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warren knowles- gaylord nelson stewardship program

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Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program

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Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program

Introduction

Wisconsin's first stewardship program was created in 1989 Wisconsin Act 31 to acquire land to expand nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities and protect environmentally sensitive areas. Under the program, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acquires land and provides grants to local units of government and nonprofit organizations for land acquisition and property development activities through the issuance of state debt. These bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the state, and the government is required to use its taxing power if necessary to repay the debt. Annual debt service payments for principal and interest on stewardship bonds are primarily funded from general purpose revenues (GPR), with a portion paid from the segregated (SEG) conservation fund.

Since its creation in 1989, the program has been reauthorized three times—in 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, 2007 Wisconsin Act 20, and 2019 Wisconsin Act 9. The current authorization has an annual bonding allocation of \$33.25 million through 2021-2022. The annual allocation is divided among several statutorily defined purposes known as subprograms, which are described in a later section.

Program Funding

Under the original stewardship program, DNR allocated \$23.1 million of general obligation bonding authority and \$1.9 million of federal land acquisition funds to reach an annual expenditure authority of \$25 million, or \$250 million over 10 years, although this was later reduced to \$231 million overall. Under 1999 Act 9 and 2001

Wisconsin Act 16, the program was authorized at \$572 million overall and \$60 million annually for most years through 2009-10.

2007 Act 20 extended the stewardship program for another 10 years through fiscal year 2019-20 and increased the annual bonding authority under the program from \$60 million to \$86 million. Subsequent budget acts reduced annual program funding to \$33.25 million annually and \$474.25 million total through 2019-20.

2019 Act 9 extended the program for two years, to 2021-22, at an annual allotment of \$33.25 million. Act 9 accomplished this by allowing DNR to use approximately \$23.9 million in bonding authority that was not obligated to projects or purchases in prior years and unavailable for DNR to use, as described in the following section. Additionally, Act 9 provided approximately \$42.6 million in bonding authority to fully fund the two-year extension. Total statutorily authorized bonding authority under the program is currently \$1,088.9 million. Table 1 shows the level of bonding authorization and annual allotments for the program, by year.

Prior to 2011, if the Department did not obligate the full amount allocated under a stewardship subprogram, DNR was directed to raise the annual bonding authority for the subprogram by Wisconsin amount equal to the unobligated amount. 2011 Wisconsin Act 32 specified that this does not apply after fiscal year 2010-11. Beginning in fiscal year 2011-12, s. 23.0917(5g) of the statutes restricts DNR from carrying forward unobligated bonding authority into subsequent fiscal years, unless directed by statute. Through fiscal year 2018-19, approximately \$23.9 million bonding authority was not expended or committed to projects by DNR or legislative directive. 2019 Act 9

Table 1: Stewardship Statutory Bonding Authority and Annual Allotments

<u>Act</u>	<u>Fiscal Years in Effect</u>	<u>Change to Authorization</u>	<u>Cumulative Total</u>	<u>Annual Allotment</u>
1999 Act 9	2001-2002	\$460,000,000	\$460,000,000	\$46,000,000
2001 Act 16	2003-2010	112,000,000	572,000,000	60,000,000
2007 Act 20	2011	860,000,000	1,432,000,000	86,000,000
2011 Act 32	2012-2013	-234,000,000	1,198,000,000	60,000,000
2013 Act 20	2014	-63,500,000	1,134,500,000	47,500,000 ¹
	2015			54,500,000 ¹
2015 Act 55	2016-2020	-88,250,000	1,046,250,000	33,250,000
2019 Act 9	2021-2022	42,600,000 ²	1,088,850,000	33,250,000

¹2013 Wisconsin Act 20 set the annual bonding allotment at \$47.5 million in 2013-14, \$54.5 million in 2014-15, and \$50 million annually thereafter.

²2019 Act 9 increased the total bonding authority by \$42.6 million and authorized DNR to use \$23.9 million in existing bonding authority that had lapsed through fiscal year 2018-19.

allowed DNR to use this lapsed bonding authority in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to partially fund a two-year stewardship extension.

As of June 30, 2020, DNR underspent its fiscal year 2019-20 annual allotment by approximately \$14.3 million, as shown in Table 2. Occasionally, the Legislature will specify uses for such unobligated stewardship funds. Legislatively directed

stewardship expenses are discussed in a later section.

Stewardship Subprograms

The stewardship program has three active statutory subprograms: (1) land acquisition; (2) property development and local assistance, and (3) recreational boating aids. Table 3 shows annual allocations by subprogram for the 2011 through 2022 fiscal years. Appendix I shows expenditures by subprogram from 2010-11 through 2019-20.

Table 2: Unobligated Balances, by Subprogram, 2019-20

	<u>Annual Allotment</u>	<u>Unobligated Balance</u>
Land Acquisition		
Department Acquisition	\$9,000,000	\$6,549,600
NCO Acquisition	7,000,000	*
County Forest Grants	<u>5,000,000</u>	<u>7,510,300</u>
Subtotal	\$21,000,000	\$14,059,900
Recreational Boating Aids	\$2,500,000	\$166,100
Property Development and Local Assistance		
Property Development	\$3,750,000	\$0
Local Assistance Grants	<u>6,000,000</u>	<u>32,300</u>
Subtotal	\$9,750,000	\$32,300
Total	\$33,250,000	\$14,258,300

*NCO Carryover to County Forest Grants for Use in the Following Fiscal Year. \$4,140,400

Land Acquisition Subprogram

The land acquisition subprogram provides funding for: (a) DNR to purchase land and easements; (b) grants to nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs) to acquire land; and (c) grants to counties to acquire productive forestland. Properties acquired using stewardship funding are required to be open to public access for nature-based outdoor recreation. The Department has defined "nature-based outdoor recreation" by administrative rule to mean "activities where the primary focus or purpose is the appreciation or enjoyment of

Table 3: Annual Stewardship Program Allocations

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 through 2021-22
Land Acquisition						
DNR Acquisitions	\$46,500,000	\$16,833,000	\$20,525,000	\$14,000,000	\$13,600,000	\$9,000,000
NCO Acquisitions	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	7,000,000
County Forest Grants	1,500,000	1,167,000	1,875,000	6,000,000	4,500,000	5,000,000
BCPL Natural Areas	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	0	0
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE)	0	5,200,000	0			0
County Dam Safety Grants	<u>0</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,900,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	\$62,000,000	\$37,500,000	\$36,500,000	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$21,000,000
Recreational Boating Aids	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Property Development and Local Assistance						
DNR Property Development	\$10,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	\$3,250,000
Motorized Stewardship	0	0	0	500,000	500,000	500,000
Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery*	0	0	0	0	7,000,000	0
Local Assistance Grants	<u>11,500,000</u>	<u>8,000,000</u>	<u>8,000,000</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>
Subtotal	\$21,500,000	\$20,000,000	\$21,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$9,750,000
Total	\$86,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$47,500,000	\$54,500,000	\$33,250,000

*\$26.6 million is enumerated for the Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery project by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55. This includes up to \$19.6 million in previously authorized but unobligated stewardship funds, along with the \$7 million set aside in fiscal year 2014-15.

nature." These activities may include, but are not limited to, hiking, bicycling, wildlife or nature observation, camping, nature study, fishing, hunting, and multi-use trail activities.

Department Acquisitions. The stewardship program is DNR's primary source of funding for the acquisition of conservation land. DNR may obligate moneys under the land acquisition sub-program to acquire land for any of the purposes specified under statute, such as forests, parks, fisheries or wildlife areas, and natural areas. Table 4 provides a summary of the acreage acquired by program area, using stewardship funds or other means. Appendix II shows DNR acquisitions by county through June 30, 2020, under the stewardship program.

While stewardship is the largest source of funding for state land acquisition, acreage shown in the table includes land acquired through all

sources, including acres donated to DNR, or purchased or acquired using federal grant funding or other state funds since 1990. In addition to the stewardship program, the Department utilizes several federal grant programs to fund land acquisition including: Federal Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grants; Habitat Conservation Planning grants (Endangered Species); Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) grants; National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grants; National

Table 4: Cumulative DNR Acquisitions -- January 1, 1990, through June 30, 2020

Program	Acres
Fisheries and Streambank Protection	50,271
Northern Forests	322,615
Parks and Southern Forests	62,760
Wild Rivers and Resource Areas	105,281
Wildlife Management	203,766
Natural Areas	89,874
Administrative and Other	<u>28,716</u>
Total	863,283

Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants; North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants (NAWCA); Sport Fish Restoration grants for fishery projects and boating access; and Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration grants.

In addition to utilizing federal grants for land acquisition, DNR may also receive a gift or donation of land from a nonprofit organization or private landowner. DNR also may utilize certain other non-stewardship state funds from programs such as the nonpoint source pollution abatement program and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program to purchase land. However, the amount of available federal funds, gifts, and other state funds has varied greatly from year to year. Therefore, the majority of land acquisition purchases are made using stewardship bonding authority.

The Department expended a total of \$686 million for land acquisition (fee title and easements) between July 1, 1990, and June 30, 2020, including \$550 million in stewardship funds and \$136 million in federal grants, other non-stewardship state funds, and other funds and gifts. Acquisitions by component are summarized in Table 5. The table does not include land acquisition funds used for grants to nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs).

Acquisition Priorities. The Department must give priority to the following purposes: (a) acquisition of land that preserves or enhances the state's water resources, including land along the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway and land abutting wild rivers, wild lakes (defined in administrative rule as "a lake or flowage of at least five acres...identified in the Wisconsin register of waterbodies, where human influence, such as structural development of its shorelands, is not significant or can be removed at costs deemed warranted by the Department), and land along the shores of the Great Lakes; (b) acquisition of land for the stream bank protection program; (c) acquisition of land for habitat areas and fisheries; (d) acquisition of land for natural areas; (e) acquisition of land in the middle Kettle Moraine; and (f) acquisition of land in the Niagara Escarpment corridor. 2015 Act 55 requires DNR to set aside \$1 million for Department purchases for the Ice Age Trail.

The Department has set additional priorities for the acquisition of recreational land in s. NR 1.40 of the administrative code, such as placing primary emphasis on acquiring lands within 40 miles of Wisconsin's 12 largest cities: Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Janesville, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Racine, Waukesha, and West Allis. In addition, the De-

Table 5: DNR General Land Acquisition Expenditures -- July 1, 1990 through June 30, 2020

Category	Acres Purchased	Stewardship Cost	Other Cost*	Total Cost
Fisheries Management	45,151	\$55,907,400	\$19,449,300	\$75,356,700
Parks & Southern Forests	50,535	99,719,400	19,207,100	118,926,500
Northern Forests	312,156	145,004,200	26,851,800	171,856,000
Wild Rivers & Resources	103,739	94,159,100	6,057,000	100,216,100
Wildlife Management	114,985	98,843,700	40,990,800	139,834,500
Natural Areas	72,685	47,161,500	21,392,300	68,553,800
Other	<u>6,173</u>	<u>9,300,100</u>	<u>1,745,200</u>	<u>11,045,300</u>
Total	705,424	\$550,095,400	\$135,693,500	\$685,788,900

*Primarily federal, but including gifts and land donations from private individuals and nonprofit conservation organizations, and certain other non-stewardship state funds from programs such as the nonpoint source water pollution abatement program and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program.

partment, with the advice and consent of the Natural Resources Board, periodically updates its acquisition strategy to address evolving ecological, social, and land use trends. The Department released the Wisconsin Land Legacy report in January, 2006, which provides a guideline for applying land acquisition criteria and priorities statewide. An updated DNR land acquisition strategy for the stewardship program for fiscal years 2009-10 through 2019-20 was approved by the Board in December, 2010.

The Department has set additional priorities for the acquisition of recreational land in s. NR 1.40 of the administrative code. The top priority for acquisition is for the consolidation and completion of existing projects. When a state park, forest, wildlife area or recreation area is planned, a map showing the desired borders for the entire project is drawn. Usually, not all of the land proposed for the project is for sale at that time. DNR purchases property that is available within the mapped boundaries and then purchases additional parcels as they come available to fill out the project borders. Additionally, acquisition projects are also targeted toward meeting three goals: (a) provide the public with the land base needed for high-quality nature-based outdoor recreational experiences; (b) preserve Wisconsin's high-conservation-value lands and waters; and (c) maintain a portfolio of public lands that supports and enhances Wisconsin's nature-based economy.

The Department seeks to acquire lands to protect: (a) rare and threatened natural resources, genetic and biological diversity, and critical fish and wildlife habitat; and (b) water-based resources, including land for protecting and improving surface and ground water quality and land for recreation along streams, rivers, lakes and flowages. The Department also considers whether the land is under threat of conversion or impairment and whether DNR would be successful at acquiring a meaningful amount of land to meet recreation and conservation goals. In addition, DNR considers

the land's potential for return on investment, in the form of nature-based tourism, or generation of significant economic activity such as for the wood products and biofuel industries.

Section NR 1.41 of the administrative code specifies which Department land acquisitions require Natural Resources Board approval. In general, all land acquisition projects greater than \$150,000 are subject to Natural Resources Board approval.

Subprogram Restrictions. The Department may not acquire land using funding from the stewardship program without the prior approval of a majority of the members-elect of the county board of supervisors of a county in which the land is located if at least 66% of the land in the county is owned or under the jurisdiction of the state, the federal government, or a local governmental unit. Before determining whether to approve the acquisition, the county in which the land is located must post notices that inform the residents of the community surrounding the land of the possible acquisition. No county is currently subject to this provision.

Also, DNR may not obligate funding from the stewardship program for: (a) the acquisition of land for golf courses or for the development of golf courses; (b) the acquisition by a municipality of land that is outside the boundaries of the municipality unless the municipality acquiring the land and the municipality in which the land is located approve the acquisition; or (c) for the acquisition or development of land by a county or other local unit of government if the land involved would be acquired by condemnation. Additionally, no more than 20% of available stewardship bonding authority in any fiscal year may be used to purchase parcels less than 10 acres in size.

Stewardship Acquisition Limits and Project Boundaries. 2013 Act 20 created three limits on DNR land acquisitions under the program. First, of stewardship bonding authority allocated in a

year for Department acquisitions (currently \$9 million), DNR may obligate not more than one-third for the purchase of DNR land in fee simple; at least two-thirds of allocated bonding authority would be used for county forest grants or DNR acquisitions of easements.

Second, unless the Joint Committee on Finance approves the land acquisition, beginning July 1, 2013, the Department may not obligate any moneys from the stewardship program for DNR to acquire land that is outside a project boundary. A "project boundary" under this section is the boundary of a project established by the Department on or before May 1, 2013. Under this provision, a land acquisition is approved by Joint Finance if 12 of the 16 members of the Committee vote to approve the purchase.

Finally, DNR may not acquire land if the number of acres held by the Department in fee simple (approximately 1.5 million acres on July 1, 2020) exceeds 1.9 million acres, unless the Joint Committee on Finance approves the proposed acquisition under a 14-day passive review process.

Use of Future Bonding Authority For Certain Land Acquisitions. Beginning in fiscal year 1999-00, DNR may obligate any amount not in excess of the total bonding authority for the land acquisition subprogram for the acquisition of land, subject to the approval of the Governor and the Joint Committee on Finance under a 14-day passive review process. For such transactions, the Department must sell a portion of the acquired land. All proceeds from such sales, up to the amount obligated for the original purchase, are credited to a program revenue appropriation for the payment of principal and interest associated with such purchases. Any sale proceeds in excess of the amount originally obligated are deposited in the general fund.

