



NR 1

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Anthony S. Earl  
Secretary

BOX 7921  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707

IN REPLY REFER TO: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 )  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ) SS

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

I, Anthony S. Earl, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and custodian of the official records of said Department, do hereby certify that the annexed copy of Natural Resources Board Order No. G-12-77 was duly approved and adopted by this Department on February 17, 1977. I further certify that said copy has been compared by me with the original on file in this Department and that the same is a true copy thereof, and of the whole of such original.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Department at Pyare Square Building in the Village of Shorewood Hills, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1977.

RECEIVED  
APR 28 1977  
11:20 am  
REVISOR OF STATUTES  
BUREAU *Ch. Poulson*

*Anthony S. Earl*  
Anthony S. Earl, Secretary

(SEAL)

.....  
IN THE MATTER of repealing and recreating .  
sections NR 1.11 through 1.17 and creating .  
sections NR 1.015 and 1.51 of the Wisconsin .  
Administrative Code pertaining to a wildlife .  
management policy .  
.....

G-12-77

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

REPEALING & RECREATING AND CREATING RULES

Pursuant to the authority vested in the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board by sections 23.09, 23.11, 29.02, 29.085 and 227.014, Wisconsin Statutes, the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board hereby repeals and recreates, and creates rules as follows:

SECTION 1 - Section NR 1.015 is created to read:

NR 1.015 The management of wildlife. Preamble. (1) The conservation act (section 23.09(1), Wis. Stats.) requires the department of natural resources to provide an adequate and flexible system for the protection, development and use of forests, fish and game, lakes, streams, plant life, flowers and other outdoor resources in this state. Specific authorities and missions of the department for wildlife protection and use besides the general authority are:

- (a) Protect and manage nongame species, particularly endangered, threatened and uncommon species;
- (b) Acquire and lease lands;
- (c) Conduct research and surveys;
- (d) Establish long-range resource management plans and priorities;
- (e) Manage wildlife habitat on public land;
- (f) Provide regulations to govern the harvest of game species and furbearing mammals;
- (g) Establish resource management information and education programs; and
- (h) Propagate wildlife.

(2) The primary goal of wildlife management is to provide healthy life systems necessary to sustain Wisconsin's wildlife populations for their biological, recreational, cultural and economic values. Wildlife management is the application of knowledge in the protection, enhancement and regulation of wildlife resources for their contribution toward maintaining the integrity of the environment and for the human benefits they provide.

(a) The department's wildlife program ranges from endangered and threatened species management to the production of huntable game. At its best, wildlife management is a process that requires a considerable degree of harmony between people and land to provide the quality landscapes and diverse habitats necessary to produce and support all types of wildlife.

(b) Public concern for the welfare of wildlife resources can help to instill a land ethic in what has become a predominantly urban population. Public support for the maintenance of native or near-natural plant communities, as necessary wildlife habitat, indirectly assures continued opportunities for a whole range of human interactions with nature that goes well beyond hunting or wildlife-oriented recreation.

(c) The department's wildlife management program is financed in large part by user contributions, particularly license fees and excise taxes on selected equipment purchased by hunters; however, management programs directed at hunted game species provide very significant indirect benefits for a wide range of other wildlife. New sources of funds are needed to supplement the existing financial base and provide more adequate programs for nongame fish and wildlife, especially threatened and endangered species.

(d) Larger quantities of wildlife habitat are required to meet management objectives for hunting and trapping than for most other uses. The future of hunting, however, depends upon more than wildlife habitat. It depends upon

the quality, the behavior and sense of responsibility of today's hunter, the willingness of private landowners to provide access, and the tacit approval of people who don't hunt. Since many hunters do not own the land on which they hunt and because wildlife belongs to all citizens, mutually acceptable relationships between hunters, landowners and the nonhunting public are required for hunting to continue as a socially acceptable form of outdoor recreation.

(3) The natural resources board directs the department to implement its statutory wildlife responsibilities through the execution of the state wildlife policy as set forth herein. For the purposes of this policy, wildlife means all varieties of birds, mammals and terrestrial vertebrates other than man and domestic animals.

