

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

SUBJECT: Donation acceptance – Natural Resources Foundation-Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund

Natural Resources Foundation-Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund will donate \$35,676.18. This donation will be used to support wildlife habitat restoration and management activities along the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.

FOR: October 2015 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Stepp

SUMMARY:

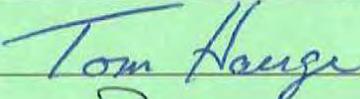
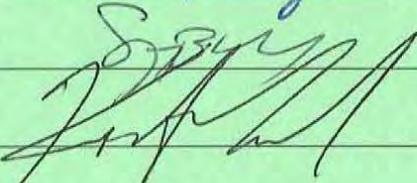
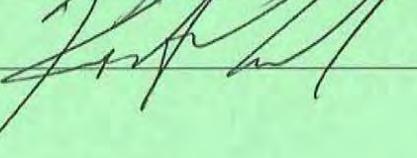
The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund was created by the late Mr. Paul Brandt of Boscobel, Wisconsin, a DNR wildlife manager for 33 years. Before he died, Mr. Brandt created this named endowment fund through the Natural Resources Foundation's Wisconsin Conservation Endowment to permanently support the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' wildlife habitat restoration and management activities along the Lower Wisconsin Riverway. It was his hope that others who utilize the Riverway and who care deeply about its health, will contribute to its protection through additional gifts to the Fund.

The current Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund donation will focus on restoration and management of barrens communities and prairie remnants 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.

We will continue and expand on important habitat projects funded by the endowment in recent years. Habitat work on these projects includes mechanical and chemical treatment of invasive trees, brush and herbaceous plants; firebreak construction; and prescribed burns.. Project locations in Richland, Grant and Iowa counties are Mazomanie barrens, Mazomanie Unit; Curson Slough, Lone Rock Unit; WP&L, Avoca Unit; Pine Road/Paffenrath, Muscoda Unit; Millville oak barrens, Millville Unit;and Baxter prairie remnants, Millville Unit.

A small portion of this year's donation will be spent on monitoring wildlife populations in the Riverway. Each summer hundreds of wood ducks are banded and we plan to expand banding operations downriver next summer. Bald eagles have made a remarkable comeback in the Riverway, but face continued threats to their recovery. The Biosentinel Project focuses on bald eagles as an indicator of ecosystem health. Each year young eagles are banded and a blood sample is taken to test for contaminants. Last year we monitored eagle nests along the entire Wisconsin River corridor, including 11 nests within the LWSR.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the generous donation of \$35,676.18 from Natural Resources Foundation-Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund

Approved by	Signature	Date
Tom Hauge, Director, Wildlife Management		10/2/15
Sanjay Olson, Administrator, Division of Fish, Wildlife, Parks		10/3/15
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		10/5/15

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

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its October 2015 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of \$35,676.18 from:

Natural Resources Foundation- Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund

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