



**Department of Natural Resources
Spring Fish and
Wildlife Rules Hearings**

and



**Conservation Congress
County Meeting**

Monday, April 16, 2007

7:00 PM

Agenda

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Registration | |
| 2. WCC – Delegate Election | WCC Delegate(s) |
| 3. DNR – Fisheries Rules Hearing & Advisory Questions | DNR Hearing Officer |
| 4. DNR – Wildlife Rules Hearing & Advisory Questions | DNR Hearing Officer |
| 5. WCC – Advisory Questions | WCC Delegate(s) |
| 6. Citizen Resolutions | WCC Delegate(s) |

Everyone will be given an opportunity to comment on the questions, but you will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes for each question that you wish to discuss. If comments become repetitive the hearing officer may limit comments to issues not previously presented. No argument or rebuttal will be allowed on DNR rule proposals. Written comments on all DNR rule proposals will be accepted until the end of the comment period in the hearing notice found on pages 6-9.

To ensure that you are able to provide your input on the proposals presented, make sure you:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are registered | <input type="checkbox"/> Received a white ballot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Received this questionnaire | <input type="checkbox"/> Received a blue ballot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a pencil | |

If you are a resident of the county in which you are attending the meeting, and are at least 18 years of age you may vote for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates. A photo id is required in order to receive ballots to vote for candidates. If you meet these criteria, you will receive:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Year Term ballot | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Term ballot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Year Term Run off ballot | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Term Run off ballot |

If you are a resident of the county in which you are attending the meeting, and are at least 18 years of age you may run to be elected to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

**Please visit our website at
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/springhearings/>**

Important Notice: Statewide Electronic Balloting

Please read the instructions below before voting.

Again this year, votes in every county will be recorded on electronic ballots. Statewide no hand count will be taken.

After you have registered, staff will provide you with a **white ballot** – the white ballot is for all the Department of Natural Resources Proposed Wildlife & Fisheries Rule Changes, and the Natural Resources Board and Wisconsin Conservation Congress proposed advisory questions that are printed in this questionnaire.

You will also be given a **blue ballot** – the blue ballot is for all citizen introduced resolutions which are presented at the end of the Conservation Congress county meeting.

In order for ballots to be read correctly by the voting machine:

1. Use a PENCIL on ballots - not pen
2. DO NOT erase (If you make a mistake, please turn in your original ballot and request a new ballot)
3. DO NOT circle answers
4. DO NOT make notes or stray marks anywhere on the ballot

Please see the examples of the white ballot below and blue ballot on the following page.

Important Notice: Statewide Electronic Balloting

Sample White Ballot below, the White ballot is for Proposed Questions contained within the Questionnaire.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS**

001

INSTRUCTIONS: To vote on a question, complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "YES" if in favor of the question or complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "NO" if opposed to the question.

QUESTIONS	QUESTIONS (cont.)
Question 1: YES NO	Question 22: YES NO
Question 2: YES NO	Question 23: YES NO

Question 1: Do you support changing the closing date of the ruffed grouse season in Zone A from December 31 to January 31, so it is the same season as currently in Zone B?

1. Yes _____ No _____

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **Yes** as indicated above. If you are **Not** in favor of the proposed question please mark **No**.

Important Notice: Statewide Electronic Balloting

Sample Blue Ballot below, the Blue ballot is for Citizen Introduced Resolution that are Introduced on the floor this evening and are posted for your vote.

Resolution 1: BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Your County on Month, Date, Year, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes allowing a spring dinosaur hunting season?

1. Yes _____ No _____

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **Yes** as indicated above. If you are **Not** in favor of the proposed question please mark **No**.

And remember, in order for ballots to be read correctly by the voting machine:

- Use a PENCIL on ballots - not pen
- DO NOT erase (If you make a mistake, please turn in your original ballot and request a new ballot)
- DO NOT circle answers
- DO NOT make notes or stray marks anywhere on the ballot

Typically, the results of the hearing are available after 3 p.m. the Tuesday following the hearing. And the resolution and the voting information is typically available at the end of April. The results of the hearing on the resolutions can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/springhearings/>

Thank you for your participation and cooperation.

Please enjoy the Hearing and Meeting.

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Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo 2007

A completely FREE See-Touch-Do experience for KIDS of ALL ages to ENJOY!

Date: May 18th & 19th (*Friday, May 18th open only to schools and Saturday, May 19th open to the public*)

Location: Dodge County Fairgrounds, Beaver Dam, WI

Why would I want to get involved?

The Expo provides Wisconsin families and students with learning and participation opportunities in the outdoors. In 2007 the Expo will communicate the relevance of wildlife and habitat management in our lives, teach outdoors skills, encourage ethical behavior and perpetuate Wisconsin's hunting, fishing and conservation heritage. Throughout the planning for this event, we are concentrating on children and families in order to build the heritage of Wisconsin's commitment to outdoor activities.

Expo 2007 will focus on hands-on activities and participation, and will use these opportunities to introduce schoolchildren to wildlife-related outdoor skills, natural resources, conservation and management concepts. Expo 2007 will be structured with at least seven separate camps where kids and families will be able to learn about and participate in outdoor activities:

- Fishing
- Camping and Trail Recreation
- Wildlife Trail
- Heritage
- Archery
- Firearm Safety
- Sporting Dogs

At Expo 2006, held last May, 3,200 fourth and fifth grade students from throughout Wisconsin participated in see, touch, and do activities such as fishing, archery, camping skills, and outdoor heritage and natural resource conservation concepts. On Friday, 600 teachers and chaperones accompanied these students. The Expo was open to the public on Saturday and over 1,100 parents, grandparents and children attended this free event.

Volunteers, Sponsors, Exhibitors or Educators who would like to be apart of this great expo, please contact the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo Planning Office at 608-833-2040 or visit our website at www.wisexpo.com

BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
WM-14-07
FH-15-07

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to ss. 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041 and 227.11(2)(a), Stats., interpreting ss. 29.531, 29.533, 29.014(1), 29.039 and 29.041, Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings on revisions to chs. NR 20 and 26, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to fishing on the inland, outlying and boundary waters of Wisconsin. The proposed changes:

1. Eliminate restriction on maximum allowable size of landing nets. Current administrative code stipulates that landing nets may not exceed 36" diameter.
2. Implement 50" minimum size limit for muskellunge on the St. Louis River. This proposal is being made concurrently with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
3. Stipulate that spears and arrows used for fishing have barbed tips.
4. Increase the daily bag limit for walleye, sauger and their hybrids in Mineral Lake, Ashland County from 3 fish to 5 fish and replace the current 18" minimum size limit with no minimum, but only one fish larger than 14" may be kept.
5. Authorize seining and dipnetting for rainbow smelt in Beaver Dam Lake, Barron County with a continuous open season and no restrictions on harvest hours. A maximum allowable size for seines is specified.
6. Create a 26" minimum size limit for trout in Beaver Dam Lake, Barron County with a one fish daily bag limit, and create a 15" minimum size limit for trout in the Hay River, Barron County, with a one fish daily bag limit.
7. Create an 18" minimum size limit for walleye in the Red Cedar chain of lakes (lakes Balsam, Red Cedar and Hemlock), Barron and Washburn Counties.
8. Reduce the daily bag limit for panfish in Middle Eau Claire and Bony Lakes, Bayfield County, from 25 fish to 10 fish.
9. Extend the 45" minimum length limit for muskellunge in Lakes Monona, Waubesa and Wingra, Dane County to tributaries and connecting waters of those lakes.
10. Implement minimum size and bag limits for brown trout and lake trout, and an 18" minimum size limit and 3 fish daily bag limit for walleye in Keyes Lake, Florence County.
11. Remove the 26" minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Kettle Moraine and Long Lakes, Fond du Lac County and replace those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.
12. Increase the daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in the Gile Flowage, Iron County, from 2 fish to 3 fish, aggregate, and change the 15" minimum size limit to no minimum, but no fish between 14" and 18" may be kept and only one fish larger than 18" may be kept.
13. Remove the 26" minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in the Buffalo (upstream of highway 93) and Trempealeau Rivers (upstream of the dam in Blair), Jackson and Trempealeau Counties, and replace those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.
14. Eliminate the continuous open season for game fish on the Yellowstone River, Lafayette County.
15. Eliminate special regulations for trout on a section of the Prairie River, Lincoln County.
16. Implement a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big Bass and Mission Lake, Marathon County, with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14" and 18" may be kept and only one fish larger than 18" may be kept.
17. Eliminate special regulations for trout in Plum Creek, Pepin County, eliminate special regulations for trout in the Kinnickinnic River and Plum Creek in St. Croix County, and change trout regulations on reaches of the Kinnickinnic River in Pierce County.
18. Implement a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Pipe Lake, Polk County with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14" and 18" may be kept and only fish larger than 18" may be kept.

19. Reduce the daily bag limit for panfish from 25 fish to 10 fish in all inland waters of St. Croix County and Cedar Lake, which is in Polk and St. Croix Counties.

20. Implement a 3 fish daily bag limit for walleye in Cedar Lake, Polk and St. Croix Counties, with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14" and 18" may be kept and only one fish larger than 18" may be kept.

21. Implement a 5 fish daily bag limit for walleye in Butternut Lake, Price County, with no minimum size limit but only one fish larger than 14" may be kept.

22. Implement restrictive bag and size limits for panfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass and northern pike in Eagle Lake, Racine County.

23. Remove the 26" minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Crystal Lake, Sheboygan County and replace those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

24. Remove the 26" minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Little Cedar Lake, Washington County and replace those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

25. Create 3 fish refuges below dams in the Sugar River, Green County and create a fish refuge on the Yahara River below the Dunkirk Dam, Dane County.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to ss. 23.09(2)(b), 29.014, 29.089, 29.091, 29.164(4)(b), 29.184(6), 29.197(2) and 29.597, Stats., interpreting ss. 23.09(2)(b), 29.014, 29.089, 29.041, 29.091, 29.164(4)(b), 29.184(6), 29.197(2) and 29.597, Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings on revisions to chs. NR 10, 15, 17 and 19, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to hunting and trapping regulations. The proposed changes:

1. Reduce the number of turkey management zones from the current 46 to 7.
2. Rename Bear Hunting Zone A1 as Zone D.
3. Eliminate the open season for jackrabbits.
4. Establish a nonresident trapping season for raccoons that begins 2 weeks after the start of the season for residents.
5. Legalize the use of shotgun slugs for hunting species other than game birds and allow the use of buckshot for hunting bobcat at all times during that season.
6. Require the display of blaze orange on ground blinds used on department lands during seasons when hunters are required to wear blaze orange.
7. Prohibit deer feeding near dwellings and businesses when feed is being used by bear or elk.
8. Prohibit open water hunting on Mississippi River Pool 11 to match U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regulations for the Upper Mississippi River National Fish & Wildlife Refuge.
9. Change closed area boundaries and create new closed areas on the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge to make them consistent with those adopted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
10. Establish a closed area at the Wisconsin River Delta of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge beginning on November 1 each year for consistency with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
11. Expand the time when cable restraints may be used for coyote and fox, allow their use for a portion of the bobcat season, and modify cable size standards.
12. Establish a fee of \$12.00 for the course of instruction under the trapper education program and \$28 for correspondence courses that require out-of-state mailing.
13. Apply existing trap size, type and placement regulations to licensed wild fur farms.
14. Create an archery season for deer and special tags in Unit 79, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.
15. Create a 9-day, shotgun-only deer hunting season at Lake Wissota State Park and create Deer Management Unit 59E.
16. Eliminate the 19-day muzzleloader-only deer hunting season at Brunet Island State Park and create a 9-day shotgun-only season in its place.
17. Establish a 2:00 p.m. closing time for pheasant hunting at Mud Lake Wildlife Area in Columbia County and Pine Island Wildlife Area in Sauk and Columbia Counties.
18. Create a pilot program to allow fall turkey hunting with the aid of dogs in certain counties.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to s. 227.114, Stats., it is not anticipated that the proposed rules will have an economic impact on small businesses. The Department's Small

Business Regulatory Coordinator may be contacted at SmallBusiness@dnr.state.wi.us or by calling (608) 266-1959.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department has made a preliminary determination that this action does not involve significant adverse environmental effects and does not need an environmental analysis under ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code. However, based on the comments received, the Department may prepare an environmental analysis before proceeding with the proposal. This environmental review document would summarize the Department's consideration of the impacts of the proposal and reasonable alternatives.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2007, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will hold its election of county delegates in each county. Upon completion of the delegate elections, the joint Spring Hearing/Conservation Congress meeting will convene to take comments on the foregoing rule modifications.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the hearings will be held on Monday, April 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Adams	Adams County Courthouse, Board Room, 402 Main Street, Friendship
Ashland	Ashland Senior High School, Auditorium, 1900 Beaser Ave., Ashland
Barron	Old Courthouse Building Lower Level, Auditorium, 330 E LaSalle Ave., Barron
Bayfield	Drummond High School, 40 Eastern Ave., Drummond
Brown	Green Bay Southwest High School, Auditorium, 1331 Packerland Drive, Green Bay
Buffalo	Alma High School, Auditorium, S1618 State Rd. 35, Alma
Burnett	Siren Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Road K, Siren
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School, Student Commons, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls
Clark	Greenwood High School, Cafetorium, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood
Columbia	Turner Junior High School, 2505 New Pinery Road, Portage
Crawford	Crawford County Courthouse, Court Room, 220 N. Beaumont Road, Prairie du Chien
Dane	Dane County Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Way, Madison
Dodge	Horicon City Hall, 404 Lake Street, Horicon
Door	Sturgeon Bay High School, Auditorium, 1230 Michigan, Sturgeon Bay
Douglas	Superior Senior High School, 2600 Catlin Avenue, Superior
Dunn	Dunn County Fish And Game Club, 1900 Pioneer Ave., Menomonie
Eau Claire	South Middle School, Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire
Florence	Florence Natural Resources Center, Large Conference Room, Highway 70/101, Florence
Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, Auditorium, 525 E Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac
Forest	Crandon High School, Auditorium, 9750 USH 8 W, Crandon
Grant	Lancaster High School, Auditorium, 806 East Elm Street, Lancaster
Green	Monroe Middle School, Auditorium, 1510 13 th Street, Monroe
Green Lake	Green Lake High School, Small Gym, 612 Mill St., Green Lake
Iowa	Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville
Iron	Iron County Court House, Main Courtroom, 300 Taconite, Hurley
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, LGI, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson Ave., Jefferson
Juneau	Juneau County Courthouse, Second Floor - County Board Room, 220 E. State Street, Mauston
Juneau	Mauston High School, 800 Grayside Avenue, Mauston
Kenosha	Bristol Grade School, Auditorium, 20121 83 rd Street, Bristol
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, Auditorium, 911 2 nd Street, Kewaunee
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, Field House, 700 Hilltop Place, Onalaska
Lafayette	Darlington High School, Auditorium, 11838 Center Hill Road, Darlington
Langlade	Antigo High School, Media\Tech Room, 1900 10 th Avenue, Antigo
Lincoln	Tomahawk Middle School, 1048 East Kings Road, Tomahawk
Manitowoc	UW Manitowoc, Theater, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc
Marathon	D.C. Everest Middle School, Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Schofield

Marinette	Crivitz High School, Auditorium, 400 South Ave, Crivitz
Marquette	Montello High School, Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello
Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse, Basement, Courthouse Lane, Keshena
Milwaukee	Greenfield High School, Auditorium, 4800 South 60 th Street, Greenfield
Monroe	Tomah High School, 901 Lincoln Ave., Tomah
Oconto	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E. Algoma St., Suring
Oneida	James Williams Jr. High, Auditorium, 915 Arcadia, Rhinelander
Outagamie	Riverview Middle School, Auditorium, 101 Oak Street, Kaukauna
Ozaukee	Webster Middle School, Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg
Pepin	Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Avenue W., Durand
Pierce	Ellsworth Senior High School, Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth
Polk	Unity High School, Gymnasium, 1908 150th Street/Hwy 46, Balsam Lake
Portage	Ben Franklin Middle School, Auditorium, 2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point
Price	Price County Courthouse, County Board Room, 126 Cherry Street, Phillips
Racine	Union Grove High School, Auditorium, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, Court Room, 181 West Seminary, Richland Center
Rock	Janesville Moose Lodge, 2701 Rockport Ave., Janesville
Rusk	Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 Edgewood Ave., East Ladysmith
Sauk	UW Baraboo, R.G. Brown Theater, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo
Sawyer	Hayward High School, Auditorium, 10320 Greenwood Lane, Hayward
Shawano	Shawano Middle School, LG Room, 1050 S. Union Street, Shawano
Sheboygan	Sheboygan Falls High School, Auditorium, 220 Amherst Avenue, Sheboygan Falls
St. Croix	WI Indianhead Technical College, Cashman Auditorium, 1019 S. Knowles Ave., New Richmond
Taylor	Taylor Co. Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Building, State Hwy 13 and Hwy 64 Intersection, Medford
Trempealeau	Whitehall City Center, Gymnasium, 36245 Park Street, Whitehall
Vernon	Viroqua High School, Lecture Room, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua
Vilas	Sayner Community Center, Golf Course Road, Sayner
Walworth	Delavan/Darien High School, Auditorium, 150 Cummings, Delavan
Washburn	WI Ag Research Station, Conference Room, W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner
Washington	Washington County Fair Park, Exhibit Hall, 3000 Hwy PV, West Bent
Waukesha	Waukesha Co. Tech. College (WCTC), C052, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee
Waupaca	Waupaca High School, Auditorium, E2325 King Road, Waupaca
Waushara	Waushara County Court House, County Board Room, 209 S. St. Marie, Wautoma
Winnebago	Webster Stanley Auditorium, Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh
Wood	Pittsville High School, Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Ave., Pittsville

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call AnnMarie Kutzke at (608) 266-2952 with specific information on your request by April 9, 2007.

The proposed rules and fiscal estimates may be reviewed and comments electronically submitted at the following Internet site: <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>. Written comments on the proposed fishing regulations may be submitted via U.S. mail to Mr. Joe Hennessy, Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Written comments on the proposed hunting and trapping regulations may be submitted via U.S. mail to Mr. Scott Loomans, Bureau of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Written comments shall be postmarked not later than April 17, 2007. Written comments whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail will NOT, however, be counted as spring hearing votes.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Scott Hassett, Secretary

Conservation Congress Delegate Election

Each April, there is one 2-year term and one 3-year term available on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), unless other vacancies occur. County residents in attendance at the annual county meeting have the opportunity to nominate a peer.

The nominee has the opportunity to say a few words (up to 3 minutes) on how he or she could best represent their county and be a local avenue for citizen input and exchange concerning all natural resource issues through the WCC on a local and statewide level.

3-YEAR
ELECTION BALLOT
3-YEAR
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

I vote for the above named individual to serve a
three-year term on the WCC.

2-YEAR
ELECTION BALLOT
2-YEAR
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

I vote for the above named individual to serve a
two-year term on the WCC.

As a county delegate you agree to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

Citizens in attendance at the County meetings have the opportunity to vote on nominees. In order for the nominee to be elected they must receive at least 50% + 1 vote of eligible voters in attendance.

Delegate Eligibility

- Any citizen of the county who is able to represent the citizens of Wisconsin, and be a local avenue for citizen input and exchange concerning all natural resource issues through the WCC on a local and statewide level is eligible to be nominated and to run for election that evening.
- Must be a Wisconsin resident.
- Elected delegates must be an adult resident of the county (at least 18 years of age).

Note: to give the widest geographic representation, it is recommended that not more than three members of the county delegation be from the same civil town, city or village.

- To guard against possible conflict of interest or bias, no full or part-time employee(s) of the Department of Natural Resources or member of the Natural Resources Board shall be members of the WCC.
- Must be willing to volunteer their time and efforts by:
 - Attending 2 district meetings per year (*one in March and one in August*); assisting in the county meeting in April; attending the annual convention in May and one or more advisory committee meetings in the fall of the year.
 - Working with local citizens and organizations on natural resource issues on a local basis, and participating in outreach and outdoor initiatives of local and statewide significance.

Note: The Conservation Congress encourages equal treatment regardless of race, age, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, arrest, conviction, veteran status or political affiliation.

County Voter Eligibility

Individuals voting for county delegates shall be:

- Residents of the county in which they are voting.
- At least 18 years of age.
- In attendance at the annual WCC county meeting.

Wildlife and Fisheries Administrative Rule Promulgation Timeline

July / August 2006 – Department personnel review past year’s Conservation Congress recommendations, petitions, county resolutions, experiences and suggestions.

September / October 2006 – Rule Proposals are Reviewed and Discussed, and those Approved are Identified as Spring Hearing Rule Proposals.

Includes an Analysis of Federal Regulations and a Description of all Entities Affected by the Rule.

October 2006 – A Scoping Statement Identifying the Proposed spring Hearing Rule Changes is Prepared and Approved by the DNR Secretary.

October / November 2006 – Scoping Statement is Published in the Administrative Register.

Starts the 90-day Economic Impact Statement Review Period.

December 2006 – Spring Hearing Questions, Based on the Approved Rule Proposals, are Drafted and Submitted to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) along with a Request to take the Proposals out for Public Hearing.

Conservation Congress Executive Council Reviews DNR Rule Proposals.

January 2007 – The NRB Reviews and Approves DNR Rules for Public Hearing.

February 2007 – Spring Hearing Public Hearing Notice Published.

April 16, 2007 - Spring Hearings

April 2007 – Based on the Results of the Spring Hearings, the DNR Prepares their Recommendations and a Summary of Public Comments for the NRB.

Conservation Congress Executive Council Meeting to Review the Rule Proposed for NRB Adoption

May 23, 2007 – NRB Reviews the DNR Recommendations and Approves the Rule Proposals.

June 2007 – NRB Approved Rules are Submitted to Legislature for Review.

1. To Chief Clerks
2. To Presiding Officers (10 working days)
3. To Standing Committees (30 or 60 days)

August / September 2007 – Legislative Review Period Ends / Secretary Signs the Approved Rule / Rule Filed with the Revisor of Statutes.

If Legislative review period lasts more than 30 days, or if the committee asks for modification, the effective date of the rule may be delayed.

Rules Approved by the Legislature Become Effective:
 Hunting Rules – January 1, 2008
 Fishing and Trapping – April 1, 2008
(Earliest Possible Effective Date¹ - November 1, 2007)

**PROPOSED STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND HABITAT
PROTECTION RULE CHANGES**

(If approved, these proposed rule changes would take effect on April 1, 2008, unless otherwise indicated.)

Question 1: Eliminate Maximum Size Restriction for Landing Nets

Currently, landing nets must be 3 feet in diameter or less in order to be legal. There are many commercially available landing nets available that exceed 3 feet in diameter, particularly for muskellunge and salmon anglers. This proposal would eliminate the size restriction on landing nets and would allow the use of any size net to aid anglers in landing a legally hooked fish. Landing nets of any size are already prohibited for the capture of fish that are not already hooked.

- **Do you favor eliminating the size restriction on landing nets?**

1. YES _____ NO _____

Question 2: St. Louis River and St. Louis Bay Muskellunge Regulations

The St. Louis River and St. Louis Bay are large water bodies capable of producing large muskellunge for anglers. Increasing the minimum length limit to 50 inches would help meet proposed goals for 20% of angler caught fish to be larger than 45 inches and 5% larger than 50 inches.

The capacity of these waters to produce meaningful numbers of large muskellunge is currently not being realized. The population is low density, the water body is large and forage is plentiful. Recent angling reports indicate that some fish are reaching the 50-inch mark but more intensive fisheries netting surveys and angler diary reporting show that very few fish are currently larger than 45 inches. A high-quality, low-density population can be maintained without impacts to other fish populations.

Minnesota has already approved and will institute a 50 inch minimum length limit for Minnesota waters of the St. Louis River and St. Louis Bay in 2008. Increasing the minimum length limit to 50" on the Wisconsin side would also maintain consistency between the states. Anglers and law enforcement agents would not have to deal with different regulations depending on what location they fished on these waters.

- **Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit for muskellunge from 40 inches to 50 inches on the St. Louis River and St. Louis Bay, Douglas County, Wisconsin (border water with Minnesota)?**

2. YES _____ NO _____

Question 3: Create Requirement That Spears Used For Taking Rough Fish Have Barbed Points

This proposal stipulates that spears used for taking rough fish must have barbed points, making the requirement for spears consistent with the barbed-tip requirement for arrows used for bow fishing. Law enforcement officials have encountered individuals stabbing rough fish using non-barbed implements such as knives, nails, and forks tied or taped to poles. These devices can result in injured fish that cannot be recovered by the spearer.

- **Do you favor requiring that spears used to take rough fish have barbed points, to minimize loss of injured fish?**

3. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
ASHLAND COUNTY**

Question 4: Mineral Lake Walleye Regulations

Fishery surveys on Mineral Lake in 2005 and 2006 found a moderate- to high-density walleye population (4 adults per acre) that was dominated by abundant 10- to 14-inch fish. The total population (fish larger than 7 inches) was estimated at 11 walleye per acre, and natural reproduction has been providing strong recruitment for the past three to four years. The size structure of the walleye population was poor. Growth data from fish captured in spring 2006 have not yet been analyzed, but all signs indicate that walleye are growing at a below-average rate because of excessive density of fish protected by the current regulations. Further indirect evidence of over-abundant small walleye is reflected by the current low abundance of forage and panfish species and the generally poor body condition of 10- to 14-inch walleye.

The proposed regulation will allow harvest of walleyes less than 14 inches long. This will reduce density, which will decrease competition for the available forage and result in increased walleye growth rates. The lower abundance of walleye should allow panfish recruitment to increase, resulting in a more diverse fishery and stable forage base. The end result should be a moderate-density walleye population with good size structure, and a panfish community with adequate numbers of harvestable-size fish.

- **Do you support removing the 18-inch minimum length limit and 3- fish daily bag limit on walleye and replacing those regulations with no minimum length limit, but allowing only one walleye greater than 14 inches long to be harvested daily in Mineral Lake, Ashland County?**

4. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
BARRON COUNTY**

Questions 5 & 6: Beaver Dam Lake Trout and Smelt Regulation Changes

Brood stock brown trout (larger than 15 inches) will be stocked in Beaver Dam Lake, Barron County, starting in 2008 to control an abundant exotic rainbow smelt population. Rainbow smelt were illegally introduced sometime in the late 1970's and since that time, the walleye population has decreased 53%. In addition, natural reproduction of walleye is no longer occurring and walleye stocking success has been very poor. It is suspected rainbow smelt are preying on natural reproducing and stocked walleye fry and fingerlings. Similar negative interactions between rainbow smelt and walleye have been documented on several other walleye lakes in northern Wisconsin.

It is proposed that a high minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 1 for trout be implemented to maximize predation on rainbow smelt. However, it is also felt that anglers should have an opportunity to harvest a large trout once they grow to a quality size range. In addition, a higher minimum length limit will minimize the number of brood stock trout that need to be stocked and save the Department considerable dollars in terms of hatchery production costs. Therefore it was determined the best option would be to pursue a 26 inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 1. This regulation option should allow the brood stock to predate on rainbow smelt for a period of 1 ½ years after the initial stocking and at that time, anglers would have the opportunity to harvest a larger fish if they desired. It is also felt that opening the season for dip netting would expedite the smelt removal process. Smelt harvest is currently prohibited.

- **Do you support a 26 inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 1 fish for trout in Beaver Dam Lake, Barron County?**

5. YES _____ NO _____

- **Do you support allowing smelt harvest, by use of dip nets not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square and seines not more than 75 feet in length and 6 feet in depth, in Beaver Dam Lake, Barron County?**

Question 7: Hay River Trout Regulations

6. YES _____ NO _____

The Hay River was recently classified as a trout stream in 2004 in Barron County. Currently a low density brook trout population is present with trout densities around 100 fish per mile. However, the potential for larger brook trout is present due to a low density fishery, with good physical habitat and an excellent forage base. Brook trout in excess of 15 inches were sampled in 2003 and anglers have been reported catching brook trout up to 17 inches.

When the stream was classified in 2004, the stream fell under the default regulation for Barron County of a 7 inch minimum length, bag limit of 5 fish. This regulation seems to work well on local streams where trout densities are higher at 1000-3000 fish per mile. However, considering the number of brook trout present on the Hay River is very low at only 100 fish per mile, the regulation is considered to be too liberal and the potential for overharvest is high.

Fish survey data since in 2003 has further confirmed this problem and has shown that the number of brook trout greater than 8 inches has decreased 50% over the past 3 years. It is speculated that prior to the classification in 2004, very few, if any anglers were aware that trout were present in the river, which allowed fish to grow to trophy size ranges. However, after the stream was classified anglers started fishing the stream and the number of larger trout has decreased overtime likely from increased angler harvest. Given the fact that very few streams in Wisconsin have the ability to produce 15-17 inch brook trout, it is felt the Hay River should be managed for large brook trout.

In an effort to provide the opportunity to harvest a large brook trout and prevent overharvest of a low density brook trout fishery,

- **Do you support a 15 inch minimum limit with a daily bag limit of 1 for trout on the Hay River in Barron County?**

7. YES _____ NO _____

Question 8: Red Cedar Chain walleye regulations, Barron and Washburn Counties

The Red Cedar Chain of Lakes (Balsam, Red Cedar and Hemlock Lakes-Barron and Washburn Counties) were surveyed in 2005-2006. The current walleye management goal for the chain is an adult walleye population estimate of 3.5-4.5 fish per acre.

The 2005 adult walleye population estimate on Red Cedar Lake was only 2.0 fish per acre. This is 55% and 73% lower when compared to historic estimates of 4.4 adult fish per acre in 1992 and 7.2 adult fish per acre in 1980 respectively. In addition, the 2005 combined adult walleye population estimate of Red Cedar and Balsam Lakes was only 2.2 fish per acre. This is once again 24% and 44% lower when compared to historic estimates of 2.9 adult fish per acre in 1992 and 3.9 adult fish per acre in 1980 respectively.

Creel census data collected in 2005-2006 indicated that angling mortality was extremely high. More specifically, projected angler harvest for adult walleye on Red Cedar Lake was 68%. In addition, combined projected angler harvest for Balsam and Red Cedar Lakes was also very high at 55% of the adult population. The potential to collapse the walleye fishery from overharvest is extremely high when total adult mortality rates exceed 35%.

It is felt the 18 inch minimum length limit will likely increase the adult population from 2 to 4 adult fish per acre over time. In addition, it will allow female walleye to spawn at least once before they get a chance of being harvested because most female walleye are not maturing until they are between 16-18 inches in the Red Cedar Chain. Lastly this regulation will increase walleye catch rates and maintain walleye harvest rates in the long term and still provide ample angling opportunities for walleye anglers.

Therefore, in effort to increase the number of adult walleye and reduce total adult mortality rates to less than 35%, and prevent overexploitation of the adult walleye population; do you support the following on the Red Cedar Chain of Lakes?

- **Do you favor changing the walleye regulations on the Red Cedar Chain of Lakes (Balsam, Red Cedar, and Hemlock Lakes in Barron and Washburn Counties) from a 15-inch minimum length limit and daily bag of 5 walleye to an 18-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 3 walleye?**

8. YES _____ NO _____

<p style="text-align: center;">PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES BAYFIELD COUNTY</p>
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Question 9: Bony and Middle Eau Claire Lakes Panfish Regulations

Bluegill relative abundance has declined and average length increased over time in Middle Eau Claire Lake. Littoral zone aquatic plant loss, increase of walleye abundance and potential over exploitation by anglers are likely factors of this decline. A regulation change to 10 panfish/day should be considered to prevent over harvest of an already declining population of bluegill. Yellow perch have also become an important component of the fish assemblage in Middle Eau Claire Lake. Yellow perch undoubtedly provide an important forage fish for the lake's predators and have become the most sought after panfish by anglers. The purpose of the proposed regulation is to provide a quality panfish fishery for anglers on Middle Eau Claire and Bony Lakes in Bayfield County while protecting from over exploitation a bluegill population that has been declining in abundance due to rusty crayfish impacts on aquatic habitat and increased predator abundance. Bony Lake is connected to Middle Eau Claire Lake and is included in this proposal to facilitate law enforcement efforts.

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for panfish from 25 per day to 10 per day on Middle Eau Claire and Bonv Lakes in Bayfield County?

PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES	
9. YES _____	NO _____
DANE COUNTY	

Question 10: Muskellunge Regulation Extension to Madison Lakes Connecting Waters

The current restriction on harvest of muskellunge in lakes Monona, Waubesa, and Wingra is a 45 inch minimum length limit. The fish that frequent and migrate within the Yahara River, Upper Mud Lake, Murphy Creek, and other tributaries are of lakes Monona, Waubesa, and Wingra origins. This regulation provides a consistent level of protection from harvest while fish frequent these waters. The regulation allows fish to recruit into the trophy class consistent within the spirit and intent of the lake regulations.

- Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit from 34" to 45" for muskellunge in all tributaries to Lakes Monona, Waubesa, and Wingra, including the Yahara River upstream to the Tenney Locks, and Murphy, Nine Springs, Starkweather, and Wingra Creeks?

10. YES _____ NO _____

Question 11: Yahara River Fish Refuge - Dunkirk

In mid- to late-spring, many muskellunge congregate below the site of the Dunkirk Dam prior to spawning. The presence of so many large fish in a small area makes them vulnerable to accidental or intentional take during the closed season for gamefish (between the first Sunday in March and the first Saturday in May). With this proposal, the Department proposes to prohibit all fishing in the area below the Dunkirk Dam site, downstream to the Highway N bridge, between March 1 and May 15 annually.

- Do you favor creating a fish refuge between March 1 and May 15 below the Dunkirk Dam site, downstream to the Highway N bridge? (Effective March 1, 2008)

11. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
FLORENCE COUNTY**

Questions 12 & 13: Keyes Lake Trout and Walleye Regulation Changes

Keyes Lake now supports a large population of a non-native fish, the rainbow smelt. Keyes Lake once supported a naturally reproducing population of walleyes. DNR sampling in recent years, since smelt have become established, show that walleyes are no longer recruiting successfully to adult sizes. Similar problems with walleye recruitment have been seen in other northern Wisconsin lakes with smelt. DNR began annual stockings of brown trout fingerlings in Keyes Lake in 2002 to eventually provide some measure of smelt control by a cold-water predator during summer when smelt and trout share similar habitat. There is a possibility of Trout or Black Oak Lake strain lake trout being stocked in Keyes Lake in the future, depending on availability. Current fishing regulations (trout Category 2) allow harvest of stocked browns at small sizes and high rates, before they reach a size where they can be effective predators of smelt.

Current fishing regulations for walleye in Keyes Lake specify a daily bag limit of five and a minimum length of 15 inches. This regulation maximizes harvest opportunities, but the current management need is for more walleyes to reduce smelt numbers. Restoring walleye to high densities through restrictive fishing regulations has been effective in reducing smelt in at least two other northern Wisconsin lakes.

- **Do you favor changing the trout regulation category on Keyes Lake, Florence County from category 2 (all trout 7" minimum length, 5 daily bag limit) to category 5 (lake trout 26" minimum length, 1 daily bag limit; brown trout 12" minimum length, 2 daily bag limit)?**

12. YES _____ NO _____

- **Do you favor changing the walleye regulation on Keyes Lake, Florence County from a daily bag of five fish, minimum length 15 inches to a daily bag of three fish, minimum length 18 inches?**

13. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
FOND DU LAC COUNTY**

Questions 14 & 15: Kettle Moraine and Long Lakes Northern Pike Regulation Changes

The objectives of this regulation proposal are to increase angler effort and harvest of northern pike from Kettle Moraine and Long Lakes, Fond du Lac County. Both lakes have an abundant population of small and slow-growing northern pike which have been underutilized since the imposition of the 26" minimum length limit in 1995. More harvest of northern pike, especially male pike, will not harm the adult population or natural reproduction in either lake and will enhance angler opportunities in eastern Fond du Lac County.

- **Do you favor a no minimum length limit and a five fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Kettle Moraine Lake, Fond du Lac County?**

14. YES _____ NO _____

- **Do you favor a no minimum length limit and a five fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Long Lake, Fond du Lac County?**

15. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
GREEN COUNTY**

Questions 16-18: Sugar River Fish Refuges

Currently, the game fish season on the Sugar River follows the general inland season framework, closing the first weekend in March and reopening the first weekend in May. Walleye, sauger and smallmouth congregate below the three dams on this river, located at Brodhead, Decatur and Albany. Anglers have been harvesting these species during the closed season, either intentionally or incidental to fishing for other species such as panfish and catfish. This is impacting breeding populations of these species and could impact future numbers.

In order to address this problem, regulatory signs advising anglers of the closed season have been posted along the river, yet anglers continue to fish under the auspices of either "practice" fishing or fish for pan, rough or cat fish. Hooking mortality continues to be a concern about fish that are released to the water.

Conservation wardens have issued more than 50 tickets for gamefish closed season violations during the past 8 years at these dams. This total does not include numerous license violations that were encountered while checking these areas. Additionally, wardens averaged 44 warnings per year to fishers in this area who had not caught any fish but were fishing with game fish-type lures.

It is recommended that refuges or closed areas be established 500 feet below each of these dams during the period between the first Sunday in March and the Friday before the first Saturday in May. This would insure protection of the majority of staging game fish and yet afford fishing opportunity for folks who are fishing for panfish, catfish and rough fish in other parts of the river.

If approved, this regulation change would also clear up the issue of "practice fishing." It would be illegal to fish in the affected area during that time frame period. This would also protect and preserve fish that might otherwise succumb to illegal harvest or hooking mortality.

- **Do you favor establishing a fish refuge, from March 1 through the Friday before the first Saturday in May, on the Sugar River from the Albany Dam extending downstream 500 feet? Effective March 1, 2008.**

16. YES _____ NO _____

- **Do you favor establishing a fish refuge, from March 1 through the Friday before the first Saturday in May, on the Sugar River from the Decatur Dam extending downstream 500 feet? Effective March 1, 2008.**

17. YES _____ NO _____

- **Do you favor establishing a fish refuge, from March 1 through the Friday before the first Saturday in May, on the Sugar River from the Old Brodhead Power House site/spillway extending downstream 500 feet? Effective March 1, 2008.**

18. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
IRON COUNTY**

Question 19: Gile Flowage Bass Regulation Changes

Management Objective: A smallmouth bass population of low to moderate density with a high proportion of memorable-size fish. Specifically, during the spawning period, DNR electrofishing crews should be able to capture smallmouth bass 7 inches and longer at a rate of 20 to 40 per hour; and the proportion of those fish over 18 inches long should be 5-15%.

Summary of Justification: Smallmouth bass introduced into the Gile Flowage in 1985 have now expanded to the point that numbers exceed our stakeholder-driven objectives. High bass density is causing slower-than-desired growth rate and is preventing us from achieving our size structure objective (5-15% over 18 inches long). Allowing and even promoting some harvest of smallmouth bass under 14 inches long, while protecting a wide size range of adult fish between 14 and 18 inches long, should allow us to achieve all management plan objectives, provided anglers cooperate and harvest only those fish deemed necessary. Our management plan objectives and the strategy we are now proposing to achieve them represents a compromise between walleye-oriented local interests and non-local interests that place a higher value on the quality of fishing for smallmouth bass. If the proposed regulation is effective, the number of smallmouth bass should decline somewhat while the average size of smallmouth bass increases substantially.

- Should the largemouth and smallmouth bass harvest regulations for the Gile Flowage, Iron County (mostly smallmouth bass), be changed from a 15-inch minimum length limit and 2-daily bag limit to a 14- to 18-inch slot (protected length range) and 3-daily bag limit, only 1 of which may be over 18 inches long?

19. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
JACKSON COUNTY**

PLEASE SEE QUESTION 34 REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO NORTHERN PIKE REGULATIONS IN THE TREMPAULEAU AND BUFFALO RIVERS, TREMPAULEAU AND JACKSON COUNTIES.

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
LAFAYETTE COUNTY**

Question 20: Yellowstone River Open Season

Between the first Sunday in March and the first Saturday in May, the game fish season for walleye is closed in Yellowstone Lake (Lafayette County), but open in the Yellowstone River below the dam. Law Enforcement personnel have witnessed (and received many complaints of) anglers catching walleye illegally in Yellowstone Lake on the dike, then running down the stairs at the dam and placing the walleye caught in the lake in a bucket or on a stringer in the river. Currently, people are getting away with this, as Law Enforcement can not always be present. Having consistent game fish season rules on both the lake and the nearby river eliminates the opportunity for violators to sneak a fish down the steps and claim they caught it in the river. Should the rules be changed, anyone in possession of game fish on the river or the lake from the first Sunday in March to the first Saturday in May would clearly be in violation.

- **Do you support closing the season for largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, muskellunge, and walleye, sauger, and their hybrids between the first Sunday in March through the first Saturday in May on the Yellowstone River Downstream of the Yellowstone Lake Dam to be consistent with the season on Yellowstone Lake?**

20. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
LINCOLN COUNTY**

Question 21: Prairie River Trout Regulations

The problem described here is a social issue, not a biological issue. Both the existing and proposed regulations will allow for self-sustaining populations of brook and brown trout in this section of the Prairie River. The issue is about what type of bait should be allowed and what length the trout must be to harvest (high minimum length limits and artificial lures only versus lower minimum length limits and no bait restrictions).

Some local landowners and fishermen would like a change to more liberal trout regulations on approximately 5 miles of the Prairie River in Lincoln County. They would like regulations that allow bait fishing and allow harvest of brown trout less than 18" and brook trout less than 12". Currently, the Category 5 regulations on this 5-mile stretch from R & H Road downstream to STH 17 are as follows:

- Daily Bag Limit: 1 Trout
- 12" Minimum length limit on Brook Trout
- 18" Minimum length limit on Brown Trout
- Artificial Lures Only

The current regulations were passed as part of the state and countywide trout regulations package voted on at the 2002 Spring Hearings. Some anglers like the existing category 5 trout regulations and some would like more liberal regulations. This proposal is to see what rules the majority of anglers want for this 5-mile section of the Prairie River.

- **Do you favor changing the regulations on the Prairie River from R & H Road downstream to STH 17 (5 miles) from category 5 (daily limit of 1 trout; 18" minimum length limit on brown trout; 12" minimum length limit on brook and rainbow trout; artificial lures only) to category 4 (daily limit of 3 trout; 12" minimum length limit on brown and rainbow trout; 8" minimum length limit on brook trout; no bait restrictions)?**

21. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
MARATHON COUNTY**

Questions 22 & 23: Big Bass and Mission Lakes Bass Regulations

Big Bass Lake - The primary objective is to improve bluegill size structure and maintain the current size structure and density of the bass population in Big Bass Lake.

Mission Lake - The primary objective is to improve bluegill size structure and maintain the current size structure and density of the bass population in Big Bass Lake. A secondary objective is to improve the size structure of the bass population in Mission Lake.

The proposed regulation is intended to remove smaller bass and allow for the protection of bass most efficient as predators and spawners, while still allowing harvest of memorable category bass (18+" bass). We hope to promote faster growing bass and retain them in the lakes to thin the slow growing panfish population. In both lakes the new regulations should increase the growth rates of the bluegill populations and increase the average size of bluegills in the next 5-7 years.

