

11hr_AC-NR_ab0589_pt01



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2011-12

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Natural Resources...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (August 2013)

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Natural Resources

Assembly Bill 589

Relating to: authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to collect voluntary contributions in addition to fees charged for certain approvals, authorizing the voluntary contributions to be paid to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, and making an appropriation.

By Representatives Petryk, Endsley, Marklein, Clark, Jacque, Molepske Jr, Mursau, Rivard, Spanbauer, Tranel and Steineke; cosponsored by Senators Schultz, Holperin, Hansen and Cowles.

February 20, 2012 Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

February 22, 2012 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (0) None.
Absent: (0) None.
Excused: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Warren Petryk, Madison — Representative, 93rd Assembly District
- Charles Luthin, Lodi — Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
- George Meyer, Madison — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Mike Carlson, Madison — Gathering Waters
- Jim Holperin, Madison — Senator, 12th Senate District

Appearances Against

- Patricia Randolph, Portage

Appearances for Information Only

- Kurt Theide, Madison — Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Registrations For

- Dale Schultz, Madison — Senator, 17th Senate District

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

March 7, 2012

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (16) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Steineke, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark, Milroy and Hulsey.

Absent: (0) None.

Excused: (0) None.

Moved by Representative Molepske Jr, seconded by Representative Williams that **Assembly Bill 589** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (16) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Steineke, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark, Milroy and Hulsey.

Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 16, Noes 0

Tim Gary
Committee Clerk

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: March 7, 2012.

Moved by: Molepske Seconded by: Williams

AB 589 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Erik Severson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Michelle Litjens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Cory Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: _____ _____ _____ _____

Motion Carried Motion Failed





March 5, 2012

Memorandum

To: All State of Wisconsin Legislators
From: Charlie Luthin, Executive Director
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

Proposed "public lands endowment" (bills SB 441 and AB 589)

This message is to encourage your support and vote for the proposed "public lands endowment" that will be created with voluntary citizen contributions of \$2 or more collected through the DNR licensing channels and then transferred to Natural Resources Foundation for management as a permanent endowment fund. The endowment will support management of and care for our state-owned lands with the annual distributions from the fund.

I have enclosed several documents that will provide a little more background information, including:

- A "Fact Sheet" about what the bill accomplishes
- A longer summary of the proposed "public lands endowment"
- Some background on Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, in the event you are unfamiliar with the Foundation

This simple but important legislation in front of you this month may change the future of land conservation in the State. If passed, I give you my assurance that the Foundation will help promote this donation opportunity widely, attracting countless thousands of voluntary contributions from Wisconsin citizens and from those in neighboring states. I am confident we will be able to build a significant fund within several years, thereby providing vital support to care for our public properties.

I look forward to unanimous passage of the bill that has already garnered bi-partisan support in both Houses. This bill is GOOD for Wisconsin, GOOD for our state lands, and GOOD for future generations of Wisconsin citizens!

Thank you for your vote in favor of a public lands endowment!

Charles Luthin, Executive Director
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
608-261-4384
charles.luthin@wisconsin.gov

PO Box 2317
Madison, WI 53701-2317
TOLL-FREE
866.264.4096
FAX
608.266.2452
E-MAIL
info@wisconservation.org
www.wisconservation.org

Board of Directors

Robert Banks
Linda Bochert
Bruce Braun
Daniel T. Flaherty
Rebecca Haefner, M.D.
Rita Hayden
Martin Henert
Jim Hubing
Kristine Krause
David Ladd
Richard Lorang
Diane Humphrey Lueck
William Lunney
Peg Mallery
Jim Maras
Thomas Olson
Ron Semmann
Albert Toma

Emeritus

Darrell Bazzell
Dan Chabot
Anthony Earl
Robert Froehke
Tom Lochner
Thomas Lyon
Howard Mead
Thomas Schmidt
Toby Sherry
Christine Thomas
Todd Tiefenthaler
Margaret Van Alstyne
Sally Whiffen

Honorary Emeritus

C.D. Buzz Besadny
Collins Ferris
Paul Hassett
Warren Knowles
Cliff Messinger
Gaylord Nelson
Dair J. Stewart
Daniel Trainer
Nash Williams

Ex-Officio

Cathy Stepp
Dave Clausen

Executive Director

Charlie Luthin



Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 2317
Madison WI 53701
Wisconservation.org
866-264-4096

Building a Permanent "Public Lands" Endowment for Wisconsin with Voluntary Private Contributions

FACT SHEET (2/24/2012)

Pending legislation: Companion bills AB 589 (Assembly) and SB 441 (Senate)

What the legislation does:

- It enables DNR to request a minimum \$2 voluntary contribution from citizens who purchase a license, park sticker or register an ATV or snowmobile (similar to other enabling legislation from past years).
- It transfers the contributions collected to Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin (a statewide, non-profit organization) to create a permanent endowment to support management of state-owned lands.
- It requires DNR and the Foundation to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement that defines how the endowment will be managed and identifies the types of activities that will be supported with annual endowment distributions.

Observations:

- The endowment will be built with private contributions and will not entail any expense to tax payers.
- The Foundation will seek additional (larger) donations from individuals and corporations to substantially grow the endowment fund.
- Both DNR and the Foundation will collaboratively undertake an extensive communications and marketing effort over several years to inform citizens of the existence and value of the endowment fund, and to encourage contributions when they purchase their licenses and park stickers.

About Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin:

- The Foundation is a statewide, non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that was established in 1986 as a formal "friends" group of the DNR. The Foundation owns and manages more than \$7 million in assets.
- The primary function of the Foundation is to secure private funding to support public conservation needs, identified by the Foundation's principal partner, the DNR.
- The Foundation has generated more than \$4 million in support for state conservation projects since its inception, and has provided more than \$500,000 each year for the past four years in support of conservation activities in Wisconsin.
- The Foundation manages the Wisconsin Conservation Endowment, a fund that contains 54 separate endowments with \$2.8 million in assets. The proposed "public lands endowment" (yet to be named) will be managed as part of the Wisconsin Conservation Endowment.



Stewarding Wisconsin's Public Lands & Waters: Building a Public Lands & Waters Endowment

February 2012

Summary: The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin will work closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and conservation partners to undertake a 10-year campaign to raise \$20 million in private funding to build a permanent endowment to support habitat management on Wisconsin's state-owned public lands. If this threshold is achieved, this endowment will generate a minimum of \$1 million per year, in perpetuity, to support targeted activities on state-owned and state-managed lands that will include habitat management, ecosystems restoration, invasive species control and endangered species protection. Ultimately, this fund could reach \$100 million or more as citizens, corporations and foundations contribute private moneys and leave estate gifts to ensure the well-being of Wisconsin's public resources. The endowment would be managed by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin as a component fund of the Wisconsin Conservation Endowment.

Need Statement: Wisconsin is blessed with a multitude of natural landscapes, from the southern prairies to the northern forests, from lakes and rivers to shorelines, to blufflands and wetlands. A total of 1.5 million acres of land in Wisconsin are state-owned and accessible to citizens of Wisconsin, neighboring states, and the world. Wisconsin's state public lands currently include 282 State Wildlife Areas, 206 State Fishery Areas, 47 State Parks, 41 state trails and 6 state recreation areas, 12 state forests, and more than 500 State Natural Areas [source: DNR website]. These properties are used for all types of recreational and educational activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, bird-watching, nature exploration, and research among others.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund has been the primary source of public funding for **land acquisition** in the state, providing between \$60 million and \$86 million per year over the past several decades.

"Since the Stewardship Program began in 1990, DNR has been able to acquire over 545,000 acres of additional land open to the public. This is one of Wisconsin's great conservation and outdoor recreation success stories, and has provided much increased opportunities for public hunting, fishing, camping, biking, trapping, hiking and other outdoor recreation. However, as the [Natural Resources] Board knows, concerns have been expressed about the management of DNR lands, the public awareness of, and accessibility to some of these lands. In past years, while the funding has been made available to acquire these lands, funding was not generally made available to keep up with the increasing management needs. While the concept of "buy now, manage later" is a very successful strategy and has been endorsed by successive Legislatures, at some point management does need to be addressed." (DNR Green Sheet to Natural Resources Board, December 2011.)

The time to address management needs on state properties is now! There is no reliable source of public funding available for management of those ever-increasing state-owned lands and waters. In fact, some sources of funding for managing state lands have diminished in recent years, most notably hunting license fees (due to a drop in hunting license applicants). If left unmanaged, public lands and waters suffer from encroachment by invasive exotic plant and animal species and lose ecological integrity and biological diversity. The bottom line is that our public lands will not yield their recreational, biological, aesthetic and economic potential unless we invest necessary financial resources for managing these lands.

Solution: A large permanent endowment will be created with private support through the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. The revenue generated from the endowment will be used by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and conservation partners for managing public lands and waters throughout the state. The name of this endowment is yet to be determined. Possible names include the ***Habitat Fund***, the ***Healthy Lands & Waters Fund***, ***Wildlife Fund***, or...? The endowment would be managed privately and would not be accessible by the Legislature.

Wisconsin Conservation Endowment: The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin established the ***Wisconsin Conservation Endowment*** (WCE) in 2005, and currently (February 2012) maintains 54 endowment funds with \$2.8 million in assets that support public lands and wildlife conservation throughout the state. The WCE would be the repository of private funding raised for this permanent public lands endowment.

Mechanism for Building Public Lands Endowment: The endowment would be created and supported entirely with **private contributions**; there would be no cost to tax-payers.

Currently there are several opportunities for citizens to provide voluntary contributions to several DNR programs—the “aquatic invasive species” fund (Fisheries) option available when purchasing an angling license or boat registration, and the “venison-food pantry” fund when purchasing a deer license. Although they don’t generate a great deal of support (ca. \$63,000 in 2010), they are not well-marketed, either.

These voluntary contributions were established through enabling legislation:

29.564 Voluntary contributions; invasive species grants. (1) Any applicant for a fishing license under s. 29.563 (3) (a) to (c) may, in addition to paying any fee charged for the license, elect to make a voluntary contribution of at least \$2 to be used for research by the department concerning invasive species that are aquatic species and for grants under s. 23.22 (2) (c) to control invasive species that are aquatic species.

