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Title: Re destination of land purchased with stewardship funds by the DNR

The Problem:

The Wisconsin DNR has recently been exposed for planning a 30 year study on forest regeneration and deer density **on land purchased with Stewardship funding in 2009..**

This land was purchase with Stewardship funds with the intention of allowing public access for hunting fishing trapping hiking and cross country skiing

Five years after the purchase, The DNR proposed closing **1050 acres for any public access for a deer browse study.**

We believe that this would set precedence to **allow** lands that are managed by the DNR, **purchased with Stewardship dollars to be closed to the public for recreational activities.** Furthermore, we believe this experiment was planned without ample disclosure, discussion, and transparency, or meeting stewardship requirements.

This experiment should be conducted on lands owned by the state **that are already fenced or closed to the public and** not on lands purchased and designated for open public recreation using stewardship funding.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Sheboygan County, April 14, 2014, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by requiring clearer intent, more input from adjacent landowners and from the public, **before any public accessible lands be closed to the public for research purposes,** and abandoning the proposed site for this project.

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