the most appropriate use of this site, but it is consistent with the State's agreement with the conditions for the property transfer by the Federal Government.

This isn't even a difficult call. Do the right thing and adopt the BOMC's Alternative #4.

Sincerely,





Ms. Diane Brusoe
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster St.
Madison WI 53707

August 5, 2013

RE: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

Dear Ms. Brusoe:

As a resident of Baraboo I am keenly interested in the future of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area and I offer the following comments on the draft conceptual alternatives.

I believe it is important for the DNR to fully honor the Badger Reuse Plan (BRP) that was developed by the 21 member Badger Reuse Committee and was officially endorsed by the Natural Resources Board, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors, the Ho-Chunk Nation, and other stakeholders. I strongly believe that the future uses of the area emphasize ecological restoration, low impact nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities.

I support Alternative 2 because it is closest to the recommendations in the BRP. However, I believe it is important to expand this alternative by including the educational and interpretative activities described in Alternative 3 along with appropriate visitor access (e.g., fishing pier, canoe access, picnic areas, trail development, and parking and bathrooms).

I oppose the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3, specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range". These high-impact recreational uses run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan, are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. As noted in the DNR's own 2005 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, ATV riding has very low compatibility with activities such as hiking, wildlife watching, trail biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and hunting. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.

The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED
AUG 10 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

August 5, 2013

Ms. Diane Brusoe
Program and Policy Analyst
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster St.
Madison WI 53707

Dear Ms. Brusoe,

Up until about 1997 – 1998, the Badger Army Ammunition Plant was a landmark in Wisconsin that I was very aware of but didn't know much about, other than that it served as a munitions facility during wartime and sat on a former prairie landscape. Then about 15 years ago I started hearing more about it in the news, some negative (the plume of contamination) but mostly positive. Conservation and community minded people started talking about the possibilities for the land once it was decommissioned by the army.

Interested in natural landscapes myself, and particularly in the restoration of landscapes I started to pay attention, attend a few meetings and keep abreast of plans. After much work involving research, discussion and negotiation the Badger Reuse Plan was developed. I was delighted to read about the different uses for Badger, and while I had selfishly wanted all of it left more natural I began to see the value in involving many more community ideas and pulling together more organizations. I learned the value of working things out by finding common ground and I was so proud of the people that had worked so hard on this and how the work involved local communities, tribal representatives, and state representatives. As BAAP was decommissioned and the buildings started coming down I looked forward to all of the activities as described in the Badger Reuse Plan.

I have to say I am extremely disappointed in our DNR at this this time for taking the direction they have chosen, in spite of the efforts of so many groups, including the state itself. There is emphasis on ecological restoration and nature-based recreation such as birding and hiking, which I strongly support and appreciate. I see these are described in the DNR's Alternatives 2 and 3. I most strongly support Alternative 2, as it most closely matches the BAP but I feel it needs to include parts of Alternative 3, specifically the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. As the BAP was being developed, I learned so much about the cultural of the area before BAAP and couldn't have done that without the educational tours led by people involved in the BAP. I was looking forward to learning about what I understand is a very healthy population of grassland birds, due to the relative quiet of the area over the past couple decades. DNR has also decided against integrating research and sustainable agriculture into their planning for the Badger lands, again, contrary to the original agreement, of which the DNR was a part. I would like to see this back in the plan. I receive the WI Alumni magazine and

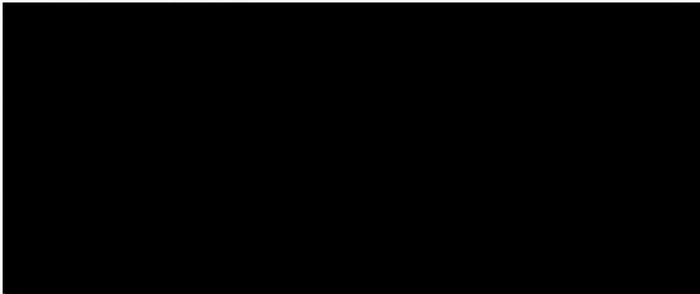
understand the value of research-based agriculture and applaud the university's efforts toward more sustainable agricultural methods.

