

Report to the Governor

Recommendations for Natural Resource Regulation Simplification

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

05/30/2014



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Table of Contents:

Executive Summary.....	page 1
I. Governor's Request: Reduce rule and regulation complexity.....	page 2
A. Rules which the Conservation Congress, NRB, and DNR's Wildlife, Fisheries and Law Enforcement staff worked together on to provide rule simplification.....	page 2
B. Ideas that may have resulted in reduced complexity but were not supported by the public.....	page 4
C. Additional issues that have been addressed in the recent past.....	page 5
II. Governor's Request: Increase opportunities.....	page 6
A. Examples of increased opportunities created for hunters, anglers and trappers.....	page 6
III. Governor's Request: Eliminate laws & policies that create obstacles.....	page 7
IV. Governor's Request: Take some pages out of the regulations.....	page 8
A. A general 30 year history of regulations publications.....	page 8
1. Fishing Regulations.....	page 8
2. Trout Fishing Regulations.....	page 10
3. Deer Hunting Regulations.....	page 10
4. Small Game Hunting Regulations.....	page 12
5. Wolf Hunting & Trapping Regulations.....	page 12
6. Turkey Hunting Regulations.....	page 12
7. Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.....	page 13
8. Trapping Regulations.....	page 13
V. WCC Recommended Changes to reduce complexity, increase opportunity, and eliminate regulations and policies that may be obstacles for hunters, anglers, and trappers.....	page 13
2013 Rule Simplification Committee member suggestions spreadsheet.....	page 14



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Executive Summary

In a June 29, 2011 letter, Governor Walker asked the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) to work with his office, the Natural Resources Board (NRB), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to simplify Wisconsin's rules and regulations associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping. Specifically, he requested that the Conservation Congress "develop recommendations that could reduce complexity, increase opportunity, and eliminate regulations and policies that may be obstacles for hunters, anglers, and trappers that want to get involved in these Wisconsin ways-of-life."

The WCC worked closely with DNR's Fisheries, Law Enforcement and Wildlife programs to review current issues and look for ways to simplify the rules associated with those issues. This extensive collaboration yielded the following report. It includes changes that were developed and implemented in the recent past as well as those that have been worked on as a direct result of this charge. The report is categorized by the four specific requests to reduce rule and regulation complexity, increase opportunity, eliminate regulations and policies that are obstacles for hunters, anglers and trappers, and take some pages out of our regulations. The final part of the report summarizes the input received from citizens and provides you with some options that may further the above objectives of simplification.



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In a June 29, 2011 letter, Governor Walker asked the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) to work with his office, the Natural Resources Board (NRB), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to simplify Wisconsin's rules and regulations associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping. Specifically, Governor Walker asked the Conservation Congress "to develop recommendations that could reduce complexity, increase opportunity, and eliminate regulations and policies that may be obstacles for hunters, anglers, and trappers that want to get involved in these Wisconsin ways-of-life."

The Congress and DNR did set up Town Hall style meetings at the 2012 Annual April Spring Fish & Wildlife Informational Hearings and Conservation Congress County Meetings. The purpose and goal of these town hall meetings was to gather input and ideas from citizens on ways to simplify regulations and identify barriers to hunting and fishing participants. Many of the suggestions from the public at these town hall meetings were more general in nature and did not provide specific examples of regulations that could or should be simplified. During this same time, the WCC worked closely with DNR's Fisheries, Law Enforcement and Wildlife programs to reviewed current issues and look for ways to simplify the rules associated with those issues. In addition, a review team consisting of Dr.'s James Kroll, David Guynn, and Gary Alt were hired to assess and make recommendations to address the public's dissatisfaction with Wisconsin's deer management. As the DNR and Congress have worked on implementing the recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report (DTR) they have also provided opportunities to simplify the regulations.

This extensive collaboration yielded the following report. It includes changes that were developed and implemented in the recent past as well as those that have been worked on as a direct result of this charge.

