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15022015

Title: Hunting and Trapping on Department property at Strawberry Creek

Problem: The Department owns two contiguous 40-acre parcels of land at 1517 Strawberry Lane, Sturgeon Bay, WI. (The NW and SW of the NE, Sec 21-T27N-R26E). These parcels are adjacent to two Door County Land Trust parcels already open to hunting.

Currently, the entire property is designated as a "Fish Hatchery", which precludes people from hunting or trapping the property. State Statute 29.089(1) states, "No person may hunt or trap on land located in state fish hatcheries." The Department currently only uses a small portion (about 5 acres) for fish hatchery activities for spawning and rearing Chinook salmon. There is strong interest by hunters and trappers to use this area as it is a short drive for many Sturgeon Bay residents and offers abundant deer and furbearer populations.

I think that the area not used by hatchery activities should be re-designated to a "Fish Habitat Area" which would allow hunting and trapping on the remaining 75 acres. Property re-designation would not require legislation, only a Department rule change including approval by the Natural Resources Board. Local WDNR fisheries & law enforcement agree ;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Door County on April 13, 2015 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change to re-designate the approximate 75 acres of the two state owned 40-acre parcels of land at 1517 Strawberry Lane, Sturgeon Bay, WI that is not used by the fish hatchery to a "Fish Habitat Area."

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