(1m) If a person appointed under s. 29.024 (6) (a) 2., 3., or 4., collects a voluntary contribution under sub. (1) from an applicant for a fishing license, the person collecting the voluntary contribution may retain 50 cents of the voluntary contribution to compensate for the person’s services in collecting the voluntary contribution.

(2) All moneys collected under sub. (1), less the amount retained as authorized under sub. (1m), shall be deposited into the account under s. 20.370 (3) (is).

29.565 Voluntary contributions; venison processing and grant program. (1) Any applicant for a hunting license listed under s. 29.563 (2) (a) or (b) may, in addition to paying any fee charged for the license, elect to make a voluntary contribution of at least \$1 to be used for the venison processing and donation program under s. 29.89.

(2) All moneys collected under sub.(1) shall be credited to the appropriation account under s. 20.370(5)(ft).

SB 441 and AB 589: Modeled after the aquatic invasive species legislation (see above), a draft bill has been introduced into the Legislature in winter 2012. The companion bills, SB 441 and AB 589, authored by Senator Dale Schultz (R) and Representative Warren Petryk (R), and supported with strong bi-partisan sponsorship, have been introduced simultaneously into the Senate and Assembly. The respective natural resources committees of each House will hold hearings sometime soon. These identical bills accomplish two objectives:

- they enable DNR to request VOLUNTARY contributions from citizens who buy a hunting/angling license, ATV or snowmobile registration, park pass or other "service" from DNR.
- the funds are placed into a PERMANENT ENDOWMENT with Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

DNR and NRF have been working out details of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) mentioned in the bill. Distributions from the Fund will be applied exclusively to habitat management in state natural areas, parks, wildlife areas, fisheries areas and forests. DNR staff are working out a guidance document for use of the distributions to include in the MOA. The creation of an Advisory Team has been proposed to help identify annual priorities once the fund is large enough to make annual distributions. The Team would be comprised of key DNR staff and potentially representatives from the private conservation non-profit sector.

A voluntary contribution option (\$2 or more) is proposed for **ALL services and user fees charged to citizens by DNR**—hunting, fishing and collecting licenses, state park stickers (day-use and seasonal), campground use, state trail and forest use, boat and ATV licensing, etc., to create and build this large endowment. These contributions would be collected by DNR and service providers throughout the state, placed into a segregated DNR fund (presumably, outdoor wildlife heritage trust fund) and then transferred periodically to Natural Resources Foundation for long-term fund management as an endowment.

The list of services provided by DNR for which citizens currently pay a fee include:

1,426,000	Fishing Licenses (unique purchasers, 2009 figures)
718,000	Hunting Licenses (unique purchasers, 2009 figures)
742,000	State Park Stickers and Trail Passes (FY2011)
179,000	Camping Registrations (Jan-Dec 2010)
616,000	Boat Registrations* (2010 figures)
235,000	Snowmobile Registrations* (2010 figures)
279,000	ATV registrations* (2010 figures)

4,195,000 Total

* These figures represent number of vehicles/boats registered, NOT the number of applicants, which is lower due to multiple vehicles/boats in a household.

Other Sources of Funding: *All funding into this endowment would be generated from the private sector.* In addition to the voluntary contributions made when service fees are paid, additional contributions such as gifts of cash, equities, real estate and estate pledges from individuals, corporations and foundations will be actively solicited by Foundation staff. A "giving circle" will be established whereby large donors are rewarded with special recognition for their contributions. Individual gifts could be given to the general endowment, or to targeted funds set up with specific management purposes (State Wildlife Areas, State Natural Areas, State Parks, Fisheries, etc.) within the endowment. Retail providers of DNR services (e.g. Fleet-Farm, Farm & Fleet, sporting goods shops) and retail businesses that cater to outdoor recreation (birdwatching, outdoor clothing, camping goods, etc.) will be asked if they would participate in a "round it up" campaign where customers could "round up" their purchases to the next dollar, with the added contribution being added to the Habitat Fund.

Use of Funds: An Agreement between DNR and the Foundation will identify priority uses of the endowment distributions. The funds would be used exclusively for **management of state-owned and state-managed public lands** to enhance ecological diversity and integrity, to support fish and wildlife habitat, to protect rare and endangered species, and to control invasive species. An Advisory Council comprised of DNR and Foundation staff, and perhaps with representation from other non-profit conservation organizations, would help establish the annual priorities and make recommendations for allocations of endowment funding. As with all named endowment funds, the Foundation board of directors approves final distributions from the fund once recommendations have been solicited. The funds generated from this endowment would potentially support (but not be limited to) the following types of state-owned and state-managed properties:

- ***State Wildlife & Fisheries Areas***
- ***State Parks, Trails & Recreation Areas***
- ***State Natural Areas***
- ***State Forests***

Potential Leverage: The annual funding generated from this endowment could be used to leverage federal and state funding and private grants and other match opportunities, thereby increasing the "buying power" of the available funding.

Recipients of Funds: Through an agreement between DNR and the Foundation, recipients of the funding will be identified and the distribution process formalized. The easiest and most straightforward use of funds would be through the appropriate sectors within DNR—Land , Water & Forestry Divisions. However, a thoughtful process for distributing some funds beyond DNR would need to be carefully crafted in order to accommodate diverse needs and interests. Priority would be given to agencies and organizations that are managing state-owned and state-managed lands, and especially lands acquired with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund dollars. There may be a competitive grant process established if the endowment reaches a large size that can support multiple projects across the state.

Strategy for Success: Once there is enabling legislation in place, allowing DNR to request voluntary contributions from citizens, the Foundation and DNR will finalize the MOA and develop a comprehensive communications and marketing strategy to inform citizens of this

voluntary contribution option. Widespread public outreach and marketing is needed in order to inform Wisconsin citizens of the endowment and their opportunity to make a contribution every time they pay for a service within DNR. DNR will develop a strategy and process for including the contribution option on their website and when they collect fees. The Foundation recognizes its important role in securing funding to support marketing activities to increase public awareness.

Support from a broad cross-section of the private sector (individuals, corporations, foundations) will be sought to build this endowment fund, in addition to the small voluntary contributions from thousands of citizens. We anticipate that this will be a very popular initiative.

An endorsement from a distinguished person in Wisconsin will help give the visibility needed to generate public interest, once the endowment is established. (Note: Laura Bush has served as honorary chair of the National Park Foundation that has been undertaking a comparable \$1 billion 8-year capital campaign for building endowment for our national parks).

Ensuring the Future of Wisconsin's Public Lands and Waters: Our state's precious natural resources need to be properly cared for to ensure that future generations of Wisconsin citizens can enjoy the pleasures of fishing, hunting, boating, canoeing, bird-watching and other recreational activities on public lands and waters. Revenue from hunting and angling licenses is insufficient to manage the many and diverse public lands we depend on for outdoor recreation. **The proposed permanent source of conservation funding—emanating entirely from the private sector—will provide the needed assurance that our state's publicly-owned resources will be adequately stewarded, in perpetuity.**

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

Support Distributed or Committed to Conservation - 2011

❖ State Natural Areas & Public Lands

\$135,276

State Natural Areas Program:

DNR - Endangered Resources	Avoca Prairie SNA	2,250
DNR - Endangered Resources	Black River Savanna SNA	10,000
Friends of Cedarburg Bog	Cedarburg Bog SNA	8,500
DNR - Endangered Resources	East Bluff and Parfrey's Glen SNAs	4,000
DNR - Endangered Resources	Great River Trail Prairies SNA	2,000
DNR - Endangered Resources	Herptile Habitat Restoration at 11 SNAs	20,000
DNR - Endangered Resources	La Crosse River Trail Prairies SNA	4,000
DNR - Endangered Resources	Lodi Marsh SNA	5,000
DNR - Endangered Resources	Lower Chippewa River SNA	11,450
DNR - Endangered Resources	Northeast Region State Natural Areas	10,000
DNR - Endangered Resources	Pine Island Flood Plain SNA	10,000
DNR - Endangered Resources	Red Banks & Stockbridge Ledge Woods SNAs	5,000
DNR - Endangered Resources	Spread Eagle Barrens SNA	11,050
DNR - Endangered Resources	Upper Fox Headwaters SNA	3,069
DNR - Endangered Resources	Van Loon Flood Plain SNA	15,000
DNR - Endangered Resources	Western Coulee Region State Natural Areas	9,957
		<u>\$131,276</u>

Public Lands - Other

DNR - Endangered Resources	Fish habitat at Turtle Flambeau Flowage	1,000
■ Friends of Harrington Beach St Park	Signage improvements	1,000
■ DNR - Turtle Flambeau Flowage	Turtle Flambeau Flowage trail work and culverts	1,000
■ North Lakeland Discovery Center	Van Vliet Hemlocks Signage project	1,000
		<u>\$4,000</u>

❖ Rare & Endangered Species

\$243,375

Bird Conservation Campaign:

DNR - Turtle Flambeau Flowage	Eagle and osprey banding	1,495
DNR - Endangered Resources	Important Bird Areas Southern Forest Initiative	10,000
Private researcher	Kestrel banding	330
DNR - Endangered Resources	Kirtland's Warbler Monitoring and Surveys	30,400
DNR - Endangered Resources	Migratory Bird Stopover Habitat Program	31,500
Osa Conservation	Osa Peninsula land acquisition - Costa Rica	28,000
DNR - Wildlife Management	Osprey management in Oneida & Forest Co.	425
DNR - Endangered Resources	Species Guidance Reports	12,600
DNR - Endangered Resources	Trumpeter Swan monitoring	17,600
Various WCEP partners	Whooping crane reintroduction program	49,930
		<u>\$182,280</u>

Other:

DNR - Endangered Resources	Bat monitoring by citizen science volunteers	15,000
DNR - Endangered Resources	Citizen-Based Monitoring Online Training Videos	10,945
DNR - Endangered Resources	Karner Blue Butterfly Monitoring & Management	10,000
DNR - Fisheries	Lake Superior fish management	150
DNR - Endangered Resources	Wood Turtle Conservation	25,000
		<u>\$61,095</u>

❖ Conservation Education **\$19,051**

North Lakeland Discovery Center	Conservation Ed. in Turtle Flambeau Flowage	963
Butternut School	Conservation Ed. in Turtle Flambeau Flowage	963
DNR - Waste and Materials Mgmt	Green & Healthy Schools Workshop in Milwaukee	2,125
UW Extension	Wisconsin Master Naturalist development	15,000
		<u>\$19,051</u>

❖ Grassroots Conservation **\$23,644**

■ Besadny Conservation Grants:	26 projects (see separate list)	22,184
■ Teachers Education Fund:	2 projects - see Besadny Grant list	1,460

❖ Partner conservation organizations - general operations **\$108,958**

1000 Friends of Wisconsin	general operations	6,918
Clean Wisconsin	general operations	3,459
Environmental Defense Fund	general operations	3,459
Gathering Waters Conservancy	general operations	6,918
National Audubon Society	general operations	3,459
Natural Resources Defense Council	general operations	3,459
Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust	general operations	24,213
Northwoods Land Trust	general operations	3,459
River Alliance of Wisconsin	general operations	17,295
Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter	general operations	3,459
The Nature Conservancy (WI)	general operations	3,459
Trout Unlimited - seven chapters	general operations	13,835
Wilderness Society	general operations	3,459
Wisconsin Wetlands Association	general operations	6,918
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation	general operations	5,189
		<u>\$108,958</u>

Total cash contributions to partner organizations * **\$530,304**

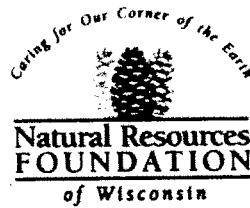
❖ NRF-implemented programs (dollars invested) **\$85,451**

Field Trip Program	\$60,267
25th Anniversary Field Trips	\$25,184

Total contribution to conservation in Wisconsin **\$615,755**

* 55% to DNR, 40% to other partner organizations, and 5% to Besadny Grant recipients

■ Supported by Wisconsin Conservation Endowment Fund. Total WCE distributions for 2011 = \$24,445



Wisconsin Conservation Endowment

Endowed Funds Overview **February 2012**

A total of **54 funds** currently comprise the Wisconsin Conservation Endowment, with total assets under management of more than **\$2.8 million**. An additional 6 funds will be established with anticipated estate gifts. Total known estate gifts represent over \$4.5 million in future support for the Endowment.

General Funds (7)

- ◆ **Natural Resources Fund** – the Foundation’s general conservation endowment
- ◆ **Sally R. Luthin Memorial Fund**
- ◆ **Catherine Genovese Natural Areas Fund**
- ◆ **Richard & Mary Kathryn Ring Conservation Fund**
- ◆ **Jane and Jack Edson Family Conservation Fund**
- ◆ **Jim & Sharel Hubing Conservation Fund**
- ◆ **Dale Druckrey Fund**

Endangered Species Funds (7)

- ◆ **Camp Rita Doris Conservation Fund**- supports conservation of loons and eagles
- ◆ **Dane County Conservation League- DCCL Prairie Chicken Fund** – supports conservation of the endangered prairie chicken in central Wisconsin
- ◆ **Doratheia Buckeridge Drotning Fund** – supports the whooping crane reintroduction program
- ◆ **Important Bird Areas Fund** -- supports Important Bird Areas statewide
- ◆ **Paul & Alice Olson Memorial Fund**—supports prairie chicken conservation
- ◆ **Wisconsin Bat Conservation Fund**- supports bat conservation
- ◆ **Wisconsin Rare Plant Preservation Fund** – supports the restoration, monitoring, inventorying and preservation of rare plant species

Public and Private Lands Funds (28)

General (1)

- ◆ **Norma and Stanley DeBoer Quiet Trails Fund** –supports non-motorized trails on public lands

State Natural Areas (6)

- ◆ **Robert M. Jostes Wisconsin State Natural Areas Conservation Fund** –supports State Natural Areas.
- ◆ **James J. Schwabe Endowment Fund** –supports State Natural Areas
- ◆ **Reynold Zeller Fund** –supports State Natural Areas and other public lands in Green County.
- ◆ **Hussin Family Natural Areas Fund**- supports State Natural Areas.
- ◆ **SanDretto Family State Natural Areas Fund**-_supports State Natural Areas in the Great Lakes Coastal, Northern Forests, and Blufflands regions.
- ◆ **Friends of Brule River and Forest Fund** - supports State Natural Areas within the Brule River State Forest.

State Forests, Flowages & Riverways (7)

- ◆ **Hughes Jeffords Chippewa Flowage Conservation Fund**- supports the Chippewa Flowage.
- ◆ **Lower Chippewa River Basin Conservation Fund**- supports the Lower Chippewa River Basin.
- ◆ **Daniel F. Brown & G. Donald Barnes Flambeau River State Forest Fund**—supports the Flambeau River State Forest.
- ◆ **Kettle Moraine Natural Heritage Association Endowment Fund** – created by the KMNHA in support of management on the southern Kettle Moraine
- ◆ **Friends of Pike Lake Endowment Fund** –supports the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.
- ◆ **Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund** –supports the management of wildlife habitat on public lands along the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.
- ◆ **Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area Fund** –supports the management and protection of the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area.

State Parks (9)

- ◆ **Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Fund**- supports the mission and operations of Friends of Wisconsin State Parks.
- ◆ **Friends of Wyalusing State Park Endowment Fund**- supports Wyalusing State Park.
- ◆ **Friends of Governor Dodge State Park Fund** - supports Governor Dodge State Park.
- ◆ **Devil's Lake State Park Endowment**-_supports Devils Lake State Park.
- ◆ **Friends of Kohler-Andrae Fund**- supports Kohler-Andrae State Park.

- ◆ **David and Joyce Weizenicker Endowment Fund for State Parks** - a general endowment to benefit all of Wisconsin's state parks.
- ◆ **Friends of Blue Mounds State Park** - supports preserving Blue Mound State Park's natural resources while offering activities and projects that improve the park guest's visit
- ◆ **Friends of Horicon Marsh** – support WDNR interpretive, scientific, historical, educational, and related visitor services at Horicon Marsh and International Education Center
- ◆ **Robert H. Halpin Family Endowment Fund**- supports the natural resources and educational, interpretive and recreational needs of Hartman Creek State Park

County Parks (4)

- ◆ **Friends of Dodge County Parks** – supports the mission of Friends of Dodge County Parks to protect and enhance the quality of life in Dodge County
- ◆ **Trees for the Future in Jefferson County Parks Fund**- supports tree planting in the Jefferson County parks system.
- ◆ **Patricia and Lyman Anderson Family Farm Endowment**- supports the development and management of a Dane County Park on the Anderson farm.
- ◆ **Jefferson County Parks Endowment** – created by private citizens and a regional company in support of their county parks

Private Conservation Easement Lands (2)

- ◆ **Koshkonong Corners SNA Fund**- supports (privately-owned) Koshkonong Corners State Natural Area, and lands containing prairie white-fringed orchid.
- ◆ **Fair Meadows State Natural Area Fund**- supports (privately-owned) Fair Meadows State Natural Area and natural areas in the Southeast Glacial Plains Region.

Specialty Funds (2)

- ◆ **C.D. Besadny Conservation Grants Fund** –provides small, match grants for grassroots conservation efforts
- ◆ **Teachers' Outdoor Environmental Education Fund**- a donor-advised fund created by Pete Ostlind in memory of his wife, Sue Spaeth, to support outdoor environmental education projects with K-12 public school children in Wisconsin.

Agency Funds (created by/supporting non-profit conservation organizations) (9)

- ◆ **Dane County Conservation League- DCCL Fund** - provides general support to DCCL.
- ◆ **Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Stewardship Fund**—supports the mission of OWLT.
- ◆ **Charles A. & Ida C. Sanders Northwoods Memorial Fund**- supports the Northwoods Land Trust.
- ◆ **Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station Fund**—supports raptor research at Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station and secondary purpose of supporting bird and raptor conservation in Wisconsin.
- ◆ **River Alliance Steady Currents Fund**—supports the mission of the River Alliance of Wisconsin.
- ◆ **Upper Sugar River Watershed Fund**—supports the mission of the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association.
- ◆ **Botanical Club of Wisconsin**—supports a scholarship in botanical research and conservation.
- ◆ **Frank Hornberg Chapter-Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Fund**— supports trout stream habitat improvement in the geographic area where chapter is active.
- ◆ **Bayfield Regional Conservancy**—supports operations of a regional land trust

Future Endowed Funds (most to be created with estate gifts) (6)

- ◆ **(Anonymous) Fund** – a named fund to be created with estate assets from an anonymous couple, to support management of select natural areas in the Western Coulee and Ridges Region of Wisconsin
- ◆ **Gathering Waters Conservancy Fund** - a designated fund to be created by Dr. Jim Bennett through an estate gift to support the mission and activities of Gathering Waters Conservancy.
- ◆ **Lorin & Maureen Hamel Family Fund**-_supports acquisition, development and improvement of public lands for non-motorized use, primarily canoe landings, trails and campsites along with the acquisition, restoration and management of public wilderness lands.
- ◆ **Willow Valley Conservation Fund**- a named fund to be created through a bequest in Philip and Dale Grimm's will to support management of 100 acres of private land in Richland County in permanent conservation easement.
- ◆ **Field Trips Forever**—an estate gift will support the field trip program, in perpetuity
- ◆ **West Dane Conservancy Fund** – will support management of a private property in western Dane County under permanent conservation easement





Warren Petryk

State Representative • 93rd Assembly District

To: Assembly Committee On Natural Resources

From: Representative Petryk

Re: Assembly Bill 589

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Thank you Chairman Mursau and members of the Committee for allowing me to be here today and testify in favor of Assembly Bill 589.

Wisconsin native, Aldo Leopold, said, "We shall never achieve absolute harmony with the land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve but to strive." As an avid hunter and outdoorsman, striving and working to protect the environment has always been one of my highest priorities and this bill will give the DNR a tool to help ensure the future management of our public lands through voluntary private donations.

Under this bill, when a person applies for certain licenses and authorizations issued by the DNR, they can make a voluntary contribution of at least \$2 in addition to the fees charged for the approvals. These include hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses and permits; snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, and boat registrations; and state park vehicle admission receipts. All voluntary contributions will be collected by the DNR and appropriated to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin to be used for establishing a permanent, segregated endowment program to support habitat management activities on lands owned or managed by the state. The endowment will be managed privately and would be segregated and not accessible by the Legislature. This endowment will be created and supported entirely with private contributions; there will be no cost to tax-payers.

