



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3744/1
EHS:skw&cdc

2025 BILL

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 30.92 (2) and 30.92 (4) (b) 3.; *to amend* 18.08 (1) (a) (intro.),
2 20.370 (5) (hq), 20.370 (5) (hr), 20.866 (2) (ta), 23.0917 (2) (a) 2., 23.0917 (2) (a)
3 3m., 23.0917 (3) (a), 23.0917 (3) (bw) 2., 23.0917 (4) (title), (a) and (b) (intro.),
4 23.0917 (4) (c) (intro.) and (cm) (intro.), 23.0917 (4) (d) (intro.), 23.0917 (4) (e)
5 (intro.), 23.0917 (4) (e) 1., 23.0917 (4j) (b), 23.0917 (5g) (a), 23.0917 (8) (f) 2.,
6 23.0917 (12), 23.096 (title), 23.096 (2m) (intro.), 23.098 (2), 23.098 (4) (b),
7 23.1987 (1), 30.92 (3) (b) 5., 30.92 (4) (b) 2. a. and 30.92 (4) (b) 6m.; *to repeal*
8 *and recreate* 23.0917 (4j) (title); *to create* 15.07 (3) (bm) 1., 15.345 (4), 20.370
9 (5) (ha), 20.370 (5) (hb), 23.0917 (2) (a) 3r., 23.0917 (3) (br) 3., 23.0917 (3) (bt)
10 4., 23.0917 (3) (dm) 9., 23.0917 (4) (d) 1m. g., 23.0917 (4) (d) 2m. c., 23.0917 (4)
11 (d) 3. d., 23.0917 (4r), 23.0917 (6), 23.0917 (7) (e) 3., 23.0952, 23.0961, 23.0966
12 and 23.33 (1) (nh) of the statutes; **relating to:** the Warren Knowles-Gaylord
13 Nelson stewardship 2000 program and making an appropriation.

BILL***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill reauthorizes the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program (stewardship program) until 2032 and makes various changes to the program.

WARREN KNOWLES-GAYLORD NELSON STEWARDSHIP 2000 PROGRAM

Current law authorizes the state to incur public debt for certain conservation activities under the stewardship program, which is administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The state may incur this debt to acquire land for the state for conservation purposes and for property development activities and may award grants or state aid to certain local governmental units and nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs) to acquire land for these purposes. Current law establishes the amounts that DNR may obligate in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2025-26 for expenditure under each of five subprograms of the stewardship program.

This bill increases the total amount that may be obligated for the stewardship program from \$33,250,000 each fiscal year to \$72,000,000 each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2026-27 and ending with fiscal year 2031-32.

Land acquisition subprogram

The bill increases the amount that may be obligated under the land acquisition subprogram each fiscal year from \$16,000,000 to \$17,200,000. The bill increases the amount under the land acquisition subprogram that must be set aside for grants to nonprofit conservation organizations each fiscal year from \$7,000,000 to \$11,350,000.

Moneys obligated under the stewardship program are appropriated from the capital improvement fund (CIF) and stewardship bond proceeds are deposited into CIF. Current law provides that, in obligating moneys under the subprogram for land acquisition, DNR must set aside certain amounts to be obligated only for DNR to acquire land and to provide grants to counties for land acquisition (county forest grants). Specifically, the set-aside for DNR land acquisition each fiscal year is \$1,000,000 plus the amount transferred to CIF under an appropriation that transfers from moneys received for forestry activities (the forestry account) to CIF \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year. The set-aside for county forest grants is equal to the amount transferred to CIF under an appropriation that transfers from the forestry account to CIF \$3,000,000 in each fiscal year. The bill ends these annual transfers from the forestry account to CIF beginning in fiscal year 2026-27 and instead appropriates amounts directly to fund those purposes from the conservation fund. Specifically, the bill appropriates \$6,000,000 each fiscal year from the conservation fund for DNR land acquisitions and \$3,000,000 each fiscal year from the forestry account for county forest grants. In addition, the bill requires that \$5,850,000 be set aside under the land acquisition subprogram of the stewardship program to be obligated for DNR land acquisitions. The bill provides that any amount in CIF remaining from the amounts transferred from the forestry account in fiscal years 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 is transferred back to the forestry account in fiscal year 2026-27.

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The bill eliminates a current law provision that states that, of the amount set aside under the land acquisition subprogram for DNR to acquire land, DNR may not use more than one-third to acquire land in fee simple. In addition, the bill eliminates a provision requiring DNR to use at least two appraisals to determine the current fair market value of land that is the subject of a stewardship funding for an NCO or governmental unit if DNR estimates the fair market value of the land to exceed \$350,000.

State property development and local parks and recreation subprogram

The bill renames the property development and local assistance subprogram to be the “state property development and local parks and recreation subprogram,” and increases the amount in each fiscal year that may be obligated under the subprogram from \$14,250,000 to \$45,000,000. Of that amount, the bill increases the amount that DNR must obligate for property development each fiscal year from \$5,000,000 to \$15,000,000 and increases the amount that DNR must obligate for local assistance each fiscal year from \$9,250,000 to \$30,000,000.

The bill increases from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 the amount that DNR is required to set aside each fiscal year, from the amounts obligated for property development, for grants to friends groups and NCOs for property development activities on DNR properties. The bill also increases from \$20,000 to \$50,000 the maximum amount that DNR may encumber per DNR property for these grants in each fiscal year.

Motorized recreation subprogram

The bill creates a motorized recreation subprogram of the stewardship program, and authorizes DNR to obligate \$2,000,000 each fiscal year under that subprogram to award grants to a county, city, village, town, or recreational vehicle club either to acquire land for the purpose of establishing an all-terrain vehicle trail, off-highway motorcycle trail, or snowmobile trail or to construct a trail crossing for an all-terrain vehicle trail, off-highway motorcycle trail, or snowmobile trail as part of an interchange project.

Local recreation boat facilities subprogram

The bill renames the recreational boating aids subprogram to be the “local recreation boat facilities subprogram” and increases the amount in each fiscal year that DNR may obligate under the subprogram from \$3,000,000 to \$7,800,000. The bill eliminates DNR’s authority under current law to use funds, whether stewardship or other funds, for recreational boating project feasibility studies. The bill changes one of the factors that DNR must consider in establishing priorities for projects from “projects underway” to “projects in a state of readiness.”

Knowles-Nelson stewardship board

The bill creates the Knowles-Nelson stewardship board in DNR, with the responsibilities of providing advice to DNR on all stewardship land acquisition projects and activities and reviewing all stewardship land acquisition projects and activities requiring an obligation of over \$2,500,000 (large land acquisition projects). Under the bill, DNR may not obligate any stewardship moneys for a large land acquisition project unless it first notifies the Knowles-Nelson stewardship

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board in writing of the proposal. Under the bill, if, within 120 days after the date of DNR's notification, the board does not meet to review the proposal, then DNR may obligate the moneys. If, within 120 days after the date of DNR's notification, the board meets to review the proposal, DNR may obligate the moneys only upon approval of the board. Under the bill, the board must meet at least quarterly and has the following members appointed by the governor for staggered three-year terms:

1. One member who is a representative to the assembly, nominated by the majority leader of the assembly.

2. One member who is a representative to the assembly, nominated by the minority leader of the assembly.

3. One member who is a senator, nominated by the majority leader of the senate.

4. One member who is a senator, nominated by the minority leader of the senate.

5. Two members who represent environmental organizations or nonprofit conservation organizations in this state.

6. Two members who each represent organizations that represent hunting, fishing, or trapping interests in this state.

7. Two members who represent DNR, including one member of the natural resources board.

8. One member who represents the office of outdoor recreation in the department of tourism.

9. One member who represents an outdoor recreation business in this state.

10. One member who represents the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

11. One member who represents a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state.

12. One member who is a representative of local government in this state who occupies an executive or legislative post.

13. Two members who are citizens of this state.

New grant programs

The bill creates two new programs and funds them with appropriations from the general fund. Specifically, the bill creates a grant program for nonprofit conservation organizations to support wildlife and habitat management, and a tribal co-management program under which DNR must coordinate with the federally recognized American Indian tribes or bands domiciled in this state in the management of education infrastructure, land management activities, and other activities on DNR land.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

BILL**SECTION 1**

1 **SECTION 1.** 15.07 (3) (bm) 1. of the statutes is created to read:

2 15.07 (3) (bm) 1. The Knowles-Nelson stewardship board shall meet at least
3 quarterly.

