To Whom It May Concern:

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas (FMSNA) asserts that the proposed definition of “habitat” is inadequate because it does not consider areas capable of being restored and areas capable of becoming habitat due to changing or changed conditions.

Therefore, FMSNA recommends the following definition of “habitat” (Please note: the additional language is highlighted in underlined, bold face type; the published proposed rule is in normal font.)

Habitat. The physical places that individuals of a species depend upon to carry out one or more life processes. Habitat includes: (1) areas with existing attributes that have the
capacity to support individuals of the species; (2) restored areas and areas, within the historic range of the species, that are reasonably capable of being restored in the foreseeable future; and (3) areas that are reasonably capable of becoming habitat due to changing climatic conditions, landscape scale forces (e.g., pesticides, forest blowdown, forest pest outbreaks, overharvest, etc.), or land use changes (e.g. dam removal, mine remediation, etc.).

On behalf of Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas, I thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas E. Casey

Thomas E. Casey, Board Chair
Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas

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cc: Sara Strommen, Commissioner, MN DNR (via e-mail and U.S. Mail)
FMSNA Board of Directors