

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: On April 27, 1928 the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, predecessor to the Natural Resources Board, interviewed and hired Wallace B. Grange to become “the head of the Game Bureau” for the Wisconsin Conservation Department. This action marks the birthdate for the wildlife management profession within the Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS: Over the ensuing 85 years, the mission of the department’s men and women tasked to care for Wisconsin’s wildlife resources expanded from game bird and fur propagation, predatory bounties and sanctuaries to include research, wildlife damage control, public wildlife lands, population monitoring, continental migratory bird management, wildlife health monitoring, and restoration of extirpated, endangered and threatened species; and

WHEREAS: Beginning with the purchase of 1,280 acres for Wisconsin’s first public hunting ground at Deansville Marsh in 1938, the department’s “wildlifers” have secured and protected over 663,000 acres of important habitat across Wisconsin to sustain local wildlife populations and provide Wisconsin citizens with public land where they can enjoy wildlife through hunting, trapping, observation, and study; and

WHEREAS: Involving, educating and informing Wisconsin’s citizens on wildlife concerns has been, and continues to be, a successful strategy for conservation. Wildlife staff outreach has changed with the times from press releases and Conservation Bulletin articles to statewide programming for K-12 schools, education and outdoor skills centers and programs, Wildlife Friends groups, TV programming, and now social media; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin’s wildlife is legally held in trust by the State of Wisconsin and the Department is charged to develop wildlife management programs for the benefit of all of Wisconsin citizens through the above mentioned actions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Natural Resources Board extends our thanks and appreciation to the men and women of the wildlife management program, presently employed and those retired, which for 85 years have dedicated themselves to delivering professional, science-based, and publicly-supported wildlife conservation programs to the State of Wisconsin.

Adopted this 24th day of April, 2013 by the Natural Resources Board at its meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

Preston D. Cole, Chair