4 **SECTION 2.** 15.345 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

5 15.345 (4) KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP BOARD. (a) There is created a
6 Knowles-Nelson stewardship board attached to the department of natural resources
7 under s. 15.03.

8 (b) The board shall be composed of the following members appointed for
9 staggered 3-year terms:

10 1. One member who is a representative to the assembly, nominated by the
11 majority leader of the assembly.

12 2. One member who is a representative to the assembly, nominated by the
13 minority leader of the assembly.

14 3. One member who is a senator, nominated by the majority leader of the
15 senate.

16 4. One member who is a senator, nominated by the minority leader of the
17 senate.

18 5. Two members who represent environmental organizations or nonprofit
19 conservation organizations, as defined under s. 23.0955 (1), in this state.

20 6. Two members who each represent organizations that represent hunting,
21 fishing, or trapping interests in this state.

22 7. Two members who represent the department of natural resources,
23 including one member of the natural resources board.

BILL**SECTION 2**

1 8. One member who represents the office of outdoor recreation in the
2 department of tourism.

3 9. One member who represents an outdoor recreation business in this state.

4 10. One member who represents the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

5 11. One member who represents a federally recognized American Indian tribe
6 or band in this state.

7 12. One member who is a representative of local government in this state who
8 occupies an executive or legislative post.

9 13. Two members who are citizens of this state.

10 **SECTION 3.** 18.08 (1) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 18.08 (1) (a) (intro.) All moneys resulting from the contracting of public debt
12 or any payment to be received with respect to any agreement or ancillary
13 arrangement entered into under s. 18.06 (8) (a) with respect to any such public debt
14 ~~and any moneys transferred under s. 20.370 (5) (hq) or (hr)~~ shall be credited to a
15 separate and distinct fund, established in the state treasury, designated as the
16 capital improvement fund, except that:

17 **SECTION 4.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place,
18 insert the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

				2025-26	2026-27
20	20.370	Natural resources, department of			
21	(5)	CONSERVATION AIDS			
22	(ha)	Grants to nonprofit conservation			
23		organizations	GPR	C	-0- 5,000,000

BILL**SECTION 4****2025-26 2026-27**

1 (hb) Tribal co-management program GPR C -0- 3,000,000

2 **SECTION 5.** 20.370 (5) (ha) of the statutes is created to read:

3 20.370 (5) (ha) *Grants to nonprofit conservation organizations.* As a
4 continuing appropriation, from the general fund, the amounts in the schedule for
5 grants to nonprofit conservation organizations under s. 23.0961.

6 **SECTION 6.** 20.370 (5) (hb) of the statutes is created to read:

7 20.370 (5) (hb) *Tribal co-management program.* As a continuing
8 appropriation, from the general fund, the amounts in the schedule for the tribal co-
9 management program under s. 23.0966.

10 **SECTION 7.** 20.370 (5) (hq) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 20.370 (5) (hq) *Department land acquisition.* ~~From~~ As a continuing
12 appropriation, from the moneys received by the department for forestry activities,
13 the amounts in the schedule for ~~transfer to the capital improvement fund~~ the
14 purposes specified in s. 23.09 (2) (d).

15 **SECTION 8.** 20.370 (5) (hr) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 20.370 (5) (hr) *County forest grants.* ~~From~~ As a continuing appropriation,
17 from the moneys received by the department for forestry activities, the amounts in
18 the schedule for ~~transfer to the capital improvement fund~~ grants to counties under
19 s. 23.0953.

20 **SECTION 9.** 20.866 (2) (ta) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 20.866 (2) (ta) *Natural resources; Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson*
22 *stewardship 2000 program.* From the capital improvement fund a sum sufficient
23 for the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson stewardship 2000 program under s.

