



DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS

Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

December 12, 2014

Ms. Noreen Walsh, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Regional Office
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Dear Noreen,

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) recently developed a proposal for funding through the Homestake Mining Company Natural Resource Restoration Fund. This fund was established with proceeds from settlement of the Whitewood Creek Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Case in 1999. Proposals for expenditure from the fund are evaluated by a Restoration Management Team via provisions of the Final Conceptual Restoration and Compensation Plan for Whitewood Creek and the Belle Fourche and Cheyenne River Watersheds, South Dakota (Plan).

SDGFP submitted to the team for review and funding approval the Spearfish Canyon – HMC Hydro #2 Land Acquisition proposal. Upon the teams review, the proposal was found to comply with the Plan goals of restoring, replacing, and enhancing lost trust resources and services, and compensating the public for lost and injured trust resources and services, and was recommended by the team for funding.

Final approval for use of these funds requires both my signature as the approving official for the State of South Dakota, and your signature as the approving official for the Department of Interior. Accordingly, I submit this letter for your concurrence to fund the Spearfish Canyon – HMC Hydro #2 Land Acquisition proposal.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Vonk,
Department Secretary

JV:da

I, Noreen Walsh, concur with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks to Expend the Homestake Mining Company Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Fund as outlined in Spearfish Canyon – HMC Hydro #2 Land Acquisition proposal.

Noreen Walsh, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service