

## **Dick Steffes Biography**

During his 39 years with the Wisconsin DNR, Dick Steffes worked as a land acquisition agent, title closing officer, regional real estate manager, operational section chief and for the final 14 years Real Estate Director. During his tenure the Department acquired more than 834,500 acres of land in either title or easement. This is 1300 sq. miles of land to be open for public recreation and management of natural resources.

Dick maintained a steady focus, acquiring needed recreation land, rare habitats and water way access. He earned deep respect from governmental units, timber companies, non-profits and members of the public as he worked to protect Wisconsin's landscape.

His achievements included northern projects such as the Rainbow, Willow, Chippewa and Turtle Flambeau Flowages along with many other through out Wisconsin.

Dick was leader in the used of easements to secure public access while protecting Wisconsin's forest base- proudly negotiating 200,000 acres of Forest Legacy lands. The Wild Rivers, Chippewa Flowage and Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forests are included in his accomplishments.

Dick's unwavering integrity and his ability to relate to others views and needs made him a negotiator capable at any level. He served under eight Wisconsin governors and eight DNR secretaries. Dick has earned numerous conservation awards, including: 2013 Policy Maker of the Year by Gathering Waters, Wings Across America Habitat by USFS & USFWS, Kodak Americas Greenway Award in 2010 and the 2009 Conservationist of the Year by Wis. Wildlife Federation.

See Partners News Jan. 2014 for a detailed interview with Dick about his accomplished career.