The bill requires DNR to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Natural Resources Foundation with regards to payments and includes a description of types of activities that the Foundation will support under the endowment program. The memorandum will also include a description of the manner in which the endowment program funds will be managed, and the methods that will be used to award grants. The endowment will be managed by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin as a component fund of the Wisconsin Conservation Endowment. Currently 1.7 million acres of land are state-owned or managed and accessible to citizens of Wisconsin.



**Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Wednesday, February 22, 2012
3:45 PM – 417 North**

Testimony on AB 589 – Habitat Donation Fund

**Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

Testifying for Information Only

It's been said that in Wisconsin, our natural resources are not just a part of or our landscape; they are a part of who we are. As a state, we value our rich traditions of hunting, fishing, camping and hiking, and access to recreational land and wild places for everyone. We are defined by our clean lakes and rivers, vast forests and abundant wildlife.

Two primary components of the department's mission are "To protect and enhance our natural resources", and "To provide a healthy, sustainable environment and a full range of outdoor opportunities". Public lands play an important role in achieving that mission.

Conserving and properly managing these resources is not an expense but an investment that pays many dividends, some economic like tourism and forestry, others social like hunting and bird watching.

Assembly Bill 589, if approved and signed into law, would provide the DNR with additional sources of revenue to enhance the management our lands by providing us with the ability to request donations when we issue any department approval, including hunting and fishing licenses, as well as state park and trail passes.

The collected donations would then go into an endowment that is managed by the Natural Resources Foundation. In turn, these funds would be made available for habitat management on our state lands.

The NRF has been an important friend and partner to the department. They currently and successfully manage dozens of endowments for state parks, natural areas management, and species management. Their generosity as a private partner is invaluable to the work we do.

The DNR is currently responsible for managing over 1.7 million acres (Table 1). This land provides valuable outdoor recreational opportunities and myriad of public benefits including habitat for wildlife and environmental protection.

According to a recent functional analysis of Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09), as an agency, we spent approximately \$13.2 million for habitat related land management activities on department lands (includes salary, fringe and supplies) – such as prescribed burning, mowing, planting, invasives control, harvest, herbicides, wetland restorations, and timber sale establishment to name a few of the potentially eligible projects.

State land management can be thought of as akin to home ownership. In order to make sure a home retains its value and provides all the benefits hoped for, an investment must be made towards regular maintenance. As Secretary Stepp often says, you can't walk away from a leaky roof.

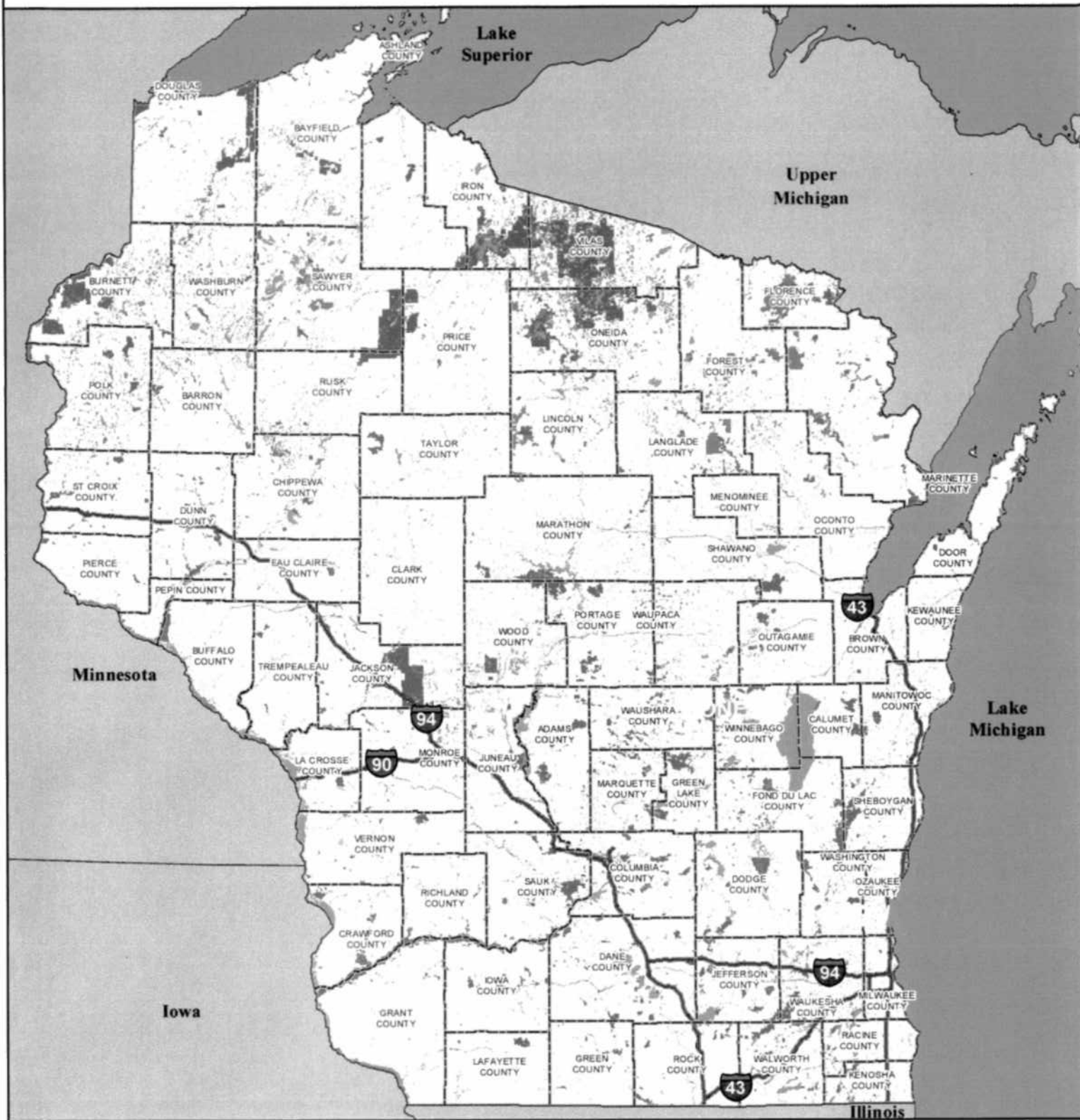
This last year, the Governor and the Legislature recognized this as well. They set aside \$5 million in Knowles-Nelson Stewardship bonding in the budget to address our various conservation infrastructure needs. Over the next two years we are focusing these funds on improving public access and awareness to our state lands. This includes providing parking, road access, and signage so people can better access and enjoy their land.

