

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance to Review Draft Plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

Baraboo, Wisconsin – 12 August 2015 – The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance will undertake a thorough review of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Draft Master Plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area released on August 11, 2015. “The DNR has been working on this extensive plan since 2013. It will take several days for us to carefully evaluate what is being proposed” said Alliance President Rob Nurre. The organization expects to release its findings next week.

“Based on our brief first look, the Alliance is pleased to see that the previous inappropriate proposals for a shooting range and ATV trails are not in the current plan. The draft plan includes a strong emphasis on restoring the native prairie and savanna landscape of the area which has been the focus of the Alliance for nearly 20 years. We are concerned, however, about the proposed off-road motorcycles and rocketry which are not compatible with the restoration and low-impact recreation intent for the property” said Nurre.

In its review the Alliance will focus on specific ways in which the draft plan builds upon the work of the Badger Reuse Committee. Its 2001 final report outlined a consensus future for the Badger lands that included a combination of land restoration, education, agriculture and low-impact recreational activities. The reuse report and a formal application document between National Park Service and DNR provided the foundation for the no-cost transfer of the Badger lands to the Department of Natural Resources.

The 3,400 acre Sauk Prairie Recreation Area is a part of the former 7,400-acre Badger Army Ammunition Plant in Sauk County. Other Badger lands are owned by the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center (2,105 acres), the Ho-Chunk Nation (1,553 acres) and the Bluffview Sanitary District (163 acres).

“We will likely never have another conservation opportunity in southern Wisconsin like Badger,” said Nurre. “This very large property in the midst of other conservation areas such as Devil’s Lake State Park and the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, as well as large, private conservation properties, provides a marvelous opportunity to cooperatively manage land over a large scale. Just within the Badger lands there is the opportunity for tribal, federal, state and municipal landowners to work together. This is the vision that hundreds of citizens have worked on together for almost two decades to make this happen.”

The public has 45 days, until September 25, to comment on the Draft Master Plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. The DNR will hold a public presentation and hearing concerning the plan on Thursday, September 10, 2015 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at the River Arts Center in Prairie du Sac. The Alliance encourages everyone who is interested in the future uses of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area lands to carefully review the Draft Master Plan and provide comments to the DNR.

Contact:

Rob Nurre

rob.nurre@gmail.com

608/356-5263

PO Box 403

Baraboo, WI 53913-0403

www.saukprairievision.org