- **Do you favor changing the bass regulation on Big Bass Lake from the statewide minimum size and bag limit of 14" minimum and 5 bass/day to a slot limit of no minimum size, 14" to 18" protected slot, 1 larger than 18"/day; total bag 3 bass/day?**

22. YES _____ NO _____

- **Do you favor changing the bass regulation on Mission Lake from the statewide minimum size and bag limit of 14" minimum and 5 bass/day to a slot limit of no minimum size, 14" to 18" protected slot, 1 larger than 18"/day; total bag 3 bass/day?**

23. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
PEPIN COUNTY**

Question 24: Plum Creek Trout Regulations

Special regulations were placed on Plum Creek during 2003. The daily bag limit was changed from 3 to 2, and the minimum length limit was changed from 9 to 12 inches. Special regulations were implemented to protect and improve brook and brown trout densities, however it has been determined that trout populations have not responded, fishing pressure is light and poor habitat is the primary limiting factor regulating trout reproduction, density and size structure. Therefore, it is recommended to eliminate special regulations on Plum Creek in Pepin County (from CTH SS downstream to the Chippewa River) and revert back to the baseline regulation for the county which is Category 4 (brook trout length limit - 8 inches, brown trout length limit -12 inches, bag limit of 3). Such change will make trout regulations uniform on Plum Creek and throughout Pepin County.

- **Do you favor eliminating special regulation waters on Plum Creek (12 inch length limit, bag limit of 2) from CTH SS downstream to the Chippewa River and reverting back to the baseline regulation for the county, Category 4 (brook trout length limit - 8 inches, brown trout length limit - 12 inches, bag limit of 3)?**

24. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
PIERCE COUNTY**

Question 25: Kinnickinnic River Trout Regulations, Pierce and St. Croix Counties

During 2003, special Category 5 trout regulations (a 10 to 14 inch protected slot, bag limit of 5, only one trout over 14 inches) were placed on the Kinnickinnic River and Parker Creek in St. Croix County and on the Upper and Lower Ponds in the City of River Falls in an attempt to improve size structure and quality sized fish. Implementation of the protected slot began in spring of 2003 with annual investigations to evaluate success or failure of this special trout regulation. To date, trout population investigations show no improvement in size structure or overall quality. Based on these results the 10 to 14 inch protected slot does not show promise as a technique to improve size structure on high density trout streams such as the Upper Kinnickinnic River and Parker Creek. Therefore, it is recommended that the special Category 5 trout regulation be eliminated and replaced with a Category 2 regulation (7 inch minimum length, bag limit 5).

- **Do you favor eliminating the Category 5 Special Regulations (daily bag and minimum length: 5 trout under 10", or 4 trout under 10" and 1 over 14") on the Kinnickinnic River and Parker Creek in St. Croix County and the Kinnickinnic River including the Upper and Lower Ponds in River Falls in Pierce County and replacing the regulation with a standard Category 2 Regulation (daily bag limit of 5 and a minimum length of 7 inches)?**

25. YES _____ NO _____

PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
POLK COUNTY

Question 26: Cedar Lake Walleye Regulation Changes

Small walleye are quite numerous in Cedar Lake, but adult fish greater than the legal minimum length of 15 inches are considered scarce. Growth rates in the lake are average or greater. Reproduction has been strong for many years. To improve walleye harvest, population size structure and angler satisfaction a 14 -18 inch protected slot is proposed with a bag limit of three of which only one can be greater than 18 inches. The primary objective of this rule change is to substantially increase harvest of abundant small (less than 14 inch) walleye thus reducing competition and improving growth of remaining fish. The secondary objective is to improve availability and harvest of quality size walleye (larger than 18 inches). The primary population objective is to protect brood stock, improve size structure and catch rates by increasing the number of walleye within and beyond the slot. Each objective successfully reached should result in improved angler satisfaction. This regulation proposal is also supported by members of the St. Croix County Alliance of Sportsmen Clubs, the Willow River Rod & Gun Club and the Star Prairie Fish & Game Association.

- **Do you favor implementation of a 14-18 inch protected slot on walleye with a daily bag limit of 3 (only one over 18 inches) on Cedar Lake – St. Croix and Polk Counties?**

26. YES _____ NO _____

Question 27: Pipe Lake Bass Regulation Changes

The adult walleye population on Pipe Lake has decreased 50% from 1995 to 2005. Conversely, from 1995 to 2005 the adult largemouth bass population has increased 300%. Similar decreases in walleye abundance coinciding with an increase in largemouth bass abundance have been documented on similar waters in Polk County. It is theorized that increasing largemouth bass populations are limiting walleye natural reproduction, stocking success and adult densities.

More specifically, the size structure of largemouth bass was poor in 2005. 85% of the estimated population was less than 14 inches in length. However, Pipe Lake has a moderate density smallmouth bass population with a desirable size structure with 40% of the smallmouth bass larger than 14 inches.

It is believed if the number of smaller largemouth bass in Pipe Lake can be reduced, walleye natural reproduction, stocking success and adult densities should improve to historic levels. After considering several alternatives, it is felt that a protective length/slot limit would allow harvest of the more abundant largemouth bass but maintain the size structure of the existing smallmouth bass fishery.

Therefore, in an effort to reduce the number of smaller largemouth bass, maintain the size structure of the existing smallmouth bass fishery and hopefully restore the walleye fishery to historic levels:

- **Do you support: No minimum length for bass, but all bass between 14” and 18” must be released and only one fish greater than 18” is allowed, daily bag limit 3 in total in Pipe Lake, Polk County?**

27. YES _____ NO _____

PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
PRICE COUNTY

Question 28: Butternut Lake Walleye Regulations

Management Objective: With this fishing regulation and other strategies outlined in the Butternut Lake Fishery Management Plan, we seek to increase the proportion of 10-inch walleye that are also over 15 inches long from 19% (2003) to 30 to 50% on a sustained basis, directing harvest toward more small walleye in an effort to improve walleye growth rate and reduce walleye predation on young black crappie – a currently rare but highly desired panfish at Butternut Lake.

Summary Justification: Stakeholders who participated in a visioning session in April 2004 to help DNR biologists define the desired condition of the Butternut Lake fishery ranked walleye first among species of interest. All agreed to maintain a moderately high density and sustainable harvest of walleye while improving walleye size structure if possible. There was also enthusiasm for creating and maintaining good fishing for panfish, particularly black crappie and yellow perch.

In 2003, Butternut Lake contained a moderate-density population of adult walleye (4 per acre) and a very high density of walleye of all sizes (31 per acre). The population was dominated by abundant 8- to 12-inch fish, and few walleye exceeded 15 inches in length. Slower-than-average walleye growth rate and selective angler harvest of the fastest-growing walleye in the absence of a minimum length limit are contributing factors to unsatisfactory walleye population size structure. Protecting some walleyes over 14 inches long and directing angler harvest toward smaller walleyes should help to correct the imbalance.

Black crappies have been scarce since the mid 1990s. Crappie anglers who once caught 10 to 15 quality-size fish per trip might catch a third that number now. Excessive predation by overabundant small walleye on young crappie is consistently repressing crappie recruitment and will not allow desirable crappie density to develop. Therefore, the first step toward a more desirable crappie population will be to direct more of the walleye harvest toward the abundant small walleye.

- **Do you favor keeping the daily bag limit (currently 3) and minimum length limit (currently none) on walleye in Butternut Lake, but restricting harvest to only one fish daily over 14 inches long?**

28. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
RACINE COUNTY**

Questions 29-31: Eagle Lake Panfish, Bass, and Northern Pike Regulations

Eagle Lake in Racine County is currently plagued by poor water quality (clarity), extensive stands of Eurasian water milfoil, overabundance of small panfish, low numbers of northern pike, and poor largemouth bass recruitment. Recent fall electrofishing catch rates were extremely high for bluegills at 750 per hour, and for yellow perch at 500 per hour. Northern pike catch rates have fallen to 4 per hour. Largemouth bass numbers are 35% of what they were in 1995. Anglers catch lots of panfish but are frustrated by their small size. Northern pike fishing has declined and few young largemouth bass are present. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Eagle Lake Management District, and Racine County residents have worked together to formulate a multi-pronged management plan for Eagle Lake that includes management of water quality, fisheries, and aquatic plants through biomanipulation. Biomanipulation works by protecting gamefish and exerting maximum predation on panfish. Current special fishing regulations for largemouth bass (18 inch minimum length limit and 1 daily bag limit), and the standard regulation for northern pike (26 inch minimum length limit and 2 daily bag limit) are not sufficient to protect gamefish or control panfish. Special fishing regulations designed to promote biomanipulation are needed. Successful biomanipulation will dramatically improve water quality and increase the number of large bass, northern pike, and panfish available to anglers.

- **Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit from 18 inches to 22 inches for largemouth and smallmouth bass, with a daily bag limit of 1 fish in Eagle Lake, Racine County?**

29. YES _____ NO _____

- **Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit from 26 inches to 40 inches, and decreasing the daily bag limit from 2 to 1 for northern pike in Eagle Lake, Racine County?**

30. YES _____ NO _____

- **Do you favor implementing an 8 inch minimum length limit on panfish, and decreasing the daily bag limit from 15 to 10 in Eagle Lake, Racine County?**

31. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

Question 32: Crystal Lake Northern Pike Regulations

The objectives of this regulation proposal are to increase angler effort and harvest of northern pike from Crystal Lake, Sheboygan County. Crystal Lake has an abundant population of small and slow-growing northern pike which have been underutilized since the imposition of the 26" minimum length limit in 1995. More harvest of northern pike will not harm the adult population or natural reproduction in the lake and will enhance angler opportunities in Sheboygan County.

- **Do you favor a no minimum length limit and five fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Crystal Lake, Sheboygan County?**

32. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
ST. CROIX COUNTY**

NOTE: ALSO SEE QUESTION 25 REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO KINNICKINNIC RIVER TROUT REGULATIONS, PIERCE AND ST. CROIX COUNTIES

NOTE: ALSO SEE QUESTION 26 REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO CEDAR LAKE WALLEYE REGULATIONS, POLK AND ST. CROIX COUNTIES

Question 33: St. Croix County Panfish Regulations

St. Croix County contains 18 panfish lakes and lies within a short distance of the Twin City Metropolitan area. It is one of the fastest growing counties in Wisconsin and the Midwest. Most lakes are small, less than 150 acres, only 3 lakes are greater than 250 acres. Growth rates are at or above statewide averages and annual mortality rates are high on most waters. Fishing pressure on area panfish lakes has reached extraordinary levels (471 hours/acre). Exploitation rates are excessively high on bluegill, crappie and perch, often reaching 85 to 90% of the quality stock. Angler exploitation rates exceeding 50% are not recommended. Several panfish lakes that have been rehabilitated through aeration (Squaw, Pine & Hatfield) have been quickly decimated in less than three years. Anglers, sports groups and lake districts have voiced concern over declining panfisheries and continue to submit resolutions to reduce panfish bag limits on individual lakes to improve or protect panfish populations. To date, two lakes in St. Croix County (Dry Dam and Squaw Lake) already have a 10 bag panfish limit. Cedar Lake lies in both St. Croix and Polk County and is included in this proposal. Lake George (Spring Valley Reservoir) also lies in both Pierce and St. Croix County and will be excluded from this proposal.

- **Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit from 25 in total to 10 in total for panfish in all inland waters of St. Croix County?**

33. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY**

Question 34: Buffalo and Trempealeau River Northern Pike Regulations

This proposal is to change the current regulation of 2 fish daily bag limit/26 inch minimum on northern pike to 5 fish bag limit/no minimum length limit (statewide regulation north of Highway 10 boundary) in the Trempealeau River, including all tributaries, upstream of the dam in Blair (includes Lake Henry) and in the Buffalo River, including all tributaries, upstream of the Highway 93 bridge in Eleva (includes Crystal Lake and Martha Lake), in Trempealeau and Jackson Counties.

Both rivers are managed as trout streams, and the presence of northern pike in these rivers and their shallow, warm impoundments interfere with trout management.

- **Do you favor changing northern pike regulations in the Trempealeau River and its tributaries upstream of the dam in Blair (including Lake Henry) and in the Buffalo River and its tributaries upstream of the Highway 93 bridge crossing in Eleva (includes Martha and Crystal Lakes) from the current 26 inch/2 bag limit to no minimum length limit/5 bag? This includes areas in both Trempealeau and Jackson Counties.**

34. YES _____ NO _____

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
WASHBURN COUNTY**

PLEASE SEE QUESTION 8 REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE RED CEDAR CHAIN OF LAKES.

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Question 35: Little Cedar Lake Northern Pike Regulations

The objectives of this regulation proposal are to increase angler effort and harvest of northern pike from Little Cedar Lake, Washington County. Little Cedar Lake has an abundant population of small and slow-growing northern pike which have been underutilized since the imposition of the 26" minimum length limit in 1995. More harvest of northern pike, especially male pike, will not harm the adult population or natural reproduction in the lake and will enhance angler opportunities in Washington County.

- **Do you favor no minimum length limit and five fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Little Cedar Lake, Washington County?**

35. YES _____ NO _____

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS

(This question is designed to gauge public support for the idea proposed. If public response is positive, the Department may decide to move forward with a formal proposal at the 2008 Spring Rules Hearings.)

Question 36: Extension of Southern Zone Muskellunge Season

The objective of this proposal is to gauge public interest in increasing muskellunge fishing opportunity for anglers by lengthening the season from November 30 until December 31.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has greatly expanded the range of muskellunge in Wisconsin by stocking. Originally, the range of muskellunge in Wisconsin was concentrated in north central Wisconsin, waters in the Chippewa River basin, and in the Mississippi River. The expansion of the range has included southern Wisconsin waters and anglers can now enjoy fishing for muskellunge 41 lakes and 4 rivers managed for muskellunge south of Highway 10. Interest in musky fishing has also increased dramatically in recent years and we notice more fishing pressure directed at muskellunge in the fall months right up to the close of the season on November 30. Musky anglers have requested the Department to extend the season, so they can have additional opportunities to pursue muskellunge in the late fall. The Department believes that this species is adequately protected by appropriate regulations in this part of the state, so we do not think this proposal will hurt the populations.

- **Would you favor extending the muskellunge season in the southern Wisconsin zone from November 30 until December 31? The opening date of the season would remain the first Saturday in May.**

36. YES _____ NO _____

Question 37: Use of Quick-Strike Rigs When Using Live Bait Larger Than 8 Inches In Total Length

The objective of this proposal is to gauge public interest in requiring the use of "quick-strike" rigs when fishing with large live bait for large predatory fish such as muskellunge. A recent study conducted and published by DNR scientists concluded that when single hooks are used and fish such as musky are allowed to swallow the bait, mortality was more than 80% within one year, even when the line was cut and the fish was released quickly.

Use of live bait for angling of muskellunge is popular in Wisconsin. A traditional method utilizes a large hook through the bait fish's snout, which requires the muskellunge to swallow the bait prior to hook set. Adult muskellunge (>76 cm; 30 in) were held in lined hatchery ponds and caught while fishing with live bait on 10/0 size single hooks. The leader was cut and the muskellunge was released when hooked in the stomach. Survival was monitored for up to 1 year. No immediate (< 24 h) mortality occurred. However, 22% of hooked muskellunge died within 50 days and 83% died within 1 year. Necropsies revealed extensive trauma to the stomach and other organs from hooks, along with systemic bacterial infections. Highest mortality on both hooked and control fish occurred over winter through spring. This peak mortality may be associated with natural stressors that occur during the spring spawning period. Mortality rates observed in this study are considered unacceptable for trophy management of muskellunge. Although use of live bait for muskellunge is traditional in Wisconsin, terminal tackle such as quick-strike rigs that hook fish in the mouth should enhance the chances a released muskellunge will survive.

A suggestion is to adopt language similar to that used in Illinois:

When using live bait, all live bait in excess of 8 inches in total length shall be rigged with a quick set rig. The hook shall be immediately set upon the strike. A quick set rig is defined as follows: a live bait rig with up to 2 treble hooks attached anywhere on the live bait, with single hooks prohibited.

- **Would you favor requiring use of quick-strike rigs when using live bait larger than 8 inches in total length?**

37. YES _____ NO _____

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD FISHERIES ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 38: BACKGROUND CHECK FOR BECOMING AN ANGLER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

Volunteer instructors seeking certification to teach in all but one of the DNR's education programs are required to pass a background check before they can be certified. Presently instructors for hunter, ATV, boating, bow hunting, trapping and snowmobile safety classes all must pass background checks. About 19 applicants a year are refused certification because they cannot pass a background check of their criminal history.

The only group of instructors for whom no background checks are required are Angler Education instructors. An Angler Education Advisory Group has recommended to the DNR that Angler Education instructors be required to pass a background check. These instructors work with groups of students ages 5 through 16, scouts and other youth groups. They also work with adults who may have cognitive and physical disabilities. Background checks can help ensure the safety of participants from unqualified or unsuitable instructors.

- **Do you support requiring that before they receive DNR certification, Angler Education instructor candidates be required to pass a background check similar to those required of hunter and boating safety and other DNR certified instructors?**

38. YES _____ NO _____

Take them Fishing!

Angler Education provides youth with opportunities to:

- master basic fishing skills
- explore Wisconsin's aquatic resources
- develop a set of ethics to help ensure that Wisconsin's lakes and streams will remain bountiful for generations to come
- engage in service learning projects

Junior Angler

The Junior Angler booklet provides 32 pages of fun, experiential learning activities designed to get kids outdoors and develop a sense of stewardship toward Wisconsin's fisheries and aquatic habitats. Use it as a school-based program, an after-school club, a summer enrichment program or at youth centers.

The student workbook is available in classroom quantities to certified instructors.

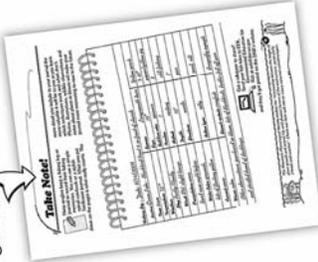


The Junior Angler program includes activities that address academic standards.

Science



Language Arts



Math



Social Studies



The Instructor's Guide provides teachers with tips and activity ideas.



Activities that address academic standards in physical education, environmental education and art are also included.



Additional materials are also available to Angler Education instructors certified by the Department of Natural Resources.

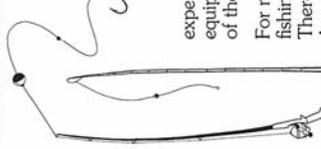


Don't forget to check out Just Fishin' a shortened version of the Junior Angler Program appropriate for clinics that focus on... just fishin'...

Tackle Loaner Program

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has fishing equipment for loan at over 40 DNR offices, state parks and facilities. There is no charge to borrow the equipment, but we do expect instructors to make basic equipment maintenance part of the learning experience.

For more information on loaner fishing equipment, please contact Theresa Stabo (608-266-2272), Aquatic Resources Educator or check out the fishing equipment contacts page online at dnr.wi.gov/fish/kidsparents/loanercontacts.shtml.



Angler Education Instructor Certification

Certification as an Angler Education instructor is required to receive materials. The certification process includes:

- active participation in an instructor training workshop.
- completion and signing of the volunteer application available at workshop.
- acceptance and adherence to the Angler Education Standards of Conduct.

Angler Education Workshop Schedule

You can find the most up-to-date schedule of upcoming Angler Education Workshops on the Web at dnr.wi.gov/fish/kidsparents/anglereducation/workshopschedule.shtml.

If you have questions, or for more information on Wisconsin's Angler Education programs, please contact Theresa Stabo Aquatic Resources Education Director, at Theresa.Stabo@wisconsin.gov or call 608/266-2272.

Aquatic Resources Education, FH/4
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921



Live in southeast Wisconsin?

Look into our Fishing Urban Neighborhoods or F.U.N. program, by contacting Travis Mott, Urban Fishing Coordinator, Travis.Mott@wisconsin.gov, 262/594-6219, cell: 414/333-1183.

Master Angler

Revisions are underway for the Master Angler program for high school students.



PROPOSED STATEWIDE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULES CHANGES

Question 39: Reduce the number of Turkey Management Zones (2008)

Currently there are 46 Turkey Management Zones. Hunters are required to apply for a permit in a zone and may only hunt in that zone. New zones were created as the wild turkey population expanded but today most areas capable of supporting turkeys are populated.

This proposal would reduce the number of Turkey Management Zones to 7, as indicated on the map. The new zones will be created by combining old, existing zones so that hunters should see no difference in permit levels and zone histories will still be useful for wildlife biologists. The number of state park (9) and disabled hunting zones (6) would remain the same. Hunters would have more options for hunting locations, permit application would be simplified, and regulations would be less complex.

7 Zone Option Wild Turkey Management Zones



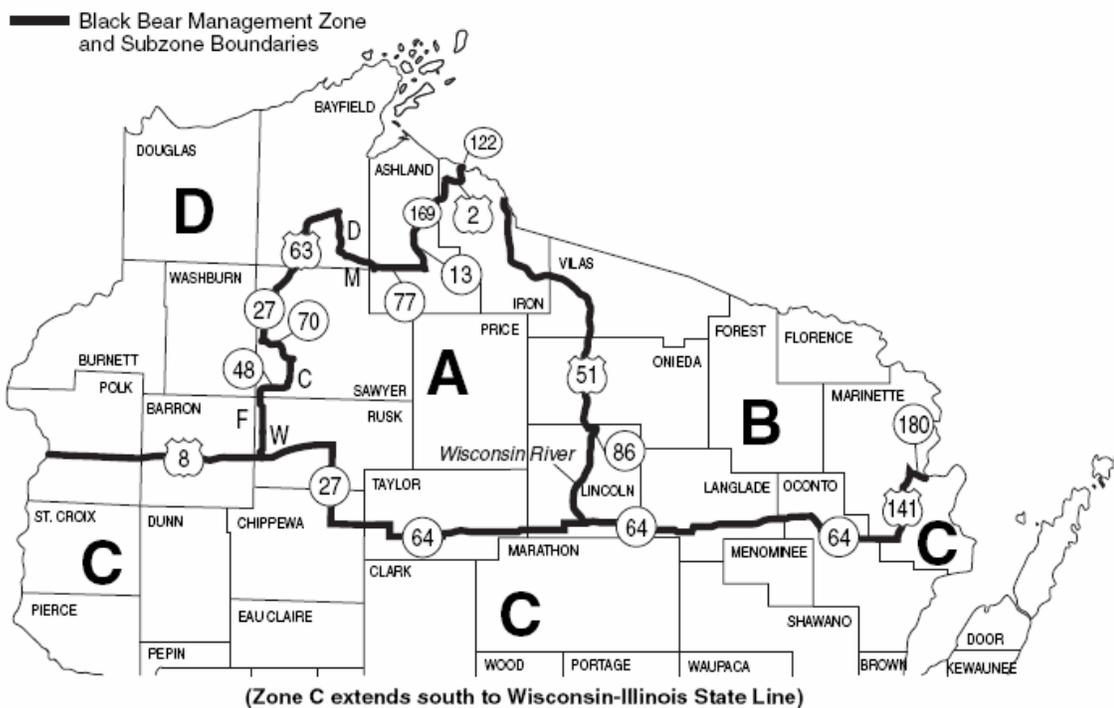
➤ Do you favor reducing the number of Turkey Management Zones from 46 to 7?

