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## **Attachment D**

Voyageur Country ATV System

State Historic Preservation Office Correspondence

June 22, 2020

Natalie White  
SEH Inc.  
418 W. Superior St., Suite 200  
Duluth, MN 55802-1512

RE: SEH Project # VCATV 154884 31.10  
Voyageur Country ATV System Improvements  
Saint Louis County  
SHPO Number: SHPO No. 2020-1892

Dear Ms. White:

Thank you for consulting with our office during the preparation of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the above referenced project.

Due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase IA literature review and archaeological assessment be completed. If, as a result of this assessment, a Phase I archaeological survey is recommended, this survey should be completed prior to project construction. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking this type of research and archaeological surveys, please visit the website <http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/preservation-directory>, and select "Archaeologists, Contract" in the "Specialties" box.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

In regards to the proposed fire lookout tower improvements at Shively Road, we recommend that the project utilize the guidance provided in the report titled *Rehabilitation Planning Study: Scenic Fire Lookout Tower, Scenic State Park* (February 2019) as prepared by Gemini Research and Widseth Smith Nolting. This document should be available through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. If this project becomes a federal undertaking, further identification and evaluation efforts may be needed in regards to identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project. This would include the fire lookout tower at Shively Road and, perhaps, the Winchester Lake Overlook, if they fall within the area of potential effects for the federal undertaking.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Specialist, at [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers  
Environmental Review Program Manager

September 9, 2020

Natalie White  
SEH Inc.  
418 W. Superior St., Suite 200  
Duluth, MN 55802-1512

RE: SEH Project # VCATV 154884 31.10  
Voyageur Country ATV System Improvements  
Saint Louis County  
SHPO Number: SHPO No. 2020-1892

Dear Ms. White:

Thank you for continuing consultation with our office during the preparation of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the above referenced project.

We have reviewed the submitted cultural resources survey report titled *Phase IA Archaeological Review of the Voyageur Country ATV Trail System, St. Louis County, Minnesota* (July 2020) as prepared by Duluth Archaeology Center. We agree with your consultant's recommendation that a Phase I archaeological survey should be conducted in areas of proposed new trail construction as well as in areas of proposed trail improvements where new ground disturbance will take place.

In regards to the proposed fire lookout tower improvements at Shively Road, we recommend that the project utilize the guidance provided in the report titled *Rehabilitation Planning Study: Scenic Fire Lookout Tower, Scenic State Park* (February 2019) as prepared by Gemini Research and Widseth Smith Nolting. I recently emailed a copy of this document to Cynthia Novak-Krebs at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), as I understand that the MnDNR is the RGU for the project and is preparing the EAW. If this project becomes a federal undertaking, further identification and evaluation efforts may be needed in regards to identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project. This would include the fire tower at Shively Road and, perhaps, the Winchester Lake Overlook, if they fall within the area of potential effects for the federal undertaking.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. **If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency.** Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact me at [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

*Kelly Gragg-Johnson*

Kelly Gragg-Johnson  
Environmental Review Specialist

cc: Allyz Kramer, SEH Inc.  
Cynthia Novak-Krebs, MnDNR