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Pine Ridge Reservation Trip Email

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To facilitate our recommitment to intra-consortium cooperation and communication on Native American efforts at our various affiliates, following is information on the recent excursion Sherry and I and a few other SDSM&Ters took to visit with Pine Ridge people at Loneman School.

Leonard Littlefinger and Bull Bennett have submitted a proposal to the Dept. of Agriculture for a combined water quality and cultural project to be conducted by the Oceti Sakowin Science and Culture Center (People of the Seven Council Fires) headquartered at Loneman School. Leonard is the Director of this Center. Bull is actually from a tribe in the Northeast, has a degree in Biology, and is employed by the Tribal College Rural Systemic Initiative, coordinated locally through OLC. We were there for discussions on what project(s) we could initiate with them in water quality and biology/ecology areas related to their proposal. Leonard has also had some discussions with a biologist at Chadron State, thus the pertinence to our joint SD-Nebraska efforts.

We also met with a number of other Loneman (K-9) administrative and faculty people. We were favorably impressed by Leonard and Bull's efforts and ideas, and think we can have fruitful interaction with them.

Thank you all for participating in the thought-provoking conference yesterday, Doug MacTaggart
I would like to invite you to join a small group of SDSM&T individuals who will be visiting with several people on the Pine Ridge Reservation on Monday (5/10/99). The purpose of this trip is to explore some potential collaborative research/educational ideas with Leonard Littlefinger and Bull Bennett. These ideas could become pilot projects funded initially by the SD Space Grant Consortium. Pat Zimmerman, Bruce Berdanier and Doug MacTaggart have already committed to joining me for this one-day visit to Pine Ridge. Because some of the potential ideas that will be discussed relate to bandlands ecology/biology, riparian zones, and water quality, it would be beneficial if you could join us for this trip/meeting. We plan to leave the SDSM&T campus at 7:30 am on Monday and hope to return by approximately 6 pm. I have reserved a state car for this trip. Let me know if you can accept my invitation.

Thanks,
Sherry