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This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Please call (608)266-0823 for more information.

Printed in Wisconsin on paper made in Wisconsin.

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Recommended citation:
Pohlman, John D., Gerald A. Bartelt, Andrew C. Hanson III, Paul H. Scott, and Craig D. Thompson (Editors). 2006. *Wisconsin Land Legacy Report: An inventory of places to meet Wisconsin's future conservation and recreation needs*. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison, WI.



Editors' Note

Compiling all the information in this document was only possible due to the generosity of Department staff and members of the public who shared their knowledge about the special places in our state. DNR staff spent countless hours compiling information for this project, often under unreasonable time constraints, and for this we are very grateful. In addition, many citizens and non-profit organizations invested large amounts of time sharing their extensive expertise and knowledge. This report, quite literally, is a product of their collective wisdom, passion, and hard work. As editors, we hope we've been able to convey their extraordinary talents onto paper.

We are particularly thankful for the DNR folks listed at left who not only provided reams of information, but also acted as the funnels through which facts and data from divergent sources flowed. Their insights and support were critical to the project's success. Members of the Ecosystem Management Team provided invaluable information throughout the process and we have shamelessly reproduced large amounts of their findings in the report. We are indebted to Randy Hoffman and Eric Epstein, two individuals who understand the full breadth of Wisconsin's natural resources like no others we know, for sharing their vast knowledge.

Most of the maps located throughout the report are the work of Jeff Walters and Dennis Wiese. Maybe more than any part of the document, the maps provide a way to see not only how one part of the state differs from another, but also how the components of landscapes fit together. If a picture tells a thousand words, then these maps tell much, much more and we're thankful to have had their remarkable talents and good humor applied to this project.

A special thanks to all those who contributed the stunning photographs that grace these pages. They make the report eminently more readable and enjoyable. As readers can see, few photographers have captured Wisconsin's natural diversity with as fine an artistic eye as Thomas Meyer and Bob Queen and we're grateful for their generosity. Many thanks also to Jim McEvoy whose captivating drawings appear throughout the report.

We are also particularly indebted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. If not for their generosity and commitment, this report likely would not have been published. Mary Kirkpatrick of their Creative Communication Services area has our unending admiration for transforming a dry, draft document into the beautiful report before you. We are very, very appreciative of her diligence, creativity, and exceptional talent.

And finally, we'd like to thank Steve Miller and Bob Roden, the sponsors of the Land Legacy project. Their uncommon vision and unwavering dedication to the project are the foundations on which this report is built. Our work has been considerably easier and more satisfying because of their wise counsel, thoughtful leadership, and relentless optimism, for which we are very grateful. If this report proves fruitful in encouraging and guiding protection efforts in the years to come, it will be in large part due to these farsighted and big-hearted gentlemen.