Form 1100-001D (Rev. 01/16)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

Item No. 5.B.1.

SUBJECT: Donation acceptance – Ruffed Grouse Society

Ruffed Grouse Society will donate $32,000. This donation will be used to produce nine 2-3 minute videos to increase landowner engagement in active forest management and, by extension, address significant threats to forest health and sustainability .

FOR: October 2016 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Stepp

SUMMARY:

The Driftless Area of Wisconsin is internationally recognized for its unique topography and diverse natural communities. Maturation of the region's forests, however, poses a significant and immediate threat to long-term biodiversity goals. Forest Inventory and Analysis data suggest that young forest habitats (0-10 years of age) have declined by 77% since 1983, even though total forest cover has increased by nearly ½-million acres. Disturbance-dependent forest communities (e.g., oak and aspen) are increasingly being replaced by shade-tolerant communities (e.g., maple-basswood), and this trend threatens long-term forest diversity and even-aged management opportunities. Further, the majority of oak forests suffer from a scarcity of oak regeneration due to the lack of appropriate harvests/disturbance. Given that 94% of the region's forests are privately held, addressing these significant threats to forest health will require engaging private landowners regarding the importance of active forest management and the utility of timber harvests to achieving their own forest management goals.

The Driftless Forestry Network (DFN) has developed a science-based outreach protocol that has, since 2011, effectively provided landowners guidance regarding their forest management options. The public face for DFN, www.mywisconsinwoods.org, offers landowners a gateway to information regarding forest management and access to various sources of technical and financial assistance. In 2016, staff from the Ruffed Grouse Society, Wisconsin DNR, Aldo Leopold Foundation, and Driftless Area Land Conservancy initiated a collaborative project to supplement current DFN outreach efforts with a series of engaging videos that portray the various benefits of forest ownership, and threats to forest health in the Driftless Region. Nine 2-3 minute videos will collectively outline these benefits and threats in an appealing and accessible manner, providing an excellent opportunity to increase landowner engagement in active forest management and, by extension, address significant threats to forest health. The videos will be hosted on YouTube, linked on the MyWisconsinWoods website, and used broadly as a tool to better educate and engage forest landowners. The Ruffed Grouse Society will provide funding to support the development of this video series, guided by staff from the above-mentioned organizations and produced by Wisconsin DNR Office of Communications video staff.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the generous donation of $32,000 from Ruffed Grouse Society

Approved by	Signature	Date
Carmen Hardin, Division of Forestry, Forest Management Bureau Director	Carmen Hardin	10/18/2016
Darrell Zastrow, Acting Division of Forestry Administrator	Darrell Zastrow	10/18/2016
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		10/19/16

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

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its October 2016 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of $32,000 from:

Ruffed Grouse Society

This donation will be used to produce nine 2-3 minute videos to increase landowner engagement in active forest management and, by extension, address significant threats to forest health and sustainability .

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

Terry N. Hilgenberg, Chair