For 30 years, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has been protecting our lakes and streams, securing critical wildlife habitat, and providing world-class recreational opportunities. The program works to protect both spectacular landscapes and nature right outside our back doors.

The governor and the Wisconsin state legislature must renew Knowles-Nelson in the 2021 budget or we’ll lose hundreds of millions of dollars to care for Wisconsin’s land and water.

Non-profit conservation organizations, like land trusts, and local governments apply for matching grants to fund projects. Every dollar Wisconsin invests in a conservation project is matched by another dollar raised elsewhere, effectively doubling the value of land and water protection efforts. Every project is led by a local group with expert knowledge of their community’s needs and values. Knowles-Nelson funds support land purchases, trail building, boat launches, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and more. The DNR also uses Knowles-Nelson funds to support land purchases around the state.