If DNR were to obligate future bonding authority, the statutes provide a mechanism by which the

Department may reclaim or reduce subsequent years' bonding authority based on bonds issued for the project being retired with proceeds from the acquired land that was subsequently sold. The Department requested this authority in 1999 to fund the \$25 million "Great Addition" purchase in Iron, Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. It was requested again in 2001 to purchase lands for the Governor Earl-Peshtigo River State Forest for \$25 million.

Under another provision, DNR is permitted to, for a given fiscal year, in addition to obligating the amount of the annual bonding authority for a subprogram, obligate up to 100% of the annual bonding authority for that subprogram for that given fiscal year for a project or activity. Therefore, DNR could obligate bonding authority up to double the annual allotment for a subprogram in a given year. The Department must then adjust the annual bonding authority for that subprogram by lowering the annual bonding authority for the next fiscal year by the amount utilized beyond the authorized amount for the subprogram. In order for the Department to use this provision, the Natural Resources Board must determine that: (a) funds are otherwise insufficient; (b) any land involved in the project or activity covers a large area or the land is uniquely valuable in conserving the natural resources of the state; and (c) delaying or deferring all or part of the cost to a subsequent fiscal year is not reasonably possible. DNR used this authority for several purchases totaling approximately \$38 million in the 2006-07 through 2008-09 fiscal years.

Under s. 23.0917(5m)(c) of the statutes, lands acquired using these provisions do not have to be for conservation or recreational purposes. The Department of Administration (DOA) is required to monitor all transactions under these provisions to ensure compliance with federal law and to ensure that interest on the bonds is tax-exempt for the holders of the bonds.

Recent Department Acquisitions. DNR closed

one notable acquisition in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscal years. On July 23, 2019, the Joint Committee on Finance approved the purchase of a 14,352-acre easement in Iron County from Keweenaw Land Association, Ltd. for \$4.4 million. The easement is located within the forest legacy project boundary. The acquisition provides public access and connects several public forests. The easement also guarantees that the property will be managed according to a DNR-approved forest management plan. In addition, Keweenaw agreed to set aside \$400,000 from the purchase price to maintain existing forest roads and allow public access. Appendix III lists all stewardship acquisition transactions greater than \$5 million or 10,000 acres.

Grants to NCOs. NCOs may apply for funding under the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program for the acquisition of property for conservation purposes. DNR currently is required to set aside \$7 million each fiscal year through 2021-22 for grants to NCOs. At the end of each fiscal year, any remaining NCO allocation is made available for grants to county forests in the subsequent year. Land acquisition grants to NCOs may be for up to 50% of acquisition costs, in most circumstances. Lands acquired with NCO grants must be open to public use, except if necessary to protect wild animals, plant communities or other features. NCOs also may apply for stewardship funding under the property development and local assistance subprogram. (Land acquisition grants to NCOs are included in the "Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations" section of this paper.)

Grants for County Forests. 2007 Act 20 created a program under the land acquisition subprogram to provide grants to counties to acquire land to be included in a county forest. Counties had always been eligible for stewardship local assistance grants; 2007 Act 20 extended eligibility to the land acquisition subprogram. Each county receiving a grant under this program is required to provide matching funds of at least 50% of the land

acquisition costs. In lieu of funds, counties may use lands for their required match.

In order to be eligible for a grant to acquire land for inclusion in a county forest, administrative code Chapter NR 51 requires a county to have land entered in the county forest law program under s. 28.11(4) of the statutes, and to have entered into a memorandum of agreement with DNR. Counties that acquire land through the county forest program are prohibited from converting the land or the rights in the land acquired using program grant money to a use that is inconsistent with the type of nature-based outdoor recreation for which the grant was awarded, without the approval of the Natural Resources Board.

NR 51 also establishes criteria for evaluating and ranking applications for grants to counties to acquire land for inclusion in a county forest. These criteria include: (a) whether the project meets the criteria for county forests under s. 28.11; (b) whether the project has regional or statewide significance; (c) the degree to which the site is threatened by development or conversion to other land use; (d) whether the project is within the county forest boundary identified in the county forest comprehensive land use plan, a 15-year county forest land use management plan approved by the county board and DNR; and (e) whether the project is identified as an important acquisition within an existing plan or database, including the land legacy report, statewide forestry plan, forest legacy plan, county forest comprehensive land use plan, or other document. Annually, DNR will provide notice of the maximum funding allotment to counties for grants to acquire land for county forests through a process defined in the memorandum of agreement.

Prior to 2015 Act 55, DNR had discretion over the amount of annual land acquisition subprogram funding allocated to county forest grants. Act 55 specifies that \$5 million annually be set aside from the land acquisition subprogram only to provide grants to counties primarily for county forest

Table 6: Land Acquisition Allotments for County Forest Grants

Fiscal Year	Allocated for County Forest Grants*	Carried Over from NCO Grants	Total Available for County Forest Grants	Total Awarded for County Forest Grants
2010-11	\$1,404,000	N.A.	\$1,404,000	\$1,407,500
2011-12	1,167,000	N.A.	1,167,000	1,182,700
2012-13	1,875,000	N.A.	1,875,000	1,874,800
2013-14	6,000,000	N.A.	6,000,000	4,794,400
2014-15	4,500,000	\$4,910,700	9,410,700	4,559,100
2015-16	5,000,000	4,984,600	9,984,600	585,400
2016-17	5,000,000	1,584,541	6,584,541	282,200
2017-18	5,000,000	3,980,500	8,980,500	1,806,800
2018-19	5,000,000	4,098,510	9,098,510	3,602,800
2019-20	5,000,000	271,017	5,271,017	343,100

*\$5.0 million annually is allocated under 2015 Act 55, in addition to any carryover NCO funds from the prior fiscal year (\$4,100,000 unobligated from 2019-20 will be available in 2020-21).

grants. (The Department retains the discretion to allocate more than that amount.) In addition, 2013 Act 20 specified that, if at the end of a given fiscal year, any of the allocation for NCOs remains unobligated (currently \$7 million), DNR may carry-forward the unobligated bonding authority into the following fiscal year to be used only to provide grants in that fiscal year to counties to acquire land to be included in a county forest. Table 6 shows the annual county forest allotments from the land acquisition subprogram from fiscal year 2010-11 through 2019-20. Through June 30, 2020, the Department has awarded grants totaling \$20.4 million under the county forest program.

County Dam Safety Grants. 2011 Act 32 required DNR to set aside \$6 million from the land acquisition subprogram for dam safety grants to counties under s. 31.385 of the statutes. (Under 2015 Act 55, further county dam safety grants up to \$6 million were to be funded using unobligated bonding authority.) Grants may only be awarded for a county-owned dam that is under an order by DNR for maintenance, repair, modification, abandonment or removal as of July 1, 2011. Grants are provided for up to 25% of eligible project costs, with a maximum grant award of \$2,500,000. Through fiscal year 2019-20, \$1.7 million has been expended under this program. Stewardship

funding of \$449,400 has been expended on a project to demolish the Estabrook Dam in Milwaukee County. Additionally, \$1,262,200 has been expended on four projects in Vernon County.

Property Development and Local Assistance Subprogram

Although property development and local assistance are components of the same subprogram, they serve different purposes. The property development component primarily addresses property development on DNR-owned land, while the local assistance program awards grants to local or tribal governments and NCOs to acquire land for nature-based outdoor recreation and to local governments for nature-based recreational development on local conservation land.

Beginning in fiscal year 2015-16, 2015 Act 55 provides \$3.75 million each year in stewardship bonding authority for DNR property development (Further, of \$3 million in one-time SEG from the forestry account of the conservation fund appropriated each year in 2015-16 and 2016-17, \$2,136,100 is available as of June 30, 2020, for property development.)

2015 Act 55 also reduced the amount allocated

Table 7: Property Development and Local Assistance Subprogram (Annual Allotments)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 through 2021-22
DNR Property Development	\$12,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	\$3,250,000
Motorized Stewardship*	0	0	500,000	500,000	500,000
Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery			0	7,000,000	0
Local Assistance Grants	<u>8,000,000</u>	<u>8,000,000</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>
Total Annual Bonding Authority	\$20,000,000	\$21,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$9,750,000

*Motorized stewardship projects are subtracted from the DNR property development allocation beginning in fiscal year 2013-14. DNR indicates they plan to continue to allocate \$500,000 annually for motorized stewardship projects.

for local assistance grants from a maximum of \$8 million annually to a set amount of \$6 million annually beginning in fiscal year 2013-14. Table 7 illustrates how funding is allocated annually under the property development and local assistance subprogram.

Property Development. Funding obligated for property development is used for: (a) property development on DNR land; (b) property development on conservation easements adjacent to DNR land; and (c) grants to friends groups and nonprofit conservation organizations for property development activities on DNR land. Under statute, DNR (similar to other state agencies) is required to submit a six-year facility plan to the DOA Division of Facilities Development and Management listing the development needs of the agency's facilities and setting a preliminary timeline for their completion. Appendix IV provides information on recent major property development projects, and Appendix V lists stewardship expenditures by property.

Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery. 2013 Act 20 provided \$14 million for infrastructure improvements to the Kettle Moraine Springs (KMS) Fish Hatchery from the property development and local assistance subprogram, including \$7 million in fiscal year 2014-15 and \$7 million in 2015-16. Act 20 would have allowed DNR to carry forward

the \$14 million allocation for the hatchery through June 30, 2017. 2015 Act 55 removed the \$7 million allocation from fiscal year 2015-16 bonding authority. Instead, the Act specifies that DNR was authorized up to \$19.6 million in additional funds from existing stewardship bonding authority that was not obligated in fiscal years 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 for the KMS project, for a total of \$26.6 million available for the project.

The Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery and nearby "annex," located in Sheboygan County, is utilized for a significant portion of DNR Great Lakes fish stocking. According to the Department, the deteriorating condition of the facilities at the Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery could lead to an inability to meet Great Lakes fish stocking goals, and renovation of Kettle Moraine Springs is the Department's highest priority in the fish propagation system.

As of October, 2020, the Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery is operational using older facilities. However, a completion date for the project has not been established. A total of \$25,669,200 has been expended on the project. An additional \$801,100 has been encumbered for a total project budget of \$26,470,300.

Motorized Stewardship Grants. 2013 Act 20 specifies that stewardship property development

subprogram funds may be used for aids to the state, counties, villages or towns for the following snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), and utility terrain vehicle (UTV) trail aid projects: (1) snowmobile trail project costs including: (a) development of trails; (b) the cooperative snowmobile sign program; (c) major reconstruction or rehabilitation to improve bridges on existing approved trails; (d) trail rehabilitation; and (e) signing of snowmobile routes and state snowmobile trails and areas; and (2) ATV and UTV projects including: (a) acquisitions of easements and land; (b) development of facilities, routes, and trails; (c) development of a snowmobile route or trail or an off-road motorcycle trail or facility if the route, trail or facility is open for use by ATVs; (d) improvement of ATV trails for use by UTVs; and (e) placement of signs briefly explaining the law related to intoxicated operation of ATVs and UTVs. A DNR grant may not exceed 80% of eligible project costs, meaning at least a 20% local match is required. In fiscal year 2018-19, DNR awarded \$410,400 to two motorized stewardship grants. In fiscal year 2019-20, DNR awarded \$466,800 to two grants.

Local Assistance. Funding obligated for local assistance may be used for: (a) grants for acquisition of urban green space; (b) grants for acquisition and development of local parks; (c) grants for acquisition of property development rights; and (d) grants for acquisition and development of urban rivers. Stewardship funds may generally be provided for up to 50% of eligible project costs. Administrative code Chapter NR 51 further addresses the administration of these grant programs. NR 51 specifies that playgrounds may be eligible for development of local parks grants only as "support facilities" and only if they "occupy a minor portion of the grant property" and do not take away from the primary purpose of the project. Further, the rule also specifies that ineligible acquisition or development projects include, but are not limited to "acquisition and development of areas and facilities that do not meet the definition of

nature-based outdoor recreation as defined in NR 51 such as spectator sports, stand-alone playgrounds, swimming pools, dedicated sports fields, tennis courts and hockey rinks."

Recent Grants to Local Units of Government. Through June 30, 2020, DNR has provided a total of approximately \$184.2 million in stewardship grants to local units of government under the local assistance program as shown in Appendix VI. (Local assistance grants to NCOs are included in the "Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations" section of this paper.)

In fiscal year 2018-19, the Department provided 38 local assistance grants totaling \$5,957,100. In fiscal year 2019-20, the Department provided 21 local assistance grants totaling \$2,678,100. These amounts do not include projects that are pending review by the Joint Committee on Finance. Grants included trail development, urban riverfront rehabilitation, new and enhanced boat launches, fishing piers, property acquisition to support trail development, and similar public outdoor recreation projects.

Recreational Boating Aids Subprogram

2007 Act 20 created a recreational boating aids subprogram. The program has an annual bonding allotment of \$2,500,000 as well as \$400,000 SEG from the water resources account of the conservation fund. Funding for recreational boating grants totals \$2.9 million annually.

Under the recreational boating aids subprogram, DNR provides grants to municipalities, counties, town sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, qualified lake associations, and the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board for up to 50% of the costs (or more in certain circumstances) of developing recreational boating facilities approved by the Waterways Commission. The Waterways

Commission is a five-member board appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for staggered, five-year terms. Grants are available for recreational boating projects that include providing public access via boat ramps and related parking facilities, navigational aids or markers, dredging, weed removal, and capital equipment used for trash or debris removal.

Recent Recreational Boating Aids Grants. In the 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscal years, the Department awarded the following large recreational boating aids grants: (a) \$581,800 was awarded to the City of Omro to rehabilitate boat launch facilities on the Fox River; (b) \$485,000 was awarded to the City of Lake Mills to relocate and renovate the Sandy Beach boat launch on Rock Lake; and (c) the City of Washburn was awarded \$254,200 for the installation of boarding docks and bulk head repair at West End Park boat launch on Chequamegon Bay.

Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations

NCOs are eligible to apply for grants under both of the major stewardship subprograms, the land acquisition subprogram and the property development and local assistance subprogram. Funds received as grants under the land acquisition subprogram are used to acquire land for a variety of purposes, such as habitat areas, natural areas, streambank protection, trails, and wild lakes, in accordance with the statutorily enumerated priorities for land acquisition funding.

Funding of \$7 million is set aside annually from the land acquisition subprogram for grants to NCOs. 2013 Act 20 specifies that, if at the end of a given fiscal year, any of the NCO allocation remains unobligated, DNR may carry forward the

unobligated bonding authority into the following fiscal year to be used only to provide grants in that fiscal year to counties to acquire land to be included in a county forest.

Section 23.096(2)(b) of the statutes allows the Department to award grants to NCOs for up to half the cost of acquiring property. However, grants of up to 75% of the property acquisition costs may be made to NCOs if the Natural Resources Board determines that all of the following apply: (a) that the property is uniquely valuable in conserving the natural resources of the state; (b) that delaying or deferring the acquisition until 50% of the acquisition costs are procured by the NCO is not reasonably possible; and (c) that sufficient bonding authority remains in the \$7 million set aside for land acquisition grants to NCOs for that fiscal year, after awarding grants to nonprofit conservation organizations that meet the 50% matching requirement.

Before receiving a grant, s. 23.096(3) of the statutes specifies that an NCO must enter into a contract with DNR. The contract must: (a) specify standards for the management of the property to be acquired; (b) prohibit use of the property as security for any debt, unless DNR approves; and (c) prohibit the property to be acquired from being closed to the public, unless DNR determines it is necessary to protect wild animals, plants or other natural features. (Beginning October, 27, 2007, fee title acquisitions and easements on former managed forest law (MFL) land acquired using stewardship funds are generally required to be open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing subject to the requirements under s. 23.0916. It is common for NCO acquisitions to be subject to this requirement as well.) In addition, the contract must specify that any subsequent sale or transfer of the property by the NCO may be made only with the approval of the Department and only if the potential owner enters into a new contract with DNR. If the NCO violates any essential provision of the contract, title

to the acquired property will vest in the state.