39. YES _____ NO _____

Question 40: Establish that bear hunting zone A1 is an independent zone and rename it zone D (2009)

In order to address higher numbers of bears and more numerous nuisance and damage complaints, bear hunting zone A was split in 1996 and zone A1 was created so that more hunting pressure could be directed there. People who possess a harvest permit for zone A may also hunt in zone A1 but those who possess a tag for A1 may only hunt in that zone.

This proposal would create an independent zone D with its own harvest quota and population goals. Doing so will reduce confusion, better regulate the number of hunters utilizing these zones, and improve the ability to manage the bear population in each individual zone.



- Do you favor eliminating Bear Hunting Zone A1 and creating an independent Zone D?

40. YES _____ NO _____

Question 41: Close the season for hunting jackrabbits (effective 2008)

Currently it is legal to hunt jackrabbits from the Saturday nearest October 17 through November 15 and there is a daily bag limit of three. The most recent observations of this species were in 1995 and 1997. Jackrabbits are listed as a Species of Concern which can be a precursor to being listed as threatened. It is not believed that any hunting effort is directed at this species.

- Do you favor closing the hunting season for jackrabbits because of the limited information and rarity of this species?

41. YES _____ NO _____

Question 42: Create a non-resident trapping season for raccoons (2007)

Wisconsin currently has a non-resident trapping license that allows trapping of most species but not raccoons. Raccoons may be hunted by non-residents although the season begins approximately two weeks later for non-residents.

Because there are separate raccoon hunting seasons for residents and non-residents, Wisconsin must also establish a specific raccoon trapping season for non-residents. A raccoon trapping season for non-residents would be structured like the hunting season so that it opens two weeks later. Under the proposal the trapping season for non-residents would begin on the Saturday nearest November 1 and continue through January 31. The season for residents would continue to open on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continue through January 31.

- **Do you favor establishing a non-resident trapping season for raccoons that would begin on the Saturday nearest November 1 and continue through January 31?**

42. YES ___ NO ___

Question 43 & 44: Allowing the possession and use of slugs and buckshot for certain species (2008)

Currently it is illegal to possess shotgun ammunition that is loaded with a single slug while hunting at times other than the gun deer seasons. The use or possession of buckshot while hunting is not allowed from June 1 through the gun deer seasons and for two days thereafter.

This proposal would allow the use of shotgun slugs for hunting unprotected species such as wild hogs or for coyote, fox, and bobcat at times when it is currently not legal to possess that ammunition. The possession of slugs would still be illegal while hunting game birds. The proposal would also allow the use of buckshot for hunting bobcat during the bobcat hunting season, including while deer seasons are open, by people who possess a valid unused bobcat carcass tag.

- **Do you favor allowing the possession and use of shotgun slugs at any time for hunting any species except game birds?**

43. YES ___ NO ___

- **In addition, do you favor allowing the use of buckshot for hunting bobcat at any time during that season?**

44. YES ___ NO ___

Question 45 & 46: Regulation of ground blinds on state lands (2008)

Currently there are no blaze orange requirements on manufactured ground blinds that completely enclose the hunter. Some people have suggested that, during seasons where hunters are required to wear blaze orange, these types of blinds should display some orange for safety reasons when used on public hunting grounds. Previous Conservation Congress advisory questions have supported that concept. Waterfowl blinds would be exempt. Additionally, tree stands that are left unattended on state lands must display the customer I.D. number or name and address of the owner but ground blinds do not have a similar requirement, although both must be removed from the property daily.

- **Do you favor requiring that portable ground blinds display a minimum of one square foot of orange that is visible from all sides of the blind on state lands during firearm deer seasons?**

45. YES ___ NO ___

- **Do you favor requiring that ground blinds display the customer I.D. number or name and address of the owner if they are left unattended on state lands?**

46. YES ___ NO ___

Question 47: Deer feeding near residences and businesses (2007)

It is currently illegal to feed bear or elk for recreational viewing purposes. Legislators and citizens have complained about situations where bears and elk are feeding at legal deer feeding sites in rural subdivisions and near roadways, creating unnecessary human/wildlife conflicts and potentially unsafe situations.

This proposal would establish that deer may not be fed near homes or businesses if the person who places the feed knows that bear or elk are using the deer feeding station.

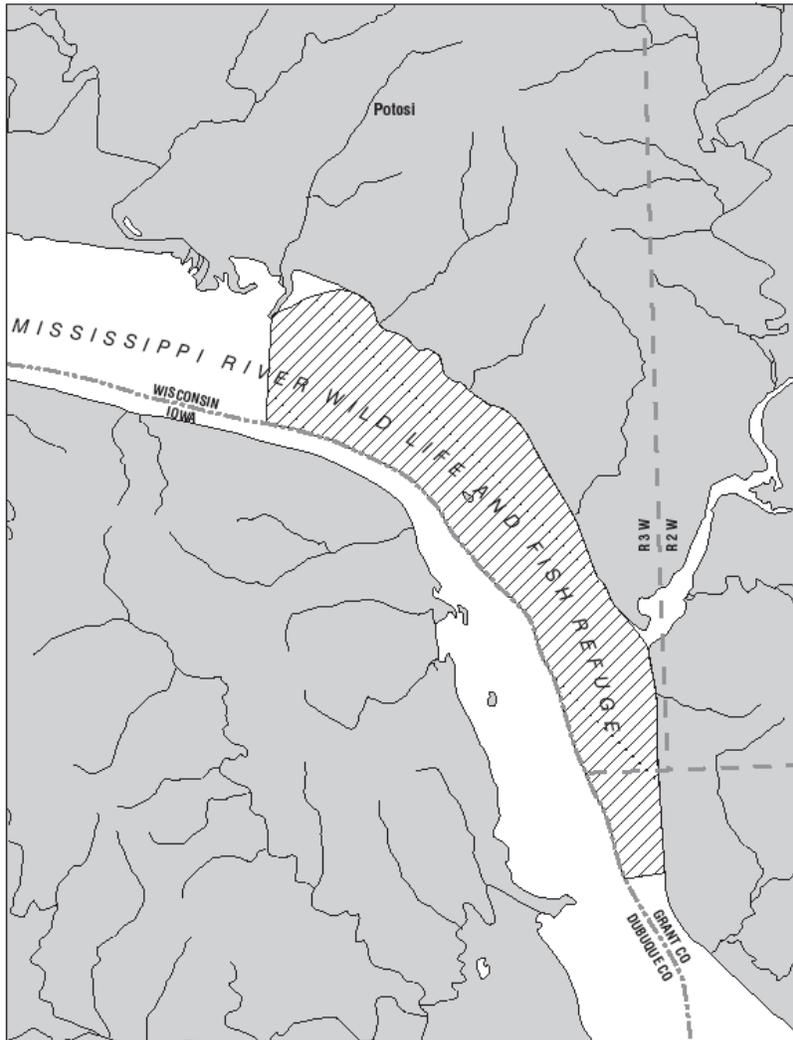
- **Do you favor prohibiting deer feeding stations near residences and businesses when the feeding site is also attracting and being used by bear or elk?**

47. YES _____ NO _____

Question 48: Open water hunting on the Grant County waters of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (2007)

Open water hunting for migratory birds is currently allowed in the Grant County waters of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Pool 11. In the rest of the state, open water hunting is not generally legal and hunters must stand on the bed of the waterbody or boats and blinds must be partially concealed by emergent vegetation. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) has proposed closing a portion of the refuge in Grant County to open water hunting. This proposal would not eliminate the ability to hunt within 100 feet of the shoreline or where hunters can stand on the bed of the river.

This proposal would make Wisconsin consistent with rules that the USF&WS is in the process of adopting by ending open water hunting in the area from river mile 586.3 to river mile 592.1 in Wisconsin waters, further described as the area between lines drawn approximately east to west from Fenley Bluff to the point of the John Deere deflection dike and between the Potosi Point jetty and Specht's Ferry, as shown on the map. Adopting corresponding state regulations will prevent confusion, management and enforcement difficulties that will result from having two conflicting sets of rules. The department will withhold promulgation of this rule until the federal plan is enacted. Use of this area by open water hunters is low.



- **Do you favor creating an area that is closed to open water hunting for migratory birds in the Grant County waters of Pool 11 in order to provide a resting area for ducks during the migratory bird hunting season and to be consistent with federal open water hunting areas?**

48. YES ___ NO ___

Questions 49 through 54: Modify Upper Mississippi River Fish & Wildlife Refuge Closed Area Boundaries to Be Consistent With New Federal Refuge Boundaries (2007)

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has adopted a new management plan for the refuge that includes changing the boundaries of two existing closed areas and the creation of three new closed areas. Closed areas are a commonly used management tool that provides safe resting and feeding areas for migrating waterfowl as well as to maintain hunting opportunities throughout the season by keeping birds in an area. These closed area boundaries have not been significantly revised for approximately 45 years.

This proposal would make the closed area boundaries described in Wisconsin's administrative code consistent with boundaries that the USF&WS is in the process of adopting by changing boundaries and adding new closed areas. Adopting corresponding state boundaries will prevent confusion, management and enforcement difficulties that will result from having two conflicting sets of rules. The department will withhold promulgation of Wisconsin's boundary changes until the new federal boundaries are enacted.

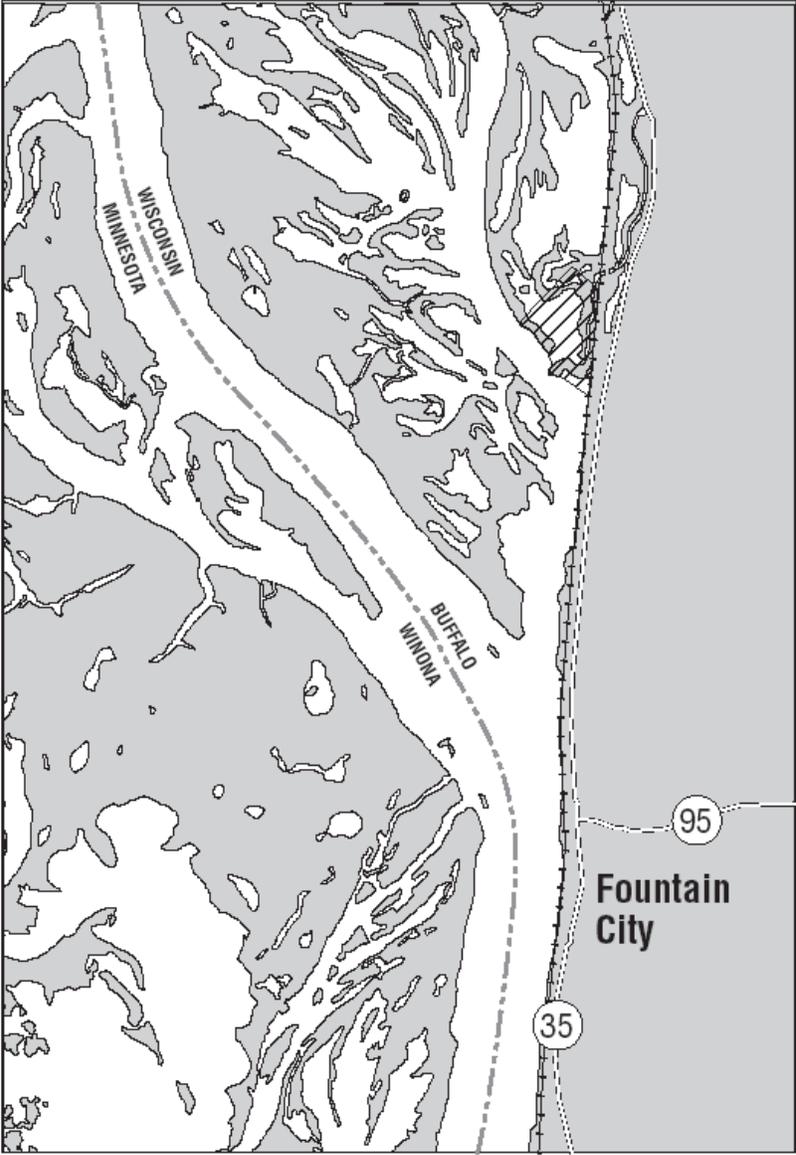
Question 49: Spring Lake, Pool 5, Buffalo County (New Closed Area, 243 Acres)



- Do you favor creating Spring Lake closed area (243 acres) in order to be consistent with the federal closed area and to provide a resting area for ducks during the migratory bird hunting season?

49. YES ___ NO ___

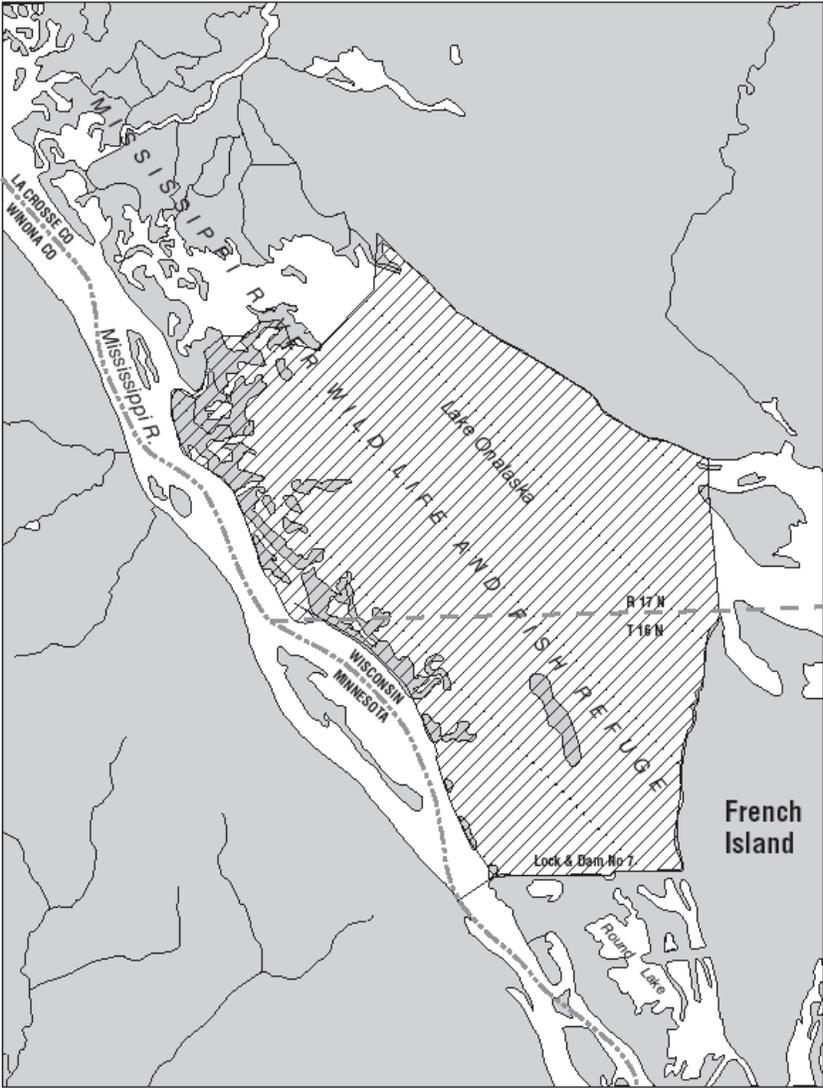
Question 50: Fountain City Bay, Pool 5A, Buffalo County (New Closed Area, 24 Acres)



➤ Do you favor creating Fountain City Bay closed area (24 acres) in order to be consistent with the federal closed area and to provide a resting area for ducks during the migratory bird hunting season?

50. YES ___ NO ___

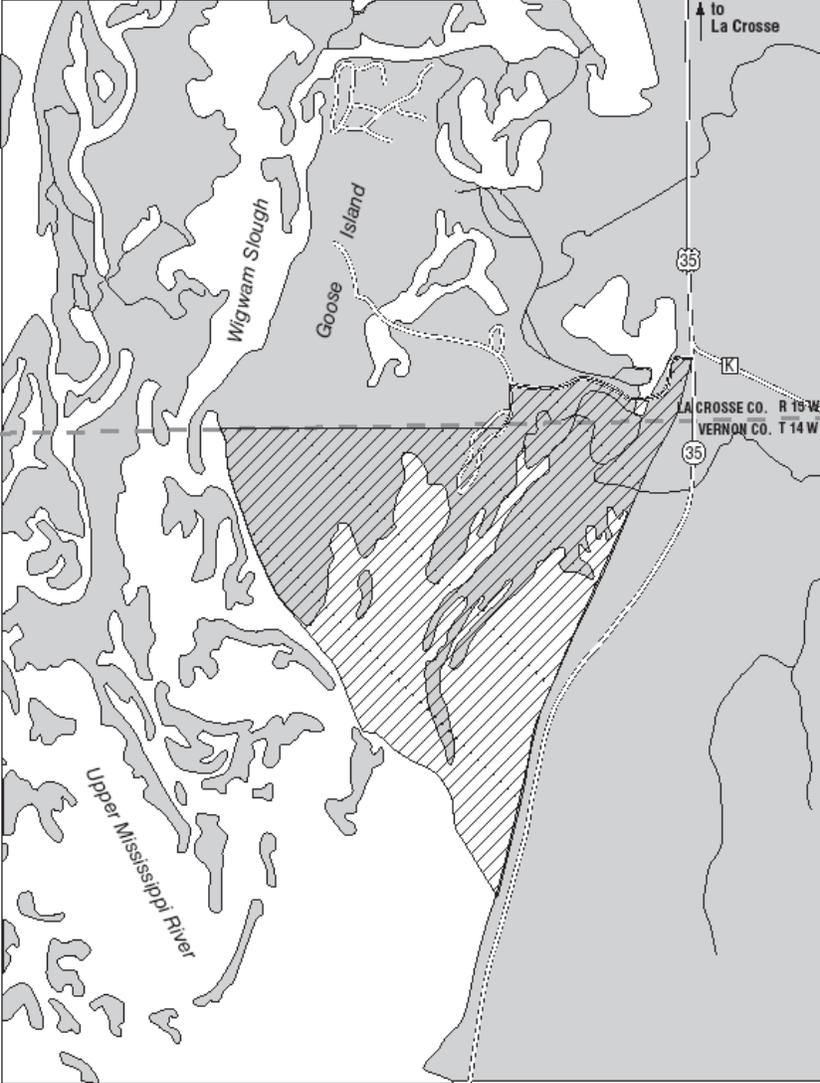
Question 51: Lake Onalaska, Pool 7, La Crosse County (1.6 Acre Reduction on Northwest Corner and a Total Increase Of 24.4 Acres Along The Southwest Side)



- Do you favor modifying the boundaries of the Lake Onalaska closed area as described in order to be consistent with the federal closed area and to provide a resting area for ducks during the migratory bird hunting season?

51. YES ___ NO ___

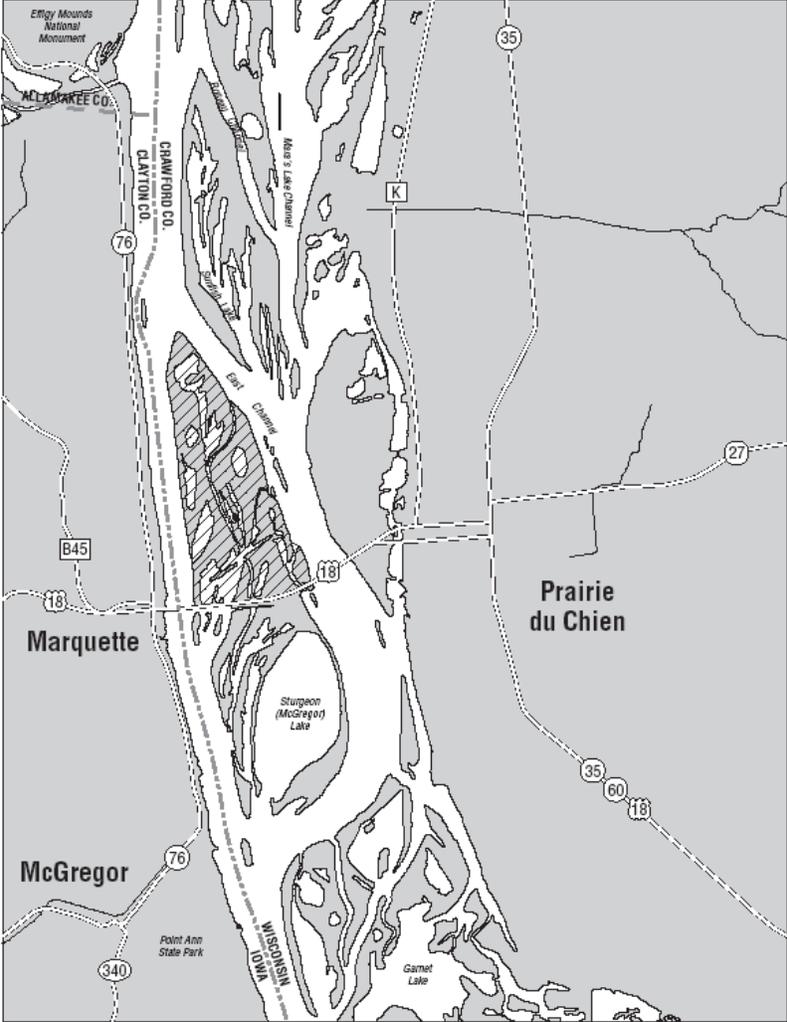
**Question 52: Goose Island, Pool 8, Vernon, La Crosse Counties
(110 Acre Increase to South Boundary)**



- Do you favor increasing the size of the Goose Island closed area by 110 acres in order to be consistent with the federal closed area and to provide a resting area for ducks during the migratory bird hunting season?

