

Citizen Resolution # 370314
(For Hearing Officer completion)



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

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

The Problem:

The Wisconsin DNR has recently been exposed for planning a 30 year study on forest regeneration and deer density.

Many stakeholders from hunters to the forest products industry are in favor of the science. The problem is that in 2009 the Natural Resources Board approved the purchase of the proposed site, which is now called the Ontonagon block, with the use of Knowles Nelson Stewardship fund.

The "green sheet" stated that the tract would remain open to the public for all nature-based outdoor recreational activities. Five years after the purchase, if the land is used by the DNR for this experiment, the 900 acres would be enclosed by a 10 foot high fence, and closed to the public.

We believe that this would set precedence to all lands that are managed by the DNR, placing at risk any lands open 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 or by stakeholders, 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 Marathon 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, and abandoning the proposed site for this project.

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Signature: 