

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Donation acceptance – The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin will donate \$33,358.86 from the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund. This donation will be used to support wildlife habitat restoration and management activities along the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.

FOR: January 2015 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Stepp

SUMMARY:

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund was created by Mr. Paul Brandt of Boscobel, Wisconsin, a DNR wildlife manager for 33 years who passed away in September of 2006. Before he died, Mr. Brandt created this named, endowed fund through the Natural Resources Foundation's Wisconsin Conservation Endowment to permanently support the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' wildlife habitat restoration and management activities along the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.

The current donation will focus on restoration and management of barrens communities for the benefit of wildlife species. Barrens communities are present on the broad sandy river terraces of the Lower Wisconsin River and include Pine Barrens, Oak Barrens, and Sand Barrens.

The projects, located in Richland, Iowa and Grant counties, are briefly described below. All the habitat work will benefit wild turkey, deer, and ring-necked pheasant.

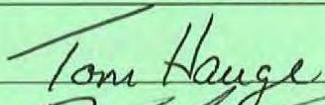
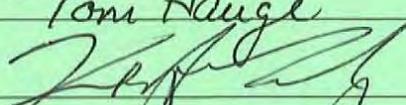
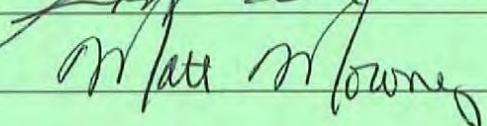
Lone Rock Unit – Located west of Lone Rock, near Cruson Slough. The goal for this site is to restore the habitat back to an oak barrens community, and to maintain and increase the small patches of prairie remnants that are found throughout. Prescribed burning will be utilized, as well as invasive species control on spotted knapweed and black locust.

WP&L – Located west of Avoca. The goals here are to restore an oak barrens community tied into the open grass prairie. Henslow's sparrow (state threatened species) and ornate box turtle (state endangered) occur on this site and will benefit tremendously from this work.

Pine Road/Paffenrath (Grant County) – The western portion of this site has scattered clumps of mature oak trees. The eastern side of the site consists of a mixed-species pine plantation that is seeding into an adjacent prairie, and a relatively intact jack pine/oak forest that is being invaded by brushy understory. Prescribed burning is needed.

Millville (Grant County) – A narrow strip of open barrens is present in the sandy margin between Bergum Bottoms and the Oak woodlands. Ornate box turtle has been reported from this site. The barrens is becoming overtaken by birch, oak a

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the generous donation of \$33,358.86 from the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund from The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

Approved by	Signature	Date
Tom Hauge Bureau Director		12/19/14
Kurt Thiede Land Division Administrator		1/5/15
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		1/8/15

cc: Board Liaison – AD/8
Department rule coordinator – LS/8

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its January 2015 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of \$33,358.86 from the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund from:

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

This donation will be used to to support wildlife habitat restoration and management activities along the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.

Our expression of appreciation on behalf of Wisconsin's citizens is hereby recorded in the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We acknowledge this generous contribution.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair