

Ryan Lisson

From: Wilson, Steve G (DNR) [steve.wilson@state.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 1:11 PM
To: Ryan Lisson
Cc: Booth, Peggy (DNR); Colvin, Steve E (DNR)
Subject: FW: SNA Location Request
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Ryan,

Please see the communication below from Rebecca Holmstrom, a footnote of sorts to an earlier communication from her.

Steve

From: Holmstrom, Rebecca (DNR)
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 12:09 PM
To: Wilson, Steve G (DNR)
Subject: RE: SNA Location Request

Hi Steve-

I have been thinking about the "Pike Mountain" area a lot lately while working on npc mapping in the preliminary Outstanding MCBS Site. In particular, I have been thinking about the large chunk of private land right in the middle of this Site (primarily owned by the developer- Leonard Land Co). Here are some field observations regarding the private land adjacent to the Pike Mountain cRNA (T 59N, R16W, S31):

The mature mesic hardwood forest along the slope is definitely one of the nicest MH forest stands of the LTA and subsection (A-AB rank). Even though it is rocky, it has a decent duff layer and based on my field points- no obvious evidence of earthworms (would probably rank 1-2 IERAT?). I observed a new Goshawk nesting location in this stand. The property also includes a cliff feature and most of the associated rock outcrop (the size and quality of these features is rare for this subset). I also came across a small grove of large old pines near the wetland transition- could be FDn43a old growth (~2-4 acres?)?

I think the PM protection boundary that was delineated for the white paper pretty accurately reflects the highest quality portion of the private land in that section.

Just thought I would pass along the info I have for the current ownership:

Leonard Land Co. LLC

Former mining corp lands (US Steel/Cliffs Biwabik Ore Corp?) now owned/managed by Perella Realty

Perella Realty contact: Greg Perella

Cell: 218-969-1411

Office: 218-262-5582

1932 2nd Ave E. Hibbing

FYI- my correspondence with Greg has been pretty limited. In 2009/2010 he granted me/helped me with access thru any LLC lands to conduct surveys (which was really helpful!).

Thanks Steve! Let me know if you have any questions-
Rebecca

From: Wilson, Steve G (DNR)
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 8:39 AM
To: Holmstrom, Rebecca (DNR)
Subject: RE: SNA Location Request

Thanks Rebecca. Stay warm!

From: Holmstrom, Rebecca (DNR)
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 10:52 PM
To: Wilson, Steve G (DNR); Booth, Peggy (DNR)
Cc: Colvin, Steve E (DNR); Leibfried, Bob (DNR); Peloquin, Mike L (DNR); VanNingen, AmberBeth (DNR); Converse, Carmen K (DNR)
Subject: RE: SNA Location Request

Hi all-

I haven't seen the Northmet tract boundaries, but based on Steve's description, it sounds like the Hay Lake tract has significant overlap with an MCBS preliminary survey site that will likely be the only "Outstanding" Site of Biodiversity Significance in the Nashwauk Uplands Subsection. The "Pike Mountain draft site boundary" depicted in the white paper highlights the area of highest priority for conservation action, including a "potential" scientific and natural area (includes lands in T59N R17W S25, 26, 35, &36 and T59N R16W S30 &31 and State, Federal, and private ownership).

FYI, the EE being drafted covers a large landscape unit of ~40,000 acres that includes the MCBS preliminary "Outstanding" site (and "Pike Mountain draft site") as well as three contiguous sites with preliminary ranks of "High". The native plant community mapping for this large unit is one of my primary work goals this winter.

Rebecca

Rebecca Holmstrom
MCBS Plant Ecologist/ Botanist
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
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218-723-4763 ext. 230
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From: Wilson, Steve G (DNR)
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 4:07 PM
To: Booth, Peggy (DNR)
Cc: Colvin, Steve E (DNR); Leibfried, Bob (DNR); Peloquin, Mike L (DNR); VanNingen, AmberBeth (DNR); Holmstrom, Rebecca (DNR)
Subject: RE: SNA Location Request

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Peggy,

The Northmet tract known as Hay Lake overlaps with what I would call a “potential” scientific and natural area. The federal land on the southwest boundary of the Hay Lake tract is a candidate RNA. Thus, for quite a few years, we’ve been in discussion with Forestry, Wildlife, and L&M about establishing an SNA on the adjacent state land. If that were to come to pass, we would also look at other private lands within the Pike Mountain draft site boundary shown on the attached white paper for inclusion in the SNA. These include some lands in the SW corner of the Hay Lake tract. Further internal discussions await the completion of the EE being worked on by Rebecca Holmstrom. I’ve copied her on this in case she has anything to add.

