

Citizen Resolution # 670922

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Statewide user fee assessed to visitors using State Wildlife Areas (SWA) and State Natural Areas (SNA)

State parks and forests currently require a daily or annual use fee for visitor access. Access to state wildlife areas and state natural areas is free. At a December 9, 2020, Natural Resources Board meeting, the NRB chairman proposed an resolution calling for an increase in licenses, permits, and park fees, succinctly spelling out the long overdue request for extra funding to support our state's outdoor programs and properties. Surveys of the hunting and fishing public have indicated a willingness to support increased license, permit, stamp fees, etc. required to hunt and fish, as long as these increased funds are dedicated to specific state outdoor programs and properties used by the public. For many decades, hunting and fishing fees and taxes on equipment, ammunition, etc. have funded habitat improvement projects, land acquisitions, and wildlife and fisheries research that has benefitted the non-consumptive users of wild lands and waters, including hikers, kayakers, photographers, birdwatchers, etc. A user fee required of all visitors accessing our SWA's and SNA's would fairly spread the cost of management and expansion of these public lands over all users, while helping to secure the future well-being on many of Wisconsin's most threatened wildlife species and unique landscapes. At least 17 other states require some kind of user fee for visitor access to their SWA's and an additional 7 states require hunters and fishermen (and, in some cases, non-consumptive users) to purchase some form of habitat or conservation fee to be used to fund fish and wildlife programs on state public lands.

Would you favor the establishment of a statewide user fee required for access to Wisconsin's SWA's and SNA's?

Additional Information provided by author:

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.