SECTION 2 - Section NR 1.11 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 1.11 General. The natural resources board:

(1) Endorses the concept and principles of professional wildlife management, considers scientific findings to be the primary foundation of sound wildlife management programs, and supports research and surveys necessary to provide the technical information required for effective implementation of this policy.

(2) Recognizes that effective policy implementation requires the input and support of an informed public; endorses an active program to inform people of wildlife resource issues and alternative solutions; and will make every reasonable effort to obtain broad public input during its decision-making process.

(3) Recognizes the need to strengthen the educational efforts of the department relating to hunter competence, standards of ethical hunting behavior and respect for landowners rights; educational efforts must also be directed toward nonhunters to improve their knowledge and understanding of wildlife as a renewable natural resource and of hunting as both a method of controlling wildlife populations and as a form of outdoor recreation.

(4) Endorses the concept of comprehensive wildlife planning whereby actual and potential contributions of all functions of the department toward achievement of common wildlife management goals and objectives are recognized and, where feasible, integrated into operational activities.

(5) Recognizes that regulation of certain human activities is an integral and necessary part of wildlife management; that a sound legal system which combines equitable laws and judicious law enforcement is essential; and that wildlife law enforcement programs which are commensurate with other management efforts and contribute toward the achievement of common goals and objectives are necessary.

(6) Endorses the development and adoption of stronger regulatory measures, including more stringent license requirements, to assure an acceptable, minimum standards of hunting performance.

(7) Supports the maintenance of ecological diversity and health, and will do everything in its power to protect and maintain free-living populations of all species of wildlife currently existing in Wisconsin; extirpated species will be reintroduced whenever feasible ecologically, economically and socially.

(8) Supports the management of game species and habitat with the objective of increasing or maintaining populations to provide hunting opportunities.

(9) Supports the regulated use of wildlife for human benefits, including hunting and trapping where legal harvests do not reduce subsequent population levels of these renewable wildlife resources or where population reduction of certain species is a deliberate objective.

(10) Supports efforts to foster and promote the voluntary conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands and also supports the development and maintenance of cooperative programs for wildlife management and hunting recreation with landowners and operators of private lands.

SECTION 3 - Section NR 1.12 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 1.12 Migratory game birds. Migratory game birds are those species listed in section 29.01(3)(d), Wis. Stats., which in the course of their seasonal movements will almost always leave the land or water on which they fledged and will often cross state or international boundaries. These species are regulated under federal law and international treaties. To implement an adequate program for migratory game birds, the following needs and actions are essential:

(1) Habitat management. Wetlands are the primary habitat component for most migratory game bird species. Upland nesting cover and woodlands are also necessary for certain species. Legislation and programs that will protect and enhance migratory game bird habitat must be strengthened. Such a program has to include:

(a) Acquisition in fee title to protect critical lands and waters and to permit developments necessary for enhancement;

(b) Easement acquisition to protect other important lands and waters from excessive degradation by human activities;

(c) Vigorous enforcement of the state's role in the use of its regulatory powers to protect wetland resources associated with navigable waters;

(d) Strong cooperation and support to other units of government in planning and zoning programs which protect wetlands;

(e) Support for state, federal and local government programs which manage suitable public waters as production, resting and feeding areas for migratory birds, with special emphasis on the provision of nesting and brood rearing habitat for ducks;

(f) Support for the U.S. department of agriculture's soil conservation service and U.S. department of transportation in implementing, on a continuing basis, their 1975 wetland maintenance policies;

(g) Opposition to programs and activities funded by government agencies which result in loss or degradation of wetlands of wooded migratory game bird habitat; and

(h) Maintenance and development of incentive programs, including the U.S. department of agriculture's water bank program, which encourage private landowners to manage land and water for the benefit of migratory birds.

(2) Harvest and regulations. (a) Migratory game bird regulations must be adopted within constraints that put the future of the resource foremost in consideration. The department shall be represented on, and take part in the activities of, the Mississippi flyway council. This council makes recommendations to the U.S. fish and wildlife service including those affecting migratory game birds using the Mississippi flyway.