I. Governor's Request: Reduce rule and regulation complexity

- A. The following is a list of rules which the Conservation Congress, NRB, and DNR's Wildlife, Fisheries and Law Enforcement staff worked together on to provide further rule simplification.
1. Allowing the use of rifles to hunt deer statewide stemmed from a WCC proposal and was approved by citizens at the 2013 Spring Hearings. The NRB approved this rule change and it is now in effect.
 2. The DNR asked citizens if they would support allowing trolling for fish on all waters statewide. This proposed rule change has the added benefit of repealing the need for position fishing rules. The results of this Spring Hearing vote were mixed, passing in a majority of the counties, but missing the majority vote by a narrow margin. A compromise was agreed to by the WCC delegates at our annual convention, and passed by the NRB. However, you asked that there be more public input on the compromise, so that proposal was taken back out to the 2014 Spring Hearings. The trolling proposal was supported both by the majority of the



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public in attendance, and by the majority of the counties. The full delegation of the WCC voted to support the DNR's proposed rule change that reflects the public's input on this compromise and testified in support of the proposal at the Natural Resources Board's May meeting. The NRB approved an amended version of the trolling compromise adding a three year sunset and limiting the number of trolling lines to two per boat in those counties that only allow one line per person.

3. The DNR has created a mobile app called the Pocket Ranger that the public can use to help identify hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching locations, as well as look up regulations and species profiles. This app also eliminates the need to carry a paper regulations pamphlet while hunting to determine daily hunting hours.
4. The Department has also created a Public Access Lands web mapping application (and a printed directory-Public Access Lands Atlas) that citizens can use to identify those lands that are accessible to the public for recreation.
5. The number of deer management units (DMU's) was reduced from 134 to 76 (using county boundaries and maintaining metro units).
6. The DNR will be transitioning to an automated deer registration system which will be implemented in 2015, which will allow a person to simply register their deer over the phone or on the internet, saving the time and cost to travel to a registration station.
7. The standard deer season framework and dates were simplified in response to the DTR recommendations and there will not be an October antlerless season in 2014.
8. The different types of antlerless tags available were consolidated into one free Farmland antlerless tag issued with each deer hunting license, and the standard bonus antlerless tags which will remain \$12 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents.
9. DNR Fisheries staff did an extensive survey of panfish anglers and facilitated multiple public meetings to gather input to assist in creating a panfish management plan in an effort to try to effectively manage panfish for diverse angler preferences and opportunities while simplifying the regulations.
10. The Department has reduced the number of different rough fish spearing seasons across the state from 7 to 3. With this change, counties will either be open all year (most counties), closed all year (9 counties), or for just those waters that are considered Winnebago System waters, closed only during the spring walleye/sturgeon spawning season.
11. The Department established uniform hours for both hunting bear with dogs and training bear dogs, which can now both occur during open season.
12. The DNR established rules for using dogs to pursue wolves that are uniform with those in place for using dogs to pursue bear.
13. The Department streamlined reporting requirements by establishing a 24 hour harvest reporting requirement for otter and fisher to be consistent with the reporting requirement for bobcat and wolves.
14. The DNR reduced the size of the Horicon zone, making more of the state fall under the general exterior zone season where permits are not limited.



