

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Wings Across the Americas Habitat Management and Partnership Award – DNR staff recognition

FOR: October 2012 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUMMARY:

Secretary Stepp will present the Wings Across the Americas Habitat Management and Partnership Award to DNR Real Estate Director Dick Steffes, Division of Forestry Conservation Easement Specialist Nicole Potvin and Forest Legacy Program Specialist Amy Singh.

A collective three-year effort to secure a conservation easement on the forests on the shore of the Chippewa Flowage in Wisconsin has been recognized by the Wings Across the Americas Habitat Management and Partnership Award. This award recognizes the innovative partnership among the Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Trust for Public Land. The award was presented on March 14, 2012 at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Dick Steffes, Real Estate Director for Wisconsin's DNR, and Mike Murphy, Forest Legacy Program Manager for the US Forest Service Southern Region, accepted the award.

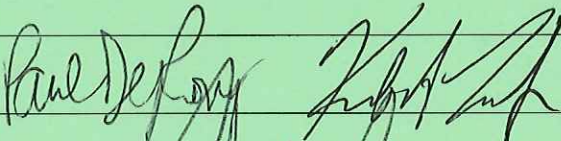

Covering more than 18,000 acres, the Chippewa Flowage is nestled between the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to the northeast and Wisconsin DNR land and lands of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Band to the west. Offering food and shelter for both migrating and nesting birds, the Chippewa Flowage Forest is one of the few places for the public to observe an active heron rookery, as well as migratory bird species because it straddles two bird conservation regions.

Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program is focused on maintaining large blocks of privately-owned working forest lands. The program ensures such lands can continue to be sustainably managed to provide forest products that supply one of Wisconsin's largest economic sectors, provide access to the public for outdoor recreation, and produce the full array of other public benefits from well managed forests, including habitat for a diversity of plant and animal species.

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- Background memo
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable

Approved by	Signature	Date
Bob Mather, Bureau Director		
Paul DeLong, Administrator		10/9/12
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		10/9/12