NCOs are also eligible for matching grants under the property development and local assistance subprogram. Matching grants may be given to NCOs for property development and habitat restoration on land owned by the Department, acquisition of urban green space, acquisition of local parks and urban rivers areas, and for the purchase of development rights (easements) for conservation purposes. NCOs are not eligible for development of local parks. As mentioned previously, all funds expended under this subprogram must be used for nature-based outdoor recreational purposes.

In addition, DNR may provide up to \$250,000 each year in matching grants to friends groups and NCOs for property development activities on Department-owned property, with no more than \$20,000 in grants for any property in a given fiscal year. Friends groups have first option on available funds.

Small groups that do not qualify as a nonprofit organization may enter into a partnership with a qualified NCO to apply for a one-time stewardship grant of up to \$20,000 for habitat restoration and land acquisition. Under this provision, the qualified NCO would act as the fiscal agent for the grant and would retain title to the land.

Contracts with Third Parties

DNR is currently authorized to contract with nonprofit conservation organizations (including land trusts) and other third parties to perform land management, maintenance, and improvement activities on Department land. In addition, 2011 Act 32 authorized DNR to receive gifts, grants, and bequests of money, materials, or services from NCOs and other donors for the performance of these activities on Department land. Act 32 also specifies that DNR may acknowledge the performance of these activities on DNR land through

signs, bulletins, pamphlets or other communications.

DNR is required to submit a report to the Joint Committee on Finance annually by November 15, which includes information on costs of contracts with NCOs and other third parties, activities performed, and the cost-effectiveness of the contracts in the prior year. The fiscal year 2019-20 report categorized DNR contracts with private companies and NCOs totaling approximately \$11.6 million, including: (a) \$326,200 for boat access maintenance; (b) \$2,391,300 for habitat maintenance; (c) \$194,900 for fish hatcheries projects; (d) \$1,510,000 for invasive species control; (e) \$3,821,000 for landscaping and land maintenance; and (f) \$3,345,800 for other facilities, trails, and dam/dike maintenance.

Recent Grants to NCOs

As of June 30, 2020, 78 NCOs (not including friends groups) have been awarded 860 grants under 10 of the stewardship components, as follows: (a) 328 grants for natural areas; (b) 304 habitat areas grants; (c) 69 grants for the Ice Age Trail; (d) 53 grants under the stream bank protection program; (e) 21 grants for urban green space; (f) 29 grants under the acquisition of development rights component; (g) 12 grants for acquisition of local park lands; (h) 13 grants under urban rivers; (i) four grants under state trails; (j) nine in the Baraboo Hills program; and (k) 18 grants were awarded through a mixture of funds from the multiple components listed above.

Since the inception of stewardship NCO grants, several NCOs have received multiple grants, including The Conservation Fund, Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, Natural Heritage Land Trust, and The Nature Conservancy, among others. In the last two fiscal years, two NCOs received their first stewardship grants: The Associated Conservation Clubs of Trempealeau County and Friends of

North Pikes Creek Wetlands. Nonprofit grantees represent all regions of the state -- The Ice Age Trail Alliance, Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Foundation, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, Door County Land Trust and Northwoods Land Trust among them. Stewardship grant awards by county are summarized in Appendix VI.

In January, 2020, the Green Rock Audubon Society added 39 acres surrounding Raccoon Creek to the Cleophus Reserve in Rock County. Volunteers maintain riparian corridor, prairie and oak savanna with hiking trails along one of few trout streams in Rock County.

The Nature Conservancy added 120 acres to the Spring Green Preserve and State Natural Area. The property contains dry prairie and oak woodlands on the bluffs above the Wisconsin River. The addition links the preserve to road access from the west and allows for improved management of this property, which relies on selective timber harvest and prescribed fire to support oak regeneration and healthy grassland cover.

Stewardship Earmarks

Beginning in the 1991-93 biennium, statutory earmarks from the stewardship program have been included in some legislative acts. Appendix VII contains a list of each statutory earmark since the 1991-93 biennium. Some earmarks directed use of funds from specified subprograms. Since fiscal year 2011-12, various legislative acts have set aside unobligated bonding for directed state and local projects.

Parks Water Infrastructure

2017 Wisconsin Act 71 authorized DNR to expend, from 2016-17 unobligated stewardship bonding amounts, up to \$4,500,000 for critical

health and safety-related water infrastructure projects in state parks. Priority is to be given to projects in parks with the highest demands. As of October, 2020, DNR has committed the entire \$4.5 million to projects. Of this \$3,189,000 has been expended and \$742,100 remains encumbered. Similarly, 2019 Act 93 authorized DNR to expend, from 2017-18 stewardship unobligated bonding amounts, up to \$5,300,000 for water infrastructure projects in state parks. Of this amount, \$166,700 has been committed to projects.

2017-19 Biennial Budget

2017 Act 59 specifies that DNR may utilize unobligated bonding authority for seven projects.

DNR was directed to award a \$1,000,000 grant to Iron County for a project to rebuild Saxon Harbor marina and campground. As of November, 2020, construction was complete and \$500,000 has been expended. An additional \$500,000 has been encumbered for the project and Iron County was expected to apply for a reimbursement in December, 2020.

2017 Act 59 also directed DNR to award up to \$1,000,000 for the acquisition of an approximately 13-mile long abandoned rail corridor between Dover and Sturtevant, in Racine County. As of November, 2020, Canadian Pacific, the railroad owner, has agreed to a sale price of \$1,500,000. Racine County is raising funds for the remaining \$500,000.

Additionally, DNR was directed to provide up to \$750,000 for a grant to the Friends of Peninsula State Park, Inc. for up to 50% of the costs to rebuild the Eagle Tower in Peninsula State Park. In October, 2020, the Building Commission approved a \$3.5 million contract for the Eagle Tower project. Construction began in November, 2020.

Act 59 earmarked up to \$500,000 for a project to enhance a shelter located near the Palmary

Scenic Overlook on the south side of the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area. In May, 2020, the Building Commission approved a \$658,000 budget for the project. As of October, 2020, construction is ongoing and \$327,800 has been expended.

Act 59 also provided an additional grant of up to \$415,300 for the Neenah-Menasha Twin Trestles project. 2015 Act 55 had previously provided up to \$800,000 as a matching grant for the project. Through November, 2020, \$1,060,100 has been expended and an additional \$155,200 has been encumbered for the project.

Further, Act 59 authorized an additional \$7.5 million for a replacement for the Little Falls Dam in Willow River State Park. 2015 Act 55 authorized DNR to spend up to \$5 million in previously unobligated bonding authority. 2017 Act 59 raised the total project budget to \$12.5 million. Through November, 2020, \$11,965,600 has been expended and an additional \$27,500 has been encumbered.

2017 Act 59 also amends the statutory authority for the DNR municipal flood control (MFC) program and provides a matching grant of up to \$14,600,000 to support a project executed by the Army Corps of Engineers under the federal Flood Control Act. Funds for the grant are to be obligated from unobligated stewardship funding. As of October, 2020, the Army Corps of Engineers approved a project feasibility study and the Corps and DNR are working to develop a partnership agreement for the project. The project is estimated to cost at least \$38 million. No statutorily obligated funds have been expended. 2017 Wisconsin Act 369 extended the authorization to expend the funds through June 30, 2021.

Stewardship Debt Service and Administration

The state generally issues 20-year tax-exempt

Table 8: Stewardship Debt Repayments

Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2011-12	\$0	\$26,663,900	\$26,663,900
2012-13	46,165,500	30,409,300	76,574,800
2013-14	55,040,600	30,591,900	85,632,500
2014-15	40,035,400	27,551,200	67,586,600
2015-16	45,673,600	27,332,000	73,005,600
2016-17	55,400,300	26,919,800	82,320,100
2017-18	52,391,100	26,209,300	78,600,400
2018-19	61,182,800	26,723,500	87,906,300
2019-20	50,876,600	23,852,000	74,728,600
2020-21*	55,467,400	22,994,200	78,461,600

*Includes \$30.8 million paid in December, 2020, and \$47.7 million scheduled to be paid in 2021.

Source: Department of Administration, Capital Finance

general obligation bonds to support stewardship expenses. Debt service for stewardship bonding is primarily funded from a sum-sufficient, general purpose revenue (GPR) appropriation in DNR. In addition, since 1999-00 funds have been appropriated from the forestry account of the segregated conservation fund. Under current law, \$13.5 million SEG is provided on an ongoing basis from the forestry account.

Table 8 shows state principal and interest payments for stewardship-related debt service over a 10-year period. As shown in the table, in fiscal year 2011-12, debt service payments for the program declined significantly due primarily to the state's decision to defer payment of principal on a large portion of its outstanding GPR-supported, general obligation debt, including the stewardship program debt.

In addition, 2013 Act 20 requires the Natural Resources Board to offer for sale at least 10,000 acres of DNR property located outside the project boundaries established as of May 1, 2013, and specifies that proceeds are to pay principal on outstanding public debt issued under the stewardship program. From fiscal year 2013-14 to fiscal year 2019-20, these payments reduced stewardship

debt by \$6.5 million. These required land sales are discussed in a later section.

During fiscal year 2019-20, DNR had 26.14 positions in the agency funded from general operations appropriations that are involved in various aspects of the stewardship program. This represents staff from a variety of funding sources throughout the agency that devote a portion of their workload to stewardship program-related duties. These staff are assigned to the following bureaus: (a) 19.52 positions in Facilities and Lands; (b) 4.85 positions in Community Financial Assistance; (c) 0.42 position in Parks and Recreation; (d) 1.18 positions in Legal Services; (e) 0.09 position in Natural Heritage Conservation (formerly known as Endangered Resources); and (f) 0.08 position in Southern Forests.

Stewardship Program Oversight

Natural Resources Board

Under s. NR 1.41 of the administrative code, the following land transactions require the approval of the Natural Resources Board: (a) acquisitions with a purchase price of \$150,000 or more; (b) acquisitions of more than 40 acres outside of an established project boundary; (c) acquisitions for which the purchase price exceeds the highest appraised value; (d) acquisitions in which improvement values exceed 35% of the total appraised value; (e) acquisitions of short tenure with substantial increased value; and (f) sales of state land that are no longer needed for conservation purposes where the value exceeds \$50,000 or where the area exceeds 40 acres. In addition, s. 23.15 of the statutes requires all proposals for the sale of any land under the jurisdiction of DNR, determined by the Natural Resources Board to be no longer need for conservation purposes, to be submitted to the Governor for approval.

Grants to local governments and NCOs generally are not subject to review by the Natural Resources Board. However, all projects go through an internal scoring process and review by Department staff. In addition, 2011 Act 32 requires that, in order for public access for nature-based outdoor activities to be prohibited on land acquired using stewardship funds in fee title or through an easement on former MFL land, the Natural Resources Board must determine that a closure is necessary to: (a) protect public safety; (b) protect a unique plant or animal; or, (c) to accommodate usership patterns, if acquired for a state trail or the Ice Age Trail. As a result, a summary of those stewardship grants for which a prohibition of an NBOA is proposed are submitted to the Natural Resources Board for approval.

It should also be noted building projects over \$1,000,000 are required to be specifically enumerated in state law and reviewed by the State Building Commission for approval prior to bidding. Also, any state-funded development project in excess of \$300,000 must be reviewed by the State Building Commission for approval prior to bidding. Building projects up to \$300,000 in costs, which are referred to as small projects, are required to be reviewed by the Department of Administration Division of Facilities Development and Management for approval prior to bidding.

Joint Committee on Finance

2011 Act 32 required that all stewardship projects of over \$250,000 be subject to a 14-day passive review procedure. Under the Act, the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) has 14 working days from the receipt of a stewardship passive review request to notify DNR that a meeting has been scheduled. If, within that time period, the Co-Chairs do not notify DNR that a meeting has been scheduled, DNR may proceed with the project. Under 2011 Act 32, if the Co-Chairs schedule a meeting by JFC, a majority vote is required to approve or amend the proposal.

2015 Act 55 specifies that all fee simple land acquisitions north of State Trunk Highway 64 acquired using stewardship funds are subject to review by the JFC under a 14-day passive review process. State Trunk Highway 64 runs east–west across Wisconsin from U.S. Highway 41 in the City of Marinette to the Minnesota state line on the Stillwater Bridge in Stillwater, Minnesota.

From July 1, 2011, through December, 2020, Joint Finance had reviewed 235 stewardship projects for 72 DNR acquisitions and 163 grants under the various oversight provisions, including 32 projects less than \$250,000 but north of Highway 64.

Aids in Lieu of Property Taxes

DNR pays aids in lieu of property taxes on land holdings to the jurisdictions in which the land is located. Payments may vary based on the date of DNR's acquisition. Since 1992, when DNR acquires land, the Department pays aids to the city, village, or town in which the land is located to approximate the tax that would be due on the estimated value of the property at the time it was purchased, adjusted annually to reflect changes in the equalized valuation of all land, excluding improvements, in the taxation district. The municipality then pays each taxing jurisdiction, including the county and school district, a proportionate share of the payment, based on its levy. Prior to July 1, 2011, the estimated value typically equaled the purchase price, while after that date the value typically represents the equalized (property tax) value in the year prior to purchase.

Since fiscal year 2016-17, 50% of aids in lieu of taxes on lands acquired since 2011 are paid from the forestry account with the remaining 50% paid from GPR. Table 9 shows aids in lieu of property tax payments since 2011-12. The amounts

Table 9: Aids in Lieu of Property Tax Payments

Fiscal Year	GPR	SEG	Total
2011-12	\$7,842,000	\$5,619,300	\$13,461,300
2012-13	7,389,700	6,246,200	13,635,900
2013-14	8,031,200	6,246,800	14,278,000
2014-15	7,444,700	6,246,700	13,691,400
2015-16	6,309,700	7,229,300	13,539,000
2016-17	7,433,900	6,097,100	13,531,000
2017-18	6,603,900	7,015,100	13,619,000
2018-19	6,565,700	6,977,300	13,543,000
2019-20	6,668,400	7,143,300	13,811,700
2020-21*	6,672,500	7,350,000	14,022,500

*Budgeted.

shown in the table include approximately \$364,000 GPR and \$780,000 SEG annually for payments for lands acquired prior to January 1, 1992.

Estimated Value

The statutes for aids-in-lieu payments specify that estimated value means the lower of the equalized value of the property in the year prior to purchase by DNR, or the purchase price. In cases where the property had been previously tax-exempt, the estimated value would be the purchase price, except an aid payment may not exceed \$10 per acre.

As land purchased by the Department that was enrolled in the forest crop law (FCL) or managed forest law (MFL) programs is subject to preferential tax treatment, but not technically considered tax-exempt, FCL and MFL continue to be assigned assessed values. As a result, aids payments for FCL or MFL parcels purchased by the Department were typically calculated based on the full assessed value. This would generate significantly greater amounts to the local government than typically received in payments under the FCL or MFL programs. For example, the Department of Revenue estimated that local governments received approximately \$2.10 per acre on average in MFL fees in 2011-12 (80% to towns and 20% to

counties), versus approximately \$33 per acre for similar forest lands not in the program. 2011 Act 32 and 2013 Act 20 therefore specified that for lands acquired after July 1, 2011, in cases where the property had been tax-exempt in the year prior to acquisition, or enrolled in the FCL or MFL program at the time of purchase, estimated value means the lesser of either the purchase price or an amount that would result in a payment of \$10 per acre.