52. YES _____ NO _____

Question 53: Sturgeon Slough, Pool 10, Crawford County (New Closed Area, 340 Acres)



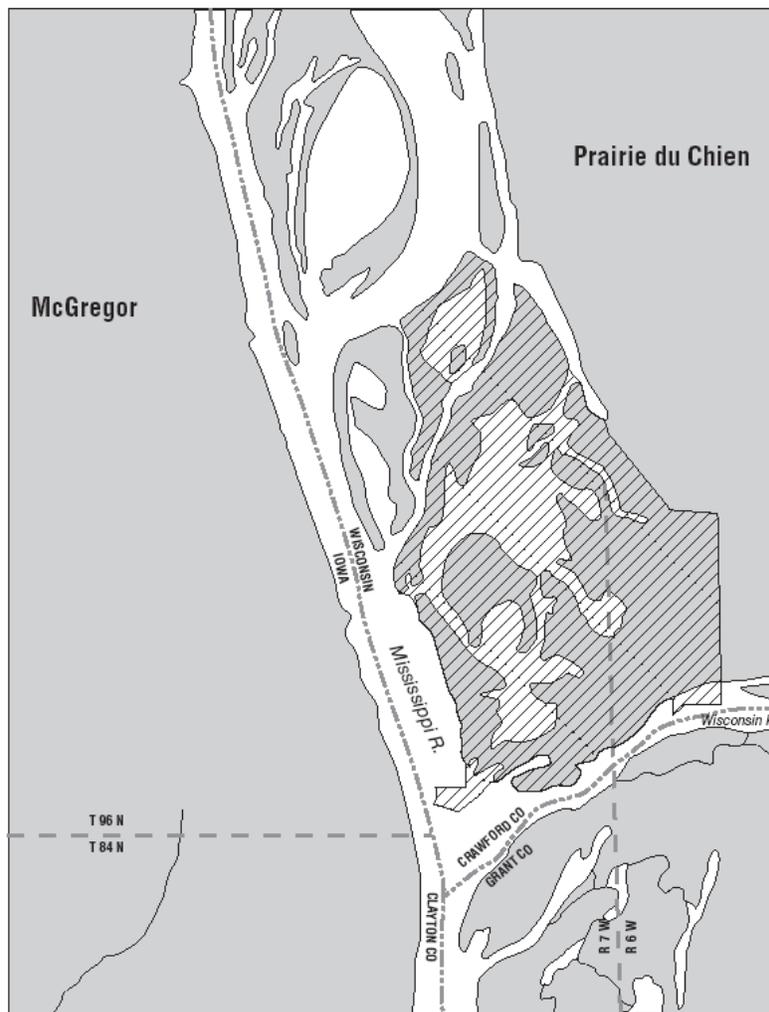
➤ Do you favor creating the Sturgeon Slough closed area (340 acres) in order to be consistent with the federal closed area and to provide a resting area for ducks during the migratory bird hunting season?

53. YES ___ NO ___

Question 54: Create Wisconsin River Delta special hunt/closed area (1,406 acres) in the Upper Mississippi River Fish & Wildlife Refuge, Crawford County, to be consistent with new federal management strategies (2007)

There is currently no closed area and hunting is allowed for the entire migratory bird hunting season in the area known as the Wisconsin River Delta (pool 10).

This proposal would create an area where migratory bird hunting would be allowed during the early portion of the season but would close on November 1 each year. Hunting for other species would be allowed from the close of the migratory bird season until March 15 and spring turkey hunting would be allowed. The dates and boundaries shown on the map represent a compromise that was developed by local hunters and anglers and the USFWS. Adopting a corresponding state closed area will prevent confusion, management and enforcement difficulties that will result from having two conflicting sets of closed areas. The department will withhold promulgation of this closed area until the federal closed area is created.



- Do you favor creating the Wisconsin River Delta closed area (1,406 acres) but allowing migratory bird hunting prior to November 1, other hunting from the close of the migratory bird season until March 15, and spring turkey hunting?

54. YES ___ NO ___

Questions 55 & 56: Expanding the times and types of cable restraints that may be used

for certain furbearers and allowing their use for bobcat (2008)

Cable restraints have been legal for use on fox and coyote from January 1 to February 15 for the past four years. This experimental season has been very successful with few problems. Cables must be comprised of either 7 bundles of wire with 7 wires per bundle or 19 bundles of wire with 7 wires per bundle.

Because of the success of cable restraints, this proposal would expand the times when they may be used to include December and allow their use for bobcat. Testing by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has shown that other types of wires 3/32 inch or greater diameter meet national standards for effectiveness and humaneness. The department also proposes allowing any type of "multi-strand" wire of 3/32" or greater diameter, eliminating specific descriptions.

- **Do you favor expanding the times when cable restraints may be used to include December and allowing their use for bobcat?**

55. YES ___ NO ___

- **Do you favor eliminating specific descriptions of cables and requiring only that they be multi-strand and of 3/32 inch or greater diameter?**

56. YES ___ NO ___

Question 57: Trapper Education Program Fees (2008)

Trapper education students have paid an \$8.00 fee for the course of instruction since the program became mandatory in 1992. The fee was agreed upon by department staff and the Wisconsin Trappers Association, which implements the hands-on portion of the Trapper Education Program.

Because the \$8.00 fee is no longer sufficient to cover the cost of running the program, the department and instructors have requested a new fee of \$12.00 for the regular classroom and resident correspondence courses and \$28.00 for a correspondence course that requires out-of-state mailing costs. All correspondence course students would also pay a refundable \$17.00 deposit for materials that are returned after the course. The fee for an advanced trapper education course shall be only the amount necessary but not exceeding \$50. All fees will be established in Wisconsin Administrative Code.

- **Do you favor establishing a fee of \$12.00 for the regular classroom and resident correspondence courses, \$28.00 for an out-of-state correspondence course, and an amount not exceeding \$50 to cover the costs of administering advanced trapper education classes?**

57. YES ___ NO ___

Question 58: Extending trap size, type and placement requirements to trappers on licensed wild fur farms (2008)

Currently there are no restrictions on the type or size of traps, snares or cable restraints that may be used for taking beaver, coyote, mink, muskrat, otter, opossum, raccoon, skunk and weasel on a licensed wild fur farm. Other trappers must enclose certain body gripping traps, follow jaw spread regulations, cable restraint regulations, may not use traps with teeth on dry land, and other restrictions designed to establish humane standards and prevent the capture of non-target species. DNR licensed wild fur farms are not fenced and other wild and domestic animals may enter these properties.

- **Do you favor extending to trappers on licensed wild fur farms all of the trap size, type and placement restrictions that apply to people who trap under the authority of a regular**

LOCAL QUESTIONS

58. YES ___ NO ___

Question 59: Apostle Islands National Lake Shore (DMU 79) Deer Seasons (Ashland and Bayfield Counties) (2008)

Deer Management Unit 79 is composed of 20 islands that are part of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Currently the only deer hunting season in this unit is an either sex, muzzleloader-only season during the month of October. Hunters are required to use their regular gun buck deer carcass tag in order to harvest a deer.

This proposal creates an archery deer season that begins on the Saturday nearest September 15 and closes on September 30, reopens on November 1 and continues through the Sunday nearest January 6. The muzzleloader season remains unchanged. Hunters may use their regular season gun buck deer carcass tag for a buck during the muzzleloader season, or archery tags during the archery season, and once filled those tags would not be available for use elsewhere. As an alternative, hunters can also obtain additional special DMU 79 deer carcass tags free at a rate of 2 per day. These tags follow existing Earn-A-Buck rules; they are valid for antlerless deer, a buck deer if the hunter possesses an antlerless deer registration verification earned in this unit the previous year or in the current year, or a buck deer if the hunter also possesses an antlerless deer that has been legally harvested in this unit and tagged but not yet registered.

Earn-A-Buck rules would not apply to a hunter's regular gun buck deer carcass tag or archery buck deer carcass tag under the proposal.

The National Park Service's plan is to manage the land in DMU 79 for historical ecological habitat conditions and deer population levels through sport hunting. Historical deer populations varied between the islands from none to very few to about 10 per square mile. The National Park Service has indicated that it may require an access permit which may limit the dates and the islands on which hunting may occur.

- **Do you support creating an archery season and additional free earn-a-buck tags as an incentive for hunting deer in DMU 79?**

59. YES _____ NO _____

Question 60: Deer Hunting Seasons at Lake Wissota State Park (Chippewa County)

There is currently no season for hunting deer at Lake Wissota state park and managers are dealing with problems resulting from a very large deer herd.

This proposal would establish Lake Wissota state park as unit 59E and create a nine-day shotgun season beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday. Hunting will be primarily for antlerless deer but buck tags may be issued by the park. Muzzleloaders and handguns are also permitted during shotgun seasons.

- **Do you favor creating DMU 59E and a nine-day shotgun season at Lake Wissota state park?**

60. YES _____ NO _____

Question 61: Deer Hunting Season at Brunet Island (Unit 23A) State Park (Chippewa County)

Brunet Island State Park currently has a 19 day muzzleloader-only season that is primarily for antlerless deer.

This proposal would eliminate the muzzleloader-only season and expand the types of firearms that may be used to include shotguns. The length of the season would be reduced to nine days to be consistent with the way other state parks in the area will be managed. Hunting will still be primarily for antlerless deer but buck tags may be issued by the park. The increased effectiveness of shotguns may lead to a higher harvest. Muzzleloading firearms as well as handguns may be used during shotgun seasons.

- **Do you favor eliminating the 19 day muzzleloader-only season at Brunet Island state park and establishing a nine-day shotgun season in its place?**

61. YES ___ NO ___

Question 62: Hunting hours for pheasants at Mud Lake Wildlife Area (Columbia County) and Pine Island (Columbia and Sauk Counties) (2008)

Pheasant hunting hours currently close one-half hour after sunset at both of these properties. This proposal would close pheasant hunting hours at 2 p.m. daily beginning on the third day of the season and continuing until November 3. The early closing time during the portion of the season when hunting pressure is highest would allow stocked pheasants to be distributed better and give the birds an opportunity to orient to their surroundings. This is the current practice at 20 other properties that are stocked with pheasants.

- **Do you support closing hunting hours for pheasants at Pine Island and Mud Lake Wildlife areas at 2:00 p.m. from the third day of the season until November 3 in order to allow stocked pheasants to be distributed and to orient themselves?**

62. YES ___ NO ___

Question 63: Establish an Experimental Program Allowing The Use Of Dogs For Fall Turkey Hunting In Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland, Sauk, Vernon and Wood, Counties (2007)

The use of dogs is not currently allowed for turkey hunting. Using dogs to scatter or "break up" flocks of turkeys in the fall so that the hunter can call them back is a traditional practice in some states. Other states have not experienced biological, safety, or law enforcement problems. Certain counties in Wisconsin have supported the concept of allowing dog use in the fall when the question was asked in previous years.

This question would create a two year experiment in nine counties where the use of dogs in fall turkey hunting would be evaluated to see if it is supported, does not create user conflicts, and could be expanded.

- **Do you favor creating a fall turkey hunting with dogs-pilot season in 2007 and 2008 in Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland, Sauk, Vernon and Wood, counties?**

63. YES ___ NO ___

DEPARTMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 64: Discharge of Firearms And Air Guns On State Owned Lands Outside Of The Hunting Season

Currently it is illegal to discharge a firearm or air gun on certain state-owned lands except while hunting, dog training or trialing under department permit, or at an established shooting range. This rule prevents littering, damage to property, and addresses safety concerns where it applies to DNR managed properties in 17 counties located primarily in Southern Wisconsin and at the Kettle Moraine and Point Beach state forests as well as on recreation areas, natural areas, and trails.

This proposal would extend statewide the prohibition on public lands of target shooting and other discharge of firearms that is not part of a normal hunting or dog training or trialing activity.

- **Do you favor prohibiting the discharge of firearms and air guns on department lands statewide except for while engaged in a legal hunting or dog training activity or at a designated shooting range?**

64. YES ___ NO ___

Question 65: Requirements for Licensed Guides

Currently guides are required to purchase a state license if they receive any compensation or reward to guide, direct, or assist any other person in hunting, fishing or trapping. Hunting and trapping guides must be residents and all guides must be at least 18 years of age but there are no other requirements or qualifications. Recent investigations have revealed large scale violations that involved some guides and their clients and significant commercialization of the resource.

This proposal is to create a detailed definition of who is a guide, establish qualifications, require detailed record keeping, and authorize inspection by a warden or agent of the state. This information would facilitate law enforcement and exotic or diseased animal investigations. It would also provide fish and wildlife biologists with information for management of fish and wildlife populations, and make licensing and record keeping requirements consistent with the expectations of other businesses that profit from the natural resources of Wisconsin.

- **Do you favor legislation to develop more specific regulations, as described above, for licensed guides?**

65. YES ___ NO ___

Question 66: Establishing Stable Canada Goose Hunting Seasons

Because the harvest of locally produced giant Canada geese has reduced pressure on migrant geese from Canada, the Mississippi Flyway Council and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have approved a new Canada goose hunting season strategy for several states including Wisconsin. This strategy would establish stable hunting seasons for a 5 year period beginning in 2007 and continuing through 2011. The early Canada goose season would not be affected by this proposal.

In the Horicon and Collins zones harvest and hunter numbers would still be controlled through the issuance of permits and harvest tags and hunters would still be limited to one zone. Permit holders would receive six tags each year. The number of tags issued in these zones over the last ten years has ranged from one to six. Wisconsin would retain the flexibility to adjust time periods annually.

In the Exterior Canada goose zone the department requested two options so that hunters can select their preferred season structure. The opening dates can be changed annually by the department but season lengths and bag limits selected by hunters will remain in effect for five years. Hunters can choose from the following two options:

Option A: Please mark **Yes** on your ballot if you are in favor of an 85 day season with a two bird per day bag limit for the entire period.

Option B: Please mark **No** on your ballot if you are in favor of a 92 day season with a one bird per day bag limit for 22 days and a bag limit of two birds per day for 70 of the days.

- **Do you favor Exterior Zone Canada goose season option A or option B as described above?**

66. Yes is Option A_____ No is Option B_____

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD WILDLIFE ADVISORY QUESTION

Question 67 & 68: Use of Non-Toxic Shot On Department Lands

Mortality caused by lead exposure has been reported in many species of birds. Examinations of dead birds collected from the wild still commonly identify lead toxicity as a cause of death. Lead poisoning from shot occurs when birds ingest pellets for their crop, then other grit material wears down the soft lead pellets, causing lead particles to be absorbed in the bloodstream. The full extent of lead shots' effects on wild birds is difficult to estimate because lead poisoning usually does not cause large-scale die-offs that are easily noticed.

Even though lead shot is prohibited for waterfowl hunting, it is still legal in other hunting situations on Wisconsin's state managed properties. Non-toxic shot is required for most bird hunting on federally owned waterfowl production areas and refuges. There are 26 states that have non-toxic shot requirements that are more restrictive than federal rules including all of Wisconsin's neighboring states.

Studies conducted in Wisconsin have found elevated lead levels in woodcock wing bones. Lead is considered to be a major limiting factor in the re-establishment of trumpeter swans. Studies in Missouri have shown that when doves eat lead pellets it has toxic effects that decrease survival. Recently, new concerns have arisen over the heavy deposition of lead on public lands where dove hunting is the prevalent shooting activity. Additionally, dove hunting and waterfowl hunting often occur in the same areas and it is inconsistent that waterfowl hunters must use non-toxic shot but dove hunters may use ammunition that can be harmful to game and non-game species.

- **Because of concerns about the continuing effects of lead shot on game and non-game birds in Wisconsin, especially in concentrated shooting situations, do you favor requiring the use of non-toxic shot for dove hunting on department managed lands?**

67. YES _____ NO _____

- **Because of concerns about the continuing effects of lead shot on wild game and non-game birds in Wisconsin, do you favor requiring the use of non-toxic shot for hunting all birds other than turkeys on department managed lands?**

68. YES _____ NO _____



**You are now entering the
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
County Meeting**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress does NOT accept written comments on its advisory questions.

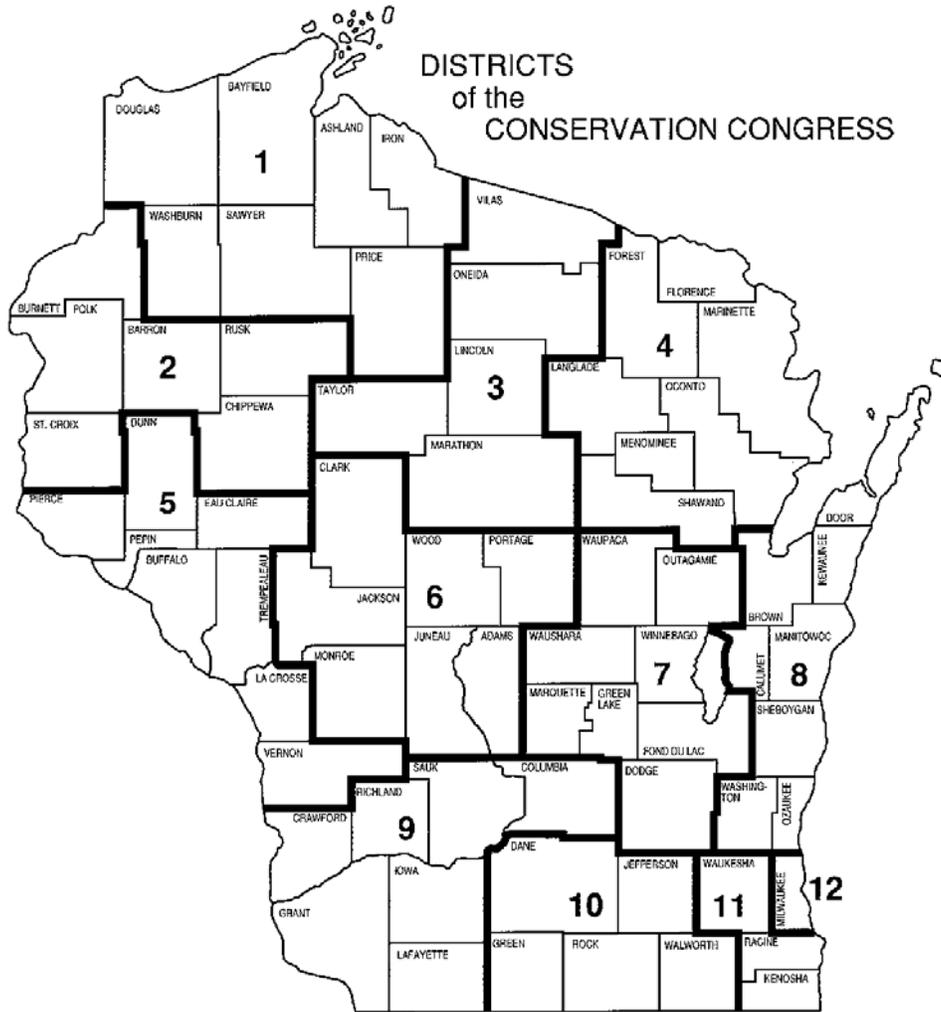
Any comments on the Spring Hearing process only, may be made directly to:

AnnMarie Kutzke, LS/5, DNR, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921

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DISTRICTS of the CONSERVATION CONGRESS



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<p>District 9 Mike Rogers S8955 Matoushek Road Prairie Du Sac, WI 53578 608-643-8057</p> <p>Larrie Hazen 7656 Big Green Road Mount Hope, WI 53816 608-988-4549</p>	<p>District 10 Ken Risley W3874 Krueger Monticello, WI 53570 608-938-4743</p> <p>Joe Caputo 36320 Sighting Road McFarland, WI 53588 608-838-3415</p>	<p>District 11 David Poff 17310 W. Observatory Road New Berlin, WI 53146 262-782-2562</p> <p>Robert Bohmann 1105 Melvin Avenue Racine, WI 53402 262-681-2055</p>	<p>District 12 Edward Rewolinski 4212 S. Pine Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53207 414-744-5718</p> <p>Theodore Lind 4434 North 52nd Street Milwaukee, WI 53218 414-466-4898</p>
<p>Conservation Congress Liaison Kurt Thiede Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 7921 - LS/5 Madison, WI 53707 608-266-0580 kurt.thiede@dnr.state.wi.us</p>		<p>Conservation Congress Coordinator AnnMarie Kutzke Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 7921 - LS/5 Madison, WI 53707 608-266-2952 annmarie.kutzke@dnr.state.wi.us</p>	

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

Question 69: Transferring of Harvest Permits/Tags

At this time an individual may only transfer a bear harvest permit to a youth. There is no biological reason why an individual should not also be able to transfer any other harvest permit/tag to a youth (bobcat, fisher, turkey, sturgeon, etc.).

A procedure similar to the system that is currently in place for transferring a bear harvest permit could be used, so those youth receiving the harvest permit/tag wouldn't lose any preference points that they had already accumulated. This transfer system may promote or help keep more youth involved or interested in continuing the great privilege of hunting, trapping and fishing.

