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Governor Doyle Approves Purchase of Six Stewardship Land Parcels

Includes More Than 1,120 Acres of Land & Represents Investment of More Than \$3 Million

WAUNAKEE – Governor Jim Doyle approved today the purchase of six Stewardship land parcels from across Wisconsin. All together, the purchases include 1,123 acres of land and represent an investment of \$3,113,221. The purchases will help complete the Ice Age Trail, preserve land in the Kettle Moraine State Forest, provide opportunities for fishing and hunting, protect vital habitat for fish and wildlife habitat – including two bald eagles – and protect water quality in the Wisconsin River as well as the North Branch of the Milwaukee River.

“From the North Branch of the Milwaukee River, to the Clam Lake Wildlife Area, to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, the land we’re purchasing today with funding from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund will protect six natural areas across our great state for generations to come,” Governor Doyle said.

Governor Doyle made the Stewardship program a top priority in his last budget. Since he became Governor, Wisconsin has used almost \$51 million in Stewardship funds to purchase land for 98 projects in 64 counties – forever protecting more than 29,000 acres of land for our forests, parks, wildlife, and natural areas.

“Through the Stewardship program, we are able to preserve our precious rivers, lakes, forests, and lands for future generations to enjoy,” Governor Doyle said. “This bipartisan program has been a long-standing commitment to protect some of Wisconsin’s best remaining natural and recreational lands for our children and grandchildren. I am committed to protecting Stewardship so we can continue to preserve sensitive lands like the Ice Age Trail throughout the state.”

Governor Doyle signed documents approving the purchases at an event at Governor Nelson State Park.

Ice Age Trail Land Acquisition Polk County

The Governor has approved purchase of 200 acres for the Ice Age Trail in Polk County. When completed, the Ice Age Trail will run through much of Wisconsin from Door County south through the Kettle Moraine State Forest to Janesville, and then north through Devil’s Lake State Park to northwestern Wisconsin. In his State of the State Address, the Governor set the goal of permanently protecting the next 400 miles of the Ice Age Trail within the next decade. The total cost is \$300,000, with \$20,000 of the appraised value being donated by John Haas.

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**North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Area
Sheboygan County**

The Governor has approved the purchase of a 266-acre parcel, which includes a gift for the North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Area in Sheboygan County. The purchase will protect farmland from development and allow for management of the area for wildlife populations and habitat, in addition to protecting the water quality of the North Branch of the Milwaukee River. The total cost is \$559,244, with 33 acres being donated by Robert and Dawn Boehlke.

**Clam Lake Wildlife Area
Burnett County**

This 238-acre parcel will help expand the Clam Lake Wildlife Area in Burnett County with 3,650 feet of Clam Lake frontage. This land has excellent ecological values and possibilities for habitat restoration. The part of the property that is currently a fallow field will provide habitat for nesting waterfowl and other species when it is restored to native prairie grasses and other vegetation. Two bald eagles nest within a half-mile of the parcel. Trumpeter Swans and Northern Goshawks have been seen there as well. There are several fish species of special concern and rare plant species as well. The land provides important habitat for furbearers, reptiles, amphibians, songbirds, and other species. The Department of Natural Resources will have the opportunity to develop a small boat landing on the site, with some parking for use by anglers and hunters. The 238 acres will be purchased for \$340,000, and the Clam Lake Wildlife Area, which was established in 1958, will be expanded to include the new land.

**Lulu Lake State Natural Area
Walworth County**

The Governor has approved the purchase of 227 acres in the Lulu Lake State Natural Area. The purchase will forever protect one of southeastern Wisconsin's jewels – the 95-acre Lulu Lake – a 40-foot deep, drainage kettle lake fed by the Mukwonago River and situated at the base of glacial deposits. The lake and surrounding woods and wetlands are home to birds, fish, frogs, and other animals. The total cost is \$1,350,000.

**Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit
Walworth County**

The Governor has approved the purchase of 87 acres of land in the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit. The purchase will help restore valuable plant communities, including oak/central hardwoods, and will provide habitat for three endangered bird species. In addition, the purchase will allow for natural resource management and consolidate state ownership. The parcel has more than one million visitors a year and is heavily used for outdoor recreational activities. It is anticipated that the parcel will attract trail users, bird watchers, hunters, and passive outdoor recreation enthusiasts. The total cost is \$475,000.

**Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Land Acquisition
Crawford County**

This 103-acre parcel will be purchased for \$309,000. It is part of a large bluff that is readily visible from the Wisconsin River and provides commanding views of the Lower Wisconsin River Valley and the surrounding countryside. The property includes about one-half mile of frontage on the Wisconsin River and a small island. Purchase will provide land for public recreation, scenic protection, and wildlife habitat management. It will prevent development and help to preserve the natural condition of the Wisconsin River.