BILL**SECTION 9**

23.0917. The state may contract public debt in an amount not to exceed ~~\$1,046,250,000~~ \$1,478,250,000 for this program. The state may contract additional public debt in an amount up to \$42,600,000 for this program. The state may contract additional public debt in an amount up to \$90,000,000. Except as provided in s. 23.0917 (4g) (b), (4m) (k), (5), (5g), and (5m), the amounts obligated, as defined in s. 23.0917 (1) (e), under this paragraph may not exceed \$46,000,000 in fiscal year 2000-01, may not exceed \$46,000,000 in fiscal year 2001-02, may not exceed \$60,000,000 in each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2002-03 and ending with fiscal year 2009-10, may not exceed \$86,000,000 in fiscal year 2010-11, may not exceed \$60,000,000 in fiscal year 2011-12, may not exceed \$60,000,000 in fiscal year 2012-13, may not exceed \$47,500,000 in fiscal year 2013-14, may not exceed \$54,500,000 in fiscal year 2014-15, and may not exceed \$33,250,000 in each fiscal year beginning with 2015-16 and ending with fiscal year 2021-22. Except as provided in s. 23.0917 (4g) (b), (4m) (f) and (k), (5g), and (5m), the amounts obligated, as defined in s. 23.0917 (1) (e), under this paragraph cannot exceed \$33,250,000 in each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2022-23 and ending with fiscal year 2025-26. Except as provided in s. 23.0917 (4g) (b), (4m) (f) and (k), (5g), and (5m), the amounts obligated, as defined in s. 23.0917 (1) (e), under this paragraph may not exceed \$72,000,000 in each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2026-27 and ending with fiscal year 2031-32.

SECTION 10. 23.0917 (2) (a) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

23.0917 (2) (a) 2. A subprogram for state property development and local ~~assistance~~ parks and recreation.

SECTION 11. 23.0917 (2) (a) 3m. of the statutes is amended to read:

BILL**SECTION 11**

1 23.0917 (2) (a) 3m. A subprogram for ~~recreational boating aids~~ local
2 recreation boat facilities.

3 **SECTION 12.** 23.0917 (2) (a) 3r. of the statutes is created to read:

4 23.0917 (2) (a) 3r. A subprogram for motorized recreation.

5 **SECTION 13.** 23.0917 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 23.0917 (3) (a) Beginning with fiscal year 2000-01 and ending with fiscal year
7 ~~2025-26~~ 2031-32, the department may obligate moneys under the subprogram for
8 land acquisition to acquire land for the purposes specified in s. 23.09 (2) (d) and
9 grants for these purposes under s. 23.096, except as provided under ss. 23.197 (2m),
10 (3m) (b), (7m), and (8) and 23.198 (1) (a).

11 **SECTION 14.** 23.0917 (3) (br) 3. of the statutes is created to read:

12 23.0917 (3) (br) 3. For each fiscal year beginning with 2026-27 and ending
13 with 2031-32, \$11,350,000.

14 **SECTION 15.** 23.0917 (3) (bt) 4. of the statutes is created to read:

15 23.0917 (3) (bt) 4. For each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2026-27 and
16 ending with fiscal year 2031-32, \$5,850,000.

17 **SECTION 16.** 23.0917 (3) (bw) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

18 23.0917 (3) (bw) 2. In obligating moneys under the subprogram for land
19 acquisition, for each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2022-23 and ending with
20 fiscal year 2025-26, the department shall set aside the amount transferred to the
21 capital improvement fund under s. 20.370 (5) (hr), 2023 stats., in that fiscal year to
22 be obligated only to provide grants to counties under s. 23.0953.

23 **SECTION 17.** 23.0917 (3) (dm) 9. of the statutes is created to read:

BILL**SECTION 17**

1 23.0917 (3) (dm) 9. For each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2026-27
2 and ending with fiscal year 2031-32, \$17,200,000.

3 **SECTION 18.** 23.0917 (4) (title), (a) and (b) (intro.) of the statutes are amended
4 to read:

5 23.0917 (4) (title) ~~PROPERTY~~ STATE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL
6 ~~ASSISTANCE~~ PARKS AND RECREATION SUBPROGRAM. (a) Beginning with fiscal year
7 2000-01 and ending with fiscal year ~~2025-26~~ 2031-32, the department may obligate
8 moneys under the subprogram for state property development and local ~~assistance~~
9 parks and recreation. Moneys obligated under this subprogram may be only used
10 for nature-based outdoor recreation, except as provided under par. (cm).