(b) Some Wisconsin hunting regulations may have to be more restrictive than the federal framework to assure that local breeding populations will be maintained at optimum levels.

(c) A balance between local production and harvest is essential, and regulations must be designed to achieve this end.

(d) To provide the opportunity for a quality hunting experience on major waterfowl projects, excessive hunter densities must be reduced by every available means.

(3) Damage control and disease. Migratory game birds, especially waterfowl, often concentrate during migration, thereby increasing the potential for agricultural crop depredations and the development of disease epidemics within the flock.

(a) As a first order of priority, management of refuges and closed areas must be directed at keeping concentrations of migratory game birds at levels

that are in accord with available food supplies in the vicinity and/or at levels that will minimize the probability of disease outbreaks.

(b) Disease surveillance programs for major waterfowl concentration areas, licensed game farms with waterfowl, and urban areas with semi-domestic waterfowl, must be developed. Contingency plans to deal with disease outbreaks in wild populations must also be developed.

(c) When abnormal weather delays crop harvest on private lands near refuges or closed areas, damage abatement programs will be employed to assist landowners in protecting vulnerable crops. When unavoidable losses occur, damage payments authorized by legislation can be used to compensate for the loss of crops.

(4) Research and surveys. Research and surveys on local breeding populations, production, movements, harvest and habitat are essential to provide adequate information for developing regulations and programs to protect and manage these birds. Since migratory game birds utilize continental habitats, the international significance of cooperative surveys and research required to establish sound flyway management programs is recognized. Therefore, cooperation with other flyway states, federal agencies, Canadian agencies and the Mexican government shall be exercised as needed.

SECTION 4 - Section NR 1.13 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 1.13 Small game mammals. Small game mammals include rabbits, hares and squirrels. To effectively implement the small game mammal program, the following needs and actions are necessary.

(1) Habitat management. (a) The most efficient method of management is the maintenance of existing habitat.

(b) Habitat improvement measures, however, are currently needed, primarily in rural areas near population centers. Most habitat management opportunities are associated with woodlots, forests, wetlands and odd areas that are neither



plowed nor grazed. Wherever possible, squirrel and rabbit habitat needs are to be incorporated into woodland management recommendations.

(c) The capacity to produce small game mammals on state wildlife areas must be increased through more intensive management of suitable habitat. The need for den or nut bearing trees for squirrels, brush or grassy openings for cottontail rabbits and interspersions of important timber types and age classes for snowshoe hares must be considered in the course of making forest and woodland management recommendations for all public lands.

(d) The majority of small game mammals depend upon habitat occurring on private lands. This is especially true of jackrabbits where open agricultural land is the main component of habitat. Effective management information must be provided to private landowners who request it and incentives to manage small game mammals should be provided in areas where there is high demonstrated need.

(2) Harvest and regulation. In most areas of the state, harvest levels of small game mammals do not approach the surplus that could safely be removed. Therefore, with the exception of jackrabbits, which are not abundant, harvest regulations for these species should provide maximum opportunities for sport hunting without sacrificing the quality of the hunting experience. Improved hunter/landowner relations are important to effectively meet any increasing demands for rabbit and squirrel hunting.

SECTION 5 - Section NR 1.14 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 1.14 Upland game birds. Upland game birds are pheasants, quail, Hungarian (gray) partridge, grouse and wild turkey. While these species depend primarily upon upland sites, most species also utilize wetlands to meet part of their habitat needs. The following needs and actions are essential for effective implementation of the upland game bird program.

(1) Habitat management. (a) The maintenance of existing habitat and, where necessary, improvement or restoration of critical components of habitat are the preferred methods of management. Management recommendations for upland game bird habitat will become an integral part of land-use plans on all public lands.

(b) Prairie grouse (prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse) habitat is constantly threatened by natural forest succession and development of land for intensive agricultural and forestry uses. Positive efforts shall be made to assure that free-living populations of these species and their necessary habitat will be perpetuated.

