



DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

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

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
JUN 14 06

June 6, 2006

Mr Mitch King, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Regional Office, Region 6
P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Mitch:

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (Department) has developed a proposal for funding under the Homestake Mining Company Natural Resource Damage settlement proceeds from settlement of the Whitewood Creek Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration (Fund). That Fund was specifically developed to accept settlement proceeds from settlement of the Whitewood Creek Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Case in 1999. Expenditure of proceeds from the Fund requires my signature and yours as the Authorizing Official for the Department of Interior.

As we discussed on our phone conference with the Restoration Team, our Department has submitted The Spearfish Canyon Homestake Lands Acquisition Proposal (Proposal) to your South Dakota Ecological Service's Office for review. That Proposal complies with the NRDA Restoration Plan developed by the State and Federal Trustees to fund restoration activities from the Fund. Further, we believe implementation of that Proposal will restore, replace and/or acquire equivalent trust resources and lost services to a reasonable commensurate with the dollar value in the Fund. Accordingly, I submit this letter for your concurrence to fund The Spearfish Canyon Homestake Lands Acquisition Proposal.

Sincerely,

John Cooper, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

I, Mitch King, 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 The Spearfish Canyon Homestake Lands Acquisition Proposal.

Mitch King, Regional Director,
DOI Authorized Official, Whitewood Creek NRDAR Case

6/16/06

Date