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November 28, 2005

To the Members of the NRI Review Panel:

I am writing to express our strong support for the Integrated Research & Extension Proposal entitled *Defining, Explaining, and Targeting Small- and Medium-Scale Forest Management Practices* submitted by Mark Rickenbach and Thomas W. Steele to USDA National Research Initiative.

The Land Use and Forest Ownership Leadership Team, established for the Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Forestry in November 2004, views this proposal as critical to successfully addressing the increasing rate of forest parcelization and its many negative impacts on Wisconsin's forests.

Forest parcelization has been identified as one of the top issues of concern in the recently completed Wisconsin Statewide Forest Plan. Patterns of land use and forest ownership directly influence the long-term management of Wisconsin's forests and the many economic, social and ecological benefits that those forests provide. Growing suburbs, second homes, and other land uses increasingly convert contiguous forested areas into smaller patches of forest and non-forest. These land use changes in the forest have significant impacts on a broad range of concerns, including: fire control and protection of life, property and resources in the wildland-urban interface; habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity; the ability to successfully manage forests for sustainability and productivity; costs of community services and the health of local and state economies. Our ability to preserve the many benefits of our forests depends on how we plan to prevent and manage the impacts of the increasing changes in land use and forest ownership.

The Land Use and Forest Ownership Leadership Team is a diverse group of stakeholders that was convened a year ago by the Governor's Council on Forestry and the Wisconsin Division of Forestry to develop priority actions to better understand, address and mitigate the impacts of forest parcelization and fragmentation. This proposal would advance understanding, education and outreach regarding changes in land use and ownership patterns in Wisconsin's forests. *[Note: Please see Attachment A to this letter for a list of the stakeholder members of the Land Use and Forest Ownership Team]*

Our role in the context of this proposal would be to offer diverse stakeholder feedback on the research and extension issues addressed by this proposal. In particular, members of the team have committed to serving as stakeholder advisors on Task 3 (Design, deliver, and evaluate educational intervention) and Task 4 (Broadly share findings through a statewide Extension program) outlined in the proposal.

Again, we offer our unqualified support for this proposal and look forward to serving in an advisory role.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. MacKinnon
Team Leader, Wisconsin Land Use and Forest Ownership Leadership Team
Policy Director
1000 Friends of Wisconsin

Attachment A
Membership of Wisconsin Land Use and Forest Ownership Team

Lisa MacKinnon	1000 Friends of Wisconsin (statewide land use non-profit organization), Policy Director
Fred Souba	Stora Enso, Vice President, Wood Supply U.S. and Chair of Wisconsin Governor's Council on Forestry
Teague Pritchard	WI DNR, Forest Planner
Mark Rickenbach	UW Madison Forest Ecology and Management, Professor
Jolene Ackerman	WI DNR, Wildland-Urban Interface Coordinator
Bud Jordahl	Private forest land owner
Rebecca Gass	UW-Madison Forest Ecology and Management, graduate student
Lynn Markham	UW-Extension / UW-Stevens Point Center for Land Use Education, Land Use Specialist
Gene Roark	Private forest land owner and member of Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
Pam Felt	Gathering Waters Conservancy, Program Coordinator
Bill DeReu	Plum Creek Timber Co., Senior Land Asset Manager
Volker Radeloff	UW Madison Forest Ecology and Management, Professor
Colette Matthews	Wisconsin County Forests Association, Executive Director
Matt Dallman	The Nature Conservancy, Minocqua Wisconsin office
Bryan Pierce	Northwoods Land Trust, Executive Director
Shaun Hamilton	Trust for Public Lands, Senior Project Manager