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Recognize fellow employees in special May "MyDNR Digest"

By: Diane Brinson, Office of Communication

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Submit employee recognition blurbs and photos

I can't believe that it's almost May! That means that on May 6 I'll devote the "MyDNR Digest" to recognizing department employees. To do a bang up job of it, however, I need your help.



(Left to right) Based in Fitchburg, Scott Harpold, fisheries technician; Kate Wipperman, National Heritage Land Trust; Cami Peterson, water regulation and zoning specialist; and Gary Greene, regional operations specialist electroshocked fish during a population survey along Mt. Vernon Creek in Dane County.

WDNR Photo

Send me short "blurbs" of 75 words or less about your co-workers to run as recognition of their dedication to their work and DNR's mission. And, whether you contribute to the work of the agency from a desk or in the field, submit testimonials to me about why you like working for the DNR.

I'll also feature in the May 6 "Digest" words of praise you've received for your work or the work of others from private citizens, local officials, regulated businesses, etc. These compliments on a job-

well-done mean a great deal. Send all testimonials, compliments and recognition stories to me, [Diane Brinson](#). **The deadline for copy and photos is April 28.**

The photo in this story is from last year's "[Employee Recognition Day photo gallery](#)" and is an excellent example of the kind of photos I'd like to receive this year. Again, email your photos with brief captions to me, [Diane Brinson](#). Photos should be sized at 640 pixels wide by 480 pixels high, with a resolution of 72 pixels per inch or greater. Name the file with a minimal number of words.

Footnote: *Diane Brinson is editor of the "MyDNR Digest."*



DNR launches tip411 anonymous texting to report violations

By: Laurel Steffes, Office of Communication

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The department has added a text messaging option to ways the public can report hunting, fishing, trapping, recreational vehicle and environmental violations. DNR is launching "tip411," an internet-based tool that enables the public to text message an anonymous tip to DNR. Hotline operators respond back creating a two way anonymous "chat."

According to chief conservation warden **Randy Stark**, "People in Wisconsin have a deeply ingrained conservation ethic. The public plays a critical role in our efforts to protect our natural resources. This new capability creates an additional way for the public to quickly, easily and anonymously report violations."

Anyone with a cell phone with texting service now can send an anonymous tip to Wisconsin DNR from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. everyday of the year by texting the words TIPWDNR and the tip information to 847-411 ("tip411").

"The ability to text violations will be in addition to the 24-hours- a-day, seven-days-per-week confidential telephone tip line we operate to report suspected or observed illegal activity. The number is easy to remember, 1(800)TIP-WDNR (1(800)847-9367 or cell #367)," Stark said. "Whenever you need to report an emergency, however, telephone us so we can respond right away."

Powered by Citizen Observer, a St. Paul, MN company, "tip411" puts a powerful new law enforcement tool into the hands of the public for reporting violations. DNR's Customer Service and Licensing hotline staff already has received training on the system.

"We're proud to be part of a national program being used by agencies in over 27 states. This new capability will provide another way for our citizens to play an active role in protecting our natural resources, specifically younger generations who regularly use texting technology," Stark said.

DNR customer service staff is available to assist the public by phone and online from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Spanish and Hmong bilingual customer service representatives also are available if needed.

Customers can reach Customer Service and Licensing regarding non-urgent matters at 1(888)WDNRINFO (1(888)936-7463) or by email at csweb@wisconsin.gov. An online chat link also is available at "[Contact Us.](#)"

Footnote: *Laurel Steffes is director of the Office of Communication.*



Energy-wise electric cars to perform state parks tasks this year

By: Joanne H. Haas, Office of Communication

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One from Reedsburg company; other includes state parts

With blue sky on tap, a frosted cake on deck and about 20 enthusiastic DNR staff, business and environmental leaders on hand, DNR Secretary **Matt Frank** on Wednesday April 21, helped mark the 40th anniversary of Earth Day by unveiling the purchase of energy-wise electric vehicles in a state park named after one of Wisconsin's favorite sons and the founder of Earth Day.



Secretary Matt Frank and Bureau of Park's director Dan admired the Columbia ParCar made in Reedsburg, before taking it for a spin at Governor Nelson State Park.

WDNR Photo

"Governor Doyle has made energy conservation and the development of clean and renewable energy resources a top priority for Wisconsin," Sec. Frank said during a late morning news conference in Governor Nelson State Park. "These electric vehicles are more efficient to operate, will reduce air pollution, and will showcase to 14 million annual state park visitors each year our commitment to energy independence and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day this week, it is appropriate that we announce this news at the state park named for Wisconsin's own Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day and great environmental champion."

The agency is purchasing the 23 electric vehicles from Columbia ParCar of Reedsburg and E-Ride Industries of Princeton, MN, which uses 22 percent Wisconsin parts in its electric vehicles.

Todd Sauey, the chief executive officer of Columbia ParCar of Reedsburg, arrived at the conference with yet another of his electric vehicles in tow. Sauey delivered a spirited speech, urging all to think big when it comes to the real possibilities of clean and renewable energy. Bob Teich of E-Ride stressed that the Minnesota-based company is pleased and proud of the relationship with the Wisconsin DNR that the purchase represented.

Lucy Zweep of Ozee Cars of Stoughton, who is a Columbia ParCar dealer, reminded the crowd that the electric vehicles are "fun" in addition to being the right thing to do for our future. A grandmother, she later said she enjoys picking up her grandchildren from school in a different electric vehicle, as often as she can. "I remind them that this (use of electric vehicles) is for you," she said of the energy-wise transportation choice and its role in making a healthier future.

"These vehicles are between 30 and 50 percent less expensive to purchase compared to the pick-ups in use," Sec. Frank said. "The 23 vehicles we have purchased demonstrate how Wisconsin manufacturers can grow green jobs through our commitment to energy conservation and clean and renewable energy. These vehicles are either entirely Wisconsin-made, or include Wisconsin companies in the supply chain."

Funds to purchase the vehicles come from the Parks Heritage Account. The account is funded by payments and fees collected from utilities and other groups that purchased easements onto Wisconsin State Parks for utility lines and communication installations.