1. Prairie grouse management and habitat restoration programs shall be accorded high priority on all publicly-owned lands designated by the department. Where remnant flocks of sharp-tailed grouse occur, associated with habitat on public lands, the emphasis in land-use plans will be on maintenance or improvement of this habitat.

2. The maintenance of huntable populations of sharp-tailed grouse shall be the management objective where suitable continuity of habitat makes this feasible. Cooperative agreements, including leases where necessary, shall be executed with other public and private owners of lands where it is deemed practicable and essential to prairie grouse management by the department.

(c) Much of the remaining habitat for upland game birds is the result of land-use decisions made by owners of private property. Therefore, programs that will promote the conservation and improvement of upland game bird habitat and improve access to private lands will be supported. In addition to the technical advice supplied by department wildlife managers, the board recognizes the contribution of wildlife management assistance given to private landowners through cooperative forest management, U.S. department of agriculture and university of Wisconsin-extension programs. However, much more must be done to offset losses of wildlife habitat in predominantly agricultural areas. Cooperative wildlife

habitat management programs, including the "acres for wildlife" program, which offer additional incentives and management assistance to landowners shall be developed. Conservancy district zoning as well as other programs and policies of local and federal agencies which conserve upland game bird habitat will also be supported.

(2) Harvest and regulations. Harvest regulations must have as their objective to take no more than the harvestable surplus of each species within broad areas of range. Regulations must also, to the extent of the law, have as their objective reasonable minimum standards of conduct for hunters and equitable distribution of hunting opportunities.

(3) Stocking and transplanting. There are 3 basically different objectives to the artificial introduction of upland game birds. The first is to restore a species which has been extirpated, the second to speed recovery of severely depleted numbers as a result of catastrophe, and the third to provide birds for hunting recreation on areas where the demand exceeds the capacity to produce wild birds. The first 2 are ordinarily short-term efforts involving wild-trapped stock, which are aimed at establishing or increasing wild populations which sustain themselves. The third is an annual effort which does not have lasting benefits and which often masks the continued deterioration of the habitat base necessary to sustain wild populations.

(a) Stocking of state wildlife areas to supplement wild populations for hunting recreation will be confined primarily to cock pheasants. However, stocked hens as well as cocks can be harvested on state wildlife areas in sub-marginal pheasant range. While stocking can usually put additional birds in the field at a lesser cost than habitat improvement, it yields only short-term, single-purpose benefits reaped primarily by the participants who hunt them. Therefore, user fees should be the primary means of support for pheasant

stocking on designated state-owned areas. In order to assure the opportunity for a quality hunting experience on heavily hunted wildlife areas stocked with pheasants, (as was the case in NR 1.12(2)(d) relating to waterfowl projects) a reduction in excessive hunter densities will be pursued by every available means.

(b) Cooperative game bird stocking (pheasant) programs will be used as necessary to supplement wild populations on privately-owned land in areas where the demand for upland game bird hunting exceeds the supply of wild birds. All game birds reared under cooperative programs continue to be the property of the state until released and harvested under general hunting regulations provided in Wis. Adm. Code chapter NR 10. The department will provide chicks and a specified amount of feed per chick to individuals or groups who care for the birds and provide rearing facilities that meet state standards. When the cost-sharing program is not elected, all game birds reared by private individuals or groups shall be released on lands which are accessible to the public for hunting without charge.

(c) Game birds shall not be stocked on lands to which the public is denied access for hunting unless a percentage of chicks fixed by the department is returned to the state at 8 or more weeks of age as specified in a written cost-share agreement. When cost-share birds are to be released, a percentage of the birds representing in total value the state's investment in chicks and feed shall be returned to the department and released on state wildlife areas. Cost records from the Poynette game farm will be used to determine the value at release age. The balance of the cost-share birds may be released by the individual or group on private lands, posted as desired, except that none may be released on private shooting preserves or private game farms.

(4) Research and surveys. Statewide or regional surveys and investigations shall have high priority. Their primary objective is the establishment of base

information regarding population densities, harvest, range and habitat quality or quantity. Periodic reassessment of these same bases will yield trend information necessary for management.