The amount determined under this formula would continue to be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the equalized valuation of all land, excluding improvements, in the taxation district. This provision was included to ensure that the aids payments for lands previously enrolled in the FCL or MFL programs would more closely resemble the payment amounts received by the local jurisdiction under the forest tax law programs. While the \$10 per acre payment is higher than the amount local governments would have received under the FCL or MFL programs, it was chosen to reflect the fact that FCL and MFL orders expire (MFL orders last 25 or 50 years) and may, or may not, be renewed. Parcels that are not renewed in MFL would return to the property tax rolls.

Assessed Value

Assessed value is the value placed on a property by the local unit of government for property tax purposes. Most assessors value property at some fraction of market value, despite a statutory requirement that property be assessed at full value. A series of court cases, dating back to the 19th century, has interpreted statutes to allow assessed values at a fraction of market value, provided the same fraction applies to all property in the taxation district. As a result, local assessors can assess property at a level below market value without violating the state constitution's requirement of uniform taxation.

Appraised Value

DNR is required to obtain two appraisals for any land acquisition, including land acquisition grants to local governments and NCOs, that is estimated by DNR to be greater than \$350,000. For land acquisition grants, DNR pays for one appraisal and the grant applicant pays for the second appraisal.

Assessors and appraisers generally determine the value of property based on the property's highest and best use that will produce the greatest net return to the property owner over a reasonable period of time. Three methods are generally accepted in determining the value of property.

- Under the sales comparison method, value is determined by analyzing recent sales of property that are similar in size, age, use, location and other factors.
- Under the cost method, the value of the land is estimated and added to the cost of replacing any attached structures.
- Under the income method, the present value of the property is determined from the estimated future income derived from the property. While all three approaches are accepted, the sales method is the approach most commonly used in the stewardship program and private real estate transactions that involve property with similar characteristics.

Commonly accepted definitions of highest and best use utilized by appraisers generally take into account four different factors when making the determination:

- Physical possibility, taking into account the size, terrain, soil composition and utility availability for the parcel that may limit the use of the land;

- Legal permissibility, including applicable zoning regulations, rezoning prospects, building codes, deed restrictions, historic district controls and environmental regulations;
- Financial feasibility, meaning any use that produces a positive rate of return based on the characteristics of the property; and
- Maximum productivity, under which no other use of the land would provide a greater net return to the owner based on land costs, physical characteristics, legal constraints and the economic characteristics of the surrounding area.

For a particular piece of property, there may be some difference of opinion among those doing the property valuation regarding any of these factors. The physically possible uses of the parcel, for example, would be influenced by the proximity of a sewer line to the parcel. The legally permissible uses of a parcel of land could be affected by current zoning designations and a particular municipality's history of approving zoning changes that affect the ability of land in the municipality to be developed. In these cases, assessors, appraisers, and potential buyers must make certain assumptions related to these factors to be able to determine a value for the property.

Further, under s. 32.09(5)(b) of the statutes, any increase or decrease in the fair market value of a property caused by any public improvement for which property is acquired, or the likelihood that the property would be acquired for such an improvement, may not be taken into account in determining just compensation for the property.

Questions have sometimes been raised about prospective acquisitions for which the appraised value was significantly greater than the assessed value. DNR, local governments, and NCOs hire private real estate appraisers to determine the fair market value of prospective land purchases. A large disparity between assessed and appraised

value may result from local assessors significantly undervaluing all property, not having updated assessments, or as a result of local land use policies. If open space that could be preserved is likely to otherwise be developed, it is often within the power of localities to zone the land in such a way as to maintain it in a relatively undeveloped state, if that is the preferred local option. In addition, a significant contributor to the rapidly escalating value of some properties may be a municipality's history of rezoning agricultural or open space land to allow residential or commercial development.

The power of zoning as a tool for land preservation, however, is limited by the willingness of the locality to maintain land in an undeveloped state. Further, zoning ordinances must allow a reasonable use of the property by the owner to avoid a taking of private property for public use.

Under 2001 Act 16, DNR is required to provide the appraisals of any property acquired using stewardship funds to the clerk and the assessor of the local unit of government where the property is located within 30 days of acquiring the property. In addition, assessors are directed to include the information in the appraisals (including comparable sales) when setting land values.

Grants for land acquisition are subject to certain statutory provisions for valuation if the land was owned by the seller for less than three years. For land that has been owned by the current owner for less than one year, the buyer's acquisition price equals the sum of the current fair market value "and other acquisition costs, as determined by rule by the department" or the current owner's acquisition price, whichever is lower. In addition, for land that has been owned by the current owner for one year or more but for less than three years, the buyer's acquisition price equal the lower of the following: the sum of the current fair market of the land and "other acquisition costs, as determined by rule by the department," or the sum of the current owner's acquisition price and the annual adjustment

increase (5% of the owner's acquisition price if over one year but less than two, and 10% for two years but less than three).

For the purpose of awarding grants under stewardship, the acquisition costs equal the sum of the land's current fair market value and other acquisition costs, as defined in rule by DNR. As appraisals are considered an eligible expense under the program, DNR would reimburse the applicant for up to 50% of the appraisal cost. If, however, DNR decides to conduct a second appraisal, the Department would not pay for any portion of the initial appraisal submitted by the grant applicant, meaning the Department would pay for one appraisal and the grant applicant would pay for one appraisal. DNR is allowed to require a third appraisal from the applicant. If DNR determines that a third appraisal is necessary, DNR would pay for up to 50% of the cost of the third appraisal.

Management of Public Lands

State Ownership of Land in Wisconsin

Public conservation land throughout the state of Wisconsin is estimated to include approximately 5.9 million acres, or approximately 17% of the state's land area. The federal government holds approximately 1.9 million (31%) of the publicly held acres, the majority of which consists of national forests. Lands in county ownership, primarily county parks and forests, are estimated at approximately 2.5 million acres (41%) of the total. Table 10 summarizes public land ownership by governmental source as of June 30, 2020.

The Department utilizes both fee title and conservation easement purchases in its land acquisition activities. Fee title acquisition involves outright purchases of land by the state, allowing for complete DNR management of the parcel. The

Table 10: Estimated Public Conservation Land Ownership in Wisconsin

Land Owner	Acres	% of State Land
County	2,450,500	7.07%
Federal	1,874,100	5.41
State		
DNR	1,509,600	4.36
BCPL	76,200	0.22
KVR	8,600	0.02
School Forests	<u>27,900</u>	0.08
Total	5,946,900	17.16%
State Land Area	34,661,100	

Source: Department of Natural Resources

Department makes aids in lieu of property tax payments to local governments on the land it owns. These aids are discussed in a separate section.

As of June 30, 2020, DNR owned approximately 1.5 million acres of land, which represents approximately 4.3% of the state's land area. The DNR ownership represents approximately 25.4% of the publicly owned conservation land in Wisconsin. Additional state-held acreage in Table 2 is shown for the Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR), which includes 7,400 state-owned acres in Vernon County open to outdoor recreation. KVR manages an additional 1,200 acres held in trust for the Ho-Chunk Nation. KVR manages all 8,600 acres as one property.

DNR properties are located in 71 of the state's 72 counties and range in size from two-tenths of an acre (the Jaeger's Island Wildlife Area in Winnebago County) and various boat launches to approximately 234,200 acres (the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in Iron, Oneida, and Vilas Counties). The Department has established a total acquisition goal of approximately 2,221,500 acres throughout the state. However, DNR periodically reviews and revises acreage goals or adds new acquisition projects with the approval of the Natural Resources Board. Of the

current goal, approximately 1.8 million acres have either been purchased or protected by easement, bringing the Department to within 83% of its current goal.

As of September, 2020, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) owned approximately 76,200 acres of school trust lands, bringing total state-owned public access land to approximately 1.59 million acres. BCPL's lands are included in this total as they are open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other nature-based outdoor recreational activities; however, they are not strictly held for conservation purposes. BCPL has a fiduciary duty to manage these lands in trust for public education beneficiaries. Where possible, BCPL manages lands as productive forests. BCPL awards three-year timber contracts through a competitive bidding process. Proceeds from BCPL timber sales are deposited in the appropriate school trust funds in accordance with state constitutional direction.

2005 Wisconsin Act 352 allows BCPL to "bank" proceeds from land sales and use them for acquisitions that meet certain criteria including: (a) improving land management; (b) decreasing forest fragmentation; or (c) increasing public access to the land. Further, Act 352 specified that the total acreage of public lands managed by the Board may not exceed the total acreage of public lands managed by the Board on May 3, 2006. As of that date, BCPL managed 77,845 acres.

Federal ownership includes land owned in fee title and managed by the federal government, including lands of the four major federal land management agencies: the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management. The federal figures in the table exclude lands managed by the Department of Defense. It should also be noted that the acres listed as federal land exclude land used for such purposes as office buildings or prisons. In addition, approximately 645,000 acres

of tribal lands in the state are not included in the table. Although these lands are held in trust, they are not "owned" by the federal government and public access may be restricted on these lands.

School and community forests, which are owned mostly by school districts, technical colleges and UW System institutions, also are open to several outdoor recreational activities. Allowed activities vary by managing entity. These properties currently cover about 27,900 acres.

Easements. An easement is a perpetual agreement entered into by the landowner and DNR in which the state purchases certain specifically identified rights from the landowner. A conservation easement may: (a) provide for public access and recreational use; (b) specify certain management criteria, such as maintaining streambank habitat or sustainable forestry practices; or (c) contain certain development restrictions. The uniform conservation easement act under s. 700.40 of the state statutes governs these transactions. The seller of the easement retains ownership of the property, as well as the right to use the property subject to the restrictions set forth in the easement. In such instances, s. 70.32(1g) of the statutes directs assessors to consider the value of such easements in setting taxable values. The owner of the property would continue to pay taxes on the property, but the taxable value would reflect the diminished value to the owner due to the conservation easement. The land can be sold, or passed on to the owner's heirs, but the conditions of the easement are part of the deed and are binding on future owners. As of June 30, 2020, in addition to the 1.5 million acres owned by DNR, the Department held easements on an additional 364,800 acres.

Sale of DNR Lands. 2013 Act 20 requires the Natural Resources Board on or before June 30, 2017, offer for sale at least 10,000 acres of DNR property located outside the project boundaries established as of May 1, 2013. The Governor directed the agency to include productive

agricultural land in the land sale. In addition, Act 20 specifies that the net proceeds of sales be used for the following, as applicable: (a) to repay any outstanding public debt used to finance the acquisition or improvement of the property, including providing a sufficient amount for the costs of maintaining federal tax law compliance applicable to any such debt; (b) to pay the federal government any of the net proceeds required by federal law, if the property was acquired or improved with federal financial assistance; and (c) if the property was acquired by gift or grant or acquired with gift or grant funds, to adhere to any restriction governing use of the proceeds. After meeting any of the aforementioned requirements that apply, any remaining net proceeds must be used to pay principal on outstanding public debt issued under the stewardship program.

Under procedures approved by the Natural Resources Board at the December, 2013, meeting, the Department has been selling land to the following three groups in descending order of priority: (1) sale to a unit of government or a Wisconsin sovereign tribal nation; (2) private sale for trespass or boundary settlement or with adjacent property owner under special circumstances; and (3) public sale to the general public. Minimum selling prices are to be established for each parcel approved for sale and the Department will obtain a title commitment that will be available to any prospective buyer. Parcels that are land locked and have no legal access are to be marketed to adjoining landowners through a competitive bidding process. Parcels that have legal access from a public road will be offered for sale to local or tribal governments that have expressed interest in the parcel and then to the general public through a competitive bidding process. DNR will work closely with local municipalities and adjoining landowners to ensure that trail corridors or other access easements are perpetuated prior to marketing any parcel for sale.

The Natural Resources Board approved 10,275

Table 11: Land Sales under 2013 Act 20

Fiscal Year	Parcels Sold	Acres Sold	Land Proceeds	Stewardship Debt Discharged
2013-14	2	8	\$3,620	\$3,620
2014-15	10	312	788,340	780,895
2015-16	8	336	236,098	235,723
2016-17	142	3,144	4,087,344	3,820,485
2017-18	53	848	1,296,372	1,054,409
2018-19	9	396	527,117	302,250
2019-20	<u>2</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>258,467</u>	<u>258,467</u>
Total	226	5,584	\$7,197,358	\$6,455,849

acres to be offered for sale, with the last approval of parcels occurring in October, 2016. Table 11 shows the status of DNR land sales under 2013 Act 20. As of June 30, 2020, DNR had sold 226 parcels, totaling 5,600 acres. Proceeds from these sales were used to pay \$6.5 million in stewardship debt service.

Public Access on Stewardship Lands

The use of DNR lands is guided by statute and administrative code. 2007 Act 20 [s. 23.0916(2) and (3) of the statutes] specified that land acquired by DNR or acquired through a stewardship program grant in fee simple, or acquired by an easement or other conveyance that was withdrawn from the MFL program on or after October 27, 2007, must be open to the public for nature-based outdoor recreational activities, unless the Natural Resources Board determines that a closure is necessary to: (a) protect public safety; or (b) protect a unique plant or animal.

Section NR 1.61 of the administrative code refers to the public use of Department land and states, "except as prohibited or regulated by rule or statute, all department land shall be open for: (a) traditional outdoor recreational uses, including hunting, fishing, trapping, walking, nature study and berry picking; and (b) other types of recreational uses, including camping, bicycling, equestrian uses, field trials, and snowmobiling or other

motorized activities, as authorized on a parcel by the property master plan." Exceptions to the public access requirements include fish, game, and wildlife refuges, fish hatcheries, certain specified areas within state parks, and locations within close proximity to hospitals and schools where certain types of public access and/or hunting may be prohibited.

Administrative code Chapter NR 52 defines a nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) as "the nature based public outdoor activity of hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, or cross-country skiing," consistent with the minimum requirements under s. 23.0916(1)(b) of the statutes. The rule specifies that decisions to prohibit public access for these activities will be reviewed by DNR staff using "professional judgment and will be based on sound science, legitimate safety issues, factual data, and relevant information." It further specifies that a restriction of a nature-based outdoor activity may be considered a prohibition if the restriction would prevent a significant amount of the nature-based activity from occurring.

Under section NR 52.01(3) of the administrative code, the Natural Resources Board has determined that public access is presumed on all other lands funded in whole or in part with stewardship funding. Property acquired by a nonprofit conservation organization (NCO) using stewardship funds may not be closed to the public unless the Department determines that it is necessary to protect species of plants, wild animals or other natural features, or if the right of public access is not acquired as part of the rights purchased with an easement.

Hunting and Trapping. Additionally, since 2013 state parks must be open to hunting, fishing, and trapping. However, DNR may prohibit hunting, fishing, or trapping in a state park or a portion of a state park if the area is: (a) within 100 yards of a designated use area; or (b) if the Natural Resources Board determines that prohibiting

hunting, fishing, or trapping is necessary to protect public safety or to protect a unique plant or animal. (2011 Act 168 requires four or more of the seven members to concur in that determination.) In addition, the Department has established two time periods during which hunting and trapping is permitted in state parks during seasons that fall within these time periods including: (a) spring - gun and archery hunting and limited trapping are allowed in the open areas of the property from April 1 through the Tuesday nearest May 3; and (b) fall/winter - gun and archery hunting and trapping are allowed in the open areas of the property from November 15 through December 15, except that hunting with legal archery methods is allowed through the Sunday nearest January 6. According to the Department, most state parks have some areas open to hunting and trapping during these time periods. However, due to property size, proximity to urban or residential areas, environmental sensitivity and other factors, some state park properties do not allow hunting or trapping. Maps are available at each property, and on the Department's website, showing the areas open to hunting and trapping.