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15. Following a favorable WCC Spring Hearing vote, the DNR created a statewide uniform opening date for the muskrat and mink seasons.
 16. After working closely with a WCC committee and gathering extensive public input, the NRB eliminated the open water hunting prohibition on 10 new large water bodies in the state.
 17. The DNR ended the need to issue or use special tags for shooting hen pheasants on state properties stocked with both hens and roosters.
 18. The DNR eliminated the need for wearing special arm bands when hunting at Bong Recreation Area.
 19. The Department approved the taking rough fish by hand within 200 feet of dams which was previously prohibited following a favorable WCC Spring Hearing vote.
 20. The DNR and NRB approved the taking of rough fish with hand held spears within 200 feet of dams during June, July & August when most game fish are done spawning and carp tend to congregate. Such spearing had been prohibited prior to receiving a favorable vote on a WCC advisory question at the 2012 Spring Hearings.
 21. Following a supported WCC advisory question in 2012, the DNR eliminated the Mecan wildlife refuge that was originally created to protect giant Canada geese, as it is no longer needed.
 22. Local fisheries staff have been meeting with their local warden counterparts to review local regulations looking for rules that are no longer necessary, unnecessary fish refuge areas, and confusing rules and terms that can be simplified/clarified, removing outdated signs post at landings, etc.
 23. The DNR is currently working on a Lean 6 Sigma project to deal with bird dog training license review and approval process to make obtaining a license quicker and easier.
 24. DNR has eliminated the 1 day restriction on bow hunting and shooting deer causing damage on the day before the 9-day November gun deer season.
 25. The restriction against loaded uncased firearms in the field on the Friday before the 9-day November gun deer season has also been eliminated.
 26. Special State Park Deer and Turkey Management Units have been eliminated. Now a person simply needs a permit/tag for the larger Management zone the State Park is located in, and they are no longer limited to only using their permit/tag inside or outside the state park.
 27. The DNR and NRB reinstated the statewide protection for albino and white deer, eliminating inconsistent protection of these animals depending on where a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) affected area has been established.
 28. The DNR recently established that the number and type of deer tags issued with an archery, crossbow and gun deer license are now all the same.
 29. The DNR eliminated the CWD Management Zone based on highway boundaries, and replaced it with the CWD affected areas based on County boundaries.
- B. The following may have resulted in reduced complexity and were taken out for public input at the 2013 Spring Hearings, but were not supported by the public:



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1. Eliminate need to remove tree stands and ground blinds daily on DNR lands open to hunting. The NRB has asked the DNR to look into providing a pilot opportunity to allow hunters to leave stands and ground blinds on DNR lands for the entire fall and spring hunting seasons in a few select counties.
2. Expanding the use of crossbows through either full inclusion or a separate season and license. Legislation has now been passed as 2013 Wis. Act 61 establishing a crossbow license and season open to all hunters of legal age, without regard to physical ability.

C. Additional issues that have been addressed in the recent past:

1. The DNR eliminated the closed season for coyotes in Wolf Management Zone 1, as supported by the WCC. We now have a uniform statewide year round season for coyote hunting.
2. The DNR eliminated scope restrictions during the muzzleloader season after a recommendation by the WCC.
3. The DNR eliminated the need to earn your 1st buck killed under a gun license and under an archery license in the CWD zone, now the Southern Farmland zone.
4. The NRB also eliminated Earn-a-Buck (EAB) outside the CWD zone (now the Southern Farmland zone).
5. The DNR changed deer tags to "buck tags" or "antlerless tags" (no either-sex tags) to eliminate confusion by making them more specific.
6. DNR created a statewide uniform opening day for trapping both foxes and coyotes.
7. The raccoon season now ends the same day as the fox season.
8. DNR has created more uniform state park hunting and trapping season dates for all but a few state parks.
9. The need to encase firearms, bows and crossbows in vehicles has been eliminated.
10. Hunting from stationary non-motorized vehicles is now allowed and was supported by the WCC.
11. DNR has eliminated the need for backtags for Class B bear hunters.
12. The number of turkey management zones has been reduced from 46 to 7.
13. The 3-day waiting period for an archery hunting license has been eliminated.
14. The statewide October antlerless deer season was eliminated.
15. A statewide antlerless tag for youth hunters under the age of 18 (valid also in buck only units) was created.
16. Holders of a Class A or Class C disabled hunting permit are now authorized to use their archery antlerless deer tag (now their Southern Farmland antlerless deer tag) statewide (including in buck only DMU's).