We have heard loud and clear from the public, our Board, and the legislature that we need to better address the management of our state properties. We concur and continually look for innovative ways to address these needs whether it is through partnerships, volunteers, or funding.

This bill, if passed, would provide additional volunteer funding to enhance our ability to address priority habitat management activities on our state managed lands.

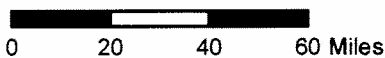
	Easements	Fee Acquisition	Total
Fisheries	13,192	118,496	131,688
Northern Forest	147,660	476,332	623,993
Parks	4,252	113,704	117,956
Natural Area	26,843	66,121	92,964
Southern Forest	172	58,996	59,168
Wildlife	22,614	520,983	543,597
Wild Rivers	20,644	129,413	150,056
Other	5,789	7,653	13,442
Total	241,165	1,491,697	1,732,863

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Managed Lands



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

DNR Owned
 DNR Eased



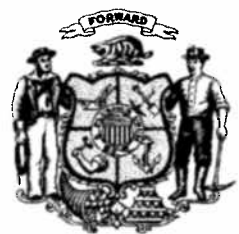
The DNR Managed Lands represent the boundaries of lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin DNR manages these lands through ownership, easement or lease rights. This data set is a spatial representation of the Oracle Land Records System maintained by the DNR, Bureau of Facilities and Lands, and may include errors and/or omissions. The data should not be interpreted as a legal representation of legal ownership boundaries. This data set does not differentiate between lands that are open or closed to the public for hunting and/or general public access. Some lands represented in this data set may not be open to the general public, or may have specific limitations or restrictions on public use. This data set is not intended for use as a land management tool; it is a listing of all DNR real estate transactions that have occurred on these lands over time.

For information about the actual management, including public use and public access of the lands, contact the nearest DNR Regional office. Contact information for DNR Regional Offices and Service Centers can be found by searching "Regional Office" from the Wisconsin DNR homepage. Updates to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.

-02/22/2012 kmh



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

February 22, 2012

WWF Testimony in Support of AB 589: License Check Off to Support Habitat Management

Chairman Mursau, Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation to testify on behalf of its 170 affiliates in support of Assembly Bill 589. The bill establishes a voluntary check off system for various recreational licenses sold by the Department of Natural Resources. The funds from the check off would go to the Natural Resources Foundation to establish an endowment for habitat management on lands owned or managed by the state. The Foundation would invest the funds and award grants for such management.

The Wildlife Federation would once again like to thank the Legislature for its long standing efforts to acquire lands for hunting, fishing, trapping and other recreational pursuits through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and its predecessor programs. The Stewardship Fund has provided hundred of thousands of acres of public lands for hunting, fishing and trapping. But as we all know land stewardship is far more than just buying land, it is managing the habitat on that land for fish and wildlife and other recreational needs. It also includes providing the public with information and the opportunity to access the lands for recreation. The Wildlife Federation has been advocating for many years for more funds for habitat management and public access for sportsmen and women on DNR lands.

A Natural Resources Endowment Fund supported by the voluntary contributions of recreational users hopefully will over time be a significant sources of funding for the critical habitat management that needs to be done on state lands. Because of this the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation strongly supports Assembly Bill 589.

The Federation requests your consideration of one change to the bill. As written, the bill calls for a memorandum of agreement between the DNR and Natural Resources Foundation that will set out the activities that will be funded through the endowment, the manner in which the endowment will be managed and how the habitat management grants will be awarded. We request that the bill be modified to require the Department and the Foundation to allow public comment on the draft agreement before it is officially signed. It is critically important that this process be highly transparent to sportsmen and women in order to gain their full support for voluntary contributions into the program.

Submitted by George Meyer, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation