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Title: Increase land purchases to underserved parts of Wisconsin

The problem: Many counties in southern Wisconsin do not have enough public land to support the hunting and trapping needs of its citizens.

Whereas, purchases of land in Wisconsin weigh heavily in favor of northern counties such as Vilas, Bayfield and Florence counties where public lands already exceed 50 percent of the total, even more in some counties such as Forest County where approximately 83 percent is publicly owned; and,

Whereas, many counties in the southern part of the state contain less than 10 percent public land; and,

Whereas, antlerless tags available for use on public lands in southern counties do not meet the demand, while many private land tags go unclaimed; and,

Whereas, decisions in the past have often been made on a cost basis rather than on a need basis, resulting in some counties in the southern part of the state being underserved;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting held in Iowa County on April 11, 2016, requests that the Wisconsin State Legislature declare a moratorium on land purchases above Highway 64 until a more equitable distribution of funding through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is established based on a county-by-county analysis of public lands available for hunting and trapping in the southern portions of the state.

Submitted by:



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