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II. Governor's Request: Increase opportunities

- A. The following are examples of increased opportunities created for hunters, anglers and trappers. The Conservation Congress and the DNR will continue to look for ways to increase outdoor recreational opportunities.
1. Act 168 opened state parks to hunting and trapping (unless closed by the NRB). Previously, state parks were closed unless opened by the NRB. The WCC requested that change after a 2011 Spring Hearing vote indicated there was public support for opening those lands.
 2. A wolf hunting & trapping season is now in place.
 3. Following a supported WCC advisory question in 2011, the DNR increased opportunity to use rifles for hunting deer statewide.
 4. Legislation created a new crossbow license and special crossbow deer season.
 5. The DNR reduced turkey management zones from 46 to just 7, allowing hunters a larger area to hunt under their zone specific permit.
 6. Following a supportive vote on a 2012 WCC advisory question, the NRB approved a 4-day check period for weasel traps, instead of having to check such traps daily.
 7. The 3-day waiting period for archery hunting licenses has been eliminated.
 8. There is now a statewide catch & keep largemouth bass season with the general opener.
 9. The legislature has expanded opportunity by enabling hunting from stationary non-motorized vehicles, such as blinds on trailers.
 10. Colony traps are now legal to use in Wisconsin for muskrats.
 11. The NRB approved the use of trail camera use on DNR lands overnight, to aid in scouting for game.
 12. The WCC requested, and the DNR approved, the cutting of willow stakes from DNR lands to use for trap stakes or other personal uses.
 13. The DNR shrank the size of the Horicon Goose Zone, making more of the state fall under the general exterior zone season where permits are not limited.
 14. Following a supporting Spring Hearing vote, the DNR now allows the taking of rough fish by hand within 200 feet of dams which had been prohibited.
 15. In addition, the DNR now allows taking rough fish with hand held spears within 200 feet of dams during June, July & August when most game fish are done spawning. Such spearing had been prohibited in these areas when and where large concentrations of carp congregate.
 16. The Department created a statewide antlerless tag that is now issued with each deer hunting license issued to youth hunters under the age of 18 (also valid in buck-only units).
 17. Opportunity has been increased by authorizing holders of a Class A or Class C disabled hunting permit to use their Farmland antlerless deer tag issued with each deer hunting license they purchase statewide (including in buck-only DMU's).



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III. Governor's Request: Eliminate laws & policies that create obstacles

1. The legislature eliminated case requirements for firearms, bows and crossbows placed or transported in or on vehicles.
2. There is new authority for taking possession of certain car-killed wild animals at no cost.
3. The law that prohibited sale of furs and certain carcasses during closed seasons has been eliminated.
4. The DNR shrank the size of the Horicon zone, making more of the state fall under the general exterior zone season where permits are not limited.
5. The prohibitions on a loaded gun in or on a vehicle, and the discharge of a firearm from a vehicle no longer apply to a person hunting from a stationary non-motorized vehicle, such as a hay wagon or blind constructed with wheels or on a trailer, provided it is not attached to a motor vehicle.
6. There are new opportunities for all hunters to use crossbows, without restrictions based on degree of disability or age.
7. There is now more flexibility in the amount of time allowed for tending certain traps set for weasels.
8. After the WCC requested the change, regulations now allow for the quartering of deer prior to registration.
9. There are fewer turkey management zones (from 46 to just 7), allowing more area for a hunter to hunt under their permit.
10. The 3-day waiting period for archery hunting licenses has been eliminated.
11. The Department has created a statewide antlerless tag that is now issued with each deer hunting license issued to youth hunters under the age of 18 (valid also in buck-only units).
12. Regulations now authorize holders of Class A or Class C disabled hunting permits to use their Farmland antlerless deer tag, issued with each deer hunting license they purchase, statewide (including in buck only DMU's).
13. Elimination of shotgun-only deer hunting zones.
14. There was a reduction in the number of different rough fish spearing seasons across the state from 7 to 3. With this change, counties will either be open all year (most counties), closed all year (9 counties) or for just those waters that are considered Winnebago System waters, closed only during the spring walleye/sturgeon spawning season.
15. Following a supportive Spring Hearing vote, the DNR eliminated the scope restrictions on muzzleloaders during the muzzleloader deer season.
16. The DNR has implemented new, simplified opportunities for hunters to complete hunter education.
 - a. Students now have two convenient online opportunities to begin their internet certification process, including internet training with a 1-day hands-on field day.