SECTION 6 - Section NR 1.15 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 1.15 Big game mammals. Big game mammals in Wisconsin are white-tailed deer and black bear. The needs and actions specified in this section are essential to an effective big game management program.

(1) Habitat management. The natural growth and changing composition of forest stands, particularly in the north, is causing a long-term decline in habitat quality for big game and other forest wildlife.

(a) A planned program of maintaining forest diversity including shade-intolerant cover types, particularly aspen and forest openings, is required to slow or halt this trend and to maintain deer populations at established goal levels.

(b) For summer range, the objective is to maintain from 25-65 percent or more (depending upon the deer population goal) of each  $\frac{1}{4}$  township habitat inventory unit in a mixture of aspen, oak, upland brush, jack pine and a grass type consisting of sodded openings comprising at least 3-5 percent of the forest.

(c) Traditional deer wintering areas also require a positive management program. Planning to provide adequate browse and cover through commercial timber harvest will help maintain deer herds at population goals during normal winters. However, severe winters will place abnormal stress on deer in some areas resulting in significant mortality and reduced fawn production. In such areas emergency browse cutting for supplementing naturally available food on public lands will be authorized but only where designated in an approved deer yard plan as part of a long-range browse production program. For deer yards on private lands, department personnel may make recommendations as to when, where and how

emergency browse can best be provided. Direct assistance on private lands requires the declaration of a true emergency by the district director and the express permission of the landowner.

(2) Harvest and regulations. Big game hunting regulations shall be designed to meet the following objectives:

(a) Maintaining a deer herd in balance with its range and at population goals reasonably compatible with agricultural and forest management objectives in each deer management unit. Deer management units are areas of similar habitat bounded by major roads. Population goals in the forested deer range are to be based on long-term average carrying capacity as determined by unit population responses to past winters of varying severity. Goals in the agricultural range are to be based upon hunter demand balanced with an assessment of local human tolerance to deer numbers, particularly as it relates to crop damage and the frequency of deer-vehicle collisions on highways. Annual hunting seasons will harvest deer to maintain goal levels and will include buck, either-sex or buck and party permit bag limits as the need dictates.

(b) Achieving and maintaining opportunities for a quality deer hunting experience while still allowing to the extent possible, freedom of choice by hunters. Regulations should provide incentives or disincentives to encourage better distribution of hunting pressure. If hunter numbers continue to increase, control of hunting pressure may become necessary.

(c) Maintaining the black bear as a trophy big game animal and offering the best opportunity for a quality hunting experience. In addition, the maintenance of a quality hunt will be emphasized by continuing controls over the use of bait and dogs.

(d) Damage. Deer and bear damage complaints will be handled according to the provisions of section 29.595, Wis. Stats., and rules as published in the Wisconsin administrative code. Damage can be most economically controlled by maintaining populations with a hunting season harvest as specified in (2)(a).

(3) Research and surveys. Surveys, investigations and research shall be conducted to provide technical information necessary to establish population estimates, harvest recommendations, population goals and habitat management needs and guidelines.

SECTION 7 - Section NR 1.16 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 1.16 Furbearers. For the purposes of this section, furbearers are muskrat, mink, weasel, beaver, otter, skunk, raccoon, fox, coyote, bobcat and opossum. The furbearer management program has the following essential needs and actions:

(1) Habitat management. (a) Wetlands are the primary habitat component for many furbearers so the actions regarding wetland protection and management stated in NR 1.12(1) are reemphasized in relation to furbearers.

(b) The capacity to produce furbearers on lands and waters under the management and control of the department can be increased through more intensive management of suitable habitat. Generally, management activities designed to improve furbearer populations are compatible with management for other species of wildlife. In certain situations populations of furbearers such as fox, raccoon, coyotes and skunks can depress the population of other game species. Management activities on department lands should be designed to achieve a desirable balance between predator and prey species which is consistent with goals and objectives established in the course of developing master plans for state properties.

(c) Since the majority of furbearers depend upon habitat under the control of private landowners, management information will be provided to private landowners requesting it. Incentive programs to encourage habitat preservation and management on private lands will be developed where they are feasible.

(2) Harvest and regulations. Furbearers are significant from a biological, recreational and economic standpoint. Regulations will be designed to make optimum use of these species for these purposes.

(a) Every effort shall be made to design regulations on as uniform a basis as possible that will still maintain desirable population levels from year to year. High pelt prices on these species can result in temporarily depressed, local populations. Both recreational and biological objectives shall be accorded primary consideration in the establishment of harvest regulations.

(b) Because of the recreational and economic value of the furbearer harvest present trapping methods and techniques must continue. However, efforts to develop new trapping methods and techniques will be encouraged.

(3) Stocking. Stocking of furbearers is restricted to the trapping and relocation of certain species to effect planned range extension or introductions.

(4) Damage. (a) All of these species are capable of causing economic damage. Section 29.596, Wis. Stats., provides a procedure for dealing with wild animals causing damage to private property. Desired population levels of furbearers and hunted carnivores will be maintained primarily by the use of general public hunting and trapping seasons. Control of damage through the issuance of permits to the complainant shall be the next step employed to control problem animals. Direct control by the department shall be employed only where other control methods are not feasible or effective.

(b) In addition to the above, beaver activities can harm trout habitat and lowland forest stands but at the same time can benefit the habitat of other wildlife species. Beaver reduction and management programs shall be based on the following guidelines:

1. In all areas containing class I trout waters or productive lowland coniferous stands, a program to keep beaver populations at low levels that do not adversely affect these resources shall be conducted;



2. On reaches of other trout streams, where it is clearly demonstrated that beaver activity is deleterious to water quality or trout habitat, beaver populations shall be kept at sufficiently low levels to protect these resources;

3. In all other areas, beaver shall be managed to produce populations that will provide sustained annual harvest.

SECTION 8 - Section NR 1.17 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 1.17 Nongame wildlife. Nongame species play an important role in the normal functioning of eco-systems and contribute to the esthetic quality of our environment. Since nongame management programs provide significant benefits to many segments of society, new sources of revenue (other than hunting license fees or excise taxes) will be sought to support expansion of these programs. New federal excise taxes on selected outdoor recreation equipment are supported as one appropriate source of funding for this program. Nongame species include all birds, mammals and other terrestrial vertebrates which usually have no open season for hunting or trapping. Species classified as endangered or threatened are also included in this section. To implement an adequate program for nongame wildlife, the following needs and actions are essential:

(1) Habitat management. Habitat requirements of nongame wildlife collectively encompass almost every combination of topography, soils, water and vegetative types. The highest priority for management will be allotted to endangered, threatened and uncommon species. In order to protect and manage habitat for nongame species on public and private lands, programs will be initiated as required which may include the protection, development and maintenance of key nesting grounds, den sites, feeding areas, roosting areas, wintering areas, strategic migrational rest areas and other critical habitat components. Program implementation may employ one or more of the following actions:

(a) Acquisition, lease or easement of land rights;

(b) Food and cover management, construction of artificial nest or roost devices, refuge creation, protective fencing, incorporating important habitat needs into management plans for public lands, or providing incentives to private landowners to develop or protect habitat.

(2) Regulations and protection. Most nongame species are protected by law; however, certain species may become so low in numbers that the special status of "endangered" is created by administrative rule under section 29.415, Wis. Stats., and Wis. Adm. Code chapter NR 27. Endangered species are those whose continued existence as a part of the state's wild fauna (or flora) is in jeopardy and, without further state action, may become extirpated. Threatened species currently receive some protection under sections 23.09, 23.11, 29.02, 29.085 and 29.174, Wis. Stats., and those which appear likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered. Additional regulations will be adopted as necessary for the protection of endangered and threatened species and for any non-hunted wildlife species that is exhibiting a chronic decline in abundance. Human access to critical areas of endangered or threatened species habitat on public lands will be limited or prohibited as necessary.

(3) Damage. The payment of damages caused by nonhunted wildlife species is opposed. Should legislation mandate such payment, sources of funding other than hunting license fees or excise taxes will be sought.

