



WISCONSIN WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION

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For Immediate Release:

March 16, 2022

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Governor Tony Evers Named *Policy Maker of the Year* by Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

[Wales, WI] – Governor Tony Evers has been named *Policy Maker of the Year* by the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association (WWA) for his work during the 2021 – 2022 legislative session.

Evers was a steadfast supporter and champion of two issues important to waterfowl hunters and sportsmen across Wisconsin: the long-awaited and much needed adjustment to the price of the state waterfowl stamp, and the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

“Governor Evers has shown that he is a true friend to conservation and our state’s sportsmen and women. His support and leadership on these issues means that today’s hunters and anglers – and future generations – will be able to continue to enjoy our state’s strong sporting heritage. We are proud to name him one of our 2022 *Policy Makers of the Year*,” said WWA Executive Director Bruce Ross.

The price of the waterfowl stamp (\$7) had been in place since 1997. Unfortunately, inflation over the last 24 years significantly reduced the buying power of this critically important conservation funding mechanism. The result meant less habitat work was being done every year, which meant fewer acres of wetland habitat in Wisconsin and fewer ducks. Because of this, waterfowl hunters had been seeking an adjustment to the state waterfowl stamp for the last decade.

Governor Evers listened to calls from waterfowl hunters across Wisconsin and included a \$5 adjustment to the state waterfowl stamp in his proposed state budget. The legislature adopted his proposal, and the adjustment to \$12 means that there will be more funding available to enhance and restore habitat to produce more waterfowl in Wisconsin.

Governor Evers was also a leader to ensure that the state’s strongest conservation program – the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program – would continue for years to come.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is Wisconsin’s conservation program to acquire public lands for outdoor recreation – including hunting and fishing. Since 1989, this program has helped protect thousands of acres for our residents to hunt, fish and recreate. This critically important conservation tool was set to expire in 2022 and needed gubernatorial and legislative approval to continue. Without action by our elected officials, Wisconsin would have lost its ability to provide public lands for hunting, fishing, and recreation.

From the beginning, Governor Evers advocated a strong position on this issue and worked to ensure that this immensely popular program would continue. In his proposed state budget, Evers proposed increasing funding for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and continuing it for another 10 years. While the legislature ultimately only approved a four-year continuation of the program, without Evers initial strong support it’s likely that the program would not have been renewed at all.

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“Wisconsin’s hunters and anglers are some of the most dedicated and passionate conservationists in our state. I was proud to stand with them to help ensure that we can continue to provide great areas for people across Wisconsin to hunt, fish and recreate,” said Governor Evers.

The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association is a 7,000-member non-profit conservation organization that is dedicated to the conservation of Wisconsin’s waterfowl and wetland resources. Since 1984, WWA has worked to restore critical habitat in Wisconsin, educate the next generation of waterfowl hunters, and advocate for policies that protect Wisconsin’s resources and the rights of citizens to hunt and fish.

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