

	 STATE OF MICHIGAN	
JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM GOVERNOR	DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES LANSING	Rebecca Humphries DIRECTOR

January 3, 2006

Diane Hallinen
958 Blue Heron
Highland, MI 48357

Dear Diane:

I enjoyed meeting with you and David Mindell on January 3, 2006 to discuss the land owned by the Dunham Lake Property Owners Association. I am writing to inform you that your request for funding from the Landowner Incentive Program is currently under review. Before a decision can be made, all projects in southeast Michigan will be reviewed and those with the greatest positive impact to rare plants and animals will be funded. On another note, the Landowner Incentive Program does not infringe on any of your rights as a private property owner. That is, the only thing the Landowner Incentive Program does is help private landowners with technical and financial assistance for managing their property for rare species.

During our meeting, you and David mentioned that the property included several fens, an oak/hickory forest, patches of savanna, and several highly degraded areas dominated by exotic species. Typically, I use the following goals when managing rare ecosystems:

1. Restore and maintain high quality prairie fen and oak savanna
2. Increase flora and fauna diversity
3. Restore ecosystem functions and processes
4. Increase habitat for rare species
5. Educational programs and newsletters for the Homeowners Association

I would also recommend the following management activities to continue or be implemented:

1. Control of invasive and exotic plant species (e.g., glossy buckthorn and Norway maple)
2. Reintroduce fire back into the fen, savanna, and oak/hickory forest. Historically, fire was a major driving force for each of these natural communities. Present day research and experience have shown that prescribed burning can be an effective management tool. Prescribed burning can recycle nutrients tied up in old plant growth, control many woody plants and herbaceous weeds, increase plant growth, and reduce the risk of large wildfires.

To achieve the above benefits from burning, fire must be used under very specific conditions, using very specific techniques. Therefore, hiring a qualified burn contractor is a must.

Thank you for your interest in the Landowner Incentive Program, and for helping to establish habitat for rare and declining wildlife.

Sincerely,

Dan Kennedy, Wildlife Biologist

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