The electric vehicles also are less expensive to operate, Frank explained, costing about \$0.02 per mile to operate compared to an average \$.62 per mile for the parks vehicles being replaced.

"When park-goers are enjoying the outdoors this season, they will see first-hand how the DNR also is doing its part to be environmentally forward in our operations," Frank said. "And that means also reducing our carbon footprint."



The Minnesota manufacture of this vehicle includes 22 percent parts from Wisconsin. WDNR Photo

Each vehicle will produce 9,450 pounds per year less CO2 compared to a three quarter ton pickup driven 8,000 miles per year.

The new vehicles are street-legal with enclosed cabs, seat belts and all necessary lights. They're capable of traveling up to 25 mph with a daily range of 50 to 75 miles per charge.

Parks director **Dan Schuller**, charged with giving Sec. Frank a ride after the news conference, also reminded the audience to keep their ears and eyes open for more green initiatives from the State Parks system, in the coming months.

Park's program employees who helped with this event included Governor Nelson park manager Rene Lee and her colleagues **Sarah Bolser**, **Robert Ramsey** and **Brian Hefty**. In addition to bureau director Schuller, central office employees who worked on the project included **Peter Biermeier**, **Landon Williams** and **Marissa DeGroot**. **Tim Miller in the Northern Region helped with the purchasing process.**

Following the program, the audience was treated to rides in the electric vehicles and some delicious cake provided by the Bureau of Parks. Others who attended the Wednesday event included Tracey Schwalbe of the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks and Brett Hulsey of Better Environmental Solutions and a Dane County supervisor.

Footnote: Joanne M. Haas is a public affairs managers in the Secretary's Office.



State ramps up efforts to deter illegal drug activity

By: Laurel Steffes, Office of Communication

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Remote areas on public lands show evidence of pot growing

State and local officials are using law enforcement surveillance flights, foot patrols and a public awareness campaign to stop illegal drug growing operations in remote areas of Wisconsin. In recent years, illegal marijuana growing operations have been found on a number of remote public and private lands.



One of the several camps found at the marijuana grow operation found on the Navarino State

"Local, state and federal law enforcement authorities are teaming up to prevent criminals from trying to use wild public lands to grow marijuana," said chief conservation warden **Randy Stark**. "These illegal drug operations disrupt the landscape, leave a costly mess to clean up, deprive the public of the intended use of their lands, and potentially put the public in danger. The best way to stop them is to 'shine a bright light' on places they may plant and make it too risky for them to plant."

Efforts to stop attempts at illegal grows are teamed with an enforcement program coordinated by the Wisconsin Department of Justice known as CEASE (Cannabis Eradication and Suppression Effort). [Posters](#) are going up in parks, forests and other locations alert the public so they'll know what to look for and how to report suspicious activity.

Part of a national trend in recent years, Wisconsin authorities have come across a number of carefully hidden, sophisticated marijuana grow operations. Two major illegal grows last year were on public lands in Shawano and Buffalo counties. Some of these were sighted and reported by alert members of the public out hunting, hiking and enjoying nature.

"Wisconsin is blessed with great public lands and wild places, and the public traverses and enjoys them throughout the year. We are grateful that law abiding citizens care enough about their public lands to be aware and report problems," said Stark.

"Hikers, anglers and hunters should be alert, and if they see something that doesn't look right, they should report the find to local law enforcement authorities," Stark added.

Some things to look for include signs of summer habitation such as huts, tents or other makeshift structures; equipment such as rakes and shovels; watering jugs; chemical containers; or signs of disturbed vegetation, including abnormal cuttings or clearing of small areas.

If you spot any problems on private land, notify local law enforcement authorities. DNR operates a 24/7 confidential tip line for reporting suspected or observed illegal activity. The number is easy to remember, 1(800)TIP-WDNR (1(800)847-9367), or type #367 on your cell phone. You also can call the Wisconsin Drug Tip Line at 1(800)NAB-DRUG (1(800)622-3784). Now, you even can text your tip using keyword "TIPWDNR" at 847-411 (TIP411).



Closeup of a marijuana plant.
WDNR Photo

"Don't put yourself in danger. Don't try to investigate the site yourself. You could inadvertently disturb clues to the perpetrators," Stark advised.

Anyone who comes across a suspicious area is advised to leave the way you came in and to record anything you observed such as vehicle descriptions, license or registration numbers from vehicles, equipment or other tools, and GPS coordinates if you have a unit with you.

"We want everyone to be safe and enjoy Wisconsin's outdoors and traditions, and we want to work with the public to ensure that public lands are used for their intended purpose," said Stark.

Posters will be distributed to regions in early May. A training video for DNR staff, based on a training session held at Northeast Region headquarters, is being developed and links will be provided in an upcoming issue of "MyDNR Digest." The Bureau of Facility and Lands will provide guidance updates for property manager handbooks. And in addition, a public awareness effort with other law enforcement agencies is planned for mid-May.

For more information, contact conservation warden Bill Engfer, DNR Homeland Security coordinator at (608) 266-0859.



Bill Volkert and Michael Cain received National Wetland Awards

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The [Environmental Law Institute \(ELI\)](#) recently announced that natural resources educator **Bill Volkert**, Horicon Marsh Education Center, and retired DNR attorney **Michael Cain** were among six citizens from across the country recognized for their "exceptional and innovative contributions to wetlands conservation."

"Once again, ELI is proud to have worked with a team of leading experts to choose the winners of the national wetlands awards," stated ELI President Leslie Carothers. "With our partners from six federal agencies, we look forward to an awards ceremony that showcases the remarkable contributions the winners have made to a healthy and productive environment."

In evaluating the nominations of potential 2010 award recipients, ELI combed through the work of individuals in restoring, researching and protecting the country's wetlands. The Institute views the accomplishments of the award recipients as inspirational to others who share their goals of protecting and improving valuable wetlands resources.

"Collectively, the impact of the 2010 National Wetlands Awards recipients is enormous—their expertise, experience, and examples have profoundly shaped the landscape of wetlands conservation," reads the ELI website.

