

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATING THE MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS STATE FOREST AS CLOSED TO OHV USE

WHEREAS, North Central Minnesota is known for, and aggressively promotes its abundant lakes, rivers and forests; and

WHEREAS, the headwaters of the Mississippi River is an iconic symbol and major tourist attraction in North Central Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the first 40 miles contain the last remaining stretch of pristine river and wilderness along the entire Mississippi River, and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Headwaters State Forest encompasses the first 40 miles of the Mississippi River below its source in Itasca State Park, and

WHEREAS, this first 40 miles of the Mississippi River contain significant ecological, biological, recreational, cultural and spiritual values not only to Minnesotans, but to all Americans, and

WHEREAS, these values are being increasingly degraded and threatened by disrespectful and uncontrollable OHV activity, and

WHEREAS, [government unit here] is a local unit of government in our great American democracy responsible for representing the needs, interests and desires of its citizens, and

WHEREAS, [government unit here] also has a responsibility to future generations to conduct the People’s business so to assure that their prosperity, values and quality of life are maintained and enhanced, and

WHEREAS, [government unit here] has direct interest in the conservation and protection of the first 40 miles of the Mississippi River in representation of its citizens and communities, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that [government unit here] supports the conservation and protection of the ecological, biological, recreational, cultural and spiritual values of the first 40 miles of the Mississippi River within the Mississippi Headwaters State Forest, and endorses and encourages the management of all public lands within the Mississippi Headwaters State Forest in regards to OHV use, as defined by the “CLOSED” classification used by the Minnesota DNR in its classification of state forests.

Commissioner, Mayor, Supervisor, or other _____

Adopted this _____ day of _____