All properties are open for state fishing seasons, except that bow and spear fishing follow the same state park rules as hunting. Bow and spear fishing is prohibited within 100 yards of a beach, boat launch, or fishing pier within a state park.

Prior to 2007, lands purchased with stewardship funds were not required to be open to nature-based outdoor recreational activities. In response to concerns raised regarding the level of public access on lands purchased using stewardship funds, specifically public access for hunting and trapping, in 2007, the Department conducted an analysis regarding public access on stewardship land. DNR found that, for land acquired by fee or easement through the land acquisition subprogram of the stewardship program from 1990 to 2006, approximately 94% of lands were open to hunting. The Department indicates that since 2012 all parcels acquired by the

Department using stewardship funds are generally open to hunting. In addition, the analysis found that, for land acquired through DNR stewardship grants to local units of government and NCOs, 62% were open to hunting. DNR grant staff indicate that since October, 2007, 94% of lands purchased with stewardship grants are open to hunting. The Department indicates that prohibitions on NBOAs on stewardship lands are almost always due to local ordinances, rather than departmental discretion.

Under the local assistance subprogram, the Department provides grants to local governments and NCOs for land acquisition and development. Moneys obligated under this subprogram may only be used for nature-based outdoor recreation. Hunting access on these lands is controlled by the local unit of government. Acreage held in easement by local units of governments is not open for public hunting; however, hunting may be allowed on some of these lands by certain individuals with the landowner's permission.

2007 Act 20 specifies that, if the Department authorizes an NCO to charge a fee for hunting on stewardship land, the fee for the hunting season may not exceed the state park daily resident vehicle admission fee (typically \$8). These requirements do not apply to stewardship easements for trails, land acquired or managed for the Ice Age Trail, and easements where the primary purpose of the easement is not public access.

Exemptions. Certain Department lands are statutorily allowed to be closed to public access for hunting and trapping. For example, s. 29.091 of the statutes prohibits hunting and trapping within a wildlife refuge. Additionally, hunting may be allowed in some habitat areas, but may be prohibited in others where it would compromise the production or protection of a particular species. The acreage where hunting is not permitted on lands acquired under the land acquisition subprogram also includes boat access sites and park entrance/visitor stations.

The Department is prohibited from permitting any use of a designated state natural area that is "inconsistent with or injurious to its natural values." The Department also has the authority under s. 23.28 of the statutes to establish use zones within designated state natural areas and to limit the number of people accessing certain zones within that natural area. Further, several other DNR property types are also closed to hunting including: (a) administrative facilities such as ranger stations; (b) forest nurseries; (c) boat access sites; and (d) certain conservation easements, such as those acquired to allow for fishing along certain trout streams and certain habitat protection easements.

Allowing NBOA Restrictions. For Department acquisitions, administrative code Chapter NR 52 requires DNR to incorporate an evaluation of public access requirements in all Department master plans and other planning documents that include land acquisition as an implementation strategy and in all revisions to plans for existing projects subject to the public access requirements under s. 23.0916(3) of the statutes (exceptions include fish and game refuges, etc.). Appendix VIII illustrates the public access requirements for stewardship land acquisitions.

For non-department land acquisitions, the rule specifies that all stewardship program grants for land acquired with stewardship funds in fee simple or through an easement on former MFL land are required to include a description of the public uses proposed for the property being acquired and a checklist indicating which of the specific NBOAs will be permitted on the property. The checklist must include: (a) an indication as to whether a specific NBOA shall be allowed on the property; (b) for hunting, information regarding allowing waterfowl, small game, turkey, and big game hunting, and both gun and archery hunting; (c) for trapping, information regarding allowing water trapping and upland trapping; (d) for fishing, information regarding permitting shore fishing and

boat fishing; (e) for hiking, information regarding allowing trail hiking and hiking off-trail; and (f) for cross-country skiing, information regarding allowing groomed trail skiing and off-trail skiing.

Additionally, s. 23.096(3) of the statutes specifies that, in order to receive a stewardship grant, an NCO must enter into a contract with the Department that details standards for management of the property. For grants to NCOs, the state holds a reversionary interest in the property, meaning that if the NCO converts the use of the property to one inconsistent with the contract, the title to the acquired property vests in the state. Closed acreage on lands purchased using stewardship funds that are controlled by NCOs generally include lands where development rights were acquired to buffer existing public lands from development or land that was acquired with a stewardship grant prior to October 27, 2007 (the effective date of s. 23.0916).

In addition, a stewardship grant application checklist must also include a description of the NBOAs to be prohibited on the property, if any, and the reason for the prohibition. These may relate to protecting public safety, protecting a unique animal or plant community, or accommodating usership patterns, if applicable, subject to the provisions under s. 23.0916 of the statutes.

Under NR 52, Department staff evaluate each proposal to prohibit an NBOA and determine whether the prohibition will be allowed. The rule specifies the criteria for making the determination of whether to allow the prohibition of an NBOA for each of the allowable categories of prohibition. Under the rule, factors that Department staff should consider when evaluating a proposal to prohibit an NBOA include: (a) the primary purpose for the project; (b) laws and ordinances that may impact one or more NBOAs on the property; (c) user conflicts that may create public safety issues and impact one or more NBOAs on the property and user incompatibility and how this

incompatibility may lead to the primary purpose of the project being significantly altered or curtailed; (d) the complexity, feasibility, practicality, and cost-effectiveness of separating activities by time and space or any other manner that might mitigate user incompatibility and/or reduce the need for enforcement; (e) the physical characteristics of the property, including size, shape, ground cover, topography or proximity to inhabited buildings that create public safety issues and influence NBOAs on the property as well as surrounding land uses, including the use of public lands immediately adjacent to the property, which may or may not have been funded with stewardship funds; (f) the necessity to prohibit an NBOA to protect and enhance the biological diversity, composition and ecological functions of natural communities exhibiting relatively little human disturbance or that have the capacity to be easily restored to such conditions; (g) the potential for an NBOA to impact the natural values of the site, as defined in s. 23.27 of the statutes; (h) the potential for an NBOA to accelerate or increase over time and cause damage to the natural values of a site; and (i) the potential for an NBOA to increase the risk of poaching rare plant or animal species, or the removal or destruction of rare geological or archeological features.

2011 Act 32 removed the accommodation of usership patterns from the allowable reasons for prohibition of a nature-based outdoor activity. However, if the property was acquired for a state trail or the Ice Age Trail, access could continue to be restricted to accommodate usership patterns.

In addition, Department grant staff also evaluate proposed permitting or registration systems for NBOAs to determine whether the restriction would prevent a significant amount of an NBOA from occurring, and constitute a prohibition under NR 52. Staff are guided by a number of factors in deciding whether the permit system is reasonable, including the following: (a) the purpose of the permit or registration system; (b) whether there is a

reporting requirement, voluntary or required; (c) the permit application methods (by mail, internet, in person, and/or by phone); (d) whether there is a fee, and if so, whether the fee is equal to or less than the cost of a daily Wisconsin resident park admission sticker, typically \$8; (e) whether the system is exclusive or favoring a particular user group, such as residents over non-residents; (f) whether the system is designed to create and/or improve an NBOA opportunity; and (g) whether there was public input into the design and implementation of the proposed system.

For any stewardship proposal to prohibit an NBOA, DNR is required to provide electronic public notice to any individual asking to receive such notice. This is followed by a public comment period and, if an objection is received during the comment period, an evaluation period. If an objection is received, DNR is required to create a written summary of its determination on the proposal to prohibit one or more NBOAs at the end of the public comment and evaluation periods.

The Department submits a report to the Natural Resources Board for each regularly scheduled board meeting that summarizes Department staff determinations regarding proposed prohibitions of NBOAs for DNR acquisitions or stewardship grant awards. The report is submitted to the Board and the information made available to the public over the internet at least five working days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The Board must allow public participation and receive public testimony regarding DNR's determinations and vote whether to ratify prohibitions of NBOAs on non-department land included in the report.

For proposed prohibitions of NBOAs on land acquired by DNR that is not subject to s. 23.0916, NR 52 does not require the Board to vote to ratify the prohibitions included in the report. However, the Board generally does vote on whether to approve the DNR land acquisition transaction as a

whole.

If a stewardship land transaction includes a prohibition of an NBOA, four or more members of the Natural Resources Board are required under s. 23.0916 to concur in the determination that the prohibition is necessary, in order for the transaction to be approved by the Board. In practice, the Department indicates it submits stewardship land acquisition projects subject to s. 23.0916, including grants for land acquisition, where DNR has determined an NBOA would be prohibited, or significantly restricted, to the Natural Resources Board for review. Further, all Department land acquisition projects over \$150,000 are submitted to the Board for review. (The Board also must approve certain other land acquisitions including land acquisitions with substantial improvements or land acquired by gift.)

Public Information. NR 52 addresses the public notice requirements associated with the Department's determinations regarding NBOA prohibitions. The rule specifies that these determinations are subject to the public notice requirements of administrative code Chapter NR 150. These generally require a news release including information about the project sponsor, location, and type, potential to cause adverse environmental impacts, a contact person at DNR for comments, and a date by which comments must be submitted to DNR for consideration.

In addition to the public notice requirements under NR 150, NR 52 requires DNR to provide individual notification over the internet to any person requesting to receive a notice of any proposal to prohibit an NBOA. Specifically, the rule requires any public notice regarding a proposal to prohibit an NBOA to include: (a) the name, address, and phone number of the Department's contact person for the project; (b) the checklist indicating which specific NBOAs will be permitted on the property; (c) a summary of the NBOAs to be prohibited; and (d) the Department's initial

assessment of the proposal to prohibit the NBOA, including an evaluation of the criteria described in the rule, and involving the Department's resource management professionals at the local, regional, and statewide level. DNR complies with this requirement through the use of an email sign-up feature available through the Department's website, which delivers news releases to a subscriber's email address containing the required information for each stewardship project.

Further, the rule establishes a public comment period of 15 business days beginning on the day immediately following the day the Department sends out the notice electronically, during which public comments concerning the proposal may be submitted, in writing, to DNR. Objections are required to show the proposed prohibition of an NBOA is inconsistent with the public access requirements in statute and administrative code. If an objection is received by DNR during the 15-day comment period, DNR has up to 15 additional business days from the close of the comment period to evaluate the public comments, including any objections. During this time, DNR must contact any person that submitted an objection and the project sponsor to notify them that the objection was received and to gain more information about the proposal. At the end of the public comment and evaluation period, DNR must create a written summary of its determination whether to allow the prohibition of an NBOA to anyone who submitted an objection and to the project sponsor.

2009 Act 28 requires DNR to provide a report to the Joint Committee on Finance and standing committees on natural resources by November 15 of each odd-numbered year identifying each property acquired in the previous biennia that is not open for one or more of the required nature-based outdoor recreational activities and the reason for the closure.

In November, 2019, DNR identified one department acquisition during fiscal years 2017-18

and 2018-19 where public access is restricted, and five grant projects acquired using stewardship funds where public access for one or more of the required nature-based outdoor activities was restricted. The most common prohibition is for hunting and trapping. All of these restrictions were related to protecting public safety or local ordinances banning hunting. The report noted that in 2018-19, 46,161 acres of public access lands were acquired using stewardship. Of these, 230 acres (0.5%) have one or more NBOA restriction.

In addition, 2007 Act 20 required DNR to establish and maintain an interactive mapping tool at the Department's website that identifies all stewardship land that is open for public access. The mapping tool is available without charge on the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/PAL/application.html>. 2011 Wisconsin Act 95 requires DNR to make available to the public a written directory of all stewardship land open for public access. The directory is organized by county and town to clearly show the location of stewardship land and named or numbered roads. The directory must be updated at least every two years. DNR may prepare the directory or may make available a map, book, or directory published by a private entity. DNR may charge a fee for the directory, but it may not exceed the cost of preparing and publishing the directory.

DNR also is to make a list of all stewardship land acquired before October 27, 2007, for which public access has been restricted or prohibited and the reasons for that action, and make it available to the public by December 21, 2013. The atlas is available for purchase online.

Further, 2007 Act 20 required an owner of stewardship land, or DNR, if the land is surrounded by DNR land, to provide notice of public access to the stewardship land in the form of specific signs placed at major access points on the stewardship land to identify the land as acquired using stewardship funds. This must occur within

six months of receiving stewardship funds. Signs must be at least 108 square inches and made of a durable substance, and signs must include: (a) either the primary activities that are restricted or prohibited on the stewardship land; (b) the name of the owner of the stewardship land or a person to contact regarding the stewardship land; and (c) if the stewardship land has a cumulative acreage of 10 acres or more, the postal address or telephone number of the owner of the stewardship land or other contact or an internet website address where a person can locate that information.

2007 Act 20 also specified conditions under which a sign may be replaced. If a landowner fails to comply with signage requirements, the landowner would be ineligible for state aid under the stewardship program until DNR determines that the landowner is in compliance.

Motorized Access. Under s. 23.116 of the statutes, DNR must inventory and map all roads on DNR-owned property. Each map designates which roads are open to the public for the use of motorized vehicles and states when each road is open or closed for such use. Existing road conditions are collected and inventoried. This data is incorporated in the Department's mapping tool, located on the DNR website at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/pal/>.

In addition, 2013 Act 20 specifies that DNR work in cooperation with the public, governmental

units, and other interested parties to evaluate roads using ecological, economic and social criteria to develop a motorized vehicle access plan and an implementation plan for the access for each DNR-owned property. The Department indicates the master planning process is the framework for the public and partners to engage in discussions about future use and development of road access. The master planning process provides public involvement opportunities during the process and again when the plan is presented to the Natural Resources Board for approval.

Further, 2013 Act 20 modified s. 23.115 of the statutes, to specify that, in addition to the Department's current ability to designate trails, campgrounds, and special use areas for property under its control, it may also designate roads. These roads must be shown on maps available at the Department's district office, on a sign outside the office on the property, or on signs placed by the designated roads at the option of the Department. The requirement that the Department must inspect "designated features" twice a year does not apply to roads. Further, the Act modifies s. 895.52(1)(g) of the statutes (recreational land use immunity) to specify that recreational activity includes "operating a vehicle [as defined under s. 340.01(74)] on roads designated under s. 23.115". The Department indicates road designations are being updated as part of the master planning process.

Appendices

Following are seven appendices that provide additional information about the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship program.

- Appendix I provides a summary of expenditures under the stewardship program for fiscal years 2010-11 through 2019-20.
- Appendix II summarizes DNR land acquisitions funded from the stewardship program (original and reauthorized programs) by county, including the number of acres in each county for which an easement has been purchased, and the number of acres acquired in fee title.
- Appendix III shows stewardship program land acquisitions where the purchase price was greater than \$5 million, or more than 10,000 acres were acquired.
- Appendix IV provides information on major property development projects.
- Appendix V shows the amount of stewardship funding spent on property development by DNR properties since 1990.
- Appendix VI summarizes land acquisition and local assistance subprogram program activity by county, based on the location of the property involved, to local units of government and nonprofit conservation organizations.
- Appendix VII lists earmarked projects authorized to use stewardship funding.
- Appendix VIII illustrates the public access requirements for stewardship land acquisitions under ss. 23.0916(2) and 23.0916(3) of the statutes and Chapter NR 52 of the administrative code.