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- b. Adults now have a convenient way to become certified in hunter education by completing an online training course, followed by attending an adult only test-out.

IV. Governor's Request: Take some pages out of the regulations

- A. The following is a general 30 year history of regulations publications and the size of those publications:

1. Fishing Regulations: Number of pages has not changed during the past 6 years.

1983 = 24 pages – pocket size 3.5" x 6" booklet.

1991 = 32 pages – larger 5¼" x 8¼" newsprint booklet, in part to save printing costs and to include 16 pages of "Special Regulations Listed by County" for local water specific rules.

- Can only add or remove pages in 8 page increments for printing reasons.

1992 = 40 pages – included 20 pages (4 additional pages) of "Special Regulations Listed by County".

- Filled extra 4 pages of the 8 new pages with "Wisconsin Record Fish" page, listing of fees for all the different types of fishing licenses, Wisconsin Lakes Fact Sheet, photos on how to tell the difference between walleye and sauger, and a pie chart on "Where your fishing license \$ go".

1993 = 40 pages.

1994 = 48 pages – included 24 pages (4 additional pages) of "Special Regulations Listed by County".

- Filled extra 4 pages of the 8 new pages with Ceded Territory map, and increased font size throughout whole pamphlet.

1996 = 56 pages – included 27 pages (3 additional pages) of "Special Regulations Listed by County".

- Filled extra 5 pages of the 8 new pages with 2 pages on lakes with "Quality Fishing Opportunities" for Musky, Bass, Walleye & Pike, 1 page on available fishing publications, 2 pages on becoming a member of the "Hooked on Wisconsin" Anglers' Club, and part of a page on the Department's angler education and instructor workshop training.

2001 = 64 pages – included 31 pages (4 additional pages) of "Special Regulations Listed by County".

- Filled extra 4 pages of the 8 new pages with 1½ pages on Frog & Turtle seasons and rules instead of just referring people to a different publication, 1 page on



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Stream Access Principles and new statutory change regarding exposed beds of streams, 1 page on Wisconsin Sport Fish Restoration program, and a ½ page on boating laws related to fishing.

2003 = 64 pages.

2008 = 72 pages– included 34 pages (3 additional pages) of “Special Regulations Listed by County”.

- Filled extra 5 pages of the 8 new pages with 1 page on VHS, 1 page on new VHS related rules, 1 page on “Getting the Lead Out” of fishing, 1 page listing all DNR Service Centers and phone numbers, and about 1 page taken up by spacing needs, etc.

2013 = 72 pages.

2014 = Reduced special regulations pages from 34 to 30 pages. Publication overall remained same size. Additional space was used for additional map on catch & release bass zone seasons, etc.

The above list does not include all changes, but provides an idea of the major changes made. In many years, additional materials were added without increasing size of publication only by removing other material that had been added previously as filler, etc.

As illustrated above, the growth in the number of pages in the General Fishing Regulations has been Special Regulations. The best way to remove pages from the General Fishing Regulations would be to reduce the number of special water specific local regulations. However, participants at the Spring Hearings often support more complex rules over simple rules to accomplish other goals. This was evident on voting results on the following general fishing rules related questions asked at the 2012 Spring Hearing by the DNR.