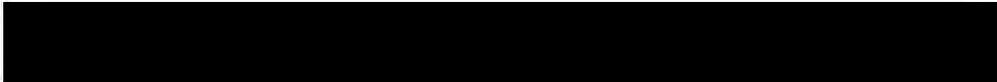
Most upsetting is the Special Use Zone described in Alternative 3. I feel this is a direct contradiction to the original vision for the Badger Reuse plan, which was for compatible, low-impact recreational uses. A shooting range is not compatible use with family hiking. Noisy, destructive ATV use is NOT compatible with protecting and preserving a healthy grassland bird population. Not only will these uses affect people recreating at BAAP, they will also affect neighbors, as well as wildlife within the area. There are currently appropriate, alternative sites for these high-impact recreational sports. They do not belong at Badger.

I worked at the DNR for eight years and absolutely loved it. I was proud to be part of a statewide organization with a mission to protect our state's natural resources. I understand the value of compromise but this is not compromise. Compromise is what happens at the table, during planning. This is a decision to override the work of many (including DNR personnel) to please a few. I am disappointed in the DNR, in its lack of integrity in this matter, and its failure to keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin and the Badger stakeholders to protect our state's resources to the best of our ability so that we can all enjoy them.

I am confident the DNR can step up and honor the work of the people who put their knowledge and hearts into the BAP plan. Thank you.

Sincerely,





RECEIVED
MAY 11 2014
FACILITIES AND LANDS

Diane Bruscoe
101 South Webster St.
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Former Badger Army Ammunition Plant Property

Dear Ms. Bruscoe:

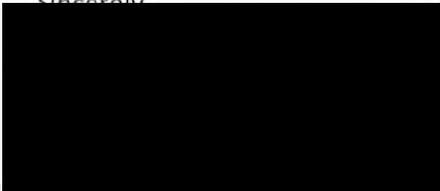
I am writing in support of maintaining this property for restoration and recreational/educational purposes that do not include invasive activities such as ATV trails, a rifle range, and other high impact uses. I am well aware of Wisconsin's hunting tradition—my six uncles in Shawano County were avid hunters (also all six of them were in World War 2, a record from one family in Wisconsin, probably in the United States, I am told). Guns in the rural tradition were part of my childhood.

However, in a milieu involving hikers, bikers, families, as well as professionals and students engaged in research and the other designated uses outlined in the original plan for this landscape, guns and arrows and fast, noisy motorized vehicles would be undesirable and dangerous. These dangers would extend not only to families with children hoping to interact with the landscape, but also to wildlife and the natural environment itself. Most certainly other landowners in the area would feel the negative impacts. Concern also exists for farm animals in the region. It is important that levels of noise be a consideration along with wear and tear on the landscape and wildlife.

Therefore, I implore you to adhere to the original usage plans for this special landscape—a goal members of the restoration and planning team have been working so hard to make a reality. I believe Alternative Two in the new proposal is closest to the original plan—providing major consideration is given to protection of the natural environment and security of visitors, including families and students as well as researchers and naturalists. Guns and fast, noisy vehicles do not fit into this plan and should not be part of this endeavor. There are many other venues for these activities—Wisconsin is a big, beautiful state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



August 3, 2013

To: Diane Briscoe, DNR Planner
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

RECEIVED
AUG - 5 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

Dear Ms. Briscoe,

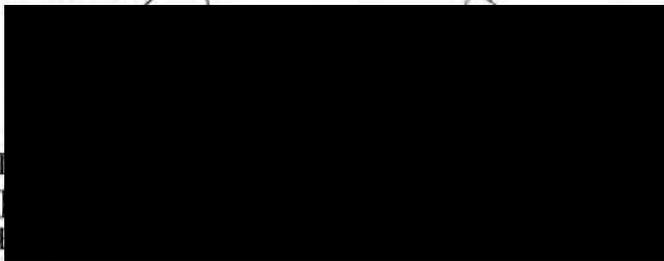
We are contacting you in regard to the former Badger Ordinance property.

We are casting TWO votes for the ROMC Alternative.

Although the property is no longer pristine, any other variety of uses for the site would be a travesty. There will never be a wiser use for this valuable land. The ROMC alternative fits well with the nearby Devil's Lake State Park. It compliments the Baraboo hills. It takes the land back to its original prairie state, so far as that is possible and still gives appropriate access for the public.

We plead, beg, and pray for the ROMC Alternative.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and name of the sender. A thin line extends from the right side of the box.