"We look forward to meeting this year's award winners and honoring their extraordinary achievements in wetland conservation," said Eric Schwaab, assistant administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service. "We are proud once again to support ELI's National Wetlands Awards."

Bill Volkert lends his wetlands and birds expertise to international efforts



Bill Volkert enjoyed one of his favorite pastimes while traveling, birdwatching in the New Zealand rainforest.

Photo courtesy of Connie Ramthun

Volkert has provided more than 3,500 educational programs to 200,000 people, conducted more than 1,700 media interviews and programs, and provided training to 66 delegations of scientists from 41 countries. His education program is internationally-renowned. The DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management named him Wildlife Educator of the Year for 2008.

Page back to the June 4, 2009 "MyDNR Digest" story "[Bill Volkert named Wildlife Educator of the Year for 2008](#)" for the many details of Volkert's 26-year history with the department. You'll soon understand why he's recognized nationally and internationally as an advocate for wetlands and educational efforts that will lead to their preservation for years to come.

Volkert's reach beyond Horicon Marsh has trained 66 delegations of scientists from 41 countries, including several visits to the world's largest freshwater body Russia's Lake Baikal. As a result of his interactions with Russian scientists, that country has developed educational materials and raised public awareness of and involvement in environmental protection. Most recently, he worked on watershed management symposiums held in Siberia and Mongolia and attended by delegations from

the U.S., Russia, Mongolia and Canada.

"In addition to my work in Russia, I worked with a team of ornithologists and environmental educators in Nicaragua," said Volkert. Between 2002 and now, I've assisted them in developing their national bird conservation education plan and continue to work on supporting conservation efforts in that country. I have made six trips to that country to explore their natural areas and work on a variety of projects.

Jane Carter, Mayville, is a member of the Friends of Horicon Marsh Educational Center and spearheaded the nomination of Volkert for the ELI "Education and Outreach" award. In nominating him, she referred to Volkert as "one of the most dedicated, competent, yet so modest wetland environmentalists to be honored."

Michael Cain involved for three decades with wetlands laws

Before deciding to retire "full time," Cain was like many DNR employees who decide to retire, and returned to the department to continue his work. Over his 30-year tenure, he has either authored or co-authored the complete works of wetland protection. In nominating him for an ELI award, **Cherie Hagen**, DNR wetland team leader and Jeanne Christie, executive director of the Association of State Wetland Managers, noted that "his leadership has helped slow the state's wetland loss from 1,400 acres annually in 1991 to an average of 250 acres per year currently."



Michael Cain enjoyed kayaking the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, Florida. WDNR Photo

On May 19, Cain will attend the awards ceremony in Washington D.C., where he'll receive the ELI award for "State, tribal, local and Local Program Development." Chosen from a nationwide pool, he'll receive this award "for his ability to build common ground and provide leadership in wetland protection."

"Wisconsin boasts a number of wetland protections that do not exist in other states. One particularly pioneering law, which Mr. Cain was instrumental in developing, uses wetland water quality certification to strongly limit any impacts to wetlands and any pollutants entering Wisconsin's waterways," noted the ELI.

Cain is noted for building common ground when legal protection for the environment has led to tension among stakeholders. "Michael has a continued desire to share his knowledge and success in Wisconsin, demonstrating that both wetland protection and land development can be achieved," said Cherie Hagen, wetland team leader and policy coordinator in the Bureau of Watershed Management who forwarded Cain's nomination.

External partner Ducks Unlimited, the country's largest wetlands conservation organization, also noted Cain's ability to bring reason to debates on wetlands permits. "Michael was a great voice of reason and cooperation when it came to working on streamlining wetland restoration permitting in the state," said Gildo Tori, director of Public Policy for Ducks Unlimited. "His expertise and professionalism helped resolve past impediments and greatly advanced wetland restoration projects in the state."

Others supported Cain's nomination: "Michael's work has made it possible for groups like ours to be successful in our efforts to protect and restore Wisconsin's wetlands," said Erin O'Brien, with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association. "The strength and growth of our wetland policy program is built upon the strength and number of legal tools Michael Cain has provided for us to work with."

Humbly accepting the award, Cain spoke about working with others on behalf of wetlands. "As I have expressed to those who were involved in my nomination, it is really an award for the hard work of a large group of people, inside and outside (the DNR), who have worked collaboratively to develop an effective wetland protection program."

Cain has questioned why the "water/land ethic" has flourished in Wisconsin and not other states. He attributes it to the state's Public Trust Doctrine and work of Aldo Leopold. The people of Wisconsin appreciate the value of its waterways, but the challenge is maintaining and increasing the ethic.

Variety of support for ELI's awards program

The Environmental Law Institute administers the awards program, which is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Federal Highway Administration, the USDA Forest Service, and the George and Miriam Martin Foundation.



Videos, slideshows, stories tell of "Earth Day" heroes

By: DNR Weekly News, April 21

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New web feature salutes everyday heroes behind environmental progress

New videos, slideshows and stories comprise an online package for "[Celebrating our Earth Day Anniversary](#)" through stories about the people who have helped clean up and protect Wisconsin's environment since the original Earth Day in 1970. Among the many heroes instrumental in 40 years of success are DNR's own Ruth Hine and Ruthe Badger.

Via a video on this website, Secretary **Matt Frank** personally calls for the names and stories of others who have made a difference for Wisconsin by living Earth Day, everyday.

"The signs of progress made in the past 40 years are all around us -- progress made possible by thousands and thousands of hard-working Wisconsinites," said Sec. Frank. "On this important anniversary, we salute native son Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day, and the many people who answered his call and worked to improve our environment."



Doug Zeihen selected Wisconsin Waterfowl Officer of the Year

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The Mississippi Flyway Council Law Enforcement Committee has chosen conservation warden Doug Zeihen, Waukesha, as this year's "Waterfowl Officer of the Year." Zeihen will receive the award during the Conservation Congress Annual Convention on May 7.

