

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: The Willow River OWLs will donate up to \$30,000 to pay the salary of the environmental educator and a seasonal assistant at Willow River State Park.

FOR: AUGUST, 2012 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUMMARY:

The Willow River OWLs (Organization for Wildlife Learning) will donate up to \$30,000 to pay the salary of the park's limited term environmental educator and one other limited term position to assist with such programs.

With visitor use estimated at around 400,000 per year, the majority of it on weekends, providing programs for the public during peak use season has been possible with the participation of the OWLs. This is the fifteenth year of the OWLs funding the educator program with total donations reaching over \$200,000. The environmental educator has school groups in regularity for programs during the school year and provides a regular series of nature programs for young people.

In addition, the OWLs have funded playgrounds, accessible fishing piers, ski trail grooming equipment and educational programs for various volunteers.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval and acknowledgement of this generous gift is recommended.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- No Fiscal Estimate Required
- No Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No Background Memo

- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached

APPROVED:

Dan Schuller
Bureau Director, Dan Schuller

7/31/12
Date

Kurt Thiede
Administrator, Kurt Thiede

7/31/12
Date

Cathy Stepp
Secretary, Cathy Stepp

7/31/12
Date

cc: NRB Liaison
DNR Rules Coordinator

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its August, 2012 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of \$30,000 from

Willow River OWLs

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

David Clausen, CHAIR