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Retain the Research Positions in the Bureau of Science Research

The 2015-17 State Budget proposes to cut 18.4 positions from the DNR's Research Science Bureau.

The elimination of the researcher positions and the reassignment of the remainder into other bureaus will severely reduce the scientific information needed to manage fish and wildlife and public lands and waters and to defend against legal challenges to state fish and wildlife management.

In the past two years alone, these researchers completed 334 Wildlife, Forestry, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences research projects and surveys. Research involved game animals such as deer, grouse, bobcat, fisher, bear, turkey, non game animals as well as endangered species, and forest and habitat health, VHS, invasive aquatic species, shoreline and stream changes affecting migration and spawning, Asian carp, phosphorus loading and lake eutrophication.

Eliminating these positions does not reduce the GPR deficit because these positions are funded with sportsmen and women's dollars, i.e. state hunting and fishing license funds, Federal Pittman-Robertson funds, Federal Sports Fishing Restoration funds and Federally funded State Wildlife Grants.

Expecting UW do this research is not workable either. The University's budget has also been cut and the University does not do this type of applied fish and wildlife research. In addition, it will cost more sportsmen's money to do the research because the UW adds 30% in overhead costs to research project costs.

Therefore Be It Resolved, The Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Dane County on April 13, 2015, oppose the elimination of the 18.5 DNR research positions and ~~the~~ any reassignment of the research personnel into other bureaus.

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