Zeihen is stationed in Waukesha County and patrols the Vernon Marsh, the portion of the Fox River in the Southeast Region, and several smaller areas including the Muskego River and Phantom Lake during waterfowl season.

"Doug has developed a balanced waterfowl program, promoting waterfowl and dove hunting, wetland and waterway protection, and enforcement of waterfowl regulations," said chief warden **Randy Stark**. As a field training officer, he stresses upon his recruits the importance of waterfowl identification during all seasons. Doug also assists with "Duck School" held at Horicon Marsh."



Conservation warden Doug Zeihen was named "Waterfowl Officer of the Year" by the Mississippi Flyway Council.
WDNR Photo

Zeihen has found that correctly identifying waterfowl and enforcing bag limits is essential to assuring a legal and successful hunt for everyone. During fall 2009 on Phantom Lake, he made an overbagging case involving pintails early in the morning, seized the birds, issued the citation and continued checking hunters. During subsequent contacts that same day, Zeihen asked hunters to properly identify the birds that he'd seized. Finding that hunters frequently can't identify the birds they've taken, he uses an approach that's geared toward solving problems rather than just enforcing the law.

Working in one of the most populous counties in Wisconsin, Zeihen faces issues involving residential and business expansion, as well as an increased number of hunters wanting to use the limited resources available.

Acting proactively to prevent problems before they occur also includes Zeihen's responsibilities for enforcing environmental laws to protect waterways. Recently, he worked as a liaison between DNR environmental program staff and the Waukesha County district attorney's office to more consistently and affectively address water issues, including wetland fills.

Zeihen extends his enforcement and waterfowl identification expertise to "Learn to Hunt Waterfowl" events. Back in the classroom, he works with the UW-Stevens Point Student Law Enforcement Association.

"Warden Zeihen has an excellent program to protect and promote our natural resources, especially in the area of waterfowl resources. Doug effectively uses a balanced approach of information, education and enforcement to protect and promote the state's waterfowl resources" Stark said.



New initiative focuses on recent plant closings, economic recovery

By: Andrew Savagian, Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment

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DNR has launched the new Wisconsin Plant Recovery Initiative (WPRI) to help communities expedite the environmental cleanup and revitalization of manufacturing plants that recently closed their doors. DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) program oversees the cleanup of environmental contamination at these properties and through WPRI will work with communities and plant owners at

the front end of the process, to prevent facilities from becoming brownfields.



This closed manufacturing facility in West Allis is a classic brownfield.

WDNR Photo

Like many states across the country, Wisconsin has witnessed a large number of business and plant closings in recent years. In addition to the impact of lost jobs, tax revenue and local business, a plant closing may also leave real or perceived environmental contamination that hinders any efforts to clean up and redevelop the property.

Under the Plant Recovery Initiative, DNR wants to speed up the return of these facilities to productive use and encourage economic revitalization by offering a variety of cleanup and redevelopment tools. These tools include:

- DNR staff assistance on regulatory, environmental and financial issues;
- emergency assistance for any spills or contamination that presents an immediate threat to public health or the environment;
- \$1 million in awards and free contractor services as part of the WPRI Assessment Monies (WAM) to conduct environmental assessments at properties with known or perceived environmental contamination;
- other state and federal environmental assessment and cleanup funds;
- liability exemptions and liability clarification letters for local governments and private parties; and
- technical oversight to ensure the proper cleanup to state standards of any contamination at shuttered properties.

“By addressing environmental issues early on, this initiative will help limit property tax losses, create significant savings in cleanup and redevelopment costs, and limit future liability for public and private parties,” said **Darsi Foss**, Brownfields Section chief.

Foss noted that each time a company announces a plant closing, the DNR will offer to work with company officials and the community affected by the closing; outline the company’s responsibilities to safeguard public health and the environment; and discuss the resources available to both parties to help assess, clean up and redevelop the property. The agency’s goal is to meet with the company and comprehensively discuss the DNR obligations associated with air, water and land issues.

\$1 million in WPRI Assessment Monies (WAM) available

One of the most important tools in the WPRI toolbox is \$1 million in WPRI Assessment Monies (WAM), available to local governments to help conduct environmental assessments at closed or closing facilities.

The funding will focus on larger, more complex industrial properties and closed or closing plants that are serving as an impediment to large-scale economic redevelopment. The RR program will allocate dollars for Phase I and II environmental site assessments, with limited funding to go toward site investigation work.

DNR will award funds via one of two tracks:

- **Community Managed Funds** will be given to one or more larger industrial

sites; or

- **Contractor Services Awards** will focus on smaller sites, using DNR-authorized contractors to complete the work.

The majority of WAM funds will go toward sites with hazardous substances, with the remaining funds slated for properties with petroleum contamination.

For more information

For additional information on WPRI, contact Land Recycling team leader [Michael Prager](#) or call him at (608)261-4927. Also, check out pertinent online resources:

- [Wisconsin Plant Recovery Initiative \(WPRI\)](#);
- [WPRI Fact Sheet \(publication #RR-862\)](#)
- [WPRI Assessment Monies. \(WAM\)](#)

Footnote: *Andrew Savagian is a Brownfields outreach specialist.*



Mike Ellenbecker is “Waste and Materials Management Employee of the Year”

By: Ann Coakley, Bureau of Waste and Materials Management

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Mike Ellenbecker’s work from development through training on the “Field Investigator Site Tracking” (FIST) database is well known throughout his program, throughout the state. So, when it came as a surprise to him that his peers selected him to receive the “2009 Waste and Materials Management Employee of the Year Award” at a recent meeting, others knew it was well deserved.



Mike Ellenbecker’s peers chose him as their program’s “2009 Employee of the Year.”
WDNR Photo

A 20-year veteran waste management specialist, located in Sturtevant, Ellenbecker garnered the nomination and then the votes that placed his name at the top of a field of 16 nominations for this annual recognition.

FIST is a consolidated database of hazardous waste, recycling, open burning, solid waste inspection, complaint response, permitting and plan review activity tracking. Ellenbecker created, maintains and trains others to use the database. This comprehensive database makes data available to staff and

managers statewide so that activities and work can be easily accessed and tracked.

