

COMMUNITY PLAN

FOR SKUNK HILL

Powers Bluff County Park, Wood County, Wisconsin

All of the parties who have signed below share an interest in protecting the sacred and cultural areas, as well as the unique ecological features, within Powers Bluff County Park, in the area known as Skunk Hill.

We believe that the ecological and cultural significance of Skunk Hill requires that the County take immediate measures to permanently protect this area from future degradation. We urge the County to place a permanent conservation easement on the Park, excluding the existing skiing and tubing area. The creation of an easement for the Park could be accomplished by dedicating the Park as a State Natural Area or working through a land trust organization. Likewise, we support the continued use of the skiing and tubing area within the current footprint and usage rates.

In order to promote awareness about the ecological and cultural significance of Powers Bluff, we support using the existing building on Skunk Hill to house exhibits on the cultural significance of the area. This could be accomplished through coordination with Tribal historic preservation departments. We also support the creation of low-impact signs explaining the ecological significance and the replacement of existing signs to more accurately describe the Native American history of the park. We further support the creation of a curriculum for kindergarten through high school to educate area youth about the cultural and ecological significance of Powers Bluff.

We believe that the existing playgrounds and overflow parking on Skunk Hill should be relocated to a less culturally and ecologically-intrusive area in order to avoid interference with the sacred sites. We further believe that all low-impact Native American uses of the Park should be allowed. This includes giving tribal members Special Use Permits to allow and protect cultural uses of the Park.

In recognition of the need for an area to repatriate Native American artifacts and remains that have been returned from museums and other institutions, we support the formation of a cemetery association to oversee future use of the two cemeteries for such purpose.

Finally, we support the adoption of an intergovernmental agreement between the County and the involved Tribes to provide for shared responsibilities and a cooperative working relationship.

SIGNATORIES:

Dr. David R. Wrone

Mary Webster, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Member

Bonnie Twinn, Ho Chunk Nation Member

Carlotta Snowball, Potawatomi Nation Member

Carol Snowball, Wisconsin Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Member

Brian Snowball, Ho Chunk Nation Member

Christopher J. Nehrbass, Sierra Club, John Muir Chapter

Edith Nash

David J. Manthey

John Kozlowicz

Gene Bymers, Friends of the Bluff