11 (b) (intro.) The purposes for which moneys may be obligated for local
12 assistance under the subprogram for state property development and local
13 ~~assistance~~ parks and recreation are the following:

14 **SECTION 19.** 23.0917 (4) (c) (intro.) and (cm) (intro.) of the statutes are
15 amended to read:

16 23.0917 (4) (c) (intro.) The purposes for which moneys may be obligated for
17 property development under the subprogram for state property development and
18 local ~~assistance~~ parks and recreation are the following:

19 (cm) (intro.) Notwithstanding the purposes for which the department is
20 authorized to obligate moneys under pars. (a), (b), and (c), the department may
21 obligate moneys under the subprogram for state property development and local
22 ~~assistance~~ parks and recreation for any of the following purposes:

23 **SECTION 20.** 23.0917 (4) (d) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 23.0917 (4) (d) (intro.) In obligating moneys under the subprogram for state

BILL**SECTION 20**

1 property development and local ~~assistance~~ parks and recreation, all of the following
2 shall apply:

3 **SECTION 21.** 23.0917 (4) (d) 1m. g. of the statutes is created to read:

4 23.0917 (4) (d) 1m. g. For each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2026-27
5 and ending with fiscal year 2031-32, \$45,000,000.

6 **SECTION 22.** 23.0917 (4) (d) 2m. c. of the statutes is created to read:

7 23.0917 (4) (d) 2m. c. Beginning with fiscal year 2026-27 and ending with
8 fiscal year 2031-32, the department shall obligate \$30,000,000 in each fiscal year
9 for local assistance.

10 **SECTION 23.** 23.0917 (4) (d) 3. d. of the statutes is created to read:

11 23.0917 (4) (d) 3. d. Beginning with fiscal year 2026-27 and ending with fiscal
12 year 2031-32, \$15,000,000.

13 **SECTION 24.** 23.0917 (4) (e) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 23.0917 (4) (e) (intro.) Beginning with fiscal year 2022-23 and ending with
15 fiscal year ~~2025-26~~ 2031-32, of the amounts obligated for property development, the
16 department shall set aside the following amounts for the following purposes:

17 **SECTION 25.** 23.0917 (4) (e) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

18 23.0917 (4) (e) 1. For grants under s. 23.098, ~~\$500,000~~ \$1,500,000 in each
19 fiscal year.

20 **SECTION 26.** 23.0917 (4j) (title) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to
21 read:

22 23.0917 (4j) (title) LOCAL RECREATION BOAT FACILITIES.

23 **SECTION 27.** 23.0917 (4j) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 23.0917 (4j) (b) For fiscal year 2007-08, the department may not obligate

BILL**SECTION 27**

1 more than \$1,500,000 for cost-sharing with local governmental units for
2 recreational boating projects under s. 30.92. For each fiscal year beginning with
3 fiscal year 2008-09 and ending with fiscal year 2021-22, the department may not
4 obligate more than \$2,500,000 for cost-sharing with local governmental units for
5 recreational boating projects under s. 30.92. For each fiscal year beginning with
6 fiscal year 2022-23 and ending with fiscal year 2025-26, the department cannot
7 obligate more than \$3,000,000 for cost-sharing with local governmental units for
8 recreational boating projects under s. 30.92. For each fiscal year beginning with
9 fiscal year 2026-27 and ending with fiscal year 2031-32, the department may not
10 obligate more than \$7,800,000 for cost-sharing with local governmental units for
11 recreational boating projects under s. 30.92.

12 **SECTION 28.** 23.0917 (4r) of the statutes is created to read:

13 23.0917 (**4r**) MOTORIZED RECREATION. For each fiscal year beginning with
14 fiscal year 2026-27 and ending with fiscal year 2031-32, the department may
15 obligate \$2,000,000 for grants under s. 23.0952.

16 **SECTION 29.** 23.0917 (5g) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 23.0917 (**5g**) (a) Except as provided in pars. (b) to (j), if for a given fiscal year,
18 the department obligates an amount from the moneys appropriated under s. 20.866
19 (2) (ta) for a subprogram under sub. (3) or (4) that is less than the annual bonding
20 authority under that subprogram for that given fiscal year, the department may not
21 obligate the unobligated amount in subsequent fiscal years. This subsection
22 applies beginning with fiscal year 2011-12 and ending with fiscal year ~~2025-26~~
23 2031-32.

24 **SECTION 30.** 23.0917 (6) of the statutes is created to read:

BILL**SECTION 30**

1 23.0917 (6) KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP BOARD REVIEW. (a) In this
2 subsection “large land acquisition project” means a land acquisition project or
3 activity under this section that requires the obligation of an an amount that exceeds
4 \$2,500,000 from the appropriation under s. 20.866 (2) (ta).