While FIST's development may be the most well-known of Ellenbecker's work, he spends most of his time on hazardous waste activities in Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties, working with regulated facilities and the general public, who view him as tough but fair. As a valuable partner for facilities managers, he ably explains hazardous waste regulations, following up with useful suggestions for improved operations.

Although not among his current duties, Ellenbecker has worked with solid waste facilities. In the case of one Southeast Region landfill, he played a major role in developing an enforcement action.

Other nominees for the 2009 award were notified by their supervisors and received a certificate in recognition of their contributions to the program. Those nominees were: **Walt Ebersohl, Bizhan Sheikholeslami, Dolores Hayden** and **Mike Zillmer**, all in the Southeast Region; **Sherry Otto** and **Ann Coakley** (formerly) from the Northern Region; **Len Polczynski** in the Northeast Region; **Jim Kralick** in the South Central Region; **Mike Wenzholz** in the West Central Region; and **Sarah Murray, Brad Wolbert, Dave Parsons, Phil Fauble** and **Jack Connelly** in the central office.

Footnote: *Ann Coakley is the Waste and Materials Management bureau director.*



Legislature moves bills along at end of 2010 floor session

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

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The 2009-2010 Legislative Session is now over. Legislative committees now will only hear agency rules. No more bills can pass until a new Legislature convenes on January 3, 2011. Check the numbers of any Assembly or Senate bills you've been following for their status. I'll publish a wrap-up "Bill Tracker" in a week with the final status of all bills introduced this session. For the status of legislation, go to the ["2010 Bill Tracker."](#)

Latest highlights:

- **AB 649** (Spencer Black), the Clean Energy Jobs Act, passed the Assembly Special Committee on Clean Energy on a 6-3 vote, but didn't pass the full Legislature.
- **AB 580** (Fred Clark), changing the Managed Forest Law, passed the Senate on a voice vote and now is on the Governor's desk for signing.
- **AB 599** (Dean Kaufert), the 55 MPH nighttime speed limit for snowmobiles bill, passed the Senate and is on the Governor's desk for his signature.
- **AB 733** (Ann Hraychuck), changes the dates by which local units of government need to apply for Clean Water Fund money. The bill passed both houses and now is on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature.

Footnote: *Paul Heinen is the policy initiative advisor for the Secretary's Office.*



South Central Region wardens earn "Chief's Cup Awards"

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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Chief warden **Randy Stark** recently recognized six South Central Region conservation wardens for outstanding law enforcement work last year. Receiving an annual "Chief Cup Award" for 2009 and their achievements were:

Paul Nadolski, Poynette, was instrumental in the investigation and arrest of 15 people who roamed the countryside illegally bludgeoning small animals to death. He worked with warden Heather Gottschalk on the case.

Jeff King, Darlington, applied for and received a \$16,000 Yamaha Motor Corporation Access

Initiative grant for ATV enforcement in Lafayette County.

Mike Dieckhoff, Janesville, was involved in two expanded- authority incidents, one of which located a missing three-year-old child who was in the company of a stranger; the other involved stopping an individual who was arrested for OWI with children ranging in age from three to eight in the vehicle.

Heather Gottschalk, Beaver Dam, who with warden Nadolski worked on the animal bashing case, which resulted in 158 citable offenses for 15 people.

Mike Nice, Richland Center, put a special emphasis on enforcing ginseng laws and made 17 arrests for illegal harvest and trespass on state lands, along with harvesting and dealing without a license. He worked with warden Shawna Stringham, now stationed in the West Central Region.

Paul Nell, Horicon, led the investigation into a large, non-typical 26-point buck that was illegally shot with a firearm and tagged as an archery kill. He also was instrumental in assisting Montana Fish and Wildlife with the apprehension of a dozen persons from Montana and Wisconsin who were illegally killing deer, antelope and turkey in Montana. Nice worked with warden Kyle Kosin, now in the Northeast Region.



LEAF teaches educators about fueling schools with wood

By: Kelly Mortenson and Sarah Gilbert, UW-Stevens Point

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Using wood as an energy source isn't a new concept. Neither is "fueling a school" using wood. What is new is a graduate course for Wisconsin's K-12 teachers all about how to actually turn that fuel into an energy source for their schools, a potentially cost-saving and sustainable enterprise.

Wisconsin's K-12 [Energy Education Program \(KEEP\)](#) and Wisconsin's K-12 [Forestry Education Program \(LEAF\)](#) recently teamed-up to present a fun fact-filled, idea-filled graduate course for teachers to answer such "burning" questions as:

- "What is woody biomass?"
- "What are the positive and negative effects of using woody biomass as an energy source?"
- "How do we develop and manage woody biomass as an energy source?"

The ultimate goal of the course is to encourage teachers to introduce to their students the concept of burning woody biomass as a school energy source. LEAF and KEEP adjunct faculty member Cindy Edlund taught the course to six teachers from across the state at Crandon High School, April 9 and 10.



Using celery stalks for trees, teachers were charged with harvesting lumber from each tree and measuring the "waste" or "biomass" left for energy production. (KEEP activity)

WDNR Photo

After closely examining articles and publications about woody biomass, the teachers discussed what they learned in their readings (in education, this is the "jigsaw" process), and then they jumped into activities they could use with their students

One teacher, Kevin Zimmerman, Shoreland Lutheran High School in Somers noted that "DNR's ['Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines'](#) provided a great real-life example demonstrating the statistical concept called 'mode,' which is the value that occurs most frequently in a data set or a probability distribution." He further explained how "in algebra classes, it can be difficult to find relevant real-life examples of the need for calculating mode." said Zimmerman. "The publication illustrates how a number of bedrock soil depth measurements are taken and the typical or most common depth is used to represent a site. This example demonstrates the necessity and use of mode perfectly."

The LEAF and KEEP Programs shared lessons from their respective curriculums that are easily modified to focus on biomass as an energy source. In addition, teachers reviewed and received draft materials on biomass education created by the University of Florida. They also received materials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service publications, e.g. "The Natural Inquirer," which focuses on biomass and forests.