Question # and Description	Votes Yes	Votes No
27. Is it important to have identical bag limits for a fish species on all inland waters	869	<u>2847</u>
28. Is it important to have identical length limits for a fish species on all inland waters	943	<u>2774</u>
29. Is it important to have identical seasons for a fish species statewide	976	<u>2601</u>
30. Is it important to have border water regulations consistent with inland regulations	1476	<u>2060</u>
31. Is it important to have border water regulations consistent with neighboring states	<u>1879</u>	1694
32. Would you prefer simplifying by eliminating less popular licenses	1528	<u>2152</u>
33. Would you prefer Wisconsin eliminate separate stamps and tags	1253	<u>2484</u>
34. Should Wisconsin issue the same fishing license regardless of residency	514	<u>3263</u>
37. Eliminate fish refuges if populations are adequately protected by other regulations	1715	<u>1790</u>
38. DNR publish a comprehensive list of refuges instead of posting signs	1604	<u>1900</u>



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2. Trout Fishing Regulations publication: Has not increased in size (# of pages = 32) since it was first created as a separate publication from the general fishing regulation in 1990 (24 years ago).
3. Deer Hunting Regulations: Number of pages has not increased during past 8 years, after the pamphlet was reduced in size by 16 pages in 2006.

1993 = 48 pages – pocket size 3.5” x 6” booklet – General Hunting Regulation Booklet – included deer.

- In 1993, the Deer Regulations made up about 25% of the 48 page General Hunting booklet.

2001 = 68 pages - Last year the general hunting regulations booklet included Deer Hunting Regulations.

2002 = 64 pages - larger 5¼” x 8¼” newsprint booklet, in part to save printing costs & to include:

- About 50 % of the pages were deer hunting specific rules.
- Can only add or remove pages in 8 page increments for printing reasons.
- In addition, there was a 32 page separate Booklet for CWD Zone Deer Seasons.

2003 = 48 pages – This was first year the Deer and Small Game Regulations were printed separately.

- Small Game Booklet was 40 pages in 2003.
- The 48 page Deer Regulations Booklet included all the CWD Zone season info.

2004 = 72 pages - This year the department listed the bow, gun and muzzleloader seasons separately for each DMU in a 28 page table to make it easier to find the season for the area a person hunted.

2006 = 56 pages - Eliminated the 28 page table, but also printed a separate 8 page CWD zone booklet.

2013 = 56 pages – No longer need to print a separate CWD Zone Deer Hunting Regulations booklet.

It is important to remember there are issues that exist today, that did not exist 20 years ago, and many of these are new opportunities which have been created for hunters, anglers and trappers, as well as controls the public has supported such as:



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- Special Youth gun deer hunt.
- Special CWD zone season(s).
- Statewide Dec. 4-day antlerless hunt (now limited to just the Central Farmland & Forest Zones).
- Herd Control units and related rules and tags (now referred to as Farmland zones),
- International Wildlife Violator compact membership.
- Mentored Hunting opportunities.
- Reduced rate licenses for youth and individuals who encourage others to hunt for 1st time, which also takes room to explain in the regulations.
- Lesser Weapon option under a Gun Deer license.
- Special baiting and feeding regulations for some counties in-lieu of a simple statewide prohibition, and total prohibitions in other counties.
- Interest in use of new equipment and devices, such as draw locks on compound bows, laser sights, lighted sights, etc.
- Marking ground blinds with blaze orange on DNR lands during any gun deer season to provide safer hunting.
- Use of trail cameras on DNR lands.
- Disabled hunter opportunities for use of their Farmland antlerless tags statewide.
- Requirement that antlerless tags be land type specific (public or private land only tags).
- Bonus buck opportunity and authorization requirements in Southern Farmland Zone (formerly in the CWD management zone).
- Opportunity for all youth under age 18 to receive a statewide antlerless deer tag with each license they purchase and similar opportunity for certain disabled hunters and Armed Forces members to use their Farmland antlerless tags in any unit statewide, even in buck only units.
- Farmer bonus antlerless deer tags.
- Wild hogs.
- More interest on the part of felons and others who cannot possess firearms to hunt deer. Now they have this opportunity with archery and crossbow licenses, and the ability to use a bow or crossbow with a regular deer license during any firearm deer season.
- Concealed carry of handguns.
- More calibers of handguns are now legal for hunting.
- Changes in car-killed wildlife laws and expansion to bear, turkey and certain other small game.
- Deer carcass transportation restrictions into Wisconsin and from CWD affected areas.



