

13-01-14

Citizen Resolution # 1

## Restore Beavers to Protected Status in the State of Wisconsin

The problem is that over the last century Wisconsin's wetland habitat has decreased for many reasons including the pollution of our natural resources & human mismanagement of these areas. Unfortunately, we have added chemicals, waste, heavy metals & other toxic compounds into our soil & water systems.

Animals like beavers are by their own nature watershed engineers. Their dams & ponds make new wetlands that are essential for migratory bird habitat, breeding areas & winter food sources. Beaver activity creates water-filled areas which can benefit countless plants, birds & wildlife. Wetlands contain specific plants that actually work together to filter water & act as a natural water treatment system. These special places provide opportunities for more things to grow that can help us cleanse the water and remove harmful irritants.

Coexisting with beavers is possible & there are many simple solutions to resolve conflicts where their activity is not welcome. The benefits of their cost effective style of engineering are priceless. Even when their dams and ponds are abandoned or emptied the rich soil beneath can naturally support the growth of new meadows & other ecosystems.

Whereas, fresh water is extremely vital to all living things & beavers use their natural engineering skills to construct new wetland areas..

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Dane County on April 14, 2014, recommend that the Dept. of Natural Resources take action to return beavers to protected status so that they can help us achieve the goal of providing abundant clean water for future generations

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