Steve

Steve Wilson
MN DNR Regional Scientific and Natural Area Specialist
650 Highway 169
Tower, MN 55790

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E-mail: steve.wilson@state.mn.us

From: Booth, Peggy (DNR)
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 2:07 PM
To: VanNingen, AmberBeth (DNR)
Cc: Wilson, Steve G (DNR); Colvin, Steve E (DNR); Leibfried, Bob (DNR); Peloquin, Mike L (DNR)
Subject: FW: SNA Location Request
Importance: High

This is a formal information request that needs your attention soon. Specifically, **are there any SNAs or “proposed SNAs”** (assume the later means EEs that recommend areas for SNA protection) **in the northmet areas depicted in the attached?** Let us know if you have needs for PDFs rather than shape files.

If you are comfortable so doing, you can respond to Ryan Lisson directly and copy me & Steve Colvin & anyone else who needs to track this in R2.

Thanks.

From: Colvin, Steve E (DNR)
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 1:48 PM
To: Booth, Peggy (DNR)
Subject: FW: SNA Location Request

From: Ryan Lisson [<mailto:Ryan.Lisson@erm.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 1:01 PM
To: Colvin, Steve E (DNR)
Cc: Al Trippel; Deb McGovern
Subject: RE: SNA Location Request

Hi Steve,

Thanks for your message this morning. I have attached shapefiles for all NorthMet Project areas, including the Mine Site, Plant Site, Transportation Corridor, Federal Lands, and Non-Federal Lands. I am requesting

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confirmation that no SNAs exist or are proposed on any of these areas. The DEIS only requested the Mine Site, but we are now asking for all areas for further discussion. Please let me know if you have any questions and thanks again for following up on this.

Thank you,

Ryan J. Lisson

Environmental Resources Management | ERM
190 East 5th Street, Suite 255
St. Paul, MN 55101
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Email: ryan.lisson@erm.com

From: Glancy, Tom (DNR) [<mailto:Tom.Glancy@state.mn.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 5:19 PM
To: Ryan Lisson
Cc: Booth, Peggy (DNR)
Subject: RE: SNA Location Request

Hi Ryan,

Sorry for the delay. I forwarded your note to Peggy Booth. She is the SNA Program Manager and will be able to answer your question.

Regards,
Tom

Tom Glancy
Ecological and Water Resources Division IT Supervisor
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Box 25
500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155
651-259-5097
tom.glancy@state.mn.us

From: Ryan Lisson [<mailto:Ryan.Lisson@erm.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2012 8:48 AM
To: Glancy, Tom (DNR)
Subject: RE: SNA Location Request

Hello Tom,

I am just following up on an email I sent you on 1/5/2012. Could you please indicate if there are any SNAs located in the Project boundaries below?

Thank you,

Ryan J. Lisson

Environmental Resources Management | ERM
190 East 5th Street, Suite 255

4/30/2012

St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-846-2875
Email: ryan.lisson@erm.com

From: Ryan Lisson
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2012 3:20 PM
To: 'tom.glancy@state.mn.us'
Subject: FW: SNA Location Request

Hello Tom,

I am following up on a question about SNAs that I had directed to Lisa Joyal. She indicated I should contact the SNA Unit, and I found your name through the DNR Data Deli SNA layer. My question is whether or not SNAs are located within a project boundary (described below).

I have reviewed the DNR SNA website, and found no locations to be on the project site. Our GIS department has also analyzed the SNA layer from the DNR Data Deli (published 9/4/2003), and found no SNA's to exist on the Project Site. I am requesting your confirmation that none exist on the site (since the data deli is dated in 2003). Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Ryan J. Lisson
Environmental Resources Management | ERM
190 East 5th Street, Suite 255
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-846-2875
Email: ryan.lisson@erm.com

From: Joyal, Lisa (DNR) [<mailto:Lisa.Joyal@state.mn.us>]
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2011 12:37 AM
To: Ryan Lisson
Subject: RE: SNA Location Request

Please contact the SNA Unit for this confirmation.

Thanks,
Lisa

From: Ryan Lisson
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:10 AM
To: 'lisa.joyal@state.mn.us'
Subject: SNA Location Request

Hello Lisa,

I am emailing you in regards to the PolyMet NorthMet Project near Babbitt, MN. We are working through chapters for the SDEIS, and I noticed in the DEIS, you were contacted by Bill Sadlon of ERM to confirm there are no Scientific and Natural Areas within the Project area. That was in 2009, however, so I am requesting this same confirmation from you now, if you would be able to do so.

As a refresher, the vast majority of the project lies within T59N R13W, and T59N R14W, with narrow projections into T59N R12W; T60N R13W; and T60N R14W. Again, I am seeking confirmation that no lands designated, or nominated for designation, as SNAs exist in this Project area. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

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Thank you very much,

Ryan J. Lisson

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