APPENDIX I

Stewardship Program Expenditures: Fiscal Year 2010-11 through 2019-20

Category	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	10-Year Total
<i>Land Acquisition</i>											
DNR Land Acquisition	\$42,380,700	\$19,047,400	\$28,652,000	\$17,142,900	\$16,452,200	\$10,118,100	\$8,493,700	\$2,894,400	\$9,487,400	\$7,121,800	\$161,790,600
NCO Land Acquisition	10,363,000	2,605,100	8,243,900	5,738,600	8,244,700	2,065,300	3,466,100	5,476,400	2,463,000	2,442,200	51,108,300
PACE Grants	0	4,824,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,824,100
Dam Safety	<u>0</u>	<u>56,200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>359,500</u>	<u>401,600</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>444,800</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>449,400</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,711,500</u>
Subtotal	\$52,743,700	\$26,532,800	\$36,895,900	\$23,241,000	\$25,098,500	\$12,183,400	\$12,404,600	\$8,370,800	\$12,399,800	\$9,564,000	\$219,434,500
<i>Property Development and Local Assistance</i>											
Property Development	\$16,285,900	\$8,084,600	\$10,386,700	\$9,656,600	\$12,120,200	\$3,184,700	\$6,591,300	\$6,114,700	\$9,026,600	\$35,889,400**	\$117,340,700
Local Assistance	7,554,900	6,766,300	9,643,900	8,110,500	6,266,700	6,209,900	5,654,900	6,224,300	6,798,900*	4,910,300	68,140,600
Motorized Stewardship	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>83,500</u>	<u>432,700</u>	<u>201,500</u>	<u>258,000</u>	<u>310,100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,285,800</u>
Subtotal	\$23,840,800	\$14,850,900	\$20,030,600	\$17,767,100	\$18,386,900	\$9,394,600	\$12,246,200	\$12,339,000	\$15,825,500	\$40,799,700	\$185,481,300
Recreational Boating	\$2,089,400	\$2,076,800	\$3,750,400	\$1,508,300	\$1,565,300	\$2,751,800	\$3,520,100	\$2,278,600	\$1,632,600	\$2,172,300	\$23,345,600
Total	\$78,673,900	\$43,460,500	\$60,676,900	\$42,516,400	\$45,050,700	\$24,329,800	\$28,170,900	\$22,988,400	\$29,857,900	\$52,536,000	\$428,261,400

* Includes 2017 Act 59 earmarks for Saxon Harbor and Neenah-Menasha Twin Trestles.

** Includes Kettle Moraine Springs and Little Falls Dam earmarks.

APPENDIX II

DNR Land Acquisitions Under Stewardship by County as of June 30, 2020

County	Easement Acres	Fee Acres	Total Acres
Adams	10,826	9,391	20,216
Ashland	384	2,676	3,060
Barron	54	979	1,033
Bayfield	19	13,104	13,123
Brown	274	1,913	2,187
Buffalo	1	1,937	1,938
Burnett	14	12,547	12,560
Calumet	19	1,783	1,801
Chippewa	311	6,757	7,069
Clark	5	224	229
Columbia	975	3,880	4,854
Crawford	989	9,865	10,855
Dane	2,437	6,722	9,159
Dodge	720	1,680	2,399
Door	2,544	2,653	5,197
Douglas	75,872	16,363	92,236
Dunn	1,189	5,398	6,586
Eau Claire	176	1,083	1,260
Florence	1,960	14,085	16,045
Fond du Lac	1,800	6,224	8,024
Forest	62,780	910	63,690
Grant	1,360	4,639	5,999
Green	438	848	1,286
Green Lake	13	1,596	1,609
Iowa	1,546	5,984	7,530
Iron	31,538	47,342	78,880
Jackson	12	4,577	4,588
Jefferson	274	7,627	7,901
Juneau	497	6,296	6,793
Kenosha	178	824	1,002
Kewaunee	89	935	1,024
La Crosse	227	449	677
Lafayette	338	2,833	3,171
Langlade	18,858	2,599	21,457
Lincoln	20,715	8,083	28,797
Manitowoc	1,490	649	2,139
Marathon	1,437	3,954	5,391
Marinette	14,702	23,446	38,148
Marquette	900	2,682	3,583
Milwaukee	95	241	336

APPENDIX II (continued)

DNR Land Acquisitions Under Stewardship by County as of June 30, 2020

County	Easement Acres	Fee Acres	Total Acres
Monroe	663	1,309	1,972
Oconto	227	2,547	2,774
Oneida	12,605	37,247	49,852
Outagamie	24	6,122	6,146
Ozaukee	1,082	704	1,786
Pepin	502	2,321	2,823
Pierce	279	1,409	1,688
Polk	1,170	6,484	7,654
Portage	188	10,210	10,398
Price	37	562	598
Racine	39	991	1,029
Richland	821	4,925	5,746
Rock	804	3,689	4,493
Rusk	1	166	167
Sauk	4,624	10,667	15,291
Sawyer	39,044	2,218	41,261
Shawano	218	2,115	2,333
Sheboygan	1,093	3,913	5,006
St. Croix	223	3,570	3,792
Taylor	23	1,912	1,935
Trempealeau	138	1,519	1,657
Vernon	500	1,682	2,182
Vilas	3,261	7,559	10,820
Walworth	974	4,532	5,506
Washburn	176	3,809	3,985
Washington	761	2,547	3,307
Waukesha	461	5,871	6,332
Waupaca	562	2,765	3,326
Waushara	274	5,160	5,434
Winnebago	2,841	4,711	7,552
Wood	<u>35</u>	<u>1,522</u>	<u>1,557</u>
Total	331,701	390,536	722,237

APPENDIX III

Stewardship Program Transactions Over \$5 Million, or Where Acres Acquired Exceeded 10,000

Fiscal Year	Seller	County	Property	State Amount	Acres	Description	State Cost Per Acre
1991-2000							
1998	Four States Timber/Tenneco	Oneida	Willow Flowage	\$9,800,000	8,720	Joint Finance approval process sped up to allow close of sale. Includes 73 miles of shoreline, 106 islands and 7 boat landings.	\$1,124
1999	Packaging Corp. of America	Iron, Oneida, Lincoln, and Vilas	"Great Addition" additions to numerous properties including the Turtle-Flambeau and Willow Flowages	\$25,000,000	32,003	Purchased in two phases and DNR utilized borrow-ahead authority.	\$781
2001-2010							
2002	Wisconsin Public Service Corporation	Marinette and Oconto	Peshtigo River State Forest	\$25,000,000	9,239	Purchased in three phases and utilized borrow-ahead authority. Over 66 miles of river and flowage frontage.	\$2,706
2003	Tomahawk Timberlands	Iron, Oneida, Marathon, and Lincoln	Forest Legacy Easement (\$7.2 million project)	\$2,244,000	35,337	First Wisconsin easement under the federal Forest Legacy Program (\$7.2 million purchase, including \$5 million FED).	\$64
2004	Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corp.	Oneida, Vilas and Lincoln	Rainbow Flowage - Northern Highland/American Legion State Forest and New Wood Wildlife Area	\$7,950,000	5,875	Includes 63 miles of lake frontage, 4 boat landings and 10 islands.	\$1,353
2005	Burnkow Hardwoods and Western Wisconsin Land Trust	Polk	Straight Lake State Park & Ice Age Trail (\$10.6 million project)	\$7,830,000	2,779	Includes a 107 acre wild lake, flowages and 3.5 miles of Ice Age Trail. Additional \$2.77 million federal contribution brought purchase price to \$10.6 million.	\$2,806
2005	Plum Creek Timberlands	Langlade	Wolf River Forest Legacy Easement (\$9.2 million project)	\$6,180,600	18,512	29-square-mile easement for public recreation, timber management and development limits. Additional \$3 million FED provided for \$9.2 million total purchase.	\$334
2007, 2009, and 2010	International Paper	Florence, Forest and Marinette	Wild Rivers Legacy Forest Easement (\$39.7 million project)	\$35,100,000	64,630	In July, 2006, DNR acquired fee title on 5,629 acres and a conservation easement on 44,401 acres in Florence, Forest, and Marinette Counties for approximately \$33 million for the Wild Rivers Forest Legacy acquisition. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) also acquired an easement on approximately 14,600 acres as part of the project. In July 2008, the Department acquired an easement on approximately 7,300 acres from TNC at a cost of approximately \$3.2 million. Of the \$3.2 million, DNR received \$2.3 million in federal Forest Legacy funds to reimburse a portion of the purchase cost. In August, 2009 (fiscal year 2009-10), the Department acquired an easement on the remaining 7,300 acres (from TNC) for	\$543

Fiscal Year	Seller	County	Property	State Amount	Acres	Description	State Cost Per Acre
						\$3.5 million and received \$2.3 million in federal Forest Legacy funds as reimbursement. The almost 65,000 acre area includes more than 48 lakes and ponds, and more than 70 miles of rivers and streams. It is a working forest that also provides habitat for migratory waterfowl, trout, and other wildlife. The property offers a variety of recreational opportunities including hiking, hunting, fishing, kayaking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.	
2008	Wausau Papers and The Conservation Fund	Douglas	Brule River State Forest Addition	\$6,111,400	5,889	Four non-contiguous parcels provided additional acreage in northern Brule River State Forest, permanently protected hunting and other public access rights on land previously open under the managed forest law program.	\$1,038
2009	Rainbow Springs Golf Company, Inc. and U.S. Residential Golf Properties, Inc.	Walworth and Waukesha	Rainbow Springs	\$10,800,000	970	Includes a 38-acre natural seepage lake, and three-quarter mile corridor of the Mukwonago River, an exceptional resource water and Class II trout stream. Designated as Mukwonago River Unit of Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Natural Resources Board approved borrow-ahead from a single year to cover full cost.	\$11,134
2011-2020							
2010	Wisconsin Timber Associates	Forest	Connors State Forest Legacy Easements	\$8,297,200	18,438	Easements consist of hemlock-hardwood forestland in Forest County acquired for the state Forest Legacy program. Adjacent to national forest and county forest land, which combined with this property protects two major wild lakes, Wabikon and Riley. The rivers flowing through the tract form the upper reaches of the Green Bay watershed. The property is managed using sustainable forest practices and provides public access for nature-based outdoor recreational activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing.	\$450
2011 and 2012	Plum Creek Timberlands	Sawyer	Big Chip Buffer Easement (\$8.2 million project)	\$4,219,300	18,179	\$8.2 million conservation easement acquired in two phases including federal Forest Legacy funds of \$4 million. Provides buffers for the Chippewa Flowage, Wisconsin's largest semi-wilderness body of water, and the Chequamegon National Forest. The forestland is managed using sustainable forestry and provides recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, and hiking, among others.	\$232

Fiscal Year	Seller	County	Property	State Amount	Acres	Description	State Cost Per Acre
2012, 2015, and 2016	Lyme St. Croix Forest Company/ Lyme St. Croix Paper Company	Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, and Washburn	Total Costs: Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest Easement Phase I Phase II Phase III	\$16,704,300 (\$11,271,700) (\$1,866,100) (\$3,566,500)	72,958 (44,679) (21,189) (7,090)	The easement requires management using sustainable forest practices and provides public access for nature-based outdoor recreational activities including hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Phase II utilized \$3.75 million in federal Forest Legacy funds. Total project costs of \$20.45 million included \$16.7 million in stewardship funds and \$3.75 million federal funds.	\$229
2014	The Conservation Fund and RMK Timberlands	Iron	Twin Lakes Working Forest Easement	\$4,499,800	13,692	Approved by the Joint Committee on Finance in June, 2014. Purchased as part of the state's Forest Legacy Program. In the townships of Knight and Mercer, adjacent to county-owned land. The Twin Lakes include two adjoining lakes encompassing 52 acres with 8,700 feet of shoreline, which will provide fishing opportunities for bass and panfish (easement also includes four other small lakes covering 19 acres with 9,900 feet of frontage and there are also several trout streams on the property). Parcel is 89% forested, and the area contains important habitat for American marten (the only state-listed endangered mammal). The Twin Lakes area also provides habitat for deer, wolves, bear, bobcat, and possibly lynx and the easement will be open to hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing.	\$329
2018	Northwoods ATP L.P.	Sawyer	Lake of the Pines Conservation Easement	\$7,229,000	20,903	A working forest conservation and access easement in the townships of Winter and Draper in Sawyer County and is adjacent to county-owned land. This large contiguous forested landscape situated in the north central forest ecosystem provides important habitat for a variety of large mammals such as white tail deer, black bear, wolves, and bobcat, will help preserve the integrity of these northern forestlands in perpetuity, prevent fragmentation, and promote the sustainable use of the northern forests. The easement connects existing public land and provides road access for public outdoor recreation. DNR acquired rights for the public to use licensed motorized vehicles on 20.6 miles of private woods roads on the property. DNR set aside \$515,000 of the purchase price in an endowment with earnings available to assist in the costs to repair and maintain the open access roads within the easement area.	\$346

Fiscal Year	Seller	County	Property	State Amount	Acres	Description	State Cost Per Acre
2019	Keweenaw Land Association	Iron	Keweenaw Forest Legacy Easement	\$4,366,100	14,352	A perpetual conservation easement divided between two tracts located in the Forest Legacy project boundaries that connect several surrounding public forestlands. The properties are 90% productive forest and will be managed according to sustainable forestry guidelines. The easement provides public access and guarantees that the entire property will not be subdivided and that no developments or buildings will be constructed. The project is a part of the state's long-term Forest Legacy program, which seeks to preserve environmentally important private forestlands in long-term or perpetual forestry uses. The properties contain Class I, II and III trout streams, as well as several scattered wetlands and unnamed lakes. The Keweenaw Land Association set aside \$400,000 from the purchase price in a permanent endowment for road maintenance on 16.45 miles of interior roads to guarantee public access.	\$304

APPENDIX IV

Stewardship Major Development Projects Active as of June 30, 2020

Project Name	Budgeted	Expended	Encumbered	Balance
Amnicon Falls State Park Entrance Drive	\$125,300	\$125,300	\$0	\$0
Amnicon Falls State Park Visitor Contact Station	643,600	643,100	0	0
Army Lake Boat Launch	221,700	29,800	173,600	18,200
Badger State Trail Resurface and Construct Drain	497,000	383,100	0	113,900
Big Foot Beach State Park Construct 2 New Vault Toilet Buildings	152,000	152,000	0	0
Big Foot Beach State Park Construct New Toilet/Shower Building	590,700	590,700	0	0
Big Foot Beach State Park South Bathhouse Building Upgrade	125,200	125,200	0	0
Black River State Forest Castle Mound Toilet Shower Building	498,200	498,200	0	0
Black River State Forest Central Vault Toilet Replacement	126,000	103,400	0	22,600
Blue Mound State Park Pool Preliminary Design	700,000	700,000	0	0
Blue Mound State Park Entrance and Visitor Station	925,900	863,400	0	62,500
Blue Mound State Park Replace Vault Toilets in Campground	411,900	334,900	2,300	74,800
Brule River State Forest Replace Vault Toilets-Winneboujou Canoe Landing	162,200	162,200	0	0
Buckhorn State Park Construct Family Campground	2,118,200	2,118,200	0	0
Council Grounds State Park Boat Launch Repair	147,000	147,000	0	0
Crex Meadows Wildlife Area Multipurpose Building	483,400	294,900	165,100	23,400
Crex Meadows Wildlife Area Construct Consolidated Large Equipment Storage Facility	419,900	419,900	0	0
Devil's Lake State Park Chateau Siding and Window Trim	167,900	167,900	0	0
Devil's Lake State Park Infrastructure Repair	660,800	660,800	0	0
Devil's Lake State Park New Sewage Pump Stations	1,014,000	934,900	600	78,500
Devil's Lake State Park Quartzite Shower Building Replacement	1,352,400	1,352,400	0	0
Devil's Lake State Park Shoreline Improvements	176,500	176,500	0	0
Devil's Lake State Park Water Infrastructure	1,401,000	238,200	829,300	333,500
Fish Lake Wildlife Area Dueholm Water Controller Replacement	268,300	268,300	0	0
Flambeau River State Forest Gravel Skinner Creek Access Road	105,100	105,100	0	0

