

Wisconsin DNR Trail News 03/27/2008
There are two news items in this message.

1. The next meeting of the Governor's State Trails Council will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 in Madison

The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Governor's Conference Room of the State Capitol Building and is expected to conclude by 3:00 p.m. Should the Governor's Conference Room become unavailable, the meeting will be moved to Room 330 SW, State Capitol.

The State Trails Council (STC) is appointed by the Governor under the authority of statute 15.347(16) to provide state trail user groups and individuals a voice in the statewide trails program. The STC also provides a forum for dealing with solutions to conflicts between and within trail user groups and trail providers. Additionally, the STC provides advice and consultation to the Department of Natural Resources regarding the planning, acquisition, development, and management of trails in Wisconsin. Additional information about the Governor's State Trails Council, including the meeting agenda, is available on the internet:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/council>.

Lunch will be catered in for State Trails Council members. An agenda for the upcoming meeting and draft minutes from the January 7 meeting are available on the Internet address above. The agenda and draft minutes will also be mailed out to State Trails Council members and to those who request them.

Please send correspondence regarding this April 2008 State Trails Council meeting to Joseph Warren in Madison (josephc.warren@wi.gov, 608-267-7487). Respond by April 8, 2008 if you are planning to attend the April 15 meeting.

2. Upcoming Public Hearings on Access to Stewardship Lands

The recently reauthorized Stewardship Program includes a provision requiring that all lands purchased with Stewardship funds be open to hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and other nature-based outdoor recreation. It may not always be possible or desirable to accommodate all five of these uses on every Stewardship property, and the new program allows for exceptions to full public access. These exceptions must now be defined by Administrative Rule. The purpose of the listening sessions is to help the Natural Resources Board identify criteria to determine when any of these activities may be restricted or limited and to provide input on how to accommodate multiple recreational users.

From Laurie Osterndorf, Administrator, Division of Lands at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:

Hello, Please make a concerted effort to encourage public attendance at the NRB listening sessions. If you're aware of any groups or individuals who may have interest in access to public land, including people who hunt, fish, trap, hike, cross-country ski or engage in any other nature-based activities, please forward the following press release to them. DNR staff will use their input to help craft language for the upcoming access rule. The more and varied opinions that are presented to the NRB, the better.

Thanks, Laurie

It is critically important that all users of Stewardship lands make their voices heard at the listening sessions so that Stewardship lands provide opportunities for a full range of recreational activities.

The public input meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be held:

April 1 Waukesha State Office Building, Room 151, 141 NW Barstow St., Waukesha

April 3 RCU Corporate Center, Eau Claire River Room, 200 Riverfront Terrace, Eau Claire

April 8 DNR Northeast Region Headquarters, Lake Michigan Community Conference Room, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay

More detailed information appears in this message sent out earlier today:

From: [DNR Hunting Fishing News](#)

To: [DNR Hunting Fishing News](#) ; hunt-fish@DNR.listserv.wi.gov

Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 9:52 AM

Subject: [Hunt-Fish] Citizen input sessions will look at defining access to Stewardship lands

A new stewardship access rule is the subject of three public input sessions scheduled for early April. Hosted by the Natural Resources Board Stewardship subcommittee and the Department of Natural Resources, the meetings will be held April 1 in Waukesha, April 3 in Eau Claire and April 8 in Green Bay.

The passage of the state budget last fall included the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund. "Governor Jim Doyle made a commitment to future generations in his successful drive to increase the amount of the Stewardship Fund from \$60 million to \$86 million each year for ten years beginning in 2011," DNR Secretary Matt Frank said.

The Stewardship reauthorization includes a provision requiring that lands purchased with Stewardship funds be open to five nature-based outdoor activities: hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and any other nature-based outdoor activity as designated by rule by the DNR. The legislature provided for limited exceptions if the Natural Resources Board determines it is necessary to prohibit one or more of the activities to protect public safety, to protect a unique animal or plant community, or to accommodate other usership patterns. This requirement does not apply to state park properties.

The Department will work with the public and a citizen advisory group to help identify criteria to determine under what circumstances these five primary nature-based outdoor activities may be restricted or prohibited, and to define "usership" patterns.

"We want this process to be thoughtful and thorough," said Frank "We look forward to working with the public to help us formulate a rule to provide opportunities for a full range of recreational activities."

Since its inception in 1990, the Stewardship Fund has been used by the Department to acquire 447,000 acres, and an additional 58,000 acres was acquired using Stewardship Grants by local governments and conservation organizations. More than 92 percent of this land is open to hunting and more than 98 percent is open to fishing, ensuring that

future generations in Wisconsin will have a place to hunt and fish as well as hike, ski, view nature and camp.

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The Natural Resources Board Stewardship subcommittee is headed by John “Duke” Welter from Eau Claire, with members Jane Wiley from Wausau, and Preston Cole from Milwaukee.

After the public meetings, the Natural Resources Board and the DNR will assemble a citizens group to advise the Department on developing the proposed rules. The advisory group will include representatives of various recreational constituencies, local units of government and land trusts. All public comments received will be presented to the advisory council.

Information on the new stewardship access rule and related materials, as well as an on-line public comment form, will be available beginning April 1 on the DNR web site at www.dnr.wi.gov.

In addition to input taken at the meetings and through the web site, written comments can be mailed to Laurie Ross, Natural Resources Board Liaison, PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921 telephone (608) 267-7420, email: Laurie.Ross@Wisconsin.gov The deadline for all written comments is Friday, April 18, 2008.

END Trail news, 03/27/2008

This is a subscription service for trail news from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Subscribers to this service will receive e-mails periodically from DNR about upcoming Governor's Wisconsin State Trails Council (STC) meetings and other trail news. For more information about Wisconsin State Trails or the STC, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/index.html>.

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