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- Hunting and Trapping in most areas of most State Parks.
- More Hmong and Spanish only speaking deer hunters.
- Change in hunting hours from statewide uniform hours to hours that change based on sunset and location from East to West and North vs. South across the state.
- New crossbow license and season created by legislature will require additional explanation in the deer hunting regulations publication.
- Expanded deer hunting seasons/opportunities statewide.
 - Deer Hunt
 - Disabled Deer Hunt
 - 7-day December muzzleloader-only deer season – later expanded to 10-days.
 - 4-day Statewide December antlerless only deer season (now limited to Central Zones).
 - Extended Archery Deer season in Metro DMU's
 - CWD zone Holiday gun deer hunt – Now the Southern Farm Land zone Holiday Hunt.

All these seasons require expanded season tables

4. Small Game Hunting Regulations: Number of pages has decreased during past 10 years.

1993 = 48 pages – pocket size 3.5” x 6” booklet – General Hunting Regulations Booklet – (Small Game & Deer).

- In 1993, the Deer Regulations made up about 25% of the 48 page General Hunting booklet.

2001 = 68 pages - Last year the general hunting regulations booklet included the Deer Hunting Regulations.

2003 = 40 pages – This was first year the Deer and Small Game Regulations were printed separately.

- Deer Regulations Booklet was 48 pages in 2003.

2009 – 32 pages – Including the Spring & Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations.

2013 – 32 pages – Including the Spring & Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations.

5. Wolf Hunting & Trapping Regulations: New in 2012.
6. Turkey Hunting Regulations: Separate publications eliminated. Now found in the small game regulations.



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1993 = Two pages 8 ½ X 11” trifold (double-sided) Spring Turkey Hunting regulations pamphlet.

1993 = Two pages 8 ½ X 11” trifold (double-sided) Fall Turkey Hunting regulations pamphlet.

2009 = Both the fall and spring turkey season information included in the Small Game Regulations.

In an effort to streamline printing costs and reduce the number of publications a person must obtain, the fall turkey and spring turkey regulations double-sided fliers were incorporated into the Small Game publication. The small game publication did not increase in pages as a result (still 32 pages).

7. Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations: Number of pages has not increased in 20 years.

1993 = 32 pages – pocket size 3.5” x 6” booklet.

2013 = 32 pages – still a pocket size booklet.

8. Trapping Regulations: Number of pages has not increased in 20 years.

1993 = Double-sided 8 ½ X 17” six-fold regulations flier.

1999 = 32 pages – Changed from above flier to a smaller pocket size 3.5” x 6” booklet.

2006 = 32 pages - larger 5¼ ” x 8 ¼ ” newsprint booklet, in part to save printing costs

2013 = 32 pages – Same size, even with new opportunity and rules on colony traps, etc.

V. WCC Recommended Changes to reduce complexity, increase opportunity, and eliminate regulations and policies that may be obstacles for hunters, anglers, and trappers

1. The prohibition of baiting deer statewide would simplify regulations that currently are not consistent across the state.
2. The legislature could simplify stamp requirements by eliminating all of the different state stamps and replacing them with one habitat stamp that all hunters, trappers or anglers would be required to purchase when they obtain a license or permit.



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3. Giving the DNR or local law enforcement agencies the authority to issue citations for the illegal open burning of prohibited materials would simplify the process for protecting public health and conform to the generally accepted perception of government responsibilities. This would require statutory changes and was supported overwhelmingly in a 2012 Spring Hearing vote.
4. Creating a continuous open season for trout in “put and take” lakes would create additional opportunities for anglers and eliminate the waste of a resource that doesn’t overwinter.
5. Improving signage and posting local lake regulations at landings would make it simpler for anglers to know what the regulations are on the lake they are fishing without having to look up the regulations in the paper pamphlet.

