

AUG 25 1971

Dear Senator Mundt:

Thank you for your letter of August 13, 1971 concerning Mr. R. A. Hodgins' suggestion of utilizing the EROS Data Center site as a wildlife habitat.

I agree that Mr. Hodgins' suggestion is excellent and am pleased to inform you that we will coordinate our efforts in accordance with any recommendations the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks may have with site acreage not required for improvements.

In the development of the EROS Data Center Master Plan, wildlife habitat was a consideration with prairie grass specified as the basic ground cover. Mr. Hodgins has been so informed together with an invitation to him and his staff for any comments that might further enhance the area as wildlife environment.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Hollis M. Dole

Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Karl E. Mundt
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

cc: Secretary's Central File
Secretary's Reading File (2)
Assistant Secretary--MR (2)
General Files--Rm 5225 GS
Mr. Fischer--Rm 5213 GS

Under Secretary
Mr. Helm
Congressional Liaison
Director's Chron--Rm 5225 GS
Mr. Schmidt--Rm 5203 GS

Frank P. Ishmael:ad
August 20, 1971

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 13, 1971

MEMBER:
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FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
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ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Schmidt

Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary: •

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which has been sent to you by Mr. R. A. Hodgins, Director of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, concerning utilization of the EROS Data Center site for wildlife purposes.

I think Mr. Hodgins' suggestion is excellent and am happy to add my endorsement to this worthwhile proposal. His idea of utilizing acreage not required for the center itself as a special "showcase" area for wildlife enhancement is one which the Department has already put to use in the Madison, South Dakota, area in connection with conserving waterfowl production areas and strikes me as the type of activity which contributes tremendously to the imprint the Department has made and continues to make in reflecting a deep and abiding concern for our environment.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Karl E. Mundt

Karl E. Mundt
U. S. Senator

KEM:cs0

Enclosure

CC: Nathaniel Reed
Dr. Pecora
William Fischer ✓
R. A. Hodgins



DEPARTMENT OF **GAME**
FISH AND **PARKS**

PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

57501

August 4, 1971

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R. A. Hodgins, Pierre

Rogers C. B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
U. S. Dept. of the Interior
Interior Building
C. St. Between 18th and 19th, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Morton:

It is my understanding that the Earth Resources Orbiting Satellite (EROS) will become a reality and an area near Garretson, north-east of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has been selected as an EROS site. I am not familiar with the operation of a site of this type, but understand that excessively loud noises are to be prohibited after the site is in operation.

It occurred to me that the EROS site will provide an opportunity to enhance the area for much needed wildlife habitat. Of utmost importance for wildlife enhancement will be early planning so that work will be accomplished during the time of site construction.

Eastern South Dakota is the heart of the ancestral range of the Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*). Primarily due to land-use, the prairie chicken has been eliminated from the area. Studies have shown that this species is closely allied to the ecological niche of virgin tall grass prairies. Plowing has eliminated most of the tall grass prairie and no prairie chickens remain in the area. The establishment of native grasses on the EROS site and the re-introduction of trapped prairie chickens could provide a nucleus for the species to prosper again in the area.

At this time, I am offering the assistance of my staff and the Department in the planning and accomplishment of a wildlife habitat improvement program. The EROS site could well become a "showcase" for this area.

Sincerely,

R. A. Hodgins
DIRECTOR

RAH/pjg

CC: Nathaniel Reed
Spencer H. Smith
Travis Roberts
Senator Karl Mundt ✓