(4) Research and surveys. (a) Many nongame species require the development of new survey techniques as well as a system to monitor population trends. Annual surveys will not be required for most species. Indications of marked population declines will require more frequent and precise surveys to determine if management action is required. Endangered and threatened species will require close monitoring until they become more abundant.

(b) A nongame program must rely on the knowledge available for each individual species to be managed. Research projects will be initiated as required to provide the following information: life history, habitat requirements, population distribution and abundance, census methods, management techniques and effects of land use changes, pesticides or other environmental population depressants.

(5) Propagation and stocking. Due to habitat changes or other ecological factors, a species may decline to the extent that viable breeding populations are absent. In this event, a reintroduction program would be considered and evaluated to determine potential adverse interactions with other species, and any environmental factors that would negate successful establishment. Wisconsin pledges cooperation with other state and federal agencies in feasible reintroduction programs which require the capture and export of Wisconsin wildlife.

SECTION 9 - Section NR 1.51 is created to read:

NR 1.51 Management of state wildlife areas. Section 23.09(2)(d)3., Wis. Stats., provides legislative authority and direction for the acquisition and management of wildlife areas. The primary purpose as stated in this statute is to provide "areas in which any citizen may hunt, trap or fish". Section 23.11(1), Wis. Stats., provides for the general care, protection and supervision of state lands. Section 23.30, Wis. Stats., deals with the provisions of the outdoor recreation program.

(1) In order to fulfill the statutory charge of providing public hunting and trapping on wildlife areas, the quality of their wildlife habitat must be maintained or developed. However, this is not to be construed as authority for exclusive single-purpose management of entire properties. Wildlife habitat needs and public hunting objectives shall receive major consideration in management planning for wildlife areas; however, fishery, forestry, wild resource and

outdoor recreational objectives will be accommodated when they are compatible and do not detract significantly from the primary objective.

(2) The concept of a general user fee to fund operational activities on wildlife areas which require maintenance to keep them safe, functional and attractive is endorsed.

(3) The following uses will be accommodated on wildlife areas in accord with the priorities and constraints of practical and scientific wildlife management principles and obligations:

(a) Public hunting and trapping. The primary use on all designated wildlife areas shall be hunting and trapping. Legislation and regulations are encouraged to limit numbers of participants utilizing state land where necessary to insure opportunities for a quality recreational experience. The use of closed areas and/or refuges is endorsed to provide wildlife with required sanctuary from hunting and to protect property.

(b) Scientific study. Relatively undisturbed biological systems on wildlife areas provide a unique opportunity for scientific research on natural or near-natural systems. Since a thorough knowledge of wildlife ecology is the basis of a sound wildlife management program, the designation of suitable tracts as scientific areas is encouraged.

(c) Compatible open-space uses. Open-space pedestrian uses, including hiking, nature study, wildlife viewing and cross-country skiing are generally compatible with the primary purpose of wildlife areas. These activities will be accommodated but may have to be limited in time and location to avoid interference with wildlife production or survival and public hunting or trapping.

(d) Camping. Limited primitive camping may be permitted on wildlife areas. Camping should not be encouraged nor will developments be undertaken to service campers except at locations designated in the property master plan.

(e) Off-road vehicles. Unrestricted use of off-road vehicles, including snowmobiles, will not be permitted on wildlife areas. Agreements may be made with counties, other municipalities, or private clubs for the use and maintenance of designated trails or areas where such use will not be detrimental to wildlife or conflict with public hunting.

(f) Horses. Indiscriminate horseback riding will not be permitted on wildlife areas. Use of horses may be permitted on designated trail systems, specific dog trial and training areas and in other areas where such use will not unduly damage wildlife habitat or conflict with wildlife production and public hunting.

(g) Special use permits may be authorized for outdoor recreational activities such as organized youth group camping, dog trials, etc., but only where such activities do not conflict with each other and where they are compatible with the primary purpose of the property. Sites where such activities are to be permitted and the facilities required shall be designated in the property master plan.

The foregoing rules were approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on February 17, 1977.

The rules contained herein shall take effect upon publication.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin

26 April 1977

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By

Anthony S. Earl

Anthony S. Earl, Secretary

(SEAL)