To receive graduate credit for the course, teachers will create an integration plan for incorporating woody biomass into their classroom curriculum. Teachers participating were from Wisconsin Rapids, Osseo-Fairchild, Antigo, Little Chute and Somers school districts.

Teachers in general believed that the pilot course proved to be wonderfully valuable. Teacher comments included, "My horizon was enhanced! Very informative and practical. Thanks!", "Wonderful experience - thank you!", and "The hand-out materials were AWESOME! Thank you!"

Long history of education excellence

In keeping with LEAF's mission, to "advance excellence in K-12 forestry education through partnerships that develop, disseminate, implement and evaluate relevant resources and services," LEAF is proud to work closely with KEEP and the DNR Division of Forestry to introduce this new course to Wisconsin teachers. LEAF and KEEP plan to capitalize on the momentum created through this pilot by providing additional courses in the future.

If you'd like to participate or be a guest speaker, contact the LEAF program by calling (715)346-4956 or emailing [LEAF](#).

In 2001, the Division of Forestry and UW-Stevens Point's Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) in the College of Natural Resources joined forces to offer the state's K-12 educators a comprehensive, and award-winning, forestry education program. By providing relevant forestry education training and materials to teachers, Wisconsin students learn the value of sustainable forests to the state's ecological, economic and social well-being. Since its inception nine years ago, 2,813 teachers have participated in LEAF professional development, reaching an estimated 100,000 students each year.

LEAF also administers Wisconsin's school forest program. More than 200 school districts and private schools own more than 350 registered school forests covering over 25,000 acres. Working with DNR staff, LEAF provides consultation to school districts on developing education and management plans for their school forests.

Through programs for teachers and students, and the development of excellent teaching resources, LEAF has helped the Forestry Division reach the next generation of Wisconsin forest landowners. LEAF also has proven that partnership is a strong and effective way to reach Wisconsin's children and to teach them the diverse values of our state's trees and forests. "Fuels for Schools" is one more example of doing just that.

Footnote: *Kelly Mortenson and Sarah Gilbert are with the LEAF Program at the UW-Stevens Point Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education.*



Submit your distinguished documents for recognition

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Library Association has honored many DNR documents

The Wisconsin Library Association's (WLA) [Government Information Round Table](#) is calling for nomination of documents published in 2009 for the "Wisconsin Distinguished Government Document Award." Any Wisconsin local, regional or state government agency, regardless of format used, may submit documents for consideration. Nominations are due by

Tuesday, April 27. The Round Table will announce the winner at the Government Information Round Table's Government Information Day at the UW-Madison Memorial Library.

DNR programs have submitted documents in the past, winning "Distinguished Government Document Awards" on a number of occasions. Submit a nomination using the "Wisconsin Distinguished Document Award Nomination Form." ["Wisconsin Distinguished Document Award Nomination Form."](#)

"Among other criteria provided below, a qualifying document contributes significantly to the expansion of knowledge; provides inspiration and pleasure to an identifiable readership; contributes to public understanding of government agencies; and is distinguished by the clarity of its presentation, its typography and design, and its overall appeal. The winner and four honorable mentions are nominated for the ALA Government Document Round Table's "Notable Documents List," which appears in the May 15 "Library Journal" each year."

Criteria used to judge the nominees are:

- **For print:** design, illustrations, graphs, maps, use of color, paper, type, table of contents, index, summaries, etc.
- **For webpage:** webpage layout, use of color, graphics, type font, etc.
- **For video:** quality/variety of photography or illustrations, music, sound, etc.
- **For websites:** ease of navigation, consistent layout throughout website.
- **For print:** Available from Depository Libraries as part of the Wisconsin Document Depository Program. Full points awarded for documents distributed to all depositories, fewer points for documents distributed to state and regional depositories only, and limited points for documents distributed only to state level depositories.
- **For websites:** Available through the [Wisconsin state portal engine](#). Full points awarded for websites that follow the "Best Practices for Metadata for Wisconsin State Agency Web Writers and Administrators."
- Quality of physical appearance. Document is pleasant to browse or use.
- Innovative in presentation or creative in approach.
- Well-organized, easy to use, or has organization suitable to format.
- Available in multiple formats, including alternate formats to accommodate people with disabilities, or other languages for non-English speakers. PDF and HTML can be considered two different formats. Online documentaries comply with the U.S. Federal Government Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards (Section 508): **For websites:** GIRT may use the [University of Illinois' Functional Accessibility Evaluator \(FAE\)](#) and/or WebAIM's WAVE to evaluate functional accessibility. For PDF documents: GIRT may use the Accessibility Quick Check feature of the free Adobe Reader program to evaluate basic functional accessibility.
- Contributes to the expansion of knowledge.
- Facilitates access to further information: lists contact information (email, website, address, and phone), date of last update, and ordering information.
- Achieves its intended purpose, provides pleasure or inspires.
- Contributes to an understanding of government processes or functions.
- Appeals to a wide audience or is relevant or useful for an identifiable audience (which may be limited).
- Presented in a style comprehensible to non-specialists.
- Is widely available.

Nominations, as well as questions concerning this year's nomination process, may be directed to: Ruth Adams, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Government Information Round Table 330 Memorial Lib, UW-

Madison, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706. (608) 265-3974 or via email to [Ruth Adams](#).



Winners of 2010 Arbor Day Poster Contest announced

By: Tessa Jilot, Bureau of Forestry Services

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Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!

Imaginative masterpieces from students around the state portrayed the many energy-saving benefits that trees provide Wisconsin communities in this year's Arbor Day Poster Contest. And, your vote made a difference in selecting the top entries.

The Division of Forestry extends a special thank-you to employees who cast votes, shared thoughts and selected the winners of the "2010 Statewide Arbor Day 5th grade Poster Contest." Your contribution made this process a success and reminded us that our tree and forest resources are a treasure to be celebrated.