APPENDIX IV (continued)

**Stewardship Major Development Projects
Active as of June 30, 2020**

Project Name	Budgeted	Expended	Encumbered	Balance
Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters Building Replacement	\$1,470,900	\$1,470,900	\$0	\$0
Flambeau River State Forest Replace Old Vault Toilets-Lake Of The Pines Campground	111,000	105,600	0	5,400
Fox River State Trail Deconstruct Porlier St. Railroad Swing Bridge	296,500	296,500	0	0
Glacial Drumlin State Trail Lake Mills Office Remodel	182,200	182,200	0	0
Governor Dodge State Park Cox Hollow Dam Repair	1,078,700	1,027,500	0	51,100
Governor Dodge State Park Replace Vault Privies for Group Campground	411,900	334,900	2,300	74,800
Governor Dodge State Park Replace Unit Vault Privies For Group Campsites	159,700	159,700	0	0
Governor Earl Peshtigo River State Forest Boat Launch #6 Improvements	289,000	36,200	12,100	240,700
Governor Thompson State Park Entrance, Visitor Station, Campgrounds, and Storage Building	6,291,000	6,291,000	0	0
Great River State Trail Extension	496,100	213,100	0	283,000
Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area Community Hiking Trail	181,300	164,300	4,700	12,300
Hank Aaron State Trail Developments	4,657,000	4,657,000	0	0
Harrington Beach State Park Law Enforcement Storage Building	134,300	134,300	0	0
Havenwood State Forest Re-Roof Education Center	187,100	0	0	187,100
High Cliff State Park Sewer/Water Improvements	526,200	475,700	14,900	35,600
Horicon Marsh International Education Center Install Additional Visitor Parking	130,400	130,400	0	0
Horicon Marsh International Education Center Displays for Exhibit Hall	923,300	923,300	0	0
Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area Picnic Shelter	500,000	145,600	313,800	40,600
Interstate State Park Replace Windows and Doors at Ice Age Center Building	105,900	83,300	17,900	4,700
Interstate State Park Beach Renovations	148,900	148,900	0	0
Interstate State Park Replace North Campground Lift Station	95,300	0	0	95,300
Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery	26,600,000	25,447,300	995,200	157,400
Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit Upgrade Campsites	386,200	386,200	0	0
Kettle Moraine State Forest-Pike Lake Unit Construct Boat Access Site	365,400	13,200	14,300	337,900
Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit Exterior Headquarters Renovation	124,900	122,300	0	2,600

APPENDIX IV (continued)

**Stewardship Major Development Projects
Active as of June 30, 2020**

Project Name	Budgeted	Expended	Encumbered	Balance
Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit Replace Eagle Shop Furnace	\$183,700	\$171,100	\$0	\$12,600
Lake Noquebay Fish Pier Access	143,800	143,800	0	0
Lake Wissota State Park Construct New Park Entrance and Visitor Station	1,485,600	1,485,600	0	0
Lost Land Lake Teal Lake Boat Launch Repair	140,800	140,800	0	0
Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area Duck Banding Access Trail Graveling	257,700	0	0	257,700
Mazomanie West Day Use Area and Canoe Access	506,600	54,200	8,200	444,200
Military Ridge State Trail Bridge Repainting	172,100	162,000	0	10,100
Mirror Lake State Park Replace Septic System For Dump Station and Shop	318,700	318,700	0	0
Mirror Lake State Park Central Vault Toilet Replacement	126,000	103,400	0	22,600
Montello Dam Reconstruct Dam	5,281,500	5,281,500	0	0
Nelson Dewey State Park Replace Roof on Dewey Mansion	98,100	8,200	10,300	79,600
Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Create Bike Trail to Link 3 Campgrounds	391,900	391,900	0	0
Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Vault Toilet Replacement	996,900	996,900	0	0
Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Fish Trap Dam Replacement	231,800	217,200	4,500	10,000
Pattison State Park Roof Replacement	189,300	189,300	0	0
Pattison State Park Water Tank Replacement	149,600	0	0	149,600
Pelican Lake Public Access Repair and Upgrade Launch Access Site	487,200	40,800	22,200	424,100
Peninsula State Park Nicolet Bay Showers	498,500	498,500	0	0
Peninsula State Park Shower Upgrades	124,600	124,600	0	0
Peninsula State Park Wastewater Treatment Facility	1,152,100	882,800	39,300	230,000
Peninsula State Park Roof Repair	91,500	91,500	0	0
Peninsula State Park Eagle Tower Rebuild	750,000	569,800	120,700	59,500
Peninsula State Park Dump Station Replacement	997,500	915,500	17,200	64,800
Peninsula State Park Sunset Trail Repairs	248,700	28,500	8,800	211,400
Peninsula State Park Vault Toilet Replacement Northeast	1,170,500	1,098,200	13,500	58,800

APPENDIX IV (continued)

**Stewardship Major Development Projects
Active as of June 30, 2020**

Project Name	Budgeted	Expended	Encumbered	Balance
Perrot State Parks ADA Restroom Add to Family Campground Building	\$156,100	\$13,100	\$54,900	\$88,000
Pine/Popple Wildlife Areas Repair Access Roads	118,200	118,200	0	0
Point Beach State Forest Drill New Campground Well	129,000	87,100	12,500	29,400
Point Beach State Forest Historic Lodge Shelter Remodel	177,200	177,200	0	0
Point Beach State Forest Replace Old Shower Septic Tanks	136,900	136,900	0	0
Point Beach State Forest Waterline Replacement	399,300	115,800	1,400	282,100
Potawatomi State Park ADA Fishing Pier	211,200	116,600	61,100	33,600
Poynette State Game Farm Brooder Barn Roof Painting	173,000	173,000	0	0
Rib Mountain State Park Convert Campsites To Day Use - Phase II	774,800	774,800	0	0
Richard Bong State Recreation Area Vern Wolf Lake Dam Repair	281,800	281,800	0	0
Richard Bong State Recreation Area Vault Toilet Replacement-East	187,100	186,900	1,600	(1,400)
Richard Bong State Recreation Area Dump Station	130,800	20,900	1,900	108,000
Richard Bong State Recreation Area Beach Area Replacement	197,800	21,300	4,100	172,400
Rock Island State Park Pagoda Foundation Repair	300,000	295,900	0	4,100
Rock Island State Park Boat House Decking	299,000	39,800	236,200	23,000
Rowley's Bay Boat Access Parking Area	175,400	0	0	175,400
Sandhill Wildlife Area Replace West Pole Shed	173,400	173,400	0	0
Sandhill Wildlife Area Replace Headquarters Siding and Insulation	221,600	0	0	221,600
Sand Lake Public Access Boat Launch Renovations	362,400	17,000	276,300	69,100
Sheboygan Marsh Wildlife Area Machinery Storage Pole-Building	440,400	440,400	0	0
Straight Lake State Park Dam Evaluation	361,700	361,700	0	0
Straight Lake State Park Development Phase I	1,100,600	1,100,600	0	0
Tussockia Trail Raddison Bridge	148,400	148,400	0	0
White River Wildlife Area Properties Accessible Hunting Trail	182,200	0	0	182,200
Willow River State Park Construct Beach Restrooms & Shelter Buildings	460,000	460,000	0	0

APPENDIX IV (continued)

**Stewardship Major Development Projects
Active as of June 30, 2020**

Project Name	Budgeted	Expended	Encumbered	Balance
Willow River State Park Little Falls Dam Repair	\$184,700	\$184,700	\$0	\$0
Willow River State Park Pedestrian Bridge	356,000	356,000	0	0
Willow River State Park Little Falls Dam Renovation	12,500,000	11,953,500	30,800	515,600
Wyalusing State Park Homestead Toilet Shower Building	493,700	493,700	0	0
Wyalusing State Park Day-use Flush Building Upgrades	147,600	9,900	114,500	23,200
Wyalusing State Park Replace Indoor Group Camp Septic System	184,700	184,700	0	0
Wyalusing State Park Septic Field Replacement	129,500	129,500	0	0
Wyalusing State Park Vault Toilet Replacement	1,235,700	1,004,700	6,800	224,300
Wyalusing State Park Indoor Group Camp Remodel	271,000	22,900	10,500	237,600
Yellowstone Lake State Park	458,900	458,900	0	0
Major Projects Subtotal	98,801,800	88,518,700	3,603,400	6,679,200
Various Small Projects	<u>6,385,800</u>	<u>5,453,300</u>	<u>76,800</u>	<u>855,700</u>
Total	\$105,187,600	\$93,972,000	\$3,680,200	\$7,535,000

APPENDIX V

Stewardship Development Expenditures by State Property, 1990 through June 30, 2020

Property	Amount	Property	Amount
400 State Trail	\$128,648.52	Evansville Wildlife Area	\$12,097.15
Ackley Wildlife Area	31,450.00	Fish Lake Wildlife Area	268,296.15
Amnicon Falls State Park	1,742,727.78	Fish Lands In Eastern South Central Region	20,600.00
Army Lake Public Access	46,971.04	Fish Lands In Western South Central Region	6,676.90
Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area	37,799.24	Flambeau River State Forest	2,830,021.51
Aztalan State Park	20,000.00	Fox River Public Access	1,157,108.61
Badger State Trail	383,117.66	Fox River State Trail	1,177,108.61
Baraboo Hills	5,000,000.00	French Creek Wildlife Area	41,655.50
Barber Lake Public Access	158,005.43	Gandy Dancer State Trail	149,388.07
Barron/Polk Counties Wildlife Areas	5,384.44	Gardner Swamp Wildlife Area	12,770.98
Bauer-Brockway Barrens State Natural Area	3,580.00	Germania Wildlife Area	12,393.76
Bearskin State Trail	179,135.45	Glacial Drumlin State Trail	525,780.24
Beaver Dam Lake- Fish Camp Public Access	13,690.00	Glacial Habitat Restoration Area	221,037.99
Big And Little Marsh State Natural Area	4,790.00	Goose Lake Wildlife Area	34,920.00
Big Bay State Park	286,354.19	Governor Dodge State Park	2,335,151.82
Big Foot Beach State Park	1,195,402.84	Governor Earl Peshtigo River State Forest	289,570.44
Black River State Forest	1,538,097.35	Governor Knowles State Forest	35,323.71
Bloomfield Wildlife Area	9,703.29	Governor Thompson State Park	13,477,213.48
Blue Mound State Park	6,182,321.88	Grand River Marsh Wildlife Area	261,296.48
Brillion Wildlife Area	104,895.53	Great River State Trail	322,115.95
Brooklyn Wildlife Area	35,488.73	Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area	1,386,088.58
Brule River State Forest	1,026,750.00	Hank Aaron State Trail	9,343,634.06
Buckhorn State Park	2,164,314.44	Harrington Beach State Park	734,374.13
Buffalo River State Trail	156,910.47	Hartman Creek State Park	91,515.66
C.D. (Buzz) Besadny Fish And Wildlife Area	186,386.61	Havenwoods State Forest	80,603.75
Cadiz Springs Recreation Area	24,430.65	Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area	17,800.00
Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area	20,000.00	Heritage Hill State Park	106,668.58
Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area	18,750.05	High Cliff State Park	863,802.85
Chippewa River State Trail	2,500.00	Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area	44,538.63
Collins Marsh Wildlife Area	68,083.07	Kettle Moraine State Forest-Lapham Peak Unit	1,319,545.21
Columbia County Area	83,675.71	Kettle Moraine State Forest-Mukwonago River Unit	34,410.52
Copper Falls State Park	77,072.43	Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit	754,045.58
Council Grounds State Park	330,303.12	Kettle Moraine State Forest-Pike Lake Unit	185,849.40
Cranberry Creek Mound Group State Natural Area	9,888.00	Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit	3,176,531.78
Crex Meadows Wildlife Area	565,666.65	Kimberly Clark Wildlife Area	62,221.52
Devil's Lake State Park	5,918,423.83	Kinnickinnic State Park	25,759.18
Door County Natural Areas	10,637.03	Kohler-Andrae State Park	200,217.84
Drumlin State Trail	7,040.40	Koshkonong Wildlife Area	22,950.00
Eldorado Wildlife Area	64,300.17	La Crosse River State Trail	4,900.00
Elroy-Sparta State Trail	319,676.85	Lake Butte Des Morts	83,392.81

APPENDIX V (continued)

**Stewardship Development Expenditures
by State Property, 1990 through June 30, 2020**

Property	Amount	Property	Amount
Lake Kegonsa State Park	\$852,409.10	Onion River Streambank	\$39,235.00
Lake Mills Wildlife Area	163,152.88	Paradise Valley Wildlife Area	20,841.00
Lake Noquebay Public Access	287,587.48	Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area	10,943.11
Lake Wisconsin- Moon Valley Public Access	88,585.22	Pattison State Park	334,473.26
Lake Wissota State Park	4,769,058.38	Pecatonica State Trail	249,000.00
Lakeshore State Park	5,000,000.00	Pelican Lake Public Access	20,516.69
Lodi Marsh Wildlife Area	5,925.12	Peninsula State Park	5,674,076.72
Lost Land Lake Public Access	140,777.38	Perrot State Park	98,499.70
Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area	37,044.59	Pershing Wildlife Area	118,930.19
Lower Tomahawk River Pines State Natural Area	8,000.00	Pike Wild River	5,140.00
Lower Wisconsin State Riverway	276,888.06	Pine-Popple Wild Rivers	131,016.00
Lower Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area	57,449.03	Plainfield Tunnel Channel Lakes State Natural Area	4,121.32
Mackenzie Environmental Education Center	33,772.73	Point Beach State Forest	878,149.55
Mead Wildlife Area	59,534.30	Potato Creek Wildlife Area	16,494.00
Meadow Valley Wildlife Area	12,130.00	Potawatomi State Park	1,289,859.96
Mecan River Fishery Area	41,726.00	Poynette State Game Farm	173,007.80
Menominee River State Park	43,866.49	Prince's Point Wildlife Area	24,950.00
Merrick State Park	92,170.00	Quincy Bluff And Wetlands State Natural Area	10,271.05
Military Ridge State Trail	656,915.70	Red Cedar And Chippewa River State Trails	32,055.28
Mill Bluff State Park	1,136.71	Rib Mountain State Park	6,984,061.32
Mirror Lake State Park	914,436.73	Richard Bong State Recreation Area	1,106,701.70
Montello/Fox River Locks	5,921,477.66	Roche-A-Cri State Park	318,555.43
Mountain Bay State Trail	7,500.00	Rock Island State Park	649,010.48
Mud Lake Wildlife Area	173,602.32	Rome Pond Wildlife Area	6,735.00
Multiple Wildlife Areas	94,357.45	Rush Creek State Natural Area	3,553.60
Namekagon River Canoe Access	29,500.00	Rush Lake Project Area	83,627.85
Navarino Wildlife Area	221,865.00	Sand Lake Public Access	13,070.75
Nelson Dewey State Park	104,041.72	Sandhill Wildlife Area	185,751.36
New Glarus Woods State Park	17,000.00	Saunders State Trail	141,750.67
New Wood Wildlife Area	16,240.00	South Central Region Natural Areas	25,768.44
Newport State Park	70,600.00	South Central Region Wildlife Areas	66,115.57
North Bend Bottoms Wildlife Area	72,121.00	Shaw Marsh Wildlife Area	28,769.10
North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife And Farm Heritage Area	30,281.25	Sheboygan Marsh Wildlife Area	461,041.22
Northeast Region Headquarters	13,543.97	Shivering Sands State Natural Area	29,462.00
Northeast Region State Natural Areas	10,000.00	Snow Bottom State Natural Area	8,640.00
Northeast Region Wildlife Areas	66,479.50	Southeast Region Wildlife Areas	123,508.13
Northern Highland American Legion State Forest	3,153,459.58	Spread Eagle Barrens State Natural Area	4,610.00
Northern Region	231,734.76	Spur Lake State Natural Area	7,830.00
Okauchee Lake Public Access	23,350.00	Statewide - Endangered Resources	9,227.60
Old Abe State Trail	383,914.06	Statewide - Fisheries	35,004.27

