

Rec'd 19 Sep 05

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
444 Insurance Exchange Building  
505 Fifth Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2321

515 288-1846  
515 288-0137 fax

August 29, 2005



Upper Mississippi River NW&FR  
Attn: CCP Comment  
Room 101  
51 East Fourth Street  
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Sir/Madam:

2517

We are deeply concerned about the land and water resources in the blufflands region of the Mississippi River in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Upper Mississippi National Fish & Wildlife Refuge. For your information, we are the six partners of the Blufflands Alliance, and we actively conserve natural, scenic, cultural, and agricultural land and water resources in this region. We are nonprofit, membership organizations supported by approximately 10,000 people who care about the natural environment.

In regards to your draft plan, we want you to know that we support actions that help to permanently preserve wildlife habitat, particularly in the bluffs that are integral to the ecological health of the Mississippi River. We applaud your efforts to put a new plan in place, and encourage you to make permanent habitat protection a priority of the plan.

Please contact us if we can assist you in your habitat protection efforts. We work with private landowners on habitat restoration and permanent protection of land. In the past ten years, we have collectively protected over 20,000 acres of Mississippi blufflands.

Best wishes on adopting an effective Comprehensive Conservation Plan that will keep the Upper Mississippi River National Fish & Wildlife Refuge the very special place that it is.

Sincerely,

The Blufflands Alliance Partners:

Minnesota Land Trust  
Mississippi Valley Conservancy  
Natural Land Institute

West Wisconsin Land Trust  
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation