



State of Wisconsin GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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WHEREAS, the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program was created in 1989 to protect and restore critical wildlife and fish habitat, preserve high-quality natural areas, improve water quality and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Stewardship Program enjoys broad public support and is founded on a long history of bipartisan initiatives to conserve public land in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Stewardship Program has permanently protected over 475,000 acres across the state including acquisition of over 1,000 miles of State Trail and development of thousands of additional miles of trails throughout Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Stewardship Program has provided places to recreate for the 85% of Wisconsin residents who enjoy outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Stewardship Program has leveraged over \$140 million in local and private dollars through 50% matching grants to municipalities and non-profit conservation organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Stewardship Program will expire in June 2010 unless the Legislature votes to extend it; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has proposed extending the Stewardship Program through 2020 and increasing funding for the program to \$105 million in 2011 as part of the 2007-2009 state budget; and

WHEREAS, we have a closing window of opportunity to protect critical wildlife habitat, lake and river shoreline, forested tracts, parks, and the other natural treasures that contribute to our quality of life, economy and general well being;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governor's State Trails Council supports reauthorization of the Stewardship Program at \$105 million annually from 2011 to 2020.

**Passed this thirteenth day of July 2007 by the Governor's Wisconsin State Trails Council.
Moved by Tom Thornton, seconded by Robbie Webber. Tom Huber abstained.**



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