You can find the winning and honorable mention winners on the [Division of Forestry's Intranet](#) site. The first place winner, along with the first and second runners-up, are identified by yellow, blue and red ribbons. The top three artists, listed below with their poster numbers, with their families and teachers will attend a ceremony at the capitol on Arbor Day, April 30.

The top three winners are:

- **First Place:** Jake Helfenbein, from Deerfield Elementary in Oak Creek (6)
- **First Runner-up:** Jillian Ybanez, from St. Maria Goretti School in Madison (9)
- **Second Runner-up:** Maggie Gallenberg, from Spring Valley Elementary School in Antigo (13)

Footnote: *Tessa Jilot is an educator in the Division of Forestry.*



Governor announces \$1.5 million in Brownfield grants in 2010

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In March, Governor Jim Doyle announced \$1.5 million in state Brownfield Site Assessment Grants to help with clean up of contaminated or blighted properties in 26 Wisconsin communities. DNR's Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment Program administers the Brownfield program.



**The Baraboo scrap yard brownfield, prior to cleanup and redevelopment
WDNR Photo**

"Brownfields are abandoned, idle or underused industrial or commercial properties where redevelopment and potential future economic gains are hindered by real or perceived contamination," reads DNR's "[Brownfields: Redeveloping Contaminated Property](#)" website.

"Brownfield cleanups are a priority as the state works to spur economic development in communities throughout Wisconsin," Gov. Doyle said. "Cleaning up brownfield properties helps bring additional reinvestment into communities, and helps create jobs for hardworking Wisconsin families."

Thirty-four grants for 2010 will provide funds for environmental activities on 126 acres of land, including 45 site assessments and investigations; the demolition of 39 buildings or structures; and the removal of 214 tanks, drums and other abandoned containers. Eighteen of the 26 local governments receiving awards are rural communities looking to spur economic growth in less populated areas.



The new Baraboo public works facility, built on the former brownfield after the city used a DNR Brownfield Site Assessment Grant to jump-start the cleanup and redevelopment of the site.

WDNR Photo

In 11 years, the state has awarded \$16.5 million in Brownfield Site Assessment Grants to 205 communities to begin investigation and cleanup on more than 1,625 acres. The grants have funded 761 site assessments and investigations, the removal of 675 storage tanks and abandoned containers, and the demolition of 539 structures and buildings.

Since 1998, the Wisconsin's Brownfields Initiative has generated eight dollars or more in additional project investment for every one dollar of funds invested, and recent studies have shown that brownfields revitalization reduces vehicle miles traveled by 20 to 40 percent and protected 4.5 acres of green space for every one acre of reclaimed brownfield.



New two-year utility vehicle pilot launched

By: Gary Eddy, Bureau of Law Enforcement

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Under a revised pilot program, utility terrain vehicles (UTV), also known as lightweight utility vehicles or side-by-sides, may be allowed on certain county all-terrain vehicle trails and routes statewide during a new two-year pilot program.

DNR will regulate the registration and use of UTVs, similar to the way it currently regulates ATVs. The department also will gather data on the pilot and report it to the legislature for consideration during discussions that could make regulation of these vehicles permanent.

Gary Eddy, DNR's ATV administrator in the central office, said the legislature enacted the new two-year UTV Pilot Program and Governor Jim Doyle recently signed it into law. The new UTV Pilot Program runs through June 30, 2012.



Drivers of utility terrain vehicles like the one pictured here are gaining more access to trails previously traveled just by all terrain vehicles.

WDNR Photo

A previous pilot program implemented in five northern Wisconsin counties, which allowed UTV's to operate on local ATV trail systems, expired in September 2009. The new program has been revamped and expanded to the entire state and is significantly different than the previous program.

"It's important for people to know that they have to wait until counties opt into the program. Anyone operating their UTV on trails or roads not officially opened may be ticketed. Just because their UTV is registered, doesn't mean they can go out on any trail," Eddy explained.

"Once the pilot program ends, DNR will review the data gathered during the program, consult with the counties and then forward the results to the Legislature. This is a responsible approach towards a possible permanent, statewide registration program for these vehicles."

The Bureau of Community Financial Assistance has created the ["Utility Terrain Vehicle \(UTV\) Pilot Program"](#) website, which indicates those counties participating in the pilot and answers many questions.

"This law just passed, so we need to give counties time to digest the new law and determine whether they are interested in participating or not," said Eddy.

Interested counties must pass a resolution indicating their interest in participating in the pilot, then file it with DNR and any law enforcement agencies within their jurisdiction. Towns within those counties may pass resolutions to opt out of the program, however.

Notable changes from the previous pilot program include:

- Different vehicle specifications, including requirements for factory-equipped seatbelts and a roll bar type device.
- Not yet decided is whether ATV trails on state and national forest will be open to UTV use.
- Resident and non-resident operators of UTVs must obtain Public Use ATV registration. "Private Use Registration" and "Non-Resident Trail Passes" aren't available during the pilot program. UTV owners can register using any method available to them except via the Internet.
- All ATV laws will apply, except that operators age 16 born on or after January 1, 1988 must complete a DNR ATV Safety Education Course. Operators under age 16 aren't allowed to operate a UTV.
- Driver's licenses aren't required.

UTV and ATV riders can go to the Bureau of Customer Services and Licensing's ["ATV and Snowmobile Application Validation Stations"](#) website to find a registration validation station near them. They also can register at any DNR office.

Footnote: *Gary Eddy is the snowmobile/ATV administrator for the department.*



Wisconsin Women in Government's 23rd banquet scheduled for May 5

By: Eileen Pierce, South Central Region

Keynote speaker Karen Hughes served in George W. Bush's administration.

Wisconsin Women in Government (WWIG) recently announced that Ambassador Karen Hughes will keynote the organization's 23rd Annual Scholarship Recognition Banquet on Wednesday, May 5 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. Hughes is a veteran Republican political advisor who served former President George W. Bush in a number of key roles, including as White House counselor.

"We are thrilled to have Karen Hughes keynote this year's banquet," said Grace Cudney, WWIG president and former DNR employee. "A woman of many accomplishments, she has led a remarkable life of public service and political activism."