- **Do you favor the Department and Legislators work together to take steps to make it possible for an adult to transfer any harvest permit/tag to a youth, without the youth losing their preference points?**

Question 69: Yes ___ No ___

**AIR, WASTE AND WATER COMMITTEE
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

Question 70: Classify the Mukwonago River as an Outstanding Water Resource

The Mukwonago River Watershed in Walworth and Waukesha counties has one of the most abundant and diverse fish populations of any stream in Wisconsin. There are at least 66 fish species, five of which are rare, threatened, or endangered. In addition, the Mukwonago River contains unusual and rare clam species and has the only large wild rice bed in southeastern Wisconsin. The entire river and its watershed is ripe for development in the future. The Air, Waste, and Water Committee of the Conservation Congress recommends added protection to this resource by having the DNR classify the entire Mukwonago River as an Outstanding Water Resource.

- **Do you favor having the Wisconsin DNR and Natural Resource Board classify the Mukwonago River as an Outstanding Water Resource?**

Question 70: Yes ___ No ___

**CWD COMMITTEE
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

Question 71: CWD

The DNR has spent over \$30 million since 2002 on CWD programs including extreme efforts to depopulate deer through complex and extended seasons, sharpshooters, and multiple eradication zones. Yet, CWD zones have expanded, deer harvest in these zones has decreased, the deer population has increased, and CWD incidence rate remains unchanged. Meanwhile, extensive collateral damage has been done to agency trust, hunting culture, and traditions.

Whereas, cooperative deer herd reduction, preservation of Wisconsin's hunting heritage, and fiscal responsibility, are necessary for CWD control.

- **Should the DNR eliminate the use of sharpshooters in CWD zones, with an exception for the removal of visibly sick or injured deer, to help repair agency trust, and encourage more support of CWD control efforts?**

Question 71: Yes ___ No ___

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

Questions 72 & 73: Active Duty Armed Forces Members Special License Privileges

Numerous Wisconsin residents are now called to active military duty and only have limited use of their hunting and/or fishing licenses. Present law requires the purchase of all licenses, except that small game and fishing licenses are free for all qualified **resident** military personnel. All qualified **nonresident** military personnel stationed in this state must purchase any hunting or fishing license, but are only required to pay the resident fee. Current law also allows active armed forces personnel to buy an archery deer license without the usual waiting period, and they have the ability to shoot a deer of either sex during any firearm deer season (including antlerless only or buck only seasons) on their regular deer carcass tag. They are also exempt from having to earn a buck in Earn-a-Buck units. These questions propose reduced license fees for the Patron's License for qualified military members. However, in order to retain Federal Pittman-Roberts funding which is associated with state hunting and fishing license sales, a minimal fee would be required. Active duty armed forces personnel are risking their lives and time to ensure that all Americans will continue to live in a free country, therefore the citizens of Wisconsin would like to thank them for their efforts.

- **Do you favor allowing any qualified active duty armed forces personnel on furlough or leave to be issued a Conservation Patron license at the minimum fee required for the state to still be eligible for the corresponding Pittman-Robertson funding?**

Question 72: Yes ___ No ___

- **Do you favor allowing any qualified active duty armed forces person on furlough or leave to be issued a turkey hunting license and tag for that season at the minimum fee required for the state to still be eligible for the corresponding Pittman-Robertson funding?**

Question 73: Yes ___ No ___

Question 74: Return All Captive Deer and Elk Farm Fencing Authority to the DNR

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has the responsibility for regulating captive deer and elk herds in Wisconsin. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for inspecting and certifying fences that contain farm-raised white-tailed deer, but no other species of farm raised deer or elk. Currently, DATCP has only 10 agents to inspect over 700 captive deer herds and all other agricultural operations statewide. Some captive deer and elk herds around the U.S. have been infected with CWD, and this level of staffing is not sufficient to protect our wild deer or elk herds.

- **Do you support legislation to return authority over all captive deer and elk fencing requirements to the DNR?**

Question 74: Yes ___ No ___

Question 75: Deer Farm Owner Liability

Currently, captive deer farm owners are not required to reimburse the DNR for any costs associated with the recovery of deer that escape from deer farms. Additionally, if captive deer farm owners are enrolled in either the DNR or Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) herd monitoring programs, they are exempt from double fencing their facility, even if escapes have occurred on that facility.

- **Would you be in favor of captive deer farm owners being liable for all costs associated with the recovery of escaped animals, not to exceed \$10,000.00, and that they would no longer be exempt from the double fence requirement?**

Question 75: Yes ___ No ___

Question 76: Examine the possibilities of increasing open water duck hunting opportunities in Wisconsin

Currently open water duck hunting is allowed only on big waters in the state including the Grant County and the Lake Pepin portions of the Mississippi River, Big Green Lake in Green Lake County, Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Winnebago, and the Petenwell Flowage. There is interest to expand this list of lakes but many things have to be considered, such as lake size, hunter density, shoreline homes and cottages, safety, hunter conflicts, distance between blinds, shorelines, etc.

- **Do you favor the Conservation Congress Migratory Committee work with the DNR waterfowl staff to examine the possibility of increasing open water hunting opportunities in Wisconsin?**

Question 76: Yes ___ No ___

Question 77: Introduce rule changes to allow Canada goose hunting in the Exterior Zone later in December.

There is interest in hunting geese later in December in the Exterior Zone. We are allowed a maximum of 107 days of goose hunting (except for the Mississippi river subzone, which has a maximum of 70 days) according to the Migratory Bird Treaty and a maximum of 60 days for ducks. In 5 of the last 6 years we hunted the maximum of 107 days for geese, the most of any state.

We could take 9 days of goose hunting from the regular 9-day gun/deer season and add this to the end of the Exterior Goose season in December, (December 16 in 2006). This would end the Exterior Zone goose season about December 25.

- **Would you be willing to give up goose hunting in the Exterior Zone during the 9 days of the regular deer/gun season and add the 9 days of the Exterior Zone goose hunting to the end of the current Exterior Zone season?**

Question 77: Yes ___ No ___

<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC & PRIVATE LAND USE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS</p>
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Question 78: Access to Lands Open to Hunting

Access to lands open to hunting is an issue that has an impact on the recruitment and retention of new hunters. While the state boasts a considerable amount of public land between federal, state and county owned property, access to private land has become increasingly difficult. Along with the access issue, access to antlerless deer for the purpose of herd control is an increasing deer management problem. Therefore, the Public and Private Land Use Committee of the Conservation Congress would like to know:

- **Would you favor offering incentives to private landowners who allow hunters to access their land to harvest antlerless deer?**

Question 78: Yes ___ No ___

Question 79: Wisconsin Hunting Outfitters License

Professional outfitting, especially for deer hunting has been on the rise in many areas of the state over the past few decades. The Department of Natural Resources does not have data on the number of outfitters in operation, where they operate, how much land they control, their annual harvest, or the number of hunters they offer services to. Considering the burgeoning deer population in the state, such information would be beneficial for game managers. Also, in light of the recent violations associated with illegal and unethical outfitting activities in southwestern Wisconsin, such information would be valuable to wardens.

Currently, all an outfitter is required to have is a \$40 guide license to legally operate in Wisconsin. There are no other regulations in place. Yet many other states, including the neighboring state of Illinois, have successfully enacted outfitter licenses and regulations. Considering outfitters are utilizing a public resource for personal financial gain, the Public and Private Land Use Study Committee would like to know:

- **Would you support legislation that would establish an annual Wisconsin Hunting Outfitters License with an appropriate fee to totally support resulting administrative costs? Such legislation should also require the Department of Natural Resources to establish relevant administrative rules with a goal of consumer protection, data collection, and biologically sound game management.**

Question 79: Yes ___ No ___

Question 80: Paintball Guns and “Air-Soft” Pellet Guns on State Managed Properties

Paintball guns and air-soft plastic pellet guns have become popular pursuit games over the past decade. As their popularity increases, individuals are expanding the areas where these activities or games, utilizing this equipment, are held.

Currently, use of paintball and air-soft guns is not prohibited on state managed properties. As a result, various conflicts have arisen. Over the past two years, encounters between law enforcement officers and paintball and air-soft participants have nearly resulted in tragic consequences. Due to the professional training of the officers, these tragedies have been averted. Additionally, litter and the defacing of public property caused by paintballs has occurred in the parking lots on state property where events have taken place.

In light of these issues, the Public and Private Land Use Study Committee would like to know:

- **Would you support a prohibition on the use of paintball guns and “air-soft” pellet guns on state managed properties?**

Question 80: Yes ___ No ___

TURKEY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS
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Question 81: Lift Ban on Selling, Trading or Bartering Turkey Parts

Currently, state statutes prohibit the sale, trading or bartering of wild turkey parts; thus the turkey parts are disposed of and wasted. The sale of wild turkey parts is legal in many other states.

The National Wild Turkey Federation accepts wild turkey feathers from hunters to be used in educational boxes or to be given to Native Americans in the southwest for use in their ceremonies. The wing bones are used to make turkey calls, the leg bones can also be used in turkey calls or the spurs used for headbands or necklaces. Turkey feathers are used for fishing flies and decorations.

- **Do you favor legislation to allow the sale, trading or bartering of wild turkey parts?**

Question 81: Yes ___ No ___

**WARM WATER COMMITTEE
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

Question 82: Size Limit on Muskellunge on the Wisconsin River

A large number of muskies are being harvested from Lake Mohawksin and the Wisconsin River between Kings Dam and Pride Dam in Northern Lincoln County. At present the size limit is 34". These fish are being harvested before they reach their peak spawning and growth potential. Allowing these fish to reach 40" prior to harvest will benefit the natural reproduction and size ratio of muskies on the water stated above.

- **Would you support a 40" size limit on muskellunge on the Wisconsin River between Kings Dam and Pride Dam in Northern Lincoln County?**

Question 82: Yes ____ No ____

Question 83: Closing the Catfish Season on the Winnebago System

From December 1 to April 1 catfish become somewhat dormant and lay in deep holes in the Wolf River. They tend to stack up in these holes making them vulnerable to unethical anglers who will snag them. Big Eddy on the Wolf River in New London is one such area. During these winter months conservation wardens receive numerous complaints of individuals snagging and keeping catfish. Many of these individuals who snag fish utilize ice shanties to conceal the method in which they are catching these fish.

There are numerous areas along the river that snagging of catfish can occur, and creating a matrix of refuges would take away fishing opportunities from the law abiding public and create workload problems with posting of refuges.

The catfish season is currently open all year on the Winnebago system. Catfish generally do not bite during the winter months. A closed season would not take away fishing opportunities from law abiding anglers.

- **Would you support closing the catfish season on the Winnebago system from December 1 to April 1?**

Question 83: Yes ____ No ____

Question 84: Northern Pike Regulations on The Winnebago System

In the early 1990's an over-harvest of northern pike on the Upper Winnebago Pool Lakes during the months of February and March resulted in the removal of roughly 90% of the spawning females from the population. As a result, anglers asked that the daily bag limit be reduced to two fish and the minimum size limit be set at 26".

This is the current size limit for northern pike in the Winnebago System. Later fyke netting studies by the DNR showed that the males in this population rarely grow beyond 26" in length. Therefore, almost 100% of the harvest pressure is being placed on the mature females under this rule. This also results in a waste of fish under 26" that die as a result of being caught.

If the regulation of a two fish limit at 26" were changed to read a two fish limit with one fish over 26" that would help achieve the goal of reducing the angling pressure off of the mature females. This will also restore the trophy northern pike fishery on the Winnebago system, and allow anglers to keep smaller fish for consumption, whether they are healthy or dead as a result of being caught.

The nature of the Winnebago system makes it unique among Wisconsin's waters and sometimes calls for unique management strategies for its resources, so it would not be unusual for rules to be different here than elsewhere,

- **Would you support changing the northern pike regulations on the Winnebago system from a two fish 26" size limit, to a two fish bag with one fish 26" or more?**

Question 84: Yes ____ No ____

How to Write a Resolution

Resolution Content

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings annually in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable, reasonable and not obviously inappropriate.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

NOTE: If the resolution defines an unresolved concern at the local county level, or district level within your Congress district (see District Map, page 48). Please make sure to indicate whether or not you have already spoken with local Department staff and your local county Congress delegates.

Resolution Format

- ✓ The resolutions must be typed or legible hand written 8 ½ x 11 white paper.
- ✓ Resolutions must be 250 words or less, on one side of an 8 ½ x 11 white sheet of paper and there will be no attachments or additional sheets accepted for the same resolution.
- ✓ The authors' name, mailing address, county, telephone number and signature is required to be at the bottom of the resolution.
- ✓ Provide the Congress County Chair with two copies of the resolution for submission at the beginning of the evening, one to be part of the official record and the other to be posted for public viewing.

Resolution Presentation

- Only the individual author or designated representative of the organization may present the resolution within the county.
- No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person at the Spring Hearings and Congress Meeting.
- Written resolutions not meeting the above criteria and/or verbal resolutions will not be accepted.
- Individuals in attendance at the meeting can vote on the resolution being introduced within the county.

Sample Resolution

Title: Spring Dinosaur Hunting Season

The Problem:

Dinosaurs are a threat to agriculture across the state, especially in April and May, because they make deep footprints in newly planted farm fields, damaging the emerging crops. The problem is aggravated in southern Wisconsin, because dinosaurs are migrating across the state line to avoid hunting pressure in Illinois.

There is already an overpopulation of dinosaurs in Wisconsin.

At present, state law does not permit dinosaur hunting at any time during the year. We feel that Wisconsin law should be consistent with Illinois, which permits dinosaur hunting in the spring.

Wisconsin farmers are suffering significant crop damage because of dinosaur incursions.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Buffalo County on April 16, 2007 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change allowing a spring dinosaur hunting season.

Name of Author: Fred Flintstone

Name of Organization (*optional*): Private Citizen

Address: W12345 State Road 3

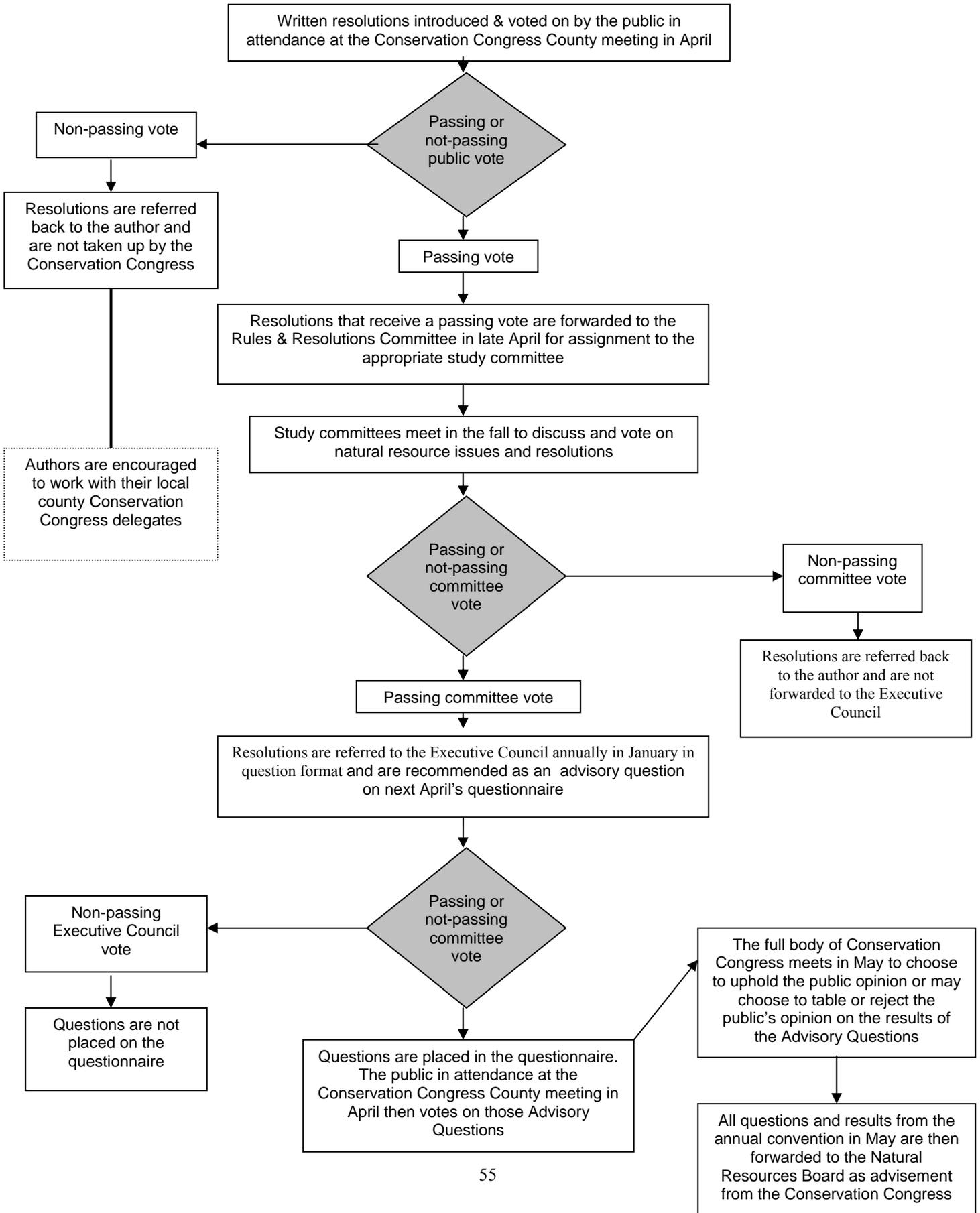
City, State, Zip Code: Bedrock, Wisconsin 54231

Name of the County Introducing In: Buffalo

Telephone Number (*including area code*): 123-456-0789

See DNR
Rules
Process

The Conservation Congress Resolution Process



ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

REPEALING, AMENDING, AND CREATING RULES

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to repeal NR 20.06(4); to amend NR 20.05(1), 20.20(2)(g)1. and 3., 20.20(3)(d), 20.20(3)(e), 20.20(4)(f)1., 20.20(13)(d)1., 20.20(19)(d), 20.20(26)(a)3. and 4., 20.20(33)(b)1. and (d)1. and (g)1., 20.20(35)(f), 20.20(47)(g), 20.20(48)(b), 20.20(51)(g)2., 20.20(52)(b)2., 20.20(52)(d)1., 20.20(60)(e)1., 20.20(60)(g)2., 21.04(11)(b); and to create NR 20.03(37)tm, 20.20(3)(f)4., 20.20(19)(e)2., 20.20(20)(c)3., 20.20(27)(cm), 20.20(37)(c)2., 20.20(49)(am)2., 20.20(49)(cm), 20.20(49)(f), 20.20(52)(c)2., 20.20(59)(c)2., 20.20(60)(h), 20.20(62)(am), 20.20(66)(g)3., 20.20(67)(am)2., 26.08(23), 26.08(23)(b), 26.08(23)(c), 26.24(13)(b) relating to fishing on the inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

FH-15-07

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

Statutes Interpreted: In promulgating this rule, ss. 29.531, 29.533, 29.014(1), 29.039 and 29.041, Stats., which authorize fishing, have been interpreted as giving the department the authority to make changes to fishing regulations on inland and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

Statutory Authority: Sections 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041 and 227.11(2)(a), Stats.

Explanation of Agency Authority to Promulgate the Proposed Rules Under the Statutory Authority: Sections 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041 and 227.11(2)(a), Stats., grant rule making authority to the department to establish and maintain open and closed seasons for fish and game and any bag limits, size limits, rest days and conditions governing the taking of fish and game that will conserve the fish and game supply and ensure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing, hunting and trapping; grant that the department may establish limitations relating to taking, possession, transportation, processing, and sale or offer for sale, of nongame species; and provide that the department may regulate hunting and fishing on and in all interstate boundary waters, and outlying waters. Section 227.11(2)(a), Stats., expressly confers rulemaking authority on the department to promulgate rules interpreting any statute enforced or administered by it, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute.

Related Rule or Statute: None.

Plain Language Rule Analysis: Section by section details of this rule order are outlined:

Sections 1 and 2 clarify the types of spears which may be used for fishing and that taking rough fish by spearing is a legal method.

Section 3 removes the prohibition of use of landing nets larger than 36 inches, diameter.

Section 4 increases the daily bag limit for walleye, sauger, and their hybrids in Mineral lake, Ashland county, from 3 fish to 5 fish and replaces the current 18 inch minimum size limit with no minimum, but only one walleye larger than 14 inches may be kept.

Section 5 authorizes seining and dipnetting for rainbow smelt in Beaver Dam lake, Barron county, with a continuous open season and no restrictions on harvest hours. A maximum allowable size for seines is specified.

Section 6 creates a 26 inch minimum size limit for trout in Beaver Dam lake, Barron county, with a 1 fish daily bag limit, and creates a 15 inch minimum size limit for trout in the Hay river, Barron county, with a 1 fish daily bag limit.

Sections 7 and 33 create an 18 inch minimum size limit for walleye in the Red Cedar chain of lakes (lakes Balsam, Red Cedar, and Hemlock), Barron and Washburn counties.

Section 8 reduces the daily bag limit for panfish in Middle Eau Claire and Bony lakes, Bayfield county, from 25 fish to 10 fish.

Section 9 extends the 45 inch minimum length limit for muskellunge in lake Monona, Waubesa, and Wingra to tributaries and connecting waters of those lakes.

Section 10 implements minimum size and bag limits for brown trout and lake trout in Keyes lake, Florence county.

Section 11 implements an 18 inch minimum size limit and 3 fish daily bag limit for walleye in Keyes lake, Florence county.

Section 12 removes the 26 inch minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Kettle Moraine and Long lakes, Fond du Lac county and replaces those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

Section 13 increases the daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in the Gile flowage, Iron county, from 2 fish to 3 fish, aggregate, and changes the 15 inch minimum size limit to no minimum, but no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept and only one fish larger than 18 inches may be kept.