5 (b) The department may not obligate from the appropriation under s. 20.866
6 (2) (ta) any moneys for a large land acquisition project unless it first notifies the
7 Knowles-Nelson stewardship board in writing of the proposal. If, within 120 days
8 after the date of the department’s notification, the Knowles-Nelson stewardship
9 board does not meet to review the proposal, the department may obligate the
10 moneys. If, within 120 days after the date of the notification by the department, the
11 Knowles-Nelson stewardship board meets to review the proposal, the department
12 may obligate the moneys only upon approval of the board.

13 (c) The department shall seek from the Knowles-Nelson stewardship board,
14 and the Knowles-Nelson stewardship board shall provide to the department, advice
15 and recommendations relating to all land acquisition projects and activities under
16 this section.

17 **SECTION 31.** 23.0917 (7) (e) 3. of the statutes is created to read:

18 23.0917 (7) (e) 3. Subdivision 1. does not apply beginning with fiscal year
19 2026-27.

20 **SECTION 32.** 23.0917 (8) (f) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

21 23.0917 (8) (f) 2. Beginning with fiscal year 2013-14 and ending with fiscal
22 year 2025-26, of the amount set aside for a given fiscal year under sub. (3) (bt), not
23 more than one-third of that amount may be obligated for the purpose of the
24 acquisition of land by the department.

BILL**SECTION 33**

SECTION 33. 23.0917 (12) of the statutes is amended to read:

23.0917 (12) EXPENDITURES AFTER 2026. No moneys may be obligated from the appropriation under s. 20.866 (2) (ta) after June 30, ~~2026~~ 2032.

SECTION 34. 23.0952 of the statutes is created to read:

23.0952 Motorized recreation grants. (1) In this section:

(a) “All-terrain vehicle trail” has the meaning given in s. 23.33 (1) (d).

(b) “Land” means land in fee simple or an easement.

(c) “Off-highway motorcycle trail” has the meaning given in s. 23.335 (1) (v).

(d) “Recreational vehicle club” means an all-terrain vehicle club, as defined under s. 23.33 (1) (bc), a utility terrain vehicle club, as defined under s. 23.33 (1) (nh), an off-highway motorcycle association, as defined under s. 23.335 (1) (qm), or a snowmobile club, as defined under s. 350.12 (3j) (bg) 1.

(e) “Snowmobile trail” has the meaning given in s. 350.01 (17).

(2) Beginning with fiscal year 2026-27 and ending with fiscal year 2031-32, the department shall establish a grant program under which the department may award a grant to a county, city, village, town, or recreational vehicle club for any of the following purposes:

(a) To acquire land for the purpose of establishing an all-terrain vehicle trail, off-highway motorcycle trail, or snowmobile trail.

(b) To construct a trail crossing for an all-terrain vehicle trail, off-highway motorcycle trail, or snowmobile trail as part of an interchange project.

(3) Grants under this section shall be awarded from the appropriation under s. 20.866 (2) (ta), and the department shall allocate a total of \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2026-27 and ending with fiscal year 2031-32

BILL**SECTION 34**

1 for these grants. For purposes of s. 23.0917, grants awarded under this section
2 shall be treated as moneys obligated from the subprogram under s. 23.0917 (4r).

3 (4) A grant recipient may not convert the land, or any rights in the land,
4 acquired with grant moneys awarded under this section to a use that is inconsistent
5 with the type of trail for which the grant was awarded unless the natural resources
6 board approves the conversion.

7 **SECTION 35.** 23.096 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 **23.096 (title) ~~Grants~~ Stewardship grants to nonprofit conservation**
9 **organizations.**

10 **SECTION 36.** 23.096 (2m) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 23.096 (2m) (intro.) Notwithstanding sub. (2) (b), in each fiscal year
12 beginning with fiscal year 2010-11 and ending with fiscal year ~~2025-26~~ 2031-32, the
13 department may award grants under this section that equal up to 75 percent of the
14 acquisition costs of the property if the natural resources board determines that all
15 of the following apply:

16 **SECTION 37.** 23.0961 of the statutes is created to read:

17 **23.0961 Grants to nonprofit conservation organizations.** The
18 department may award grants from the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (ha) to
19 nonprofit conservation organizations to support wildlife and habitat management.

