

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: DELLS BOAT COMPANY AND ORIGINAL WISCONSIN DUCKS WILL DONATE \$11,000 TO HELP FUND THE GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM

FOR: MARCH 2008 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Matt Frank

SUMMARY:

The gypsy moth, a foreign tree pest typically goes through periodic outbreaks where its numbers increase dramatically. During outbreaks, an entire forest may be defoliated by the gypsy moth caterpillar, causing stress and mortality of trees. To prevent this, gypsy moth outbreaks can be treated with insecticide to reduce their numbers to tolerable levels. The Wisconsin Dells is known as a top tourist destination in Wisconsin and many come to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Wisconsin River corridor. The Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area protects this corridor as well as the many unique native plant communities that are uncommon in the state. The extent and diversity of the cliffs and cliff flora in the Dells is unmatched. These unique and rare communities would most likely be lost if the gypsy moth populations reach outbreak levels.

In October 2007, a gypsy moth egg mass survey was conducted within the Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area. During this survey high numbers of gypsy moth egg masses were discovered in two areas of the Natural Area. As determined by 1/40th acre surveys estimated gypsy moth egg masses ranged from 1,820 to 9,200 egg masses per acre in these two areas, well over the minimum of 1,000 egg masses per acre required for insecticide treatment. As a result of this survey, it was proposed that two blocks within the Natural Area totaling approximately 643 acres be treated in 2008.

Throughout the State, the demand for treatment has exceeded funding available through the gypsy moth suppression program to cover the entire cost of treating the 643 acres within The Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area. The Dells Boat Company and Original Wisconsin Ducks would like to contribute \$11,000 to help fund the treatment of the Natural Area. Without this donation a major portion of the Natural Area would go untreated.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board accept this donation.

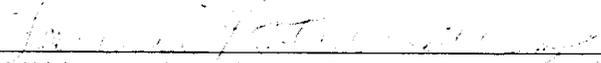
LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|--------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

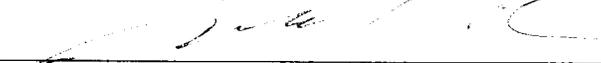
APPROVED:


Bureau Director, William H. Smith

2/12/08
Date


Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf

2/12/08
Date


Secretary, Matt Frank

2/13/08
Date

- cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5
- L. Eagan-SCR/Fitchburg
- M. Aquino-SCR/Fitchburg
- P. Zajackowski-Mirror Lake
- W. Smith-PR/6
- P. Biermeier-PR/6
- L. Netzer-PR/6

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its March 2008 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of \$11,000 from the

Dells Boat Company & Original Wisconsin Ducks

to help fund the treatment of The Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area and protect the unique native plant communities from a gypsy moth outbreak.

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

Christine Thomas, CHAIR