Sections 14 and 31 remove the 26 inch minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in the Buffalo (upstream of highway 93) and Trempealeau rivers (upstream of the dam in Blair), Jackson and Trempealeau counties, and replaces those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

Section 15 eliminates the continuous open season for largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike, and walleye, sauger, and their hybrids on the Yellowstone river, Lafayette county.

Section 16 eliminates special regulations for trout on a section of the Prairie river, Lincoln county.

Section 17 implements a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big bass and Mission lakes, Marathon county, with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept and only one fish larger than 18 inches may be kept.

Section 18 eliminates special regulations for trout in Plum creek, Pepin county.

Section 19 changes trout regulations on reaches of the Kinnickinnic river in Pierce county.

Section 20 implements a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Pipe lake, Polk county, with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept and only one fish larger than 18 inches may be kept.

Sections 21 and 28 reduce the daily bag limit for panfish from 25 fish to 10 fish in all inland waters of St. Croix county and Cedar lake, which is in Polk and St. Croix counties.

Sections 22 and 30 implement a 3 fish daily bag limit for walleye in Cedar lake, Polk and St. Croix counties, with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept and only one fish larger than 18 inches may be kept.

Section 23 implements a 5 fish daily bag limit for walleye in Butternut lake, Price county, with no minimum size limit but only one fish larger than 14 inches may be kept.

Sections 24, 25, and 26 implement restrictive bag limits for panfish and restrictive bag and size limits for largemouth and smallmouth bass and northern pike in Eagle lake, Racine county.

Section 27 removes the 26 inch minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Crystal lake, Sheboygan county and replaces those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

Section 29 eliminates special regulations for trout in the Kinnickinnic river and Plum creek, St. Croix county.

Section 33 removes the 26 inch minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Little Cedar lake, Washington county and replaces those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

Section 34 increases the minimum length limit for muskellunge in the Wisconsin portion of the St. Louis river from 40 inches to 50 inches.

Section 35 creates three fish refuges below dams in the Sugar river, Green county.

Section 36 creates a fish refuge on the Yahara river below the Dunkirk dam, Dane county.

Summary of and Comparison with Existing or Proposed Federal Regulations: None known.

Comparison of Similar Rules in Adjacent States: Fisheries management is generally quite similar in the states surrounding Wisconsin. Each bordering state regulates fishing by the use of seasons, bag limits and size limits. Specific seasons, bag and size limits may differ for species across the surrounding states; however, the general principles are similar. Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois all have statewide seasons, bag and size limits for fish species, along with special or experimental regulations on individual waters. Section XX, which pertains to muskellunge harvest regulation in the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters of the St. Louis River is written to match a proposal being adopted for the Minnesota portion of the same water.

Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies Used in Support of the Rule: Rule proposals were developed by fisheries and law enforcement staff to address management and enforcement concerns. Proposals were reviewed for need and adequacy, and approved by a fish team or law enforcement team supervisor and forwarded to regional director for approval. Proposals approved by the regions were forwarded to the Fisheries Management Bureau Director, who conducted a review with the Fisheries Management Board, law enforcement, legal services, and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Proposals approved by the Fisheries Management Bureau Director are included.

Analysis and Documentation Used in Support of the Agency's Determination Under s. 227.114, Stats., (Small Business Impact): The proposed rules do not apply directly to businesses, but to sport anglers.

Effect on Small Business, Including How the Rule Will Be Enforced: The proposed rules do not impose any compliance or reporting requirements on small businesses nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule. The rules will be enforced by Conservation Wardens who have arrest powers and may use citations.

Agency contact person: Joseph Hennessy, FM/4 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707-7921; email: Joseph.Hennessy@wisconsin.gov; phone: 608.267.9427.

SECTION 1. NR 20.03(37tm) is created to read:

NR 20.03(37tm) "Spear" means a pole or shaft with an attached sharp barbed point or points designed for the purpose of impaling a fish, but does not include a snag line or snag pole, snaghook or cluster of hooks that might be used for snagging as prohibited by s. NR 20.06(8).

SECTION 2. NR 20.05(1) is amended to read:

NR 20.05(1) Fish by any means other than hook and line except as specifically authorized in subch. ~~III~~ III this chapter or chs. NR 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25.

SECTION 3. NR 20.06(4) is repealed.

SECTION 4. NR 20.20(2)(g)1. and 3. are amended to read:

(2) ASHLAND (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Mineral lake , Spider lake, Moquah lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
	3. Gordon lake, Lake Galilee, Upper Clam lake, Zielke lake, North Fork Flambeau river and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, <u>Mineral lake</u>	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total but only 1 may be longer than 14	None

SECTION 5. NR 20.20(3)(d) is amended to read:

(3) **BARRON** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
	<u>2. Beaver dam lake</u>	a. <u>Hook and line, dip netting, by hand at any time for smelt only</u>	<u>Continuous</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
		b. <u>Seining at any time for smelt with seines not more than 75 feet in length and 6 feet in depth</u>	<u>Continuous</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
	<u>3. All other waters</u>	a. Hook and line, dip netting, by hand.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing	Saturday nearest May 20 to November 1	None	None

SECTION 6. NR 20.20(3)(e) is amended to read:

(3) **BARRON** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Trout and salmon	1. Brill river, Conners creek, Little Vance creek, South Fork Hay river, Upper Pine creek downstream from the Dallas flowage dam, Vance creek	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	Brown trout 12, rainbow trout 12, brook trout 8
	2. Little Granite lake, Silver lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	7
	<u>3. Beaver Dam lake</u>	<u>a. Hook and line</u>	<u>First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30</u>	<u>1 in total</u>	<u>26</u>
	<u>4. Hay river</u>	<u>a. Hook and line</u>	<u>First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30</u>	<u>1 in total</u>	<u>15</u>
	<u>5. All other waters not listed</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	7

SECTION 7. NR 20.20(3)(f)4. is created to read:

(3) **BARRON** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	4. Red Cedar lake, Hemlock lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
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SECTION 8. NR 20.20(4)(f)1. is amended to read:

(4) **BAYFIELD** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Panfish	1. Bladder lake, Sawdust lakes, <u>Middle Eau Claire Lake, Bony Lake</u>	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	10 in total	None
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SECTION 9. NR 20.20(13)(d)1. is amended to read:

(13) **DANE** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Muskellunge	1. Wingra lake, Monona lake, Waubesa lake, <u>Upper Mud lake, Yahara river from</u>	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	45
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Tenney locks downstream to Babcock dam, Nine Springs creek, Swan creek, Wingra creek, Starkweather Creek

SECTION 10. NR 20.20(19)(d) is amended to read:

(19) FLORENCE (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(d) Trout and salmon	1. Brule river	a. Hook and line	No early catch and release season - Last Saturday in April to September 30	5 in total	Brown trout 12, brook trout 8
	2. Lamontagne creek, Pine river downstream from STH 139, Wisconsin creek, Woods creek	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	Brown and rainbow trout 12, brook trout 8
	3. Sand lake (T39N, R18E, S13)	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	9
	4. Edith lake, Lost lake, South Riley lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	9
	5. Anna lake, Fisher lake, Montgomery lake, Patten lake, Pine river flowage	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	7
	<u>6. Keyes lake</u>	<u>a. Hook and line</u>	<u>First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30</u>	<u>3 in total, only 1 of which may be a lake trout and only 2 of which may be brown trout</u>	<u>26 for lake trout, 12 for brown trout</u>
6 7. All other waters	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5	7	

SECTION 11. NR 20.20(19)(e)2. is created to read:

(19) FLORENCE (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(e) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Keyes lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3	18
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SECTION 12. NR 20.20(20)(c)3. is created to read:

(20) FOND DU LAC (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(c) Northern pike	3. Kettle Moraine lake, Long lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None
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SECTION 13. NR 20.20(26)(a)3. and 4. are amended to read:

(26) IRON (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(a) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	3. Gile Flowage , Turtle-Flambeau flowage	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	--
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	2 in total	15
	<u>4. Gile flowage</u>	<u>a. Hook and line.</u>	<u>First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>--</u>
			<u>Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March</u>	<u>3 in total but only 1 may be larger than 18</u>	<u>None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited</u>

SECTION 14. NR 20.20(27)(cm) is created to read:

(27) JACKSON (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(cm) Northern pike	1. Trempealeau river, including all flowages and tributaries, Buffalo river, including all flowages and tributaries	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None
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SECTION 15. NR 20.20(33)(b)1. and (d)1. and (g)1. are amended to read:

(33) LAFAYETTE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. East Branch Pecatonica river, Pecatonica river (west branch) downstream from U.S. hwy. 151; Yellowstone river downstream from Yellowstone lake dam	a. Hook and line.		Continuous	5 in total	14
(d) Northern pike	1. East Branch Pecatonica river, Pecatonica river (west branch) downstream from U.S. hwy. 151; Yellowstone river downstream from Yellowstone lake dam	a. Hook and line.		Continuous	2	26
(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. East Branch Pecatonica river, Pecatonica river (west branch) downstream from U.S. hwy. 151; Yellowstone river downstream from Yellowstone lake dam	a. Hook and line.		Continuous	5 in total	15

SECTION 16. NR 20.20(35)(f) is amended to read:

(35) LINCOLN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Trout and salmon	1. Big Rib river	a. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	0	-
	2. Prairie river downstream from R & H road to STH 17	a. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	1 in total	Brown trout 18, brook and rainbow trout 12
	32. Henson lake, Horgen lake, Larson lake, Moraine lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	None
	43. King Spring, Pays (Alta) springs (S12 T33N R7E), Prairie river excluding R & H road downstream to STH 17, Prairie river (north branch), Spring lake (springs; S16 T32N R7E)	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	Brown and rainbow trout 12, brook trout 8
	54. Big Hay Meadow creek, New Wood river upstream from Whisky Bill road (S19 T33N R5E), New Wood river (center fork), New Wood river (east fork)	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	9
	65. Ament lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30 in even numbered years only	5 in total	7
	76. Tahoe lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30 in odd numbered years only	5 in total	7
	87. All other waters not listed	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	7

SECTION 17. NR 20.20(37)(c)2. is created to read:

(37) MARATHON (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Big bass lake, Mission lake	a. Hook and line	Continuous	3 in total but only 1 may be larger than 18	None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited
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SECTION 18. NR 20.20(47)(g) is amended to read:

(47) PEPIN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

g) Trout and salmon	1. Plum creek (CTH SS downstream to the Chippewa river)	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	2 in total	12
	21. All waters not listed	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	Brown trout 12, brook trout 8

SECTION 19. NR 20.20(48)(b) is amended to read:

(48) PIERCE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Trout and salmon	1. Kinnickinnic river including both flowages in River Falls and Rocky branch downstream from the lower pond dam in River Falls	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	5 trout under 10, or 4 trout under 10 and 1 over 14
	2. Kinnickinnic river from the St. Croix county line including both flowages in River Falls downstream to the lower pond dam	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	7
	23. All waters not listed	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	Brown and rainbow trout 12, brook trout 8

SECTION 20. NR 20.20(49)(am)2. is created to read:

(49) POLK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(am) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Pipe lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total but only 1 may be larger than 18	None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited
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SECTION 21. NR 20.20(49)(cm) is created to read:

(49) POLK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(cm) Panfish	1. Cedar lake	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	10	None
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SECTION 22. NR 20.20(49)(f) is created to read:

(49) POLK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Cedar lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total but only 1 may be larger than 18	None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited
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SECTION 23. NR 20.20(51)(g)2. is amended to read:

(51) PRICE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. North Fork Flambeau river and South Fork Flambeau river including their impoundments and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, <u>Butternut lake</u>	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total but only 1 may be longer than 14	None
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SECTION 24. NR 20.20(52)(b)2. is amended to read:

(52) RACINE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Eagle lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	4822
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SECTION 25. NR 20.20(52)(c)2. is created to read:

(52) RACINE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Northern pike	2. Eagle lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1	40
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SECTION 26. NR 20.20(52)(d)1. is amended to read:

(52) RACINE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Panfish	1. Eagle lake	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	1510 in total	None
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SECTION 27. NR 20.20(59)(c)2. is created to read:

(59) SHEBOYGAN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Northern pike	2. Crystal lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None
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SECTION 28. NR 20.20(60)(e)1. is amended to read:

(60) ST. CROIX (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Panfish	1. Dry Dam lake, Squaw lake <u>all inland waters, including Cedar lake but excluding lake George (Spring Valley reservoir)</u>	a. Hook and line	Continuous	10 in total	None
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SECTION 29. NR 20.20(60)(g) is amended to read:

(60) ST. CROIX (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Trout and salmon	1. Apple river, north fork of the Willow river, and the main stem of the Willow river from Willow Falls in Willow River state park upstream to the confluence of the north and south forks, <u>Kinnickinnic river and Parker creek</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	7
	2. Glenn and Perch lakes	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	9
	3. Kinnickinnic river and Parker creek	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	5 trout under 10 or 4 trout under 10 and 1 over 14
	43. All waters not listed	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30		

SECTION 30. NR 20.20(60)(h) is created to read:

(60) ST. CROIX (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Cedar lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total but only 1 may be larger than 18	None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited
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SECTION 31. NR 20.20(62)(am) is created to read:

(62) TREMPPEALEAU (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(am) Northern pike	1. Trempealeau river upstream of the dam in Blair, including all flowages and tributaries, Buffalo river upstream of highway 93 bridge, including all flowages and tributaries	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None
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SECTION 32. NR 20.20(66)(g)3. is created to read:

(66) WASHBURN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	3. Balsam lake, Red Cedar lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3	18
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SECTION 33. NR 20.20(67)(am)2. is created to read:

(67) WASHINGTON (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(am) Northern pike	2. Little Cedar lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None
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SECTION 34. NR 21.04(11)(b) is amended to read:

(11) MUSKELLUNGE

(b) St. Louis River			Saturday nearest Memorial Day to March 1	1	4050 inches
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SECTION 35. NR 26.08(23) is created to read:

(23) GREEN COUNTY

- (a) *Sugar river*. That part of the Sugar river from the Albany dam downstream for a distance of 500 feet.
- (b) *Sugar river*. That part of the Sugar river from the Decatur dam downstream for a distance of 500 feet.
- (c) *Sugar river*. That part of the Sugar river from the Old Brodhead power house site spillway downstream for a distance of 500 feet.

SECTION 36. NR 26.24(13)(b) is created to read:

(13) DANE COUNTY

(b) *Yahara river*. That portion of the Yahara river beginning at the Dunkirk dam in section 20, township 5 N, range 11 E downstream to highway N in section 21, township 5 N, range 11 E.

SECTION 37. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect on April 1, 2008, except Sections 35 and 36, which shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Administrative Register, as provided in s. 227.22(2)(intro.), Stats.

SECTION 38. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on _____.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____

Scott Hassett, Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
REPEALING, RENUMBERING, AMENDING, REPEALING AND RECREATING AND CREATING RULES

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to repeal s. NR 10.13(note); to renumber NR 10.06(6)(m) to (t) and 11.032(1) to (5); to amend ss. NR 10.01(3)(bm), (c)3., (e)2.f. and 3.b. and (g), 10.09(1)(a)1., 10.10(1)(b), 10.102(1)(d), 10.13(1)(b)15.(intro.) and a., 10.25(4)(c), 45.09(2); to repeal and recreate NR 10.09(1)(a)2., 10.12(3)(a), 10.28(1), 10.29, 10.30, 11.032(intro.), 11.032(5) and (6); and to create NR 10.01(3)(em)2.b., 10.06(6)(m) and (q), 10.104(15), 11.032(2)(e) and (f) and (3)(b), 11.035, 16.18(5)(c), 19.51 and 19.60(2)(d)6. relating to hunting and trapping regulations.

WM-14-07

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

Statutes Interpreted and Explanation of Agency Authority: The department has interpreted the following statutes as providing the authority to promulgate rules regarding hunting and trapping, use of state owned lands and license issuance: ss. 23.09(2)(b), 29.014, 29.089, 29.091, 29.041, 29.164(4)(b), 29.184(6), and 29.197(2), 29.597, Stats.

Statutory Authority and Explanation of Agency Authority: Statutes that authorize the promulgation of these rules include, ss. 23.09(2)(b), 29.014, 29.089, 29.091, 29.164(4)(b), 29.184(6), 29.197(2), and 29.597 Stats. These statutes specifically provide the department with the authority to manage refuge areas for wildlife, promulgate rules regarding management of wildlife through the establishment of hunting seasons, management zones and regulations regarding the techniques by which game animals and game birds may be harvested. These statutes also provide authority to regulate the issuance of permits and licenses, as well as establishing conditions regarding the use of state land such as state parks, public recreation areas and hunting grounds. All rules promulgated under this authority are subject to review under ch. 227, Stats.

Related Statute or Rule: There are no state rules or statutes currently under promulgation that relate to the provisions that are proposed in this administrative order.

Plain Language Analysis: The department has recommended modifications to chapters NR 10, 11, 16, 19 and 45, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to hunting, trapping, closed areas, fur farms, feeding wild animals, and the use of public lands. These rule changes are proposed for inclusion in the 2007 Spring Hearing Questionnaire. Specifically, these proposals:

- Reduce the number of Turkey Management Zones from the current 46 to seven.
- Rename Bear Hunting Zone A1 as Zone D.
- Eliminate the open season for jackrabbits.
- Establish a non-resident trapping season for raccoons that begins two weeks after the start of the season for residents.
- Legalize the use of shotgun slugs for hunting species other than game birds and allow the use of buckshot for hunting bobcat at all times during that season.
- Require the display of blaze orange on ground blinds used on department lands during seasons when hunters are required to wear blaze orange.
- Prohibit deer feeding near dwellings and businesses when feed is being used by bear or elk.
- Prohibit open water hunting on Mississippi River pool 11 to match USFWS Regulations for the Upper Mississippi River National Fish & Wildlife Refuge.
- Change closed area boundaries and create new closed areas on the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge to make them consistent with those adopted by the USFWS.
- Establish a closed area at the Wisconsin River Delta of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge beginning on November 1 each year for consistency with the USFWS.
- Expand the time when cable restraints may be used for coyote and fox, allow their use for a portion of the bobcat season, and modify cable size standards.
- Establish a fee of \$12.00 for the course of instruction under the trapper education program and \$28 for correspondence courses that require out-of-state mailing.
- Apply existing trap size, type and placement regulations to licensed wild fur farms.
- Create an archery season for deer and special tags in Unit 79, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.
- Create a nine-day, shotgun-only deer hunting season at Lake Wissota State Park and create Deer Management Unit 59E.
- Eliminate the 19-day muzzleloader-only deer hunting season at Brunet Island State Park and create a nine-day, shotgun-only season in its place.
- Establish a 2:00 p.m. closing time for pheasant hunting at Mud Lake Wildlife Area in Columbia County and Pine Island Wildlife Area in Sauk and Columbia Counties.
- Create a pilot program to allow fall turkey hunting with the aid of dogs in certain counties.

Summary of, and Comparison with, Existing or Proposed Federal Regulations: Federal regulations allow states to manage the wildlife resources located within their boundaries provided they do not conflict with regulations established in the Federal Register. None of these rule changes violate or conflict with the provisions established in the Federal Code of Regulations. Proposed hunting regulation and refuge boundary changes in the Upper Mississippi National Fish and Wildlife Refuge would make Wisconsin's regulations consistent with proposed federal regulations. The department suggests not promulgating these portions of the rule until enactment of federal regulations is certain.

Comparison with rules in Adjacent States: These rule changes do not represent policy or significant rule changes that may differ from surrounding states. All surrounding states have regulations and rules in place for the management and recreational use of wild game, migratory and furbearer species that are established based on needs which are often unique to that state's resources or public desires. Regarding wild turkey hunting zones, Minnesota currently has 65 zones and Michigan has 26 but Iowa and Illinois have four and two respectively.

Minnesota and Michigan both require bear hunters to hunt within a zone and those states have 11 and 10 zones respectively.

Jackrabbits are hunted in Minnesota and Iowa but not Michigan or Illinois. None of the surrounding states devote significant resources to managing that species. Minnesota estimates that hunters harvest several thousand jackrabbits each year.

Surrounding states offer non-resident trapping seasons for raccoons with the exception of Minnesota where non-residents are not allowed to trap.

Surrounding states generally do not regulate the use of shotgun slugs or buckshot for taking game like coyotes, fox, unprotected species or bobcat except that Illinois only allows the possession of slugs during the deer season if that person also possesses a valid, unused deer permit. Surrounding states do not require the use of blaze orange on ground blinds.

Illinois does not allow the use of cable restraints on dry land but Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan do allow them in certain situations. Regulations in those states are similar to Wisconsin's but they do not specify the number of strands that a cable must be comprised of.

Trapper education courses are required in Minnesota and there is no fee. Trapper education is voluntary in Iowa, Michigan, and Illinois.

Surrounding states all have fall turkey hunting seasons and the use of dogs is allowed in Iowa and Michigan.

All of the surrounding states offer deer hunting seasons and have special seasons in certain areas like parks where there are individual management goals. Similar to Wisconsin, special hunts and seasons exist for archery and a variety of firearms including shotguns and muzzleloaders.

Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies: The rule changes included in this order do not deviate from current department policy on the management of wildlife, hunting and trapping. The deer seasons proposed for Brunet Island and Lake Wissota State Parks are consistent with the seasons established at other parks where hunting is feasible and practical. It also allows for increased use and recreational opportunities for hunters in these parks, especially at Lake Wissota where there is currently no season. At Brunet Island, the season will be five days shorter but the types of weapons are expanded to include muzzleloaders as in the past but also shotguns and handguns. The increased efficiency of shotguns may result in greater hunter effectiveness.