20 **SECTION 38.** 23.0966 of the statutes is created to read:

21 **23.0966 Tribal co-management program.** The department shall establish
22 a program under which it coordinates with the federally recognized American
23 Indian tribes or bands domiciled in this state in the management of education

BILL**SECTION 38**

1 infrastructure, land management activities, and other activities on department
2 land, as defined under s. 23.0917 (1) (c).

3 **SECTION 39.** 23.098 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 23.098 (2) The department shall establish a program to make grants from the
5 appropriations under s. 20.866 (2) (ta) and (tz) to friends groups and nonprofit
6 conservation organizations for projects for property development activities on
7 department properties. The department may not encumber more than ~~\$500,000~~
8 \$2,500,000 in each fiscal year for these grants.

9 **SECTION 40.** 23.098 (4) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 23.098 (4) (b) The department may not encumber more than ~~\$20,000~~ \$50,000
11 for grants under this section for a department property in each fiscal year.

12 **SECTION 41.** 23.1987 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 23.1987 (1) From the moneys appropriated under s. 20.866 (2) (ta), the
14 department shall set aside \$7,000,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 that may be obligated
15 only for infrastructure improvements to the Kettle Moraine Springs fish hatchery.
16 For purposes of s. 23.0917, moneys obligated under this subsection shall be treated
17 as moneys obligated under the ~~property development and local assistance~~
18 subprogram under s. 23.0917 (4). Section 23.0917 (5g) does not apply with respect
19 to amounts obligated before July 1, 2018, under this subsection.

20 **SECTION 42.** 23.33 (1) (nh) of the statutes is created to read:

21 23.33 (1) (nh) "Utility terrain vehicle club" means a club consisting of
22 individuals that promotes the recreational use of utility terrain vehicles.

23 **SECTION 43.** 30.92 (2) of the statutes is repealed.

24 **SECTION 44.** 30.92 (3) (b) 5. of the statutes is amended to read:

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1 30.92 (3) (b) 5. Projects ~~underway~~ in a state of readiness.

2 **SECTION 45.** 30.92 (4) (b) 2. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

3 30.92 (4) (b) 2. a. The department may cost-share, with the approval of the
4 commission, with a qualified lake association or an affected governmental unit,
5 including itself, at a rate of up to 50 percent of any construction, acquisition,
6 rehabilitation, ~~feasibility study~~ or other project costs or any combination of these
7 costs, for the recreational boating project if the costs are the type that qualify for
8 funding under this section.

9 **SECTION 46.** 30.92 (4) (b) 3. of the statutes is repealed.

10 **SECTION 47.** 30.92 (4) (b) 6m. of the statutes is amended to read:

11 30.92 (4) (b) 6m. Notwithstanding subd. 6., the department, with the
12 approval of the commission, may reallocate for expenditure for recreational boating
13 aids without complying with the percentages under subd. 6. any state funds that
14 are not encumbered for expenditure for a fiscal year before the first day of the ~~4th~~
15 3rd quarter of that fiscal year.

16 **SECTION 48. Fiscal changes.**

17 (1) TRANSFER FROM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO THE CONSERVATION FUND.

18 In fiscal year 2026-27, there is transferred from the capital improvement fund to
19 the forestry account of the conservation fund an amount equal to the difference
20 between the following:

21 (a) The total amount transferred to the capital improvement fund under s.
22 20.370 (5) (hq) and (hr), 2023 stats., in fiscal years 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, and
23 2025-26.

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1 (b) The total amount obligated under s. 23.0917 (3) (bt) 3. and (bw) 2. in fiscal
2 years 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 minus \$4,000,000.

3 (2) DEPARTMENT LAND ACQUISITION. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for
4 the appropriation to the department of natural resources under s. 20.370 (5) (hq),
5 the dollar amount for fiscal year 2026-27 is increased by \$1,000,000 for the
6 purposes for which the appropriation is made.

7 **SECTION 49. Effective dates.** This act takes effect on the day after
8 publication or on the 2nd day after publication of the 2025 biennial budget act,
9 whichever is later, except as follows:

10 (1) TRANSFERS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND. The treatment of ss.
11 18.08 (1) (a) (intro.) and 20.370 (5) (hq) and (hr) takes effect on July 1, 2026.

12 (END)