RECEIVED
JUL 30 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS



7/28/13

Dear Ms Brusse,

I would like the former Badger property used for ecological restoration, education, sustainable agriculture + only low-impact recreation.

my grandparents, [REDACTED] farmed the land across from Badger + built the house that still stands on the same property. They took good care of their land + loved their home. In their names, I'm asking those responsible for the Badger property to show respect for the wildlife + the land involved [REDACTED]

Diane Brusoe
101 S. Webster St.
Madison, WI 53707

RECEIVED

JUL 3 11 2011

FACILITIES AND LANDS

Dear Diane,

My husband and I are ATV riders, I am 68, My husband is 71. We enjoy riding in the countryside enjoying the scenery, wildlife etc. Having farmed all our life, we are arthritic, have new joints and my husband had his foot tore off last year in a farming accident. His foot was put back on, but we are limited in what we can do. Friends that we ride with also have handicaps.

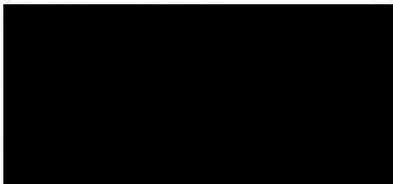
The ATV trails in many areas have a 30/35 mile speed limit on them, which is plenty fast for us. We prefer riding around 15/20 mph so we can appreciate the flowers and birds etc.. When we are near houses, the speed limit goes down to 10 miles per hour. I have never seen anyone go off trails, where we have ridden. And most of the people we see on trails are older people like us.

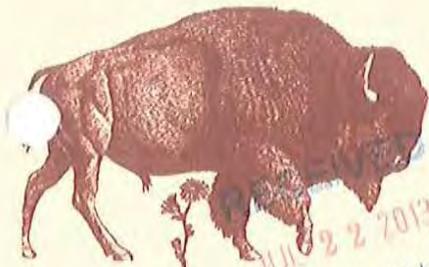
We mostly go on the Multi-use Cheese Country Trail, and use the Mineral Point trail head. We have gone to Black River Falls, and Tomahawk, Hurley etc. It would be great to have an area closer to use, such as Badger.

As for policing the area, we have been stopped by the area patrol and just checked out, making sure we had the proper registration etc. Now more signage is required on the machines, besides the registration numbers being on the side, it also has to be displayed on the back of the machine on a white background. This should help identify anyone not obeying the rules.

If there is anything we can do to help get trails at Badger, please let us know.

Thank you,





JUL 22 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

RE: BADGER REUSE PLAN

July 19, 2013

Dear Diane Bruscoe -

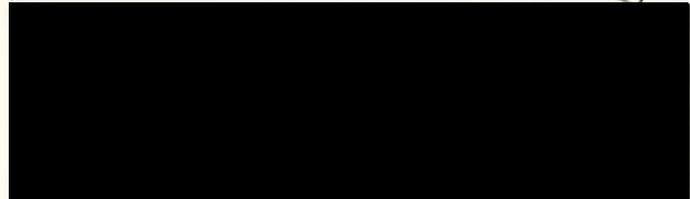
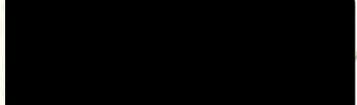
I am opposed to the "motorized vehicle use and shooting range" described for the Special Use Zone in Alternative 3. These uses seem incompatible with low-impact recreation and environmental education, not to mention negative effects on adjacent property owners.

I continue to support emphasis on ecological restoration and community based education, thus I support Alternative 2, as the closest to what the BRP recommended.

I also encourage commitment to incorporating sustainable agriculture and related research into the future of Badger.

With Badger lands we, as residents of Sauk County (and the state of Wisconsin) have an opportunity to reflect and "showcase" our environmental values - critical in this millennium,