Karen Hughes will be the keynote speaker at this year's Wisconsin Women in Governor's Scholarship and Recognition Banquet.

WDNR Photo

Hughes served as counselor to President Bush from 2001 to 2002. Told by the President that he wanted her "in the room whenever a major decision was made," Hughes worked on a comprehensive range of domestic and foreign policy issues. She also led the White House offices of Communications, Press Secretary, Media Affairs and Speechwriting.

After leaving the White House staff, Hughes served as U.S. Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs from 2005-2007. In that role, she dramatically reshaped the State Department's communications efforts; launched a new focus on America's "diplomacy of deeds" through health, education and English-teaching programs; and made public diplomacy central in the development of foreign policy.

Hughes also has penned "Ten Minutes from Normal," a book about her experiences working for President Bush and her decision to leave the White House.

You can purchase individual tickets for the banquet for \$65 at [WWIG's](#) website. More information is available by calling (608)848-2321. [Scholarships](#) also are available, and information on banquet details, sponsorship levels and how to reserve a table for your group can be found at the [WWIG homepage](#).

WWIG's annual dinner is the premier bipartisan political event in Wisconsin, attended by more than 1,000 state and local elected officials, business leaders, public servants and political enthusiasts. Since 1987, WWIG has raised money to support and encourage women to choose a career in

government service. Each year, the organization awards scholarships to women pursuing undergraduate study in public service and administration and government affairs.

Footnote: *Eileen Pierce, Fitchburg, is the South Central Region's Air and Waste Leader and previously served as WWIG's president.*



Federal government sets aggressive standards for car and truck fuel economy

By: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency news release

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First-ever greenhouse gas emission levels for passenger cars and light trucks

On April 1, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) jointly established new federal rules that set the first-ever national greenhouse gas emissions standards, which will increase the fuel economy of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the United States.

It's estimated that the rules could save the average buyer of a 2016 model-year car \$3,000 over the life of the vehicle and, nationally, conserve about 1.8 billion barrels of oil and reduce nearly a billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the lives of the vehicles covered.

"Transportation accounts for nearly one-quarter of the greenhouse gas emissions in Wisconsin," said **Joanie Burns**, Bureau of Air Management Environmental Analysis and Outreach Section chief. "The new standards will help to reduce those emissions over time."

Starting with 2012 model year vehicles, the rules together require automakers to improve fleetwide fuel economy and reduce fleetwide greenhouse gas emissions by approximately five percent every year. NHTSA has established fuel economy standards that strengthen each year reaching an estimated 34.1 mpg for the combined industrywide fleet for model year 2016.

"These historic new standards set ambitious, but achievable, fuel economy requirements for the automotive industry that will also encourage new and emerging technologies," said Transportation secretary Ray LaHood. "We will be helping American motorists save money at the pump, while putting less pollution in the air."

"This is a significant step towards cleaner air and energy efficiency, and an important example of how our economic and environmental priorities go hand-in-hand," said EPA administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "By working together with industry and capitalizing on our capacity for innovation, we've developed a clean cars program that is a win for automakers and drivers, a win for innovators and entrepreneurs, and a win for our planet."

DOT and EPA received more than 130,000 public comments on the September 2009 proposed rules, with overwhelming support for a strong national policy. Manufacturers will be able to build a single, light-duty national fleet that satisfies all federal requirements as well as the standards of California and other states. The collaboration of federal agencies also allows for clearer rules for all automakers, instead of three standards from DOT, EPA and states.

The final rules, issued by DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA, establish increasingly stringent fuel economy standards under NHTSA's Corporate Average Fuel Economy program and greenhouse gas emission standards under the Clean Air Act for 2012 through 2016 model-year vehicles.

Because credits for air-conditioning improvements can be used to meet the EPA standards, but not the NHTSA standards, the EPA standards require that by the 2016 model-year, manufacturers must achieve a combined average vehicle emission level of 250 grams of carbon dioxide per mile. The EPA standard would be equivalent to 35.5 miles per gallon if all reductions came from fuel economy improvements.

The joint final regulation achieves President Barak Obama's call to develop a National Program to establish federal standards that meet the needs of the states and the nation as a whole to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Specifically, the new National Program will:

- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 960 million metric tons over the lifetime of the vehicles regulated, equivalent to taking 50 million cars and light

trucks off the road in 2030;

- Conserve about 1.8 billion barrels of oil over the lifetime of the vehicles regulated; and
- Enable the average car buyer of a 2016 model year vehicle to enjoy a net savings of \$3,000 over the lifetime of the vehicle, as upfront technology costs are offset by lower fuel costs.

NHTSA and EPA expect auto manufacturers will meet these standards by more widespread adoption of conventional technologies and by pursuing more advanced fuel-saving technologies.

For more information on these standards, go to the EPA's ["Transportation and Climate Regulations and Standards"](#) website.



President renews commitment to America's great outdoors

By: White House Press Release

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Sets in place "America's Great Outdoors Initiative"

In announcing the "Great Outdoors Initiative" on April 16, President Barak Obama referred to the first-and only-conference on the outdoors held by President "Teddy" Roosevelt. Determined not to have humans mar the many natural places he'd seen, Roosevelt made a commitment from which, Obama noted, "sprang a breathtaking legacy of conservation that still enhances our lives."

Today's president called for collaboration to assure future generations enjoy those natural treasures.

"It's a recognition passed down from one generation to the next, that few pursuits are more satisfying to the spirit than discovering the greatness of America's outdoors," he said.

In 2009, Obama signed a public lands act placing in the public trust two million acres of wilderness, over 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers, and three national parks. This action followed in the wake of the last century, when the population of the U.S. increased to 300 million citizens, land was lost to development, and climate change strained the country's natural resources.

The president also drew the connection between this initiative and job growth. "It's how we're going to spur job creation in the tourism industry and the recreation industry. It's how we'll create jobs preserving and maintaining our forests, our rivers, our great outdoors."

To learn more about the "Great Outdoors Initiative" and the regional listening sessions intended to lead to strategy, read the full ["Remarks by the President."](#)



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