APPENDIX V (continued)

**Stewardship Development Expenditures
by State Property, 1990 through June 30, 2020**

Property	Amount	Property	Amount
Statewide - Forestry	\$3,629.22	Western Prairie Habitat Restoration	\$36,630.24
Statewide - Lands & Facilities	502,125.03	White River Marsh Wildlife Area	133,050.96
Statewide - Parks & Southern Forests	628,316.88	Whitefish Dunes State Park	25,545.39
Statewide - Wildlife	71,592.87	Wildcat Mountain State Park	758,408.62
Statewide Natural Area	31,392.87	Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area	167,658.83
Statewide Spring Ponds - All Regions	7,875.00	Willow River State Park	17,967,771.83
Stower Seven Lakes State Trail	2,500.00	Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area - Herb Behnke Unit	38,758.11
Straight Lake State Park	1,468,050.32	Woodboro Lakes Wildlife Area	34,400.00
Straight Lake Wildlife Area	24,754.35	Wyalusing State Park	3,694,453.87
Sugar River Wetlands State Natural Area	9,400.00	Yellowstone Lake State Park	635,190.49
Swan Lake Wildlife Area	17,460.17	Yellowstone Lake Wildlife Area	<u>8,898.00</u>
Ten Mile Creek Wildlife Area	18,536.14	Total Expenditures	\$171,805,781.58
Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area	137,286.00	Open Balances Total- Large Projects	6,937,266.62
Trempealeau River Meadow State Natural Area	500.00	Open Balances Total- Small Projects	<u>3,824,759.29</u>
Turtle Valley Wildlife Area	39,550.00	Total	\$182,567,807.49
Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Van Loon Wildlife Area	160,980.02		
Vernon Wildlife Area	107,988.65		
Washington Creek Wildlife Area	4,150.00		
Weirgor Springs Wildlife Area	20,007.42		
Welder Statewide Habitat Area	39,280.00		

APPENDIX VI

Land Acquisition and Local Assistance Grant Programs Activity Under Stewardship by County as of June 30, 2020

County	Grants to Local Units of Government	Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations	County Forest Grants	Total Encumbrances/ Expenditures*
Adams	\$240,900	\$490,000	\$0	\$730,900
Ashland	1,460,600	688,600	-	2,149,200
Barron	616,200	-	323,700	939,900
Bayfield	2,469,100	2,455,600	2,749,400	7,674,100
Brown	10,096,300	1,474,800	-	11,571,100
Buffalo	331,100	955,600	-	1,286,700
Burnett	195,700	753,500	111,000	1,060,200
Calumet	1,413,800	241,700	-	1,655,500
Chippewa	2,084,500	2,499,600	424,600	5,008,700
Clark	623,100	-	1,300,300	1,923,400
Columbia	1,050,300	2,718,100	-	3,768,400
Crawford	494,300	2,103,500	-	2,597,800
Dane	26,042,500	24,957,900	-	51,000,400
Dodge	2,432,500	354,800	-	2,787,300
Door	7,956,100	23,527,200	-	31,483,300
Douglas	457,600	3,210,200	1,356,200	5,024,000
Dunn	487,400	1,787,500	-	2,274,900
Eau Claire	2,278,400	6,600	268,100	2,553,100
Florence	142,200	-	987,300	1,129,500
Fond du Lac	1,629,900	280,700	-	1,910,600
Forest	480,600	-	3,074,400	3,555,000
Grant	1,412,900	2,328,700	-	3,741,600
Green	569,600	145,000	-	714,600
Green Lake	816,400	1,886,900	-	2,703,300
Iowa	67,200	7,058,100	-	7,125,300
Iron	654,400	-	97,600	752,000
Jackson	433,200	24,000	1,227,200	1,684,400
Jefferson	3,910,400	4,400,000	-	8,310,400
Juneau	2,005,800	898,400	-	2,904,200
Kenosha	5,195,700	1,275,300	-	6,471,000
Kewaunee	1,097,900	26,100	-	1,124,000
La Crosse	1,931,100	5,551,900	-	7,483,000
Lafayette	851,100	210,300	-	1,061,400
Langlade	1,286,600	99,600	3,521,400	4,907,600
Lincoln	910,100	53,600	-	963,700
Manitowoc	3,850,800	517,800	-	4,368,600
Marathon	2,116,700	403,900	924,600	3,445,200
Marinette	1,615,200	4,000	203,200	1,822,400
Marquette	247,000	912,500	-	1,159,500
Menominee	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX VI (continued)

**Land Acquisition and Local Assistance Grant Programs Activity Under Stewardship
by County as of June 30, 2020**

County	Grants to Local Units of Government	Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations	County Forest Grants	Total Encumbrances/ Expenditures*
Milwaukee	\$5,804,900	\$4,068,800	-	\$9,873,700
Monroe	847,200	10,000	184,200	1,041,400
Oconto	736,800	151,400	111,900	1,000,100
Oneida	842,300	166,200	543,200	1,551,700
Outagamie	4,084,900	289,200	-	4,374,100
Ozaukee	4,310,000	9,856,500	-	14,166,500
Pepin	30,000	469,400	-	499,400
Pierce	708,300	2,271,400	-	2,979,700
Polk	1,407,900	3,147,100	-	4,555,000
Portage	2,168,000	521,900	-	2,689,900
Price	673,100	-	-	673,100
Racine	7,912,900	306,200	-	8,219,100
Richland	194,600	-	-	194,600
Rock	4,166,700	2,163,700	-	6,330,400
Rusk	605,800	-	436,300	1,042,100
Sauk	4,023,800	12,616,600	-	16,640,400
Sawyer	594,400	42,600	-	637,000
Shawano	1,737,500	130,400	-	1,867,900
Sheboygan	1,932,600	2,934,600	-	4,867,200
St. Croix	2,881,000	2,648,500	-	5,529,500
Taylor	188,700	308,400	170,300	667,400
Trempealeau	123,700	622,200	-	745,900
Vernon	1,589,800	254,400	108,100	1,952,300
Vilas	1,712,100	4,897,300	48,900	6,658,300
Walworth	3,293,400	2,725,600	-	6,019,000
Washburn	907,400	842,300	935,900	2,685,600
Washington	5,311,800	10,706,600	-	16,018,400
Waukesha	17,506,200	6,031,900	-	23,538,100
Waupaca	2,425,300	312,200	-	2,737,500
Waushara	430,400	951,500	-	1,381,900
Winnebago	9,456,800	1,332,700	-	10,789,500
Wood	<u>3,619,000</u>	<u>97,600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,716,600</u>
Total	\$184,182,500	\$165,179,200	\$19,107,800	\$368,469,500

*Data includes encumbrances for grants approved under Grants to Local Governments and Grants to NCOs and expenditures for County Forest Grants.

APPENDIX VII

Statutory Stewardship Program Earmarks by Biennium

Biennium	Project	Location (County)	Bonding Authority	Local Match*
1991-93	Monona Terrace Convention Center	Dane	\$3,000,000	50%
	Hank Aaron State Trail	Milwaukee	400,000	
	Horicon Marsh Interpretive Center	Dodge	250,000	75
1997-99	Grandfather Falls Recreation Area	Lincoln	2,138,000	
	Hank Aaron State Trail	Milwaukee	290,000	
	Crex Meadows Wildlife Center	Burnett	250,000	75
	Flambeau Mine Trail	Rusk	100,000	
1999-01	Milwaukee Lakeshore State Park	Milwaukee	2,000,000	
	Root River Multi-Purpose Pathway	Racine	750,000	50
	Hank Aaron State Trail	Milwaukee	670,000	
	Sheboygan Riverfront Park	Sheboygan	173,800	
	Keyes Lake Recreational Area	Florence	125,000	
	Rock River Riverwall	Jefferson	96,500	50
	Rib Mountain State Park Ski Chalet	Marathon	50,000	
	Upper Whiting Park	Portage	38,000	
	Nonprofit Habitat Restoration and Land Acquisition	Not Specified	20,000	
2001-03	Milwaukee Lakeshore State Park	Milwaukee	3,000,000	
	Kickapoo Valley Visitor Center	Vernon	2,370,000	
	State Fair Park	Milwaukee	2,000,000	
	Rib Mountain State Park Ski Chalet	Marathon	1,000,000	
	Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative	Grant	1,000,000	
	Prairie River Restoration	Lincoln	450,000	
	Root River Parkway	Racine	375,000	50
2007-09	Mirror Lake Boat Access	Sauk	1,000,000	
	The Conservation Fund - Greenseams Flood Management	Milwaukee	1,000,000	25
	Green Bay Recreational Trail	Brown	875,800	25
	Ice Age and Springbrook Trails	Langlade	600,000	50
	Jersey Valley Lake	Vernon	500,000	25
2011-13	Dam Safety Grants**	Milwaukee, Racine, Vernon	6,000,000	75
	DATCP Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE)	Several	5,200,000	50
2013-15	Bearskin State Trail	Lincoln, Oneida	130,000	

APPENDIX VII (continued)

Statutory Stewardship Program Earmarks by Biennium

Biennium	Project	Location (County)	Bonding Authority	Local Match*
2015-17	Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery	Sheboygan	\$19,600,000	
	Little Falls Dam (Willow River State Park)	St. Croix	5,000,000	
	Dam Safety Grants**	Milwaukee, Racine, Vernon	3,255,000	75
	Neenah-Menasha Twin Trestles Bridges	Calumet, Winnebago	1,600,000	50
2017-19	Saxon Harbor Campground and Marina	Iron	1,000,000	
	Canadian Pacific Railway Corridor Trail	Racine	1,000,000	
	Peninsula State Park Eagle Tower Reconstruction	Door	750,000	50
	Horicon Marsh Overlook Shelter Enhancement	Dodge	500,000	
	Neenah-Menasha Twin Trestles	Winnebago	415,300	50
	Municipal Flood Control Grant (Arcadia)	Trempealeau	14,600,000	
	Little Falls Dam	St. Croix	12,500,000***	

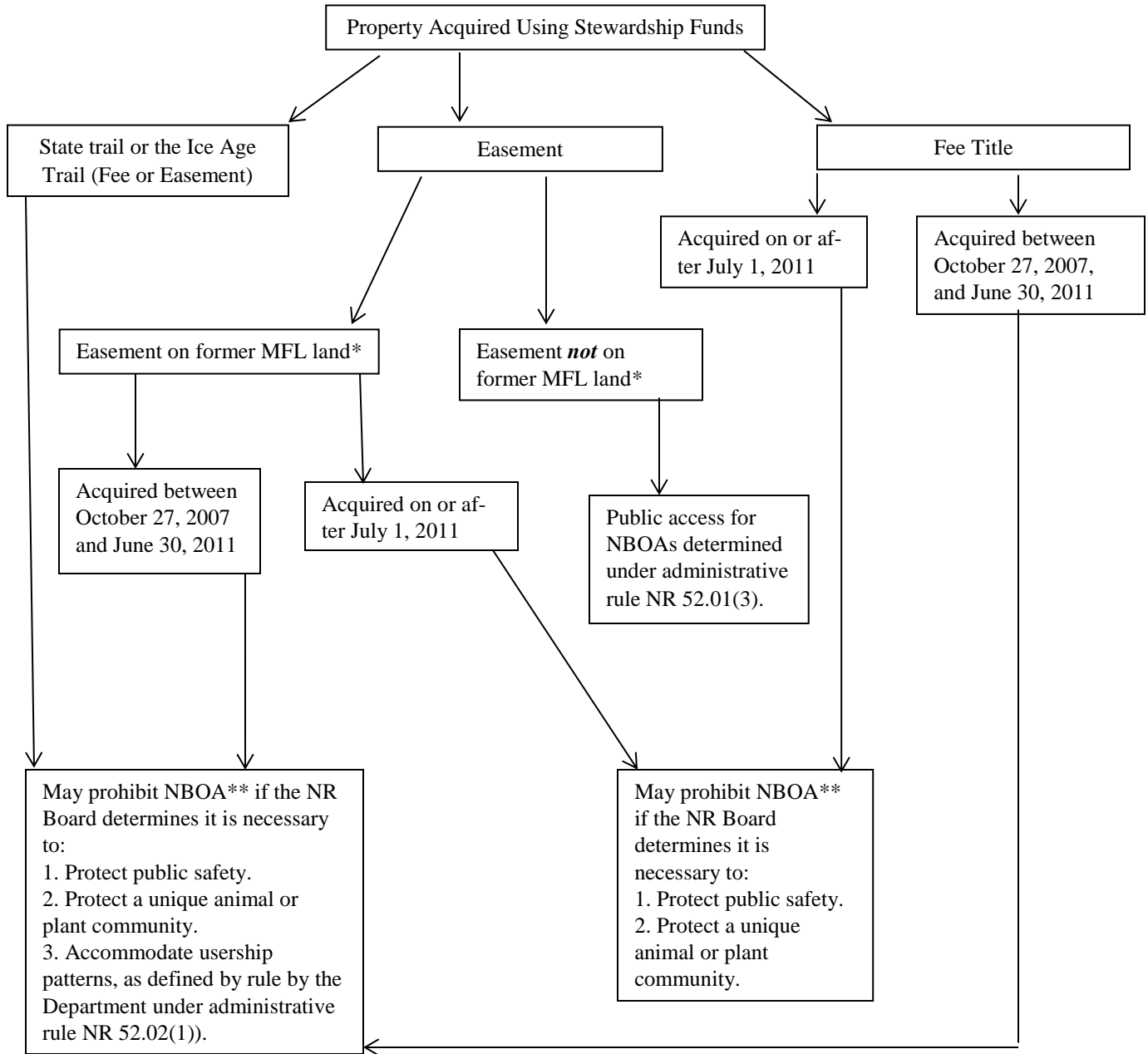
*Percent of eligible project costs funded by grant recipient.

**Originally \$6 million set-aside under 2011 Act 32. 2015 Act 55 allowed remaining unobligated funds from fiscal years 2011-12 through 2013-14, after using up to \$19.6 million for the Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery and up to \$5 million for the Little Falls Dam, to be utilized for any remaining county dam grants meeting the 2011 Act 32 requirements, until the unobligated funds are fully utilized or the county dam grants awarded total \$6 million.

***Total stewardship funding includes \$5 million authorized in the 2015-17 budget and \$7.5 million authorized in the 2017-19 budget.

APPENDIX VIII

Stewardship Public Access Requirements (SS. 23.0916(2) and 23.0916(3) of the Statutes and Administrative Code Chapter NR 52)



***Former MFL land.** Section 23.0916(1) of the statutes defines former MFL land as "land that was withdrawn from the managed forest land program under subch. VI of ch. 77 on or after October 27, 2007".

****NBOA** = Nature-Based Outdoor Activity. Section 23.0916(1)(b) of the statutes defines nature-based outdoor activity as "hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and any other nature-based outdoor activity designated by rule by the Department for the purposes of this section."