As we move forward in our role of providing citizen input on resource issues, the Congress will continue to look for ways to simplify regulations, eliminate barriers, and increase opportunity while using sound science to effectively manage and conserve our natural resources. Thank you for providing the Conservation Congress with this opportunity. It was an honor to work with the Department on this project and we look forward to continuing this work with the DNR, NRB, your office, and the legislature.

2013 RULES SIMPLIFICATION COMMITTEE MEMBER SUGGESTIONS SPREADSHEET				
Conservation Congress				
Date Received	From Whom	Contact Info	Subject	Details
07/03/2013	Daniel Cichantek	trapperdanc@yahoo.com	Hunting & Trapping Opening Dates	The biggest change I have is for all furbearer hunting and trapping to open on the same date statewide. The most encouraged dates are the 4th Sat in Oct, or Nov 1 regardless of the day.
07/02/2013	Steve Ninneman, Vice Chair WCC Outagamie County	honyuk@aol.com	Stamps	All stamps change to one stamp, a habitat stamp purchased once with all licenses.



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07/02/2013	Steve Ninneman, Vice Chair Outagamie	honyuk@aol.com	Archery licensing	Archery license in reg. units are part of the bonus tag system, not a free tag for antlerless.
07/02/2013	Steve Ninneman, Vice Chair Outagamie County	honyuk@aol.com	Walleye and musky regulations	Need more consistency throughout the state.
07/04/2013	Dave Majewski, Forest County	cte54053@centurytel.net	Trout Fishing	All or at least most trout streams - same regs - 5 fish any size. If small ones are hooked bad most die anyway. If people want to keep them, let them.
07/04/2013	Dave Majewski, Forest Cty	cte54053@centurytel.net	Duck Hunting	5 birds any species or sex. Maybe one of certain species.
07/04/2013	Dave Majewski, Forest County	cte54053@centurytel.net	Goose Hunting	Geese - one season, start early and keep it going to the end of duck season.
07/04/2013	Dave Majewski, Forest County	cte54053@centurytel.net	Musky Fishing	One size all lakes - make it for average fishermen and not the musky clubs - 40" minimum.
07/04/2013	Dave Majewski, Forest County	cte54053@centurytel.net	Bear and Bobcat Hunting	Bears and bobcats are undermanaged. It's ridiculous to wait 10 years for a harvest tag. Again special interest groups have an influence on this.
07/04/2013	Dave Majewski, Forest County	cte54053@centurytel.net	Bass Fishing	Go back to 10" minimum, keep one over 18".
07/04/2013	Matt Sedelbauer	mstedelbauer@hotmail.com	Gun Deer Season	Allow harvest of coyote with regular gun deer tag similar to what is allowed with archery license.



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07/04/2013	Matt Sedelbauer	msedelbauer@hotmail.com	Gun Deer Season	Ban baiting statewide, baiting and feeding regs are long and confusing, p34 each hunter/40 acres can have 2 gal, do they have to remove at end of day if not hunting anymore? If not other hunters will be over legal amounts the next day.
07/04/2013	Matt Sedelbauer	msedelbauer@hotmail.com	Gun Deer Season	Eliminate group hunting, regulations are confusing and very subject to interpretation, most states don't allow anyway, brings out the bad in normally good hunters.
07/04/2013	Kevin Smaby (via Dave Puhl)	puhl@merr.com	Hunting	I have one simplification possibility. It regards barrel length of handguns for hunting. At present the length for big game (bear and deer) is 5 1/2" for center fire and 7" for muzzleloader, small game barrel length is 4" for all types of handguns. Unless there is a specific reason for this could there be one standard length for all, 4" or something like that. This would keep it easier to remember and user friendly. If there is a reason for the different lengths then there would be no need to go further on this.