Currently, there are 46 turkey hunting management zones and this rule change would reduce that number to seven. The new units would be comprised of entire units that previously existed so that the existing turkey harvest database could still be used to make informed management decisions. This change will also provide hunters more choice of locations to hunt within a zone and simplified regulations and application, permit drawing and tag issuance processes.

Changing the designation of current bear management zone A1 by renaming it zone D will minimize the potential for confusion by the public and better distinguish this zone as a separate entity. Currently, people who possess a Class A harvest permit for zone A may hunt in zone A1 as well. This change would allow only people who possess a Class A harvest permit for zone D to hunt in zone D. The new harvest strategy will better regulate the number of hunters utilizing these zones and improve the ability to manage the bear populations in each zone.

There have been few recorded observations of Jackrabbits and they are listed as a Species of Concern. Since there is also very little management effort directed towards Jackrabbits it would be responsible not to encourage hunting. Closing the season for Jackrabbits should not affect hunting programs because it is not believed that there is currently any hunting effort directed towards that species.

Trapping by non-residents was authorized by 2005 ACT 284 and holders of the proper license were automatically authorized to participate in most open seasons except the raccoon season. Since there is a separate season for hunting raccoons by residents and non-residents a separate season must also be established for trapping by residents and non-residents. This will allow use of all of the privileges that were intended for the non-resident trapping license.

Currently, it is illegal to possess shotgun slugs while hunting other than during the gun deer hunting season. Buckshot is legal to use in many situations but not for deer hunting and buckshot may not be possessed from June 1 through the second day after the close of the last gun deer season of the year. There are legitimate uses of shotgun slugs for hunting species other than deer. Buckshot is used occasionally by bobcat hunters. Both of these rules were probably designed to prevent the poaching of deer and for public safety reasons but it is not believed that it is necessary to be as restrictive today. This rule would give hunters more flexibility in the type of firearms and ammunition that they choose to use.

Manufactured ground blinds, which are similar to tents and completely enclose the hunter, are being used widely today. During seasons when blaze orange must be worn by hunters, many people believe that these blinds defeat the purpose of preventing hunting accidents by making sure hunters are visible to others. This rule would require that these blinds display 144 square inches of blaze orange that is visible from all directions when they are used on department lands.

Baiting bears is currently legal for hunting and dog training purposes but feeding bears for other reasons is prohibited, as is the feeding of elk. Deer feeding is legal in many areas and those stations may attract bear and elk as well. In some situations people have continued to operate feeding stations in spite of being aware that bears or elk were using them. This rule clarifies that any feeding station which is maintained after the owner should reasonably have known it was being used by bear or elk is illegal.

Open water hunting, the practice of hunting ducks from watercraft that are not near shore or concealed by emergent vegetation, is currently legal in pool 11 of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish & Wildlife Refuge. The United State Fish & Wildlife Service has proposed ending that practice in a portion of pool 11 in an attempt to increase the use of that area by waterfowl. Federal regulations may be in effect this fall, creating a situation where the department and the service have two sets of conflicting and contrary regulations. This change would make state regulations consistent with federal, thereby preventing confusion for hunters and allowing enforcement by state conservation wardens. The department suggests not promulgating this portion of the rule until enactment of federal regulations is certain.

There are currently nine closed areas in the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge where hunting migratory birds is not permitted during the waterfowl hunting season. Closed areas are a common management tool used to provide safe resting areas for migrating waterfowl as well as to keep waterfowl in an area during hunting season. Changes that are being promulgated by the USF&WS will modify the boundaries of two of those areas and create three entirely new closed areas. Another new area will actually be open to migratory bird hunting in the early part of the season and close on November 1. Adopting the new closed areas would make state regulations consistent with federal, thereby preventing confusion for hunters and allowing enforcement by state conservation wardens. The department suggests not promulgating this portion of the rule until enactment of federal regulations is certain.

Cable restraints have been used on dry land for fox and coyotes for three years. Trappers have appreciated the expanded opportunity and there have been few problems. Cable restraints currently may only be used in January through mid-February but, considering the success of this tool, the department proposes allowing their use in December and for bobcat. Additionally, this proposal would relax cable standards because testing has shown that other multi-strand wires meet effectiveness and humaneness standards.

Since 1992 the fee for the course of instruction under the Cooperative Trapper Education Program has been \$8.00 for the regular class and \$12.00 for the correspondence class, and was agreed upon in a memorandum of understanding between the department and the Wisconsin Trappers Association. Most fees charged by the department are established either by statute or in administrative code. The proposed fee of \$12.00 for the regular classroom and resident correspondence course and \$28.00 for the out-of-state correspondence course, and an amount not to exceed \$50 for an advanced trapper education course, would better reflect the actual costs of administering the program today and would be established as an administrative rule.

Since the wild fur farm license and associated rules were moved from Chapter 29 to Chapter 169 of statutes under the 2001 ACT 56, trapping activities on lands licensed as a wild fur farm are no longer subject to restrictions on the type or size of traps, snares, or cable restraints that may be used for taking beaver, coyote, mink, muskrat, otter, opossum, raccoon, skunk, and weasel. Fur farms are not fenced and other wildlife and animals may enter these properties. Under this proposal the trap size and type restrictions that apply to other trappers, many of which are designed to improve humaneness and prevent the incidental take of protected species and species that are not in season, would apply to trappers on licensed wild fur farms.

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (unit 79) is a federally owned property and has seasons that are different than surrounding areas which is often the case on other federal properties and at state parks. The service wishes to continue managing the property for species and habitat conditions that are similar to those that existed at the time of European settlement and to provide primitive hunting experiences. The department has cooperated by creating an October muzzleloader-only deer hunting season. This proposal would add an archery season beginning on September 15 and closing on September 30, reopening after the muzzleloader season and running from November 1 to the Sunday nearest January 6. In order to encourage the harvest of antlerless deer, hunters would be given an additional buck tag for each antlerless deer that they harvest and would not have to use their regular season buck deer carcass tag. Antlerless tags would be issued free at the rate of two per day. If they choose, hunters would also be able to harvest one buck without "earning" it but would have to use their regular season buck deer carcass tag during the muzzleloader season or archery buck deer carcass tag during the archery season.

There is currently no season for hunting deer at Lake Wissota state park. Brunet Island state park has a 19-day muzzleloader-only season primarily for antlerless deer. Both parks have substantial deer populations that threaten plant communities and the damage is especially severe at Lake Wissota. This proposal would create a nine-day shotgun only season at Lake Wissota that would coincide with the traditional firearm deer season. The proposal would also replace 19-day muzzleloader-only season at Brunet Island with a nine-day shotgun season (muzzleloaders and handguns are legal to use during shotgun seasons). While this would result in fewer days of hunting, allowing shotguns should result in a more effective hunt and seasons at the two parks will be consistent. Both parks would be identified as individual deer management units so that hunter numbers can be controlled, providing a high quality hunt.

Pheasant hunting hours at Mud Lake and Pine Island wildlife areas in Columbia and Sauk Counties currently close 20 minutes after sunset. At twenty other state properties where the department stocks pheasants, hunting hours for pheasants closes at 2:00 p.m. in order to facilitate stocking of birds without hunting pressure. This proposal would add Mud Lake and Pine Island to that list so that stocked birds can be better distributed and orient themselves to their surroundings.

Hunting turkeys with dogs is currently illegal. Several Southwestern counties have supported allowing their use during the fall season because it could provide a unique recreational opportunity that, as has been seen in other states, has few or no associated problems. This compromise would initiate a pilot program to allow fall turkey hunting with dogs in counties that have supported the proposal in the past. Richland County would also be included in order to create a contiguous zone where hunting with dogs is allowed even though that county has opposed the idea in previous years. The season would automatically sunset after two years and would have to be re-authorized after its degree of success and public acceptance has been assessed.

Analysis and Supporting Documents Used to Determine Effect on Small Business or in Preparation of Economic Impact Report: These rules, and the legislation which grants the department rule making authority, do not have a significant fiscal effect on the private sector or small businesses.

Effects on Small Businesses: These rules are applicable to individual sportspersons and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small business, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule.

Agency Contact Person: Scott Loomans, 101 S. Webster St., PO BOX 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921. (608) 267-2452

Deadline for Written Comments: The deadline for written comments is April 16, 2007. Comments may also be electronically submitted at the following Internet site: <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>.

Section 1. NR 10.01(3)(bm) is amended to read:

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
NR 10.01(3)(bm) Raccoon (non-resident hunting and trapping)		
In all counties of the state	Beginning on the Saturday nearest November 1 and continuing through January 31.	None

Section 2. NR 10.01(3)(c)3. is amended:

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
NR 10.01(3)(c)3. Jackrabbit		
In all counties of the state	Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17 at 12:00 noon and continuing through November 15. <u>None</u>	Daily bag 3; possession 6. <u>0</u>

Section 3. NR 10.01(3)(e)2. f. is amended to read:

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
NR 10.01(3)(e)2. f. Brunet Island (unit 23A) and Lake Wissota (unit 59E) state park parks.	Muzzleloading firearm <u>Shotgun</u> season beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 49 <u>9</u> consecutive days.	One antlerless deer or one deer of either sex as authorized by deer permits issued under s. NR 10.104.

Section 4. NR 10.01(3)(e)3.b. is amended to read:

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
NR 10.01(3)(e)3.b. Deer management unit 79 - Apostle Islands	Muzzleloading firearm season October 1-31.	One deer either sex. <u>One buck per carcass tag as described under s. NR 10.104(15)(c). Additional deer may be taken pursuant to s. NR 10.104(15)(d).</u>

Section 5. NR 10.01(3)(em)2.b. is created to read:

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
NR 10.01(3)(em)2.b. Deer management unit 79 - Apostle Islands	Archery season beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through September 30; and November 1 through the Sunday nearest January 6.	One deer per carcass tag as described under s. NR 10.104(15)(a) and (b). Additional deer may be taken pursuant to s. NR 10.104(15)(d).

Section 6. NR 10.01(3)(g) is amended to read:

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
10.01(3)(g) Black bear (gun and bow seasons).		
1. Those portions of bear management zones A, and B and D as described in s. NR 10.30 where the use of dogs for bear hunting is authorized as described in s. NR 10.10 (1) (b).	With aid of dogs only, beginning on the first Wednesday following Labor Day and continuing for 28 consecutive days in odd-numbered years and beginning on the second Wednesday following Labor Day for 28 days in even-numbered years.	One adult bear per permit issued under s. NR 10.102.
	All methods not utilizing the aid of dogs, beginning on the first Wednesday following Labor Day and continuing for 28 consecutive days in even-numbered years and beginning on the second Wednesday following Labor Day for 28 days in odd-numbered years.	One adult bear per permit issued under s. NR 10.102.
	All methods not utilizing the aid of dogs, beginning on the first Wednesday following Labor Day and continuing for 35 consecutive days.	
2. Those portions of bear management zones A, B, and C and D as described in s. NR 10.30 where the use of dogs for bear hunting is prohibited as described in s. NR 10.10 (1) (b).		One adult bear per permit issued under s. NR 10.102.

Section 7. NR 10.06(6)(m) to (t) are renumbered NR 10.06(6)(n) to (p) and (r) to (v), respectively.

Section 7m. NR 10.06(6)(m) and (q) are recreated to read:

NR 10.06(6)(m) Mud Lake (Columbia county)
(q) Pine Island (Columbia and Sauk counties)

Section 8. NR 10.09(1)(a)1. is amended to read:

NR 10.09(1)(a) *Shotshells*. 1. 'Slugs or balls.' Possess or have in control, while hunting any gamebird, any shotshells loaded with single slug or ball except during the open gun season for deer, elk or bear.

Section 9. NR 10.09(1)(a)2. is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 10.09(1)2. 'Size.' Possess or have in control while hunting, shells containing shot larger than no. BB during the period commencing on June 1 and continuing through the last day of any deer season or hunt established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e), (es), (et) or (ez), whichever season is later, except:

a. During the open season established in s. NR 10.01 (1) (b), (c) and (g) when nontoxic shot size BBB and T may be used for hunting migratory game birds listed in s. NR 10.01 (1) (b), (c) and (g).

b. A person holding a valid permit to harvest a bobcat and their unfilled pelt tag issued under s. NR 10.145 may possess and use shotshells containing shot larger than no. BB for the purpose of hunting bobcat during the open season established in s. NR 10.01(3)(d).

Section 10. NR 10.10(1)(b) is amended to read:

NR 10.10(1)(b) *Dogs*. With the aid of dogs, except that dogs may be used for hunting bear during the season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (g) 1. in black bear hunting zones A, ~~A1~~, and B and D as described in s. NR 10.30

Section 11. NR 10.102(1)(d) is amended to read:

NR 10.102(1)(d) *Population goals*. The fall pre-hunt black bear population goal is as follows:

Zone	Population Goal
A	4,600
A1	3,300
B	2,200
C	1,200
<u>D</u>	<u>3,300</u>

Section 12. NR 10.104(15) is created to read:

NR 10.104(15) APOSTLE ISLANDS. The following carcass tags are valid for the taking and tagging of deer in deer management unit 79, Apostle Islands:

- (a) Archery buck deer carcass tag.
- (b) Archery antlerless deer carcass tag.
- (c) Gun buck deer carcass tag.
- (d) Special deer management unit 79 deer permit. These special permits will be issued free of charge at a rate of up to 2 permits per day per hunter. Each tag may be used to tag any of the following:

- 1. An antlerless deer.
- 2. A buck deer if the hunter possesses an antlerless deer registration verification earned in this unit in the previous year or in the current year.
- 3. A buck deer if the hunter possesses an antlerless deer that has been legally harvested in this unit and is tagged prior to the harvest of the buck deer and the antlerless deer accompanies the buck deer until each is registered.

Note: All of the land in this unit is owned and managed by the Apostle Island National Lakeshore, the National Park Service. The National Park Service may require an access permit for the purposes of deer hunting which may limit the dates an individual may hunt and the island or islands on which hunting may occur.

Section 13. NR 10.12(3)(a) is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 10.12(3) (a) Mississippi river. Blinds in any of the waters of the Mississippi river and adjoining counties provided the blinds are securely anchored and located not more than 100 feet from any shoreline including islands. Blinds in open water in Grant county and the Lake Pepin portions of the Mississippi river are permitted regardless of the distance from shore provided the blinds are securely anchored except in the Wisconsin portion of the river between lines drawn approximately east to west from Fenley Bluff to the point of the John Deere deflection dike and between the Potosi Point jetty and Specht's Ferry, Township 2 north, 3 west, town of Potosi and Township 1 north, 2 west, town of Jamestown as described in the following map,

SEE PAGE 34 QUESTION 48:

Section 14. NR 10.13(1)(b)15.(intro.) and a. are amended to read:

NR 10.13(1)(b)15. 'Cable restraints specifications.' Set, place or operate any cable restraint except for bobcat from December 1 to December 31 and fox and coyotes from January December 1 to February 15, dates inclusive, provided the cable restraint conforms to the following specifications in addition to those under subd. 13. :

- a. Cable length of 7 feet or less of ~~7 bundles comprised of 7 wires per bundle or 19 bundles comprised of 7 wires per bundle~~, with a diameter of 3/32 inch or larger, consisting of multiple strands of wire.

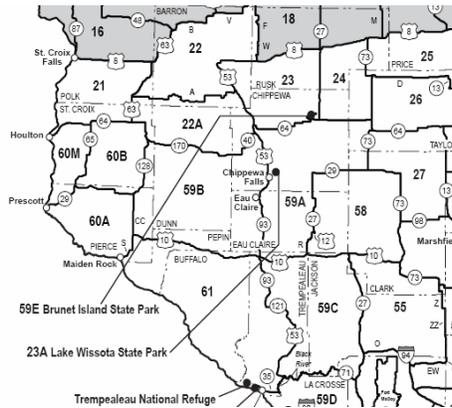
Section 15. NR 10.13(1)(b)15a. note is repealed.

Section 16. NR 10.25(4)(c) is amended to read:

NR 10.25(4)(c) With the aid of dogs, except during the open season for hunting turkeys described in s. NR 10.01(2)(f)2. in Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland, Sauk, Vernon and Wood counties in 2007 and 2008.

Section 17. NR 10.28(1) is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 10.28(1) STATEWIDE DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS.



Section 18. NR 10.29 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 10.29 Wild turkey hunting zones.

SEE PAGE 30, QUESTION 39

Section 19. NR 10.30 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 10.30 Black bear hunting zones. Black bear hunting zones are established as designated on the following map:

SEE PAGE 31, QUESTION 40

Section 19m. NR 11.032(1) to (5) are renumbered NR 11.032(2) to (6).

Section 20. NR 11.032(intro.) is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 11.032 Mississippi river closed area. (1) A closed season is established in the following areas as posted with U.S. fish and wildlife service signs. No person may hunt or trap any species of wild animal at any time except:

(a) Hunting or trapping is allowed for all species but ducks and geese during the seasons established in s. NR 10.01 from the day after the final closure of the duck season as established in s. NR 10.01(1) (b), until March 15.

(b) Spring turkey hunting is allowed as established in s. NR 10.01(2)(f)1.

(c) Legally killed or crippled game may be retrieved from these areas by dog or hand.

Section 21. NR 11.032(2)(e) is created to read:

NR 11.032(2) BUFFALO COUNTY. (e) *Spring Lake (Pool 5)*. Township 20 north, range 12 west, town of Milton.

SEE PAGES 35-40, QUESTIONS 49 -54

Section 22. NR 11.032(2)(f) is created to read:

NR 11.032(2) BUFFALO COUNTY. (f) *Fountain City Bay (Pool 5A)*. Township 19 north, range 11 west, town of Milton.

SEE PAGE 36, QUESTION 50

Section 23. NR 11.032(3)(b) is created to read:

NR 11.032(3)(b) *Sturgeon slough (Pool 10)*. Township 7 north, range 7 west, town of Prairie du Chien, and Township 6 north, 7 west, town of Bridgeport.

SEE PAGE 39, QUESTION 53

Section 24. NR 11.032 (5) is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 11.032(5) LA CROSSE COUNTY. (a) *La Crosse (Pool 7)*. Township 16 north, range 8 west, town of Campbell, and township 17 north, range 8 west, town of Onalaska.

SEE PAGE 37, QUESTION 51

Section 25. NR 11.032(6) is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 11.032(6) VERNON COUNTY. (a) *Goose island (Pool 8)*. Township 14 north, range 7 west, town of Bergen.

SEE PAGE 38, QUESTION 52

Section 26. NR 11.035(1)(a) is created to read:

NR 11.035 (1) Mississippi River Special Closed area. (a) *Wisconsin River delta (pool 10)*. Township 6 north, range 6 west and township 6 north, range 7 west, town of Bridgeport. No hunting is allowed during the period beginning on November 1 and continuing through March 15. Legally killed or crippled game may be retrieved from these areas by dog or hand.

SEE PAGE 39, QUESTION 53

Section 27. NR 16.18(5)(c) is created to read:

NR 16.18(5)(c) A person trapping on a licensed wild fur farm under the authority of a wild fur farm license issued under s. 169.18, Stats., shall comply with the trap, cable restraint and snare size and placement rules specified under s. NR 10.13(1)(b), unless otherwise authorized in writing by the department.

Section 28. NR 19.51 is created to read:

NR 19.51 Wisconsin cooperative trapper education program fee. The fee for the course of instruction under the Wisconsin cooperative trapper education program shall be \$12.00 per student. The fee for correspondence trapper education certification program shall be \$12.00 per student for correspondence programs that require in-state mailing of course materials and shall be \$28.00 per student for correspondence programs that require out-of-state mailing of course materials. In addition to the fees established in this section, for correspondence courses, each student shall pay a \$17.00 deposit that shall be refunded when the course materials are returned. The fee for advanced trapper education courses shall be that amount needed to pay for the cost of the course, but not to exceed \$50.00 per student. Only instructors who are certified by the department to teach trapper education courses under s. 29.597, Stats., may charge a fee for a trapper education course established under s. 29.597, Stats.

Section 29. NR 19.60(2)(d)6. is created to read:

NR 19.60(2)(d)6. At a feeding site that the person knows or should have known is also being used by bear or elk. If the owner of the residence or business is notified by the department or otherwise becomes aware that bear or elk have been using a deer feeding site, the owner may not place or allow others to place any feed material that is accessible to deer, bear or elk within 50 yards of the owner occupied residence or business for a period not less than 30 days.

Section 30. NR 45.09(2) as amended by CHR 06-037 (Natural Resources Board Order No. WM-02-06) is amended to read:

NR 45.09(2) Except for blinds used exclusively for waterfowl hunting as provided in s. [29.327 \(2\)](#), Stats. and NR 10.12(12), no person may ~~construct~~

(a) Construct. occupy or use any elevated or ground blind or other elevated device except that portable tree stands and blinds may be used provided they are removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours. Unoccupied tree stands shall have the owner's department customer identification number or their

name and address, written in the English language attached to the tree stand in a manner so it is clearly visible to a person standing on the ground, and kept legible at all times. ~~No person may cause~~

(b) Cause damage to trees by the placement or erection of portable tree stands or by any other manner while climbing or hunting from a tree.

(c) Hunt from any ground blind during any open season or special hunt for hunting deer with firearms unless the outside of the blind displays a minimum of 144 square inches of material that is a solid highly visible color commonly referred to as blaze orange, florescent orange, or florescent blaze orange, and is visible 360 degrees around the blind. Blinds that are left unoccupied shall have the owner's customer identification number or name and address written in the English language attached to the outside of the blind in a conspicuous location near the entrance to the blind and be kept legible at all times.

(d) This subsection does not apply to the use of blinds constructed entirely of dead vegetation found on the property.

Section 31. Effective dates. These rules shall take effect on February 1, 2008, except sections 1, 10, 13, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 which shall take effect on September 1, 2007 and section 19 which shall take effect on November 1, 2008.

Section 32. Board adoption. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on _____.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Scott Hassett, Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTES

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