

26 February 2014

Casey Mehls
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks
Wildlife Division
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Casey,

This is the **final report** for my SDGF&P Small Grants project “**2013 Black Hills Lichens and Mosses: Educational Materials and Classroom Visits**”.

1. Sessions in the in the schools have been conducted. A total of seven classrooms received visits from either Dr. Peter Nelson or myself:
 - Deadwood Elementary, Mrs. Rantapaa, 4th grade, 3 visits
 - Deadwood Elementary, Mrs. Kinghorn, 4th grade, 3 visits
 - Deadwood Elementary, Mr. Williams, 4th grade, 3 visits
 - Rapid City, Wilson Elementary, Ms. Renner, 4th grade, 3 visits
 - Rapid City, Wilson Elementary, Mrs. Galentine, 4th grade, 3 visits
 - Kyle, Little Wound Elementary, Ms. Catches, 5th grade, 1 visits
 - Kyle, Little Wound Elementary, Ms. Simmons, 5th grade, 2 visits

In addition to talking with each group and answering their questions, the classrooms were left with live specimens of mosses and lichens. The boxes were accompanied by laminated index cards with information about all aspects of these organisms so students could study them in between our visits. Black Hills Pioneer covered the visits to the Deadwood classrooms:

<http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/funding/docs/small-grants-reports/pearson2013.pdf>

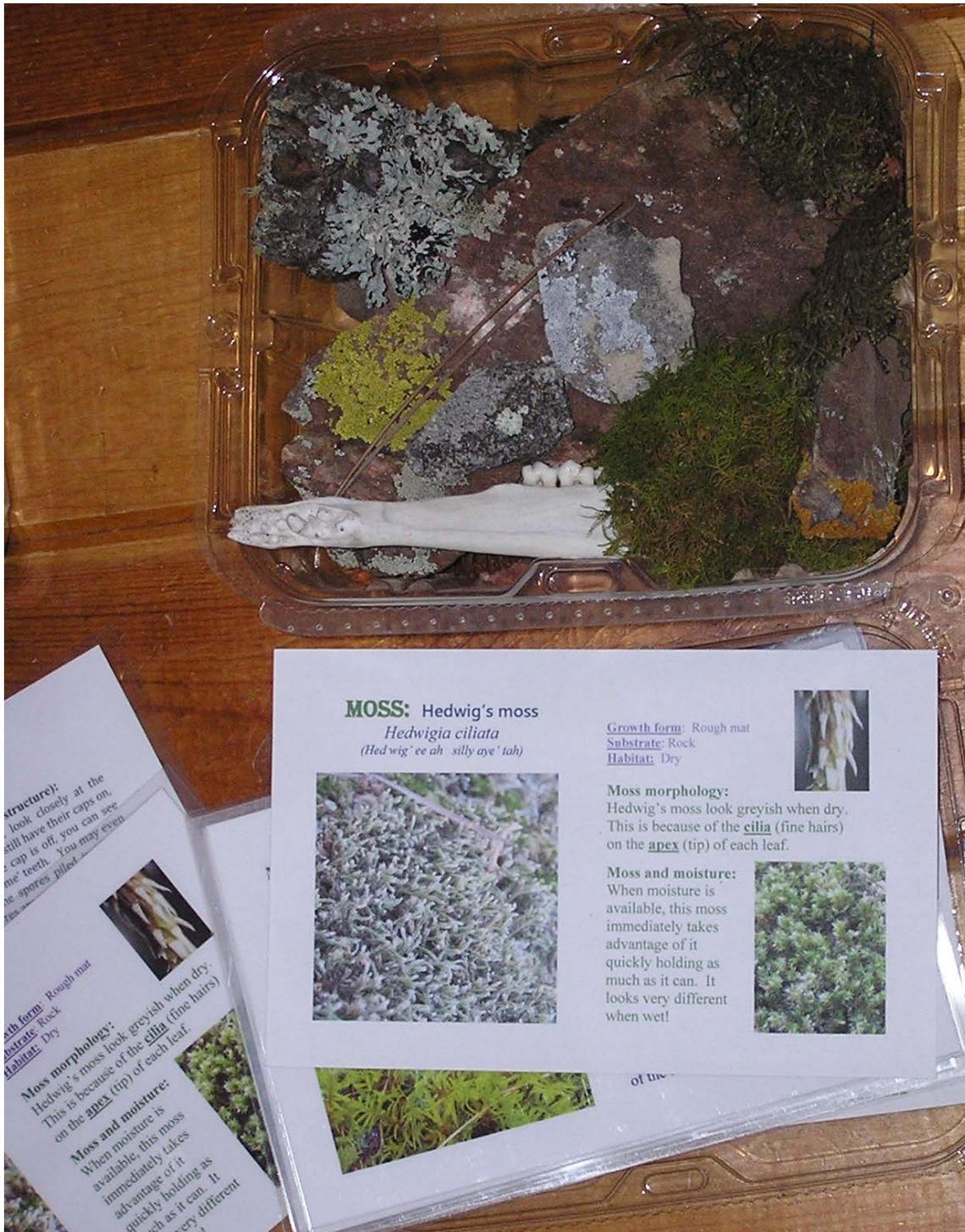
The concluding classroom visits included promotion of the new ‘Guide to Lichens and Mosses at Outdoor Campus West’, inviting students and teachers to stop in and borrow the trail guide while they explore the Outdoor Campus trail.

The classroom sessions were well received. Reviews by teachers concluded:

- Command of the subject 10
- Clarity of explanations 8.75
- Sensitivity to the response of the class 9
- Apparent enjoyment of teaching 10
- Material presented was: ‘Just right’

Teacher comments: “good visuals... great enthusiasm for the subject... amazing amount of knowledge... captured the kids insights and interest for lichens and mosses... very knowledgeable on subjects/passion for your topics... I would like to see you use more hands on activities... great samples obtained locally... knowledge

of content... concern for environment... my class enjoyed your presentations very much... it would be fun to take the students out on the Mickelson Trail with you to identify some moss and lichen... Way to raise awareness for lichens and mosses!"



One of the sample boxes with index cards of information for the classroom visits

2. Work on the trail guides is complete and the 12 guides and attached hand lenses have been delivered to the Outdoor Campus West in a labeled storage box. The Norbeck Society contributed additional funds so that all 12 of the trail guides could have a hand lens attached. I had not accurately anticipated the amount of work it would take to make a quality guide, but was willing to 'go the extra mile' as the pleasure/benefit of learning along with the excellent result was well worth the effort. Peter Nelson was instrumental in identifying the species present and providing written content for the guide. At first it seemed there would not be enough species out on along the Outdoor Campus trail, but as it turns out there are still more that have not been included in the Trail guide. Care was taken to include species that were very close or only a very short distance from the walkway. Project expenses closely followed what is detailed in the original proposal. Volunteer hours for both me and Peter exceeded what had been anticipated.



12 trail guides, 12 attached hand lenses, storage box ready for action at the Outdoor Campus West

Please contact me if you need more information or have any questions. Thank you.

Best,

Mary

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