

62-CV-11-5203



Samuel and Caren Smith • 20570 County 2 • Shevlin, MN 56676  
218-266-2150 (in season) • 218-657-2420 (off season)

July 17, 2011 FILED  
Court Administrator

The honorable: Special Master, Attorney General, and Governor's Counsel

JUL 18 2011

My husband and I own Itasca Sports, Inc. Itasca Sports is a family owned and operated business within Itasca State Park which was established in 1989. We provide recreation rentals for the visitors of Itasca State Park. We also have a full service bicycle repair shop, a small camp store, and bait and tackle shop. Our family has served Itasca State Park and its visitors for 23 years.

By    jlf    Deputy

Our inventory of recreational rentals includes one hundred and fifty Raleigh bicycles, eight Burley child trailers, ten electric assist bicycles, ten Adam's trail a bikes, eleven Weeres Pontoon boats, eight Lund and Grumman fishing boats, thirteen Alumnicraft and Grumman canoes, fifteen Futurebeach kayaks, ten Lund rowboats on lakes within the park itself and four paddleboats.

Our business was **forced to close** as a result of the state shutdown. Itasca Sports has a bike and boat rental concession agreement with the state of Minnesota. The state is required to give us 30 day notification for cancellation of our contract. We received a letter dated July 24, 2011 that the shutdown would affect our business. We are responsible for all of our expenses. We are a revenue maker for the state giving a percentage of our gross revenue to the state of Minnesota.

Due to the shutdown we have endured a devastating 100 percent financial loss resulting in a hardship for the business and our family. We have had to lay off our six employees which is a hardship on them.

It is imperative our business reopen so we do not default on our loan or payments to our distributors. The decision of the state government to close Itasca State Park has affected our annual budget. We rely heavily on the months of July and August to meet our monetary obligations.

We are requesting our contract be reinstated and Itasca State Park be opened immediately. We ask for your help gaining restitution for our financial loss and hardships. We ask for help in amending our contract for if this is to happen again our business would not be affected by a state shut down.

Time is of the essence. Thank you for giving this careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Caren M. Smith  
Co-Owner, Itasca Sports, Inc.