

February 2, 2022
House Capital Investment Committee

Removal of Natural Resources Budget Request Priority Ranking 11
Defeasance for repayment of Upper Sioux Agency State Park \$250,000

Dear Capital Investment Members:

Priority 11 is a detriment to Minnesota on two levels: public enjoyment and land loss. It is not to be included in any budget. DNR claims the need to give this land to a federal tribe rests solely on a road closure and nothing else. This is false.

The road to the State Park is a dead end and has been since 2019. MnDOT permanently rerouted Hwy. 67. The decision was made two years ago and work has already commenced.

Under state statute, 86.055, this State Park can not be transferred or sold for any circumstance; it is an Outdoor Recreation System Unit. Additionally, it is a state **Historic District under state statute 138.73.**

Upper Sioux Agency State Park and the historic site within it is of extreme importance to the State being the place of the 1862 Minnesota Massacre and must forever remain in State ownership. The Minnesota Massacre and ensuing U.S. – Dakota War is unmatched to any loss of life within the State then and now. The Park borders the Minnesota River with views that can not be replicated.

Please remove this “defeasance” of \$250,000 from the budget.

State Parks are not to be neglected, abused, or abandoned because a road closes or an Agency is pressured by nonprofits, including the MN Historical Society to convey land to neighboring Indian tribes. State Parks are to be protected and promoted in a way that is in the best interests of Minnesota, its residents and visitors. The Park is home to the tragic Minnesota Massacre where more than 200 unarmed civilians, mostly women and children, were killed in a single day by hostile Dakota Indians. Dakota took the land by force, ethnically cleansing the Ioway tribe in the 1700s.

Thank you for removing this from your final Capital Investment bill,

Stephanie Chappell
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