

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

April 8, 2009

Contact: George Meyer. Executive Director, 608-516-5545

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Names Dick Steffes as Conservationist of the Year

Poynette: Today, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the state's largest conservation organization announced the naming of Dick Steffes as their Conservationist of the Year. The formal presentation of the award was made at the WWF annual meeting on April 4 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Dick Steffes is the Director of the Bureau of Real Estate at the Department of Natural Resources and is a thirty-five year employee of the agency. During his service with the agency he has been involved in the purchase of over 700,000 acres of land dedicated for wildlife management, fisheries management, state parks, state forests and state natural areas. A partial list of land purchases he personally negotiated on behalf of the citizens of the State of Wisconsin include: the Chippewa Flowage, the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, the Dells of the Wisconsin River, the Mountain Bay State Trail, the Willow Flowage, the "Great Addition", Capital Springs Centennial State Park, Governor Thompson State Park, Straight Lake Wilderness State Park and Wildlife Area, Gov. Nelson State Park, the Peshtigo State Forest, the Wild Rivers Legacy Forest, Rainbow Springs, the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands, the La Crosse Fishery Area and the Turtle Valley Wildlife Area.

Dick Steffes worked with seven Wisconsin Governors and seven DNR Secretaries to purchase these lands.

"Whether you are a hunter, angler, trapper, hiker, biker, logger, bird watcher, camper or just enjoy Wisconsin's scenic beauty, your life has been greatly enriched by the fine work done by Dick Steffes during his thirty-five year career," stated Lil Pipping (Elkhart Lake), WWF President. "All of our lives and the lives of future generations will be richly enhanced by the land that has been protected through Dick's efforts."

"Dick is a thorough professional and has worked extremely with thousands of landowners, real estate professionals, other DNR employees, senior staff and elected officials to ensure that these important lands are protected and that the taxpayers' money has been wisely invested," provided George Meyer, WWF Executive Director and former DNR Secretary. "Dick has a way of dealing with highly complicated and intricate business transactions in a manner which appears effortless and sets everyone's mind at ease, but underneath we know that it takes a great deal of hard work and a vast degree of experience."

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is comprised of 168 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry related organizations located in the State of Wisconsin and is the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. The Federation is dedicated to conservation education and the advancement of sound conservation policies. For further information, contact George Meyer, Executive Director at 608-516-5545.