Sincerely,





July 18, 2013

RECEIVED
JUL 22 2013
FACILITIES AND LAND

Ms. Diane Brusoe
101 S. Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707

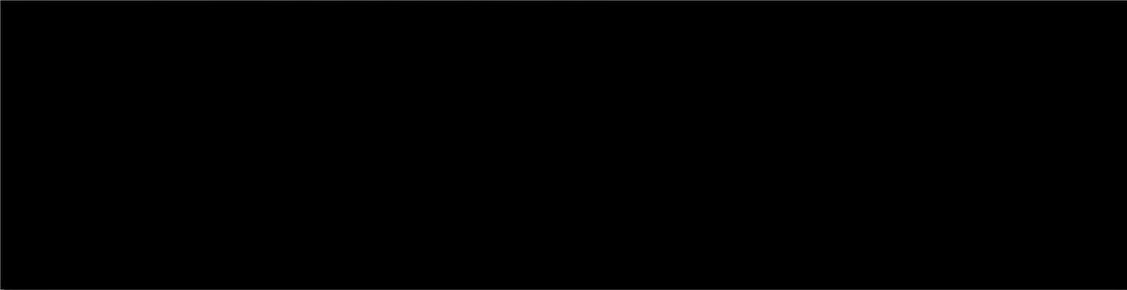
Re: Badger Army Ammunition Plant

Dear Ms. Brusoe:

In my lifetime, I have had the opportunity to see the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (powder plant as we locals refer to it) constructed in 1942, and now removed. Moreover, I am taking this opportunity of writing to you because I am deeply concerned with what I am reading in the newspapers about proposed recreational uses.

I would like to go on record as supporting low impact recreational uses only. More specifically, I want to express my strongest opposition to any motorized uses or a shooting range that the DNR presently has under consideration. Such uses, in my opinion, would be totally incompatible with the integrity of this beautiful landscape.

Thank you for your consideration.



RECEIVED
JUL 16 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

July 15, 2013

Sauk Prairie Recreation Area
Diane Brusoe, WI DNR
101 S Webster St.
Madison, WI 53707

I have had an opportunity to review the conceptual plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area and find that the Alternative 3 proposal placing an emphasis on outdoor recreation does an excellent job of providing recreational opportunities for a variety of users that typically are not allowed in other DNR properties.

The areas identified for ATV use and/or a rifle range are well suited for the proposed location in that the area is segregated from the core area of the recreational property and will have minimal, if any, impact on other users who will come to enjoy this massive property. It also does an excellent job of not just meeting the needs of the area but its overall impact is less than 10% of the former Badger property.

I would encourage an additional entrance on the east side of the property from Highway 78. As a resident on the Highway 78 corridor, I live across the street but I would have to drive 10 miles to gain entrance through the main gate.

Thank you for your attention to this project and I look forward to the property finally being open to the public.





RENEWED
APRIL 2013
FACILITIES AND LANDS

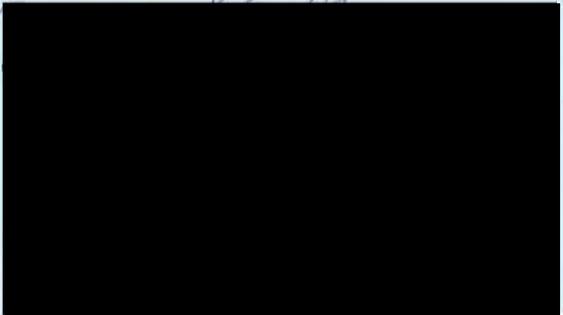
Dear Diane,

After reading Spenser Black's
Article in Cap Times I decided I
needed to write to you to express
my support for Reuse of Badger
Prairie and strong opposition
to Gov. Walz's Special Use Zone

I've supported the programs
for construction use of the area
for years.



Liane - I totally support
Alternative 4 for Badger House
plan. Most incorporating of all.

Sincerely,


RECEIVED

AUG 30 2013

FACILITIES AND LANDS

RECEIVED
AUG 31 2011
FACILITIES AND LANDS

Jiane Brusoe
DNR Planner
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

STOP ignoring the local consensus regarding the former Badger Ordinance Land.

It is time to respect the local cooperative agreement and to protect the wildlife, habitat and traditional recreational activities.

Forget Walker's "Special Use Zone."!!

Sincerely,

Thursday August 29
RECEIVED
2013

AUG 28 2013

FACILITIES AND LANDS

Dear Diane,

I am a Senior Citizen unable to use a computer or type very well. I hope you will excuse me for printing this letter to you this way.

Please do not allow special interests to influence you to use wonderful new area of the former munitions factory for any kind of all terrain vehicle track, paint ball battlefield or long range shooting range. People have enough places to go to do these things.

I want to see my children and grandchildren use this place for all purposes not connected to any kind of violent activity or pretense of it.

The Badger Reuse Plan (I believe it is the 4th proposed plan is the right one. It is endorsed by the neighboring cities, the HoChunk nation and many many peaceful thinking persons. I urge you to decide on this plan.

Sincerely,