

05-04-15

Initiate a Wisconsin Wildlife Conservation Stamp and Committee

**Whereas;** A Wisconsin Wildlife Conservation Stamp would provide a robust, parallel revenue stream for Wisconsin public lands, preserving habitat and wildlife, while giving non-extractive users a funding tool and a stronger voice in habitat and wildlife decisions on our shared, public lands.

**Whereas;** Not only would such a stamp help overcome revenue shortfalls in the DNR programs, it could erase the cultural obstacles of hunter vs. non-consumptive user.

**Whereas;** Among wildlife watchers, there's little disagreement about supporting Wisconsin Natural Resources, along with the habitat and wildlife they sustain.

**Whereas;** Hunters and groups like the NRA consistently leverage the power of hunting and trapping licenses funding to promote hunter-friendly agendas sometimes overriding the voices of non-hunters whose considerations are often different yet equally valid.

**Whereas;** A 2011 survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service counted 71.1 million wildlife watchers in the U.S., and 13.7 million hunters. Wildlife watchers outnumber hunters significantly, and they spend \$55 billion dollars each year in the pursuit of wildlife activities. In other words, there is a large and enthusiastic source of untapped revenue from wildlife watchers, one that could be rendered viable through this dedicated funding stream.

**Whereas;** A Wildlife Conservation Stamp could fund species and habitat projects that are sometimes short-changed in favor of game animal priorities. It would be a separate but parallel and symbiotic addition to DNR budgets

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**Be It Resolved, that,** the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in ~~Dane~~ County on April 13, 2015, recommend to the DNR to create a wildlife conservation stamp and also create a WCC committee designed to reflect the non-consumptive natural resources interests.

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