



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Public Hearing**

**&
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



Monday, April 8, 2013

7:00 PM

Agenda

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2. **WCC – Delegate Elections** WCC Delegate(s)
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3. **DNR – Fisheries Rules Hearing** DNR Hearing Officer
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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 questions. Written comments on all DNR proposed rule changes will be accepted until April 8, 2013.

**The results of the 2013 Spring Hearings will be available online beginning
Wednesday, April 10, 2013.**

**The results can be found at
dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”**

WCC Delegate Elections

Delegate election takes place at 7:00 p.m. prior to the start of the DNR portion of the Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting/Hearing.

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 delegates. If you meet these criteria, you will receive:

- 2-Year Term ballot
- 2-Year Term run-off ballot

- 3-Year Term ballot
- 3-Year Term run-off ballot

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.

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.

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 serve as a conduit for local citizen input concerning all natural resource issues at a local and statewide level.

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 congress meetings have the opportunity to vote on nominees. In order for the nominee to be elected they must receive a majority of the votes (at least 50% + 1) 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 of ideas 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.
- A delegate must be a Wisconsin resident.
- An elected delegate must be an adult (at least 18 years of age), and a resident of the county they wish to represent. **NOTE:** To give the widest geographic representation, it is recommended that not more than three members of the county delegation be from the same town, city or village.
- Must be willing to volunteer their time and efforts by:
 - Attending 2 district meetings per year (*one in March and one in August*); assisting with the annual spring hearings 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.
- 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.

NOTE: The Conservation Congress is an equal opportunity organization, and welcomes participation from all individuals regardless of race, age, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, arrest, conviction, veteran status or political affiliation.

Statewide Electronic Balloting

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

- Are registered
- Received a blue ballot
- Received this questionnaire
- Have a pencil
- Received a white ballot

Please read the instructions below before voting.

After you have registered, staff will provide you with a **white ballot** – the white ballot is for all the Department of Natural Resources wildlife and fisheries proposed rule change questions and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress 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 beginning of the Conservation Congress county meeting.

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
- If you DO NOT follow these directions your ballot may not be readable and therefore may not be counted.

Please see the following examples of the use of the WHITE BALLOT and BLUE BALLOTS.

Sample WHITE BALLOT:
The white ballot is for proposed questions contained within the questionnaire.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS**

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.

IMPORTANT: USE A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED. DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN.

<p>Question 1:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 18:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 35:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>
<p>Question 2:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 19:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 36:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>
<p>Question 3:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 20:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 37:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>

Question 1: Do you support changing the date of the ruffed grouse 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**.

Sample BLUE BALLOT:
 The blue ballot is for citizen introduced resolutions that are introduced on the floor this evening and are posted for your consideration.

**CONSERVATION CONGRESS
 SPRING HEARING RESOLUTIONS**

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.

IMPORTANT: USE A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED. DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN.

Resolution 1: YES NO Resolution 2: YES NO Resolution 3: YES NO	Resolution 18: YES NO Resolution 19: YES NO Resolution 20: YES NO	Resolution 35: YES NO Resolution 36: YES NO Resolution 37: YES NO
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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**.

Results of citizen resolutions introduced at the 2013 Spring Hearings will be posted on the WCC website (dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”) on June 1, 2013, or you can find out the results of the resolutions by contacting your Conservation Congress County Chairman after May 11, 2013.

PLEASE NOTE: In an effort to conserve both money and resources, the proposed changes to the rule language for the DNR’s fish and wildlife questions will not be printed in the back of these spring hearing questionnaires. The proposed rule language will be available for your review at each hearing location and is available online at
dnr.wi.gov - search “Conservation Congress”

BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2013, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will hold its election of county delegates in each county. Upon completion of the delegate elections, the joint Spring Department of Natural Resources Rules Hearing and Conservation Congress Meeting will convene to take comments on the Department's proposed rule changes and Conservation Congress advisory questions.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department of Natural Resources will take public input on proposed rule changes relating to fishing on the inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin. The proposed rules will:

- Allow fishing by the method of trolling on all inland waters with up to three hooks, baits, or lures.
- Allow rough fish to be taken by hand year round or by handheld spear from June 1 to August 31, where spearing is allowed, on inland waters within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam.
- Alter the hours to legally spear sturgeon on lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan from 6:30 AM - 12:30 PM to 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM, and change the daily deadline for sturgeon spearkers to register their fish from 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM.
- Make permanent a protected slot limit regulation on walleye, sauger, and hybrids where there is a daily bag limit of 5 fish and the minimum length is 15 inches, but fish from 20 to 28 inches may not be kept and only 1 fish over 28 inches is allowed on the Wisconsin River north of the Prairie du Sac Dam in Columbia County up to the Grandfather Dam in Lincoln County and several of its tributaries. The season is open year round. The regulation would also be applied to the Big Rib River downstream from Highway 29, Peplin Creek, Johnson Creek, Little Eau Claire River, and Little Eau Pleine River in Marathon County; and the Little Eau Claire River and the Little Eau Pleine River in Portage County under this proposal, but the season would only be open from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March.
- Remove the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season for largemouth bass and allow their harvest under existing size and bag limits. Smallmouth bass must be immediately released during the early catch and release season.
- Simplify rough fish spearing season dates on inland waters statewide by opening most waters in all but 9 northern counties to rough fish spearing year-round. All Lake Winnebago System waters will have an April 21 to February 1 open season.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 1 fish and a 28-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Silver Lake, Barron County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 2 fish and a 26-inch minimum length limit on northern pike on Diamond Lake, Bayfield County.

- Apply a 3-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger and hybrids; a 1-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; and a 1-fish daily bag limit and a 32-inch minimum length limit on northern pike on Park Lake and the Fox River upstream to the Highway 33 bridge.
- Designate Token Creek Ponds and Syene Ponds in Dane County, Lions Park Pond in Rock County, and Lapham Peak Pond in Waukesha County as urban fishing waters.
- Make permanent a daily bag limit of 3 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit for walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Beaver Dam Lake and its tributaries, including Mill Creek from the mouth upstream to the Fox Lake dam and all portions of Beaver Creek in Dodge County.
- Apply a 5-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit, with only 1 fish over 14 inches allowed, to walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Minong Flowage, Douglas and Washburn counties.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 3 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Lake Nebagamon, Douglas County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed, in Half Moon Lake, Eau Claire County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids in Patten Lake, Florence County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed in Trump Lake, Forest County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit for northern pike on Lake Six in Iron County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Sandy Beach Lake, Iron County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 10 fish and no minimum length limit on catfish and open the catfish season year round in Yellowstone Lake, Lafayette County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 1 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, as well as a 1-fish daily bag limit and 32-inch minimum length limit on northern pike in Lake Tomah.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 25 fish and no minimum length limit for panfish on Thompson Lake, Pepin County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass on Balsam Lake, Polk County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass and a daily bag limit of 3 fish and 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Big Chetac Lake, Sawyer County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed on Bass Lake, St. Croix County.
- Make permanent the current 1-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass and change the daily bag limit to 3 fish and the minimum length limit to 18-inches for walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Sparkling Lake, Vilas County.
- Apply a daily bag limit of 10 fish for panfish on Little Hills Lake, Waushara County.

- Apply a daily bag limit of 1 fish and a 54-inch minimum length limit on muskellunge in Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and its tributaries north of Waldo Boulevard (in Manitowoc) and the Menominee River upstream to the Hattie Street Dam.
- Allow the Department to make explicit, temporary changes to length or bag limits under certain conditions using a legally defined public notice process, a public information meeting if requested, and posting notice of the regulation change at public access sites to the water.
- Allow the Department to adjust bag and length limits for walleye or muskellunge in the ceded territory in response to actual tribal harvest, rather than currently waiting until after the third Monday in May.
- Prohibit the use of lead tackle that is less than 1-inch in diameter or less than 1-ounce in weight on Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes in Vilas County.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department of Natural Resources will take public input on proposed rule changes relating to hunting, trapping, and the management of Department lands. The proposed rules will:

- Simplify firearm deer hunting regulations by allowing the use of rifles statewide. Currently, only shotguns, muzzleloaders and handguns may be used in some areas. These sections also make housekeeping updates in response to 2011 ACT 50 which prohibited certain firearm deer seasons from being held prior to the Saturday before the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Simplify pheasant hunting regulations by eliminating the requirement to tag harvested birds at stocked hen/rooster pheasant hunting areas. Field dressed carcasses of pheasants would need to retain proof of species and sex identification while being transported, similar to current requirements for migratory game birds.
- Simplify mink and muskrat trapping regulations by creating more consistent opening dates throughout the state.
- Establish that hunting hours apply to people who are training bear hunting dogs at times when the bear hunting season is also open. Under 2011 ACT 28, bear dog training is now allowed during the open season for hunting bears with dogs.
- Establish a four-day trap check requirement, instead of a daily requirement, for certain types of traps placed for weasels.
- Require reporting the harvest of otter and fisher within 24 hours.
- Establish that, in addition to collecting certain food items, it is also legal to cut and gather willow stakes on Department managed lands for non-commercial uses. Willow stakes are often used by trappers for trap stakes and marking trap set locations. A person will need first obtain permission from the property manager before cutting and removing such willow stems.
- Allow the unattended, overnight placement of portable stands and blinds on Department owned and managed lands from September 1 through January 31.
- Eliminate the refuge/closed area at Mecan Springs, Waushara County, as recommended in voting by the Conservation Congress in 2012.
- Simplify regulations for pheasant hunters at Richard Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County by eliminating the arm band requirement for pheasant hunters.
- Establish a controlled dove hunt at Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County in order to improve hunter satisfaction by reducing hunter interference.

- Increase the daily pheasant hunting fee at Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County from \$3.00 to \$12.00 (\$5.00 if stocking did not occur on that day) because the current fee is not sufficient to cover the cost of this stocking program.
- Expand the area where rifles are allowed for firearm deer hunting in Outagamie and Shawano Counties.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to ss. 227.114 and 227.137, Wis. Stats., it is not anticipated that the proposed rules will have an economic impact on small businesses. The Department conducted economic impact analyses in consultation with businesses, business associations, local governmental units, and individuals. The Department has determined that these rules would have no impact on the economy in a material way, a sector of the economy, productivity, jobs, or the overall economic competitiveness of this state. 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 the public hearings will be held on Monday, April 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Adams	Adams County Courthouse, County Board Room A230, 400 Main Street, Friendship, WI 53934
Ashland	Ashland County Court House, 201 Main Street West, Ashland, WI 54806
Barron	Barron Government Center, Auditorium, 303 E. LaSalle Ave., Barron, WI 54812
Bayfield	Bayfield County Courthouse, County Board Room, 117 E. 5 th Street, Washburn, WI 54891
Brown	Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (SC132), 2740 W. Mason St., Green Bay, WI 54313
Buffalo	Alma High School, Gymnasium, S1618 STH 35, Alma, WI 54610
Burnett	Burnett County Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Road K, Siren, WI 54872
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, Rm. B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Clark	Greenwood High School, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood, WI 54437
Columbia	Wayne E. Bartels Middle School, Gymnasium, 2505 New Pinery Rd., Portage, WI 53901
Crawford	Prairie du Chien High School, Auditorium, 800 E. Crawford St., Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Dane	Sun Prairie High School, Performing Arts Center, 888 Grove St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Dodge	Horicon International Education Center, Lower Level Auditorium, N7725 STH 28, Horicon, WI 53032
Door	Sturgeon Bay High School, 1230 Michigan Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Douglas	Superior Senior High School, Cafeteria, 2600 Catlin Ave., Superior, WI 54880
Dunn	Dunn County Fish and Game Club, 1600 Pine Ave., Menomonie, WI 54751
Eau Claire	CVTC Business Education Center, Auditorium, 620 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54701
Florence	Florence Natural Resource Center, Basement Conference Rm., 5631 Forestry Dr., Florence, WI 54121

Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, 525 E. Pioneer Rd., Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Forest	Crandon High School, Auditorium, 9750 US HWY 8 West, Crandon, WI 54520
Grant	Lancaster High School, Auditorium, 806 East Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813
Green	Monroe Middle School, 1510 13th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566
Green Lake	Green Lake High School, Small Gym, 612 Mill St., Green Lake, WI 54941
Iowa	Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533
Iron	Iron County Courthouse, 300 Taconite Street, Hurley, WI 54534
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, LGI Room, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fair Park, Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson, Jefferson, WI 52549
Juneau	Olson Middle School, Auditorium, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948
Kenosha	Bristol Elementary School, Gymnasium, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol, WI 53104
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, Auditorium, 911 Third Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, Auditorium, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
Lafayette	Darlington Elementary School, 11630 Center Hill Road, Darlington, WI 53530
Langlade	Antigo High School, Volm Theater, 1900 10th Ave., Antigo, WI 54409
Lincoln	Tomahawk High School, Field House, 1048 E. Kings Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487
Manitowoc	UW-Manitowoc, Auditorium, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220
Marathon	D.C. Everest Middle School, Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Weston, WI 54476
Marinette	Wausaukee School, N11041 Highway 141, Wausaukee, WI 54177
Marquette	Montello High School, Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello, WI 53949
Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse, W3269 Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
Milwaukee	Nathan Hale High School, Auditorium, 11601 W. Lincoln Ave., West Allis, WI 53227
Monroe	Tomah High School, Cafeteria, 901 Lincoln Ave., Tomah, WI 54660
Oconto	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E Algoma St., Suring, WI 54174
Oneida	James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia Lane, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Outagamie	Appleton North High School, 5000 N. Ballard Road, Appleton, WI 54913
Ozaukee	Webster Middle School, Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Rd., Cedarburg, WI 53012
Pepin	Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Ave. West, Durand, WI 54736
Pierce	Ellsworth Senior High School, Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth, WI 54011
Polk	Unity High School, Auditorium, 1908 150th St. Hwy 46, Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Portage	Ben Franklin Junior High School, Auditorium, 2000 Polk St., Stevens Point, WI 54481
Price	Price County Courthouse, Board Room, 126 Cherry St., Phillips, WI 54555
Racine	Union Grove High School, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove, WI 53182
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, Upstairs Courtroom, 181 West Seminary, Richland Center, WI 53581
Rock	Milton High School, Auditorium, 114 W. High Street, Milton, WI 53563
Rusk	Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 E. Edgewood Ave., Ladysmith, WI 54848
Saint Croix	St Croix Central High School, Commons, 1751 Broadway St., Hammond, WI 54015
Sauk	UW Baraboo Campus, Lecture Hall A-4, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
Sawyer	Hayward High School, 10320 N. Greenwood Lane, Hayward, WI 54843
Shawano	Shawano Middle School, LGI Room, 1050 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166

Sheboygan	Plymouth High School, Auditorium, 125 Highland Ave., Plymouth, WI 53073
Taylor	Multi-purpose building, Hwy 64/ Hwy 13, Medford, WI 54451
Trempealeau	Whitehall City Center, 18620 Hobson St., Whitehall, WI 54773
Vernon	Viroqua High School, Commons Area, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, WI 54665
Vilas	St. Germain Elementary School, Gymnasium, 8234 Hwy 70 West, Saint Germain, WI 54558
Walworth	Delavan-Darien High School, 150 Cummings St., Delavan, WI 53115
Washburn	Spooner High School, Auditorium, 801 County Highway A, Spooner, WI 54801
Washington	Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Cty Hwy PV, West Bend, WI 53095
Waukesha	Waukesha Co. Tech. College, Richard Anderson Ed. Center, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072
Waupaca	Waupaca High School, PAC-Auditorium, E2325 King Road, Waupaca, WI 54981
Waushara	Waushara County Courthouse, County Board Rm. 265, 209 S. St. Marie St., Wautoma, WI 54982
Winnebago	Webster Stanley Middle School, Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Wood	Pittsville School District Administrative Bldg., Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Ave., Pittsville, WI 54466

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 Kari Lee-Zimmermann at (608) 266-0580 with specific information on your request by April 1, 2013. The proposed rule and supporting documents may be reviewed and comments electronically submitted at the following internet site: <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov> (search wildlife rule “WM-01-13” and fisheries rule “FH-18-12”). A copy of the proposed rules and supporting documents may also be obtained from Kate Strom Hiorns, Bureau of Fisheries Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or kathryn.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov; or Scott Loomans, Bureau of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or scott.loomans@wisconsin.gov. Written comments on the proposed rule may be submitted via U.S. mail or email to Kate Strom Hiorns or Scott Loomans at the addresses noted above. Written comments shall be postmarked not later than April 8, 2013. Written comments whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail will be summarized for the Natural Resources Board, however, they will not be tallied along with the responses received at the county hearings.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Cathy Stepp, Secretary

**The Annual Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo
Thursday, May 16th and Friday, May 17th
Beaver Dam**

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

Help get our kids involved in hunting, fishing and conservation heritage.



**Fishing • Sporting Dogs • Wildlife Specimens • Archery and
Firearm Safety • Camping and Trail Recreation • Conservation
Heritage • Team Building**

**For more information or to get involved by becoming a volunteer
or sponsor visit wisexpo.com or call Jon Schoepke**

1.877.WIS.EXPO



The Friends of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress offers transportation grants (up to \$200 per individual grant request) designed to help school districts or other youth groups cover the cost of transportation to and from the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo. To apply for a travel grant visit the WCC website at dnr.wi.gov and search "Conservation Congress" (the application is linked under the Community Outreach section).



Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearing

PROPOSED STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

The proposed rule changes would take effect on April 1, 2014, unless otherwise indicated.

QUESTION 1. Rough fish harvest within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam

This proposal would allow a person to take rough fish by hand year round and hand held spear from June 1 through August 31 within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam on inland waters. Hand spearing in those areas may only occur where there is an open season for spearing of rough fish unless the location is posted closed to spearing by Department sign. Anglers may currently only use hook and line to take fish, including rough fish, within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam. A hand held spear means a spear consisting of one or more barbed tips attached to a shaft designed to be held and used or thrown only by hand.

The management goal is to reduce the number of carp and other rough fish and provide additional opportunities to fish. In 2012, attendees of the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings voted in favor of a Conservation Congress advisory question to allow the use of hand held spears within 200 feet of a dam for the purpose of taking rough fish. The Department supports this change because during the months of June, July, and August most game fish spawning is not occurring and rough fish tend to congregate in these areas. The Department is also recommending expanding the authority to take rough fish by hand year round in the areas within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam.

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1. Do you favor allowing a person to take rough fish by hand year round and by hand held spear from June 1 through August 31, where spearing is allowed, within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam on inland waters? 1. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 2. Sturgeon spearing hours on the Winnebago System

This proposal would shift the hours to legally spear sturgeon on lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan from 6:30 AM - 12:30 PM and change it to 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM, and shift the daily deadline for sturgeon spearkers to register their fish from 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM. The season would not change, which begins the second Saturday in February and continues for up to 16 days. This proposal would take effect following publication of the final rule, before April 1, 2014.

This regulation will improve travel safety on these waters by allowing spearkers time to travel during lighted hours to their shanties in the morning. During the 2011 sturgeon spearing season, over 20 vehicles went through the ice partially because of bad visibility. The Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee voted to support this proposal at its annual meeting in October 2011. The overall management goal is to provide an annual sturgeon spear fishery on the Winnebago System lakes that maximizes spearing opportunities and maintains annual harvest at or below 5% of the harvestable stock of lake sturgeon in the Winnebago System.

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2. Do you favor changing the hours to legally spear sturgeon on lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan from 6:30 AM - 12:30 PM to 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM, and change the daily deadline for sturgeon spearkers to register their fish from 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM? 2. YES____ NO____
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QUESTION 3. Rough fish spearing seasons

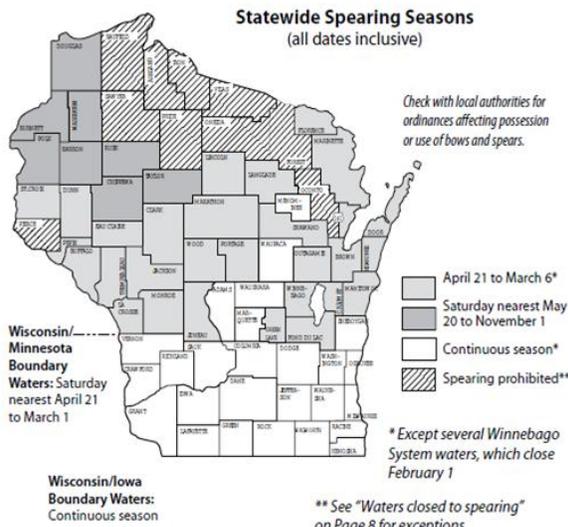
This proposal would simplify rough fish spearing season dates on inland waters statewide by opening all but 9 northern counties to rough fish spearing year-round. The following areas would be opened to rough fish spearing year-round:

- 61 counties that currently have any open season for rough fish spearing,
- Pierce County that is currently closed to spearing, and
- all tributaries to Lake Michigan.

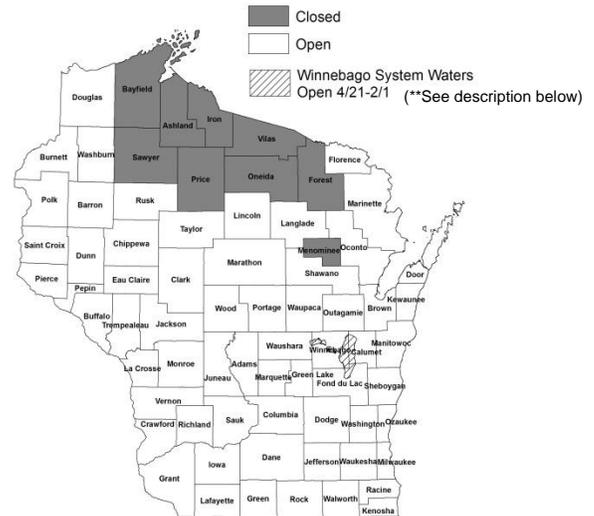
All Lake Winnebago System waters will have an April 21 to February 1 open season. Most of the System waters already have these open season dates, but some new waters will be included to ensure the entire system has the same open season. (See map and description below.)

Special nighttime spearing seasons for burbot, but no other species, will remain in Douglas and Ashland counties on four rivers, and a bow and arrow or crossbow only season from May 20 to July 1 in Fish Creek Slough in Bayfield County will also remain.

The May 20 to July 1 bow and arrow seasons in Iron and Sawyer counties as well as the March 15 to the Saturday before May 1 season on trout streams in Waushara County will be closed with this proposal. Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Menominee, Oneida, Price, Sawyer, and Vilas counties will remain closed to rough fish spearing year-round. All trout streams statewide and Devils Lake in Sauk County will also remain closed.



Current Spearing Season Dates



Proposed Inland Waters Spearing Season Dates

**Lake Winnebago System (LWS) waters include Lakes Buttes des Morts, Winneconne, Poygan, Winnebago and all their tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including the Fox river from Lake Winnebago upstream to the dam above Princeton and all its tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam and the Wolf river from its mouth upstream to the dam in the city of Shawano and all its tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including Cincoe lake, Partridge Crop lake and Partridge lake in Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties.

The goal of this proposal is to provide additional rough fish spearing opportunities for anglers statewide. Rather than four different spearing seasons on inland waters, the proposal will create more uniform, simplified spearing seasons statewide.

3. Do you favor simplifying rough fish spearing season dates on inland waters statewide? (specific changes listed above) 3. YES ____ NO ____

QUESTION 4. Apply Northern Bass Management Zone catch and release season to smallmouth bass only

This proposal would remove the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season for largemouth bass and allow harvest under existing size and bag limits. Currently both largemouth and smallmouth bass must be released if caught in the Northern Bass Zone from the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June. This change would mean that smallmouth bass must continue to be immediately released during the early catch and release season but largemouth bass may be harvested beginning the first Saturday in May so long as the length and bag limits are followed. This proposal affects all waters that currently have an early catch and release season for bass in the Zone, including Lake Superior and its connected sloughs and the Kakagon River, tributaries to Lake Michigan north of STH 29 in Door and Kewaunee counties, and Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

The Northern Bass Zone includes waters north of State Trunk Highway (STH) 77 from its bridge over the St. Croix River east to STH 27, south on STH 27 to STH 64, east on STH 64 to where it ends in the City of Marinette and continuing due east to the shore of Green Bay and all waters north of STH 29 from its bridge over the Fox River east to where it ends in the City of Kewaunee.



You must consult the current fishing regulations for any exceptions.

In 2010 and 2011, attendees of the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings supported questions related to separately managing largemouth and smallmouth bass with different regulations as needed. In 2012, hearing attendees voted in favor of a Conservation Congress advisory question to eliminate the early catch and release bass season in northwest Wisconsin for largemouth bass. Analyses of available data conducted in 2001, 2010, and 2012 indicate that elimination of the Northern Bass Zone, and with it the current early catch and release season, would not alter overall season harvest of largemouth and smallmouth bass. The studies revealed that bass that are saved during the early season are generally just caught later in the summer. As such, harvest of bass during this May and June period would likely not have a negative impact on the vast majority of bass populations. However, the studies also indicate that smallmouth bass populations in the early catch and release zone have shown greater improvements in size structures compared to populations in lakes with similar regulations that do not have the early catch and release season. The same effect has not been seen for largemouth bass. The Department proposes removing the Northern Bass Zone early catch and release season for largemouth bass to provide additional harvest opportunities in May and June. The Department proposes to retain the Northern Bass Zone early catch and release season for smallmouth bass to avoid having negative impacts on smallmouth bass size structure.

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4. Do you favor applying the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season from the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June to smallmouth bass only, and allowing largemouth bass to be caught and kept during that time? 4. YES _____ NO _____
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QUESTION 5. Length and bag limits for walleye on the Wisconsin River

This proposal would make permanent a protected slot limit regulation on walleye, sauger, and hybrids where there is a daily bag limit of 5 fish and the minimum length is 15 inches, but fish from 20 to 28 inches may not be kept and only one fish over 28 inches is allowed. This regulation would apply with a *year-round open season* on:

- the Wisconsin River north of the Prairie du Sac Dam in Columbia County up to the Grandfather Dam in Lincoln County, including its sloughs, bayous, and flowages; and
- certain waters connected to the Wisconsin River: the Eau Claire River upstream to the Schofield Dam in Marathon County; the Yellow River to Lake Dexter Dam in Wood County; Buena Vista Creek to the Nepco Dam in Wood County; and the Lemonweir River in Juneau and Monroe counties.

The regulation has been in effect since 2002 and is scheduled to expire in 2014.

The walleye protected slot limit regulation would also be applied to additional waters connected to the Wisconsin River under this proposal, but the season would only be *open from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March* for:

- the Big Rib River downstream from Highway 29, Peplin Creek, Johnson Creek, Little Eau Claire River, and Little Eau Pleine River in Marathon County; and
- the Little Eau Claire River and the Little Eau Pleine River in Portage County.



The management goal is to produce a walleye and sauger fishery that meets varied interests. It would allow harvest of 15- to 20-inch fish, a catch and release fishery for 20- to 28-inch fish, and harvest of trophy fish greater than 28 inches. Objectives include increasing the percentage (from 8% to 15-40%) and catch rate of fish 20 to 28 inches, and increasing the percentage (from 0.3% to 2%) of fish over 28 inches. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because fisheries survey data have shown that the slot has not caused any decline in harvestable size fish, but a greater abundance of fish are now available for catch and release and there is greater opportunity for anglers to catch trophy walleye. Anglers have shown support for the regulation by extending its expiration date at the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings in 2006. In addition, biologists have talked with numerous angler groups and fishing clubs since the regulation was enacted over 10 years ago and the response has been overwhelmingly positive to continue the rule.

5. Do you favor making permanent a protected slot limit regulation with a year-round open season on walleye, sauger, and hybrids where there is a daily bag limit of 5 fish and the minimum length is 15 inches, but fish from 20 to 28 inches may not be kept and only one fish over 28 inches is allowed on the Wisconsin River and connected waters; and applying the same protected slot limit with an open season from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March on the Big Rib River downstream from Highway 29, Peplin Creek, Johnson Creek, Little Eau Claire River, and Little Eau Pleine River in Marathon County; and the Little Eau Claire River and the Little Eau Pleine River in Portage County? (Please see the background for additional boundary details.)

5. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 7. Alternate length and bag limits under certain conditions

This proposal would allow the Department to make explicit, temporary changes to length or bag limits under certain conditions using a legally defined public notice process, a public information meeting if requested, and posting notice of the regulation change on public access sites of the water. The Department currently may change length limits using this process, rather than through an administrative rule change, for walleye, largemouth bass, or smallmouth bass if data show that there is slow growth or high contamination levels. This proposal would expand the Department's ability to make length or bag limit changes under the following conditions and for the following species:

a. A lake restoration project is in place to reduce detrimental fish species that includes bio-manipulation of a waterbody through increasing the abundance and biomass of predator game fish. The Department may apply the following limits to particular species: 18-inch, 3-bag walleye; 18-inch, 1-bag largemouth or smallmouth bass; 32-inch, 1-bag northern pike; or 10-bag for panfish.

b. Fish have been removed or destroyed as a result of a rehabilitation program to reestablish a good supply of game fish. The Department may apply the following limits to particular species: 18-inch, 3-bag walleye; 18-inch, 1-bag largemouth or smallmouth bass; 32-inch, 1-bag northern pike; or 10-bag for panfish.

c. An inland water has been documented to contain detrimental species, species nonindigenous to the waters of the state, or rough fish. In order to control the population of detrimental, nonindigenous, or rough fish species and protect the native fish populations, the Department may apply the following minimum size limits to particular species: 18-inch, 3-bag walleye; 18-inch, 1-bag largemouth or smallmouth bass; 32-inch, 1-bag northern pike; or 10-bag for panfish.

d. The Department finds that an evaluation of a size limit could not be completed before a sunset date. The Department may extend the size limit and the limit shall remain the same and in full force and effect for 7 years from the date specified or until a permanent rule change is in place, whichever occurs first. The determination to extend a size limit sunset date shall be made within two years prior to the sunset date.

This proposal would give the Department more flexibility to provide a quicker response to these conditions using temporary regulations. This proposal would take effect following publication of the final rule, before April 1, 2014.

7. Do you favor allowing the Department to more quickly make temporary changes to length or bag limits under certain conditions (listed above) using a legally defined public notice process, a public information meeting if requested, and posting notice of the regulation change on public access sites of the water? 7. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 8. Lead tackle restriction on Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes, Vilas County

The Natural Resources Board asked the Department in March 2011 to move forward with a pilot project to evaluate angler acceptance of non-toxic fishing tackle. Voting results for an advisory question to put lead restrictions on Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes at the 2012 Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings were 1,646 people in support and 1,703 people opposed. However, the Natural Resources Board requested that the proposal be advanced as a rule.

The proposed pilot project would require anglers fishing Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes in the Northern Highlands Fishing Research Area in Vilas County to use non-lead sinkers, weights, and jig-heads if they weigh less than 1 ounce or are smaller than 1 inch in any dimension. The purpose of the project is to protect loons and other water birds that have been shown to ingest smaller sizes of tackle and to increase public awareness of the hazard that small sizes of lead-containing tackle pose to water birds.

8. Do you favor requiring anglers to use non-lead sinkers, weights, and jig-heads if they are less than 1 inch in any dimension or less than 1 ounce in weight on Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes in Vilas County? 8. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 9. Length limit for muskellunge in Lake Michigan waters

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 1 fish and a 54-inch minimum length limit on muskellunge in Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and its tributaries north of Waldo Boulevard (in Manitowoc) and the Menominee River upstream to the Hattie Street Dam. The current regulation is a 1-fish daily bag limit and 50-inch minimum length limit.

Department staff worked with interested anglers over the course of several meetings to develop a Green Bay Great Lakes Muskellunge Management Plan. During these meetings it was clear anglers desired to maximize the trophy potential of the Green Bay musky fishery by instituting a large minimum size limit. This 54” regulation is also used by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to manage muskellunge populations with trophy growth potential. This desire was supported at previous Conservation Congress hearings: in 2008 as a local resolution and in 2009 as a Conservation Congress advisory question. The advisory question was supported statewide (2480 yes (52%) and 2260 no (48%)) and locally (3 Counties-yes, 2 Counties-no).

Survey and creel data show that the current 50-inch minimum length limit is likely effective in protecting the vast majority of muskellunge in Green Bay. The proposal for a 54-inch minimum length limit is driven by musky anglers who believe that harvest is impacting the population. Some believe this harvest may be one reason for the poor reproduction noted in Green Bay. The proposed 54-inch minimum length limit will support the management goal of a trophy muskellunge fishery.

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9. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 1 fish and a 54-inch minimum length limit on muskellunge in Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and its tributaries north of Waldo Boulevard (in Manitowoc) and the Menominee River upstream to the Hattie Street Dam? 9. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 10. Ceded territory walleye or muskellunge bag and length limit adjustments

This proposal would allow the Department to adjust bag and length limits for walleye or muskellunge in the ceded territory as early as possible in response to actual tribal harvests, rather than currently waiting until after the third Monday in May. This proposal would take effect following publication of the final rule, before April 1, 2014.

The ceded territory encompasses 22,400 square miles of northern Wisconsin that was ceded to the U.S. by the Lake Superior Chippewa Tribes in 1837 and 1842. Some special fisheries regulations occur in the ceded territory as a result of Chippewa off-reservation treaty rights as mandated by Federal Court rulings. Some waters may have more restrictive bag or length limits as a result of tribal harvest, which typically occurs in spring each year. When ice out occurs earlier in the year, tribal harvest may also occur earlier.

In response to actual tribal harvest numbers, this proposal will allow the Department to make bag and length limit adjustments for lakes in the ceded territory and get that information to the public as early as possible. Under current law, the Department must wait until after the third Monday in May to raise the daily bag limit or reduce the minimum length limit based on expected safe harvest levels for specific waters.

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10. Do you favor allowing the Department to adjust bag and length limits for walleye or muskellunge in the ceded territory as early as possible in response to actual tribal harvest, rather than currently waiting until after the third Monday in May? 10. YES____ NO____
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PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES

QUESTION 11. Length and bag limits for walleye on Silver Lake, Barron County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 1 fish and a 28-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Silver Lake, Barron County. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and 15-inch minimum length limit.

The management goal is to restore the adult walleye population and provide a trophy walleye fishery by increasing the proportion of fish over 20 inches from 16% to 50% and increasing fish over 26 inches from 1% to 10%. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because it would protect walleye from harvest until reaching trophy length. Using lake survey data, it was found that overharvest of larger adult walleye has been occurring in recent years. Between 2007 and 2009, fish survey data showed a 57% decline in walleye over 20 inches and an 89% decline for walleye over 26 inches based on net catch rates.

A local resolution was introduced and passed at the 2009 spring conservation congress hearings requesting that the Department implement a 28-inch length limit with a daily bag limit of one fish. The regulation proposal was also supported as a statewide Conservation Congress advisory question in 2010.

11. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 1 fish and a 28-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Silver Lake, Barron County? 11. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 12. Length and bag limits for northern pike in Diamond Lake, Bayfield County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 2 fish and a 26-inch minimum length limit on northern pike on Diamond Lake, Bayfield County. The current regulation is a 1-fish daily bag limit and 32-inch minimum length limit. A Conservation Congress advisory question to change the northern pike regulations on Diamond Lake was supported by spring hearing attendees in 2011.

The management goal is to restore the northern pike population while allowing angler harvest. One objective is to increase the proportion of larger (28-inch) fish from about 4% to 20% of the population. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because it would allow additional angler harvest of large pike and improve growth rates in order to provide a pike fishery with a mix of ages and sizes. At the same time, northern pike would help provide biological control for smelt populations. Fisheries data show that the current restrictive regulation is not meeting management goal objectives and anglers have expressed the desire to harvest a limited number of northern pike.

12. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 2 fish and a 26-inch minimum length limit on northern pike on Diamond Lake, Bayfield County? 12. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 13. Predator fish in Park Lake and the Fox River, Columbia County

This proposal would apply a 3-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger and hybrids; a 1-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; and a 1-fish daily bag limit and a 32-inch minimum length limit on northern pike on Park Lake and the Fox River upstream to the Highway 33 bridge, Columbia County.

The management goal is to maintain low numbers of detrimental species, specifically common carp and gizzard shad, with the desired outcome of improving water clarity. This regulation proposal will help to meet the management goal because it is expected to increase the number and size of sight-feeding predator game fish, including northern pike, largemouth bass, and walleye, in Park Lake and the Fox River. Detrimental fish degrade water clarity by disturbing

lake bottom sediment through their feeding behavior. Preventing harvest of predator fish will allow them to remain in the fishery and consume larger numbers of detrimental fish, thereby reducing populations to lower levels.

Increasing the number of bass, pike, and walleye is an objective in the Park Lake Comprehensive Management Plan approved by the Department in 2009. Stocking alone has not increased these predator game fish numbers sufficiently to control detrimental fish. Chemical treatment of the lake to control detrimental species is expensive and not popular with residents and stakeholders. Similar regulations have successfully helped to control detrimental fish on other lakes in Wisconsin, including Yellowstone Lake in Lafayette County and Silver Lake in Manitowoc County.

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13. Do you favor applying a 3-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit for walleye, sauger and hybrids; a 1-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; and a 1-fish daily bag limit and a 32-inch minimum length limit on northern pike on Park Lake and the Fox River upstream to the Highway 33 bridge in Columbia County? 13. YES____ NO____
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QUESTION 14. Urban fishing program designations in Dane County

This proposal would designate Syene Ponds (0.1 acre and 0.2 acre near Madison) and Token Creek Ponds (0.4 acres and 0.3 acres near Deforest), Dane County, as urban fishing waters with the following regulations:

- year round season only for youth 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers,
- no length limits, and
- daily bag limits of 3 trout; 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, walleye-sauger hybrid, or northern pike; and 10 panfish.

The goal of the urban fishing program is to make fishing opportunities more readily available and encourage more people, especially children and disabled, to go fishing. These lakes have been managed as put-and-take fishing opportunities for trout.

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14. Do you favor designating Syene Ponds and Token Creek Ponds in Dane County as urban fishing waters? 14. YES____ NO____
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QUESTION 15. Length and bag limits for walleye on Beaver Dam Lake and Mill Creek, Dodge County

This proposal would make permanent a daily bag limit of 3 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit on Beaver Dam Lake and its tributaries, including Mill Creek from the mouth upstream to the Fox Lake dam and all portions of Beaver Creek. The regulation has been in effect since 2002 and is scheduled to expire in 2014.

The management goal is to continue to provide larger walleye for angling opportunities as well as for predation on carp and bullhead populations. With this regulation in place for the past 10 years, the goal was met of increasing the proportion of walleye greater than 18-inches from 0.2% to 7%. This regulation is one tool to continue to meet the management goal because it provides a harvestable walleye fishery while protecting larger fish from harvest that serve as predators for carp and other rough fish. It is part of a management plan for Beaver Dam Lake that was developed through extensive outreach and planning among the Department, the Beaver Dam Lake Association, and the Beaver Dam Lake Citizen Advisory Committee. In addition to the regulation, the management plan includes mechanical rough fish removal and stocking of predator fish.

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15. Do you favor making permanent a daily bag limit of 3 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit on Beaver Dam Lake and its tributaries, including Mill Creek from the mouth upstream to the Fox Lake dam and all portions of Beaver Creek in Dodge County? 15. YES____ NO____
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QUESTION 16. Length and bag limits for walleye on Lake Nebagamon, Douglas County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 3 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Lake Nebagamon, Douglas County. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and 15-inch minimum length limit.

The management goal is to increase the number and improve the size structure of walleye, providing a fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in Lake Nebagamon. Objectives include increasing the proportion of adult walleyes over 20 inches from 12% to 20%, and increasing walleye abundance from 1.3 fish per acre to 3 fish per acre. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased minimum length limits help to maintain or increase the density of larger adult fish and improve reproduction. Female walleye could spawn at least two years before becoming vulnerable to angler harvest. This regulation change is part of a cooperative initiative with the Lake Nebagamon Association and the Village of Lake Nebagamon, which also includes plans for stocking and habitat improvement.

16. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 3 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Lake Nebagamon, Douglas County? 16. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 17. Length limits for walleye on Minong Flowage and Cranberry Lake, Douglas and Washburn counties

This proposal would apply a 5-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit, with only 1 fish over 14 inches allowed, to walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Minong Flowage, Douglas and Washburn counties. The regulation would apply upstream to the confluence of the Totagatic River with Bergen Creek in Washburn County and to the connected Cranberry Lake in Douglas County. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and 15-inch minimum length limit.

The management goal is to maintain a self-sustained, high density walleye population, including increasing the adult population estimates to greater than 3 walleye per acre. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because it would allow anglers the opportunity to harvest abundant walleye that are less than 14 inches. Growth rates and size structure of adult walleye have progressively declined since a 15-inch minimum size limit was initiated in 1990. Allowing harvest of the smaller, more abundant segment of the walleye population should allow better utilization of the fishery resource by anglers and increase overall growth rates of walleye. Increased growth rates should improve the size structure and provide more opportunity to catch large fish.

17. Do you favor applying a 5-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit, with only 1 fish over 14 inches allowed, to walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Minong Flowage and Cranberry Lake, Washburn and Douglas counties? 17. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 18. Bass protected slot size limit on Half Moon Lake, Eau Claire County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed in Half Moon Lake, Eau Claire County. The current regulation is 14-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 5 fish.

The management goal is to improve bass growth and size structure, increasing the proportion of quality sized fish from 9% to 40% of the population and providing a bass fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in Half Moon Lake. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased harvest of small, slow growing bass that are in the 10 to 12-inch range is expected to increase angler satisfaction as well as improve bass size structure by reducing their competition for food and habitat. Bass 14 to 18 inches will remain and be able to grow to larger sizes. Currently, most of the largemouth bass in Half Moon Lake are less than 14 inches, which prevents anglers from harvesting abundant, slow growing bass. That has created a sub-optimal bass fishery with poor growth, size structure, and condition.

18. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed, on Half Moon Lake in Eau Claire County? 18. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 19. Length and bag limits for walleye on Patten Lake, Florence County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids in Patten Lake, Florence County, simplifying regulations to match general statewide walleye rules. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit, but only one fish over 14 inches is allowed.

The management goal is to protect the young walleye population and increase adult walleye abundance, eventually increasing the adult walleye population from 0.97 to 3-6 fish per acre. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because young walleye will be protected from harvest. The walleye population is currently at its historic low level in Patten Lake. The current regulation has resulted in unsustainable walleye harvest. This change should help to increase the adult population and provide continued angling opportunity.

19. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 15 inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids in Patten Lake, Florence County? 19. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 20. Bass protected slot size limit on Trump Lake, Forest County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed in Trump Lake, Forest County. The current regulation is 18-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 1 fish. A Conservation Congress advisory question to change the bass regulations on Trump Lake was supported by spring hearing attendees in 2011.

The management goal is to improve bass growth and size structure, providing a bass fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in Trump Lake. One objective is to increase the proportion of bass at 14 inches from 3% to over 15% within the next 10 years. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased harvest of small (<14 inch) bass is expected to increase angler satisfaction as well as improve bass size structure by reducing their competition for food and habitat. Bass 14 to 18 inches will remain and be able to grow to larger sizes.

20. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed, on Trump Lake in Forest County? 20. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 21. Length and bag limits for walleye on Sandy Beach Lake, Iron County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids in Sandy Beach Lake, Iron County, simplifying regulations to match general statewide walleye rules. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit but only 1 fish over 14 inches may be kept.

The management goal is to maintain walleye as the dominant sport fish in Sandy Beach Lake by protecting young walleye and increasing the adult walleye from 1.5 to 2-3 per acre. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because immature walleye will be protected from harvest, thus giving them an opportunity to grow and mature into the adult population. This will increase their opportunity to consume competitors and potential predators. A higher abundance of walleye will provide additional angling opportunities, while helping to achieve a more balanced fish community.

21. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids in Sandy Beach Lake, Iron County? 21. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 22. Length and bag limits for northern pike on Lake Six, Iron County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit for northern pike on Lake Six in Iron County, simplifying regulations to match current northern zone rules. The current regulation is a 2-fish daily bag limit and 26-inch minimum length limit.

The management goal is to reduce northern pike density in order to improve pike growth rates and size, increasing the proportion of quality size fish (21 inches or greater) to 30-50% of the population. Reducing pike density will also decrease predation on panfish, which are currently at very low abundances, and provide additional panfish angling opportunities. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because allowing additional harvest of any size pike will reduce competition for food and habitat among overabundant northern pike. With fewer predators, the regulation will also promote better panfish survival.

22. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit for northern pike on Lake Six, Iron County? 22. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 23. Length and bag limits for catfish in Yellowstone Lake, Lafayette County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 10 fish and no minimum length limit on catfish and open the catfish season year round in Yellowstone Lake, Lafayette County, simplifying regulations to match general statewide rules. The current regulation is a 2-fish daily bag limit in combination with walleye or bass and only catfish between 15 and 24 inches may be kept.

The management goal is to maintain channel catfish populations at 10 to 15 fish per acre. The channel catfish population is currently at 23 catfish per acre. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because it will allow more harvest of catfish and lower the risk of parasites or disease developing within the catfish population. It also opens up the opportunity to fish for catfish species all year.

23. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 10 fish and no minimum length limit on catfish and open the catfish season year round in Yellowstone Lake, Lafayette County? 23. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 24. Lake Tomah rehabilitation and predator protection, Monroe County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 1 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, as well as a 1 fish daily bag limit and 32-inch minimum length limit on northern pike in Lake Tomah, Monroe County. Currently, the regulations are a daily bag limit of 5 and a 14-inch length limit for bass and a daily bag limit of 2 and a 26-inch length limit for pike.

The management goal is to protect large predator fish from harvest in order to maximize predation on smaller fishes and complete a chemical treatment plan. In October 2009, Lake Tomah was chemically treated to eliminate a carp-dominated fishery that was negatively impacting habitat and water quality. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because the increased length limits should reduce angler harvest of large fish and protect against re-invasion of carp.

Meetings were held over two years with local stakeholders, including local Conservation Congress representatives, Lake Tomah Lake Association members, citizens, and anglers. These stakeholders are in favor of this regulation change for Lake Tomah.

24. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 1 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, as well as a daily bag limit of 1 fish and 32-inch minimum length limit on northern pike in Lake Tomah, Monroe County? 24. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 25. Bag limit for panfish in Thompson Lake, Pepin County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 25 fish and no minimum length limit for panfish on Thompson Lake, Pepin County, simplifying regulations to match general statewide rules. The current regulation is a 10-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit.

The goal is to simplify the regulation where a special regulation has not been working. The results of a ten-year investigation found that the current 10-fish daily bag limit did not improve the range of panfish sizes due to slow growth rates.

25. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 25 fish and no minimum length limit for panfish on Thompson Lake, Pepin County, simplifying regulations to match general statewide rules? 25. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 26. No minimum length limit for bass on Balsam Lake, Polk County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass on Balsam Lake, Polk County. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and 14-inch minimum length limit.

The management goal is to reduce numbers of over-abundant small (<14 inch) largemouth bass to improve bass growth and size structure, providing a bass fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in Balsam Lake. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because it will allow anglers additional harvest of abundant small bass and improve bass size structure by reducing their competition for food and habitat. The previous length regulation restricting harvest to only one bass less than 14 inches expired in 2012 and was ineffective in improving size structure and growth.

26. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass on Balsam Lake, Polk County? 26. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 27. Urban fishing program designation in Rock County

This proposal would designate Lions Park Pond (12 acres) in Janesville, Rock County, as an urban fishing water with the following regulations:

- year round season – but a special season mid-March to mid-April only for youth 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers,
- no length limits, and
- daily bag limits of 3 trout; 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, walleye-sauger hybrid, or northern pike; and 10 panfish.

The goal of the urban fishing program is to make fishing opportunities more readily available and encourage more people, especially children and disabled, to go fishing. Lions Park Pond has been managed as a put-and-take fishing opportunity for trout.

27. Do you favor designating Lions Park Pond in Rock County as an urban fishing water? **27. YES**____ **NO**____

QUESTION 28. Length and bag limits for bass and walleye in Big Chetac Lake, Sawyer County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass and a daily bag limit of 3 fish and 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Big Chetac Lake, Sawyer County. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and 14-inch minimum length limit for bass and 5-fish daily bag limit and 15-inch minimum length limit for walleye.

The management goal is to maintain a self-sustaining walleye-dominated fish community. Objectives include increasing the proportion of larger bass (14 inches) from 26% to 40-50%, and increasing the number of adult walleye from 1.48 fish per acre to 3-6 adult fish per acre. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because it is expected to reduce bass density through additional angler harvest opportunities, improve bass population size structure, reduce walleye mortality, and increase walleye recruitment to desired levels in subsequent years. It will encourage increased harvest of largemouth bass and increased protection of walleye.

28. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass and a daily bag limit of 3 fish and 18 inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Big Chetac Lake, Sawyer County? **28. YES**____ **NO**____

QUESTION 29. Bass protected slot size limit on Bass Lake, St. Croix County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed on Bass Lake, St. Croix County. The current regulation is 14-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 5 fish.

The management goal is to improve bass growth rates and size structure, providing a bass fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in Bass Lake. Small bass are overabundant in Bass Lake, and fish greater than the current 14-inch minimum size limit are considered scarce. One objective is to reduce the density of 8-inch and greater bass from 96-115 per mile to 30-70 per mile. This regulation is one tool to help meet management goals because increased harvest of small (<14 inch) bass is expected to improve bass growth rates and angler satisfaction, as well as improve the range of bass sizes by reducing competition for food and habitat. Bass 14 to 18 inches will remain protected and be able to grow to larger sizes.

The 2009 Bass Lake Rehabilitation and Management District Lake Management Plan recommends changing the standard statewide 14-inch bass size limit regulation to a 14- to 18-inch protected slot size limit in an attempt to improve juvenile walleye stock survival and restore the quality of bass populations. This regulation is also supported by members of the St. Croix County Alliance of Sportsmen Clubs and the Conservation Congress.

29. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed on Bass Lake in St. Croix County? 29. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 30. Control of exotic species in Sparkling Lake, Vilas County

This proposal would make permanent the current 1-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass on Sparkling Lake, Vilas County. In addition, the daily bag limit would change to 3 fish and the minimum length limit would be reduced to 18 inches for walleye, sauger, and hybrids.

The management goal is to control rainbow smelt and rusty crayfish numbers through increased predation and to provide a good fishery. These regulations are tools to help meet the management goal because it will help restore the natural fish and plant community that was present prior to the invasion of these two exotic species. Objectives include creating a bass fishery with 1 adult per acre and a walleye fishery with 6 fish per acre.

Special regulations for bass and walleye have been in place since 2002 and are due to expire in 2014. They should be maintained to keep game fish populations as high as possible, while allowing angler harvest, and to continue an ongoing study by University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers and the Department on the control of exotic species. These regulations will assist researchers in detecting the impacts of game fish on the exotic species present. It is hoped that the information gained from this intensive cooperative project can be applied to control exotics in other waters of the state.

30. Do you favor maintaining the 1-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass and applying a 3-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit for walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Sparkling Lake, Vilas County? 30. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 31. Urban fishing program designation in Waukesha County

This proposal would designate Lapham Peak Pond (0.8 acres) in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, Waukesha County, as an urban fishing water with the following regulations:

- year round season – but a special season mid-March to mid-April only for youth 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers,
- no length limits, and
- daily bag limits of 3 trout; 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, walleye-sauger hybrid, or northern pike; and 10 panfish.

The goal of the urban fishing program is to make fishing opportunities more readily available and encourage more people, especially children and disabled, to go fishing. Lapham Peak Pond is a newly developed pond in the state forest with a maximum depth of 10 feet and easy access to water and facilities.

31. Do you favor designating Lapham Peak Pond in Waukesha County as an urban fishing water? **31.** YES____ NO____

QUESTION 32. Bag limit for panfish on Little Hills Lake, Waushara County

This proposal would apply a 10-fish daily bag limit for panfish on Little Hills Lake, Waushara County. The current daily bag limit is 25 panfish.

The management goal is to reduce harvest of bluegill and improve size structure of the population, providing a fishery with a mix of bluegill ages and sizes. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because a reduced bag limit should give some harvest protection to the slowly recovering bluegill fishery in Little Hills Lake and increase the proportion of quality size fish to over 40%. The largemouth and smallmouth bass size limit was removed in the fall of 2005 and an improvement in the mix of sizes of bluegill has been seen. This proposal is intended to give bluegill some added protection. Biologists have discussed this recommendation with local lake associations that are in favor of these changes. In 2012, attendees of the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings supported a Conservation Congress advisory question to apply a 10-bag panfish limit in Little Hills Lake.

32. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 10 for panfish on Little Hills Lake, Waushara County? **32.** YES____ NO____

QUESTIONS 34-35. Pheasant hunting regulations simplification and requiring sex/species identification during transportation (2014)

Currently, the harvest of both hen and rooster pheasants is allowed at certain public hunting grounds (named below) that are stocked with pheasants by the Department. Hunters are required to tag harvested pheasants with a leg tag to identify that the bird was harvested where hunting hen pheasants is legal. Hunters are limited to ten tags/birds each year. This program allows better utilization of birds raised at the state game farm and it occurs at properties where wild hen pheasants are unlikely to be present.

Printing and distributing these tags is costly for the Department and may not be necessary. Under this proposal, hunters would no longer need leg tags to hunt at these properties. Hunters would no longer be limited to 10 pheasants a year, a limit which is not in place at other Department properties that are stocked with pheasants.

Also under this proposal, pheasants possessed in the field or in transit from the field to the hunter’s home or temporary lodging could not be completely field dressed. Instead, the species and sex of the bird would need to be identifiable in some way, such as by leaving the head or a leg attached to the rest of the dressed carcass. Requiring that birds being transported be identifiable is similar to requirements already in place for migratory birds and provides conservation wardens an opportunity to identify the sex of the pheasant, and if needed, ask questions of the hunter to verify where the bird was harvested.

34. Do you favor eliminating the seasonal bag limit of ten pheasants and the requirement to tag pheasants harvested at the following properties which are stocked by the Department with hen and rooster pheasants: Avoca (Iowa county), Scuppernong (Waukesha county), C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Fish and Wildlife Area (Kewaunee county), Vernon (Waukesha county), Boscobel unit of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (Grant county), Kickapoo Valley Reserve (Vernon county), Kettle Moraine State Forest (Waukesha county), Tom Lawin Wildlife Area (Chippewa county), Sand Creek Fishery Area (Monroe county)?

34. YES _____ NO _____

35. Do you favor establishing a statewide regulation requiring that the species and sex of pheasants possessed in the field or in transit from the field to the hunter’s home or temporary lodging must be identifiable in some way, such as by leaving the head or a leg attached to the rest of the dressed carcass?

35. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 36. Allow cutting and gathering willow stakes on Department managed lands for non-commercial uses (2014)

Collecting plants from Department managed lands is generally prohibited except for some edibles and the removal of invasive plants. This proposal would also allow cutting and collecting willow stakes on Department managed lands for non-commercial uses. Willow stakes are often used by trappers for marking trap locations and anchoring traps and may also be useful for craft projects. Willow is a fast growing species that, although native, is sometimes considered invasive in certain locations.

This proposal would allow cutting and gathering willow that is less than 2 ½ inches in diameter for personal use. Property manager permission would be required so that, if there are locations where the willows are important, they can be protected.

36. Do you favor allowing people to cut and gather willow stakes on Department managed lands for non-commercial uses, after first obtaining authorization from the property manager?

36. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 37. Simplify mink and muskrat trapping regulations by creating more consistent opening and closing dates throughout the state (2014)

There are currently four different zones for trapping muskrats and mink, each with a different opening date. The various opening dates may be established so that trapping begins based on people’s opinion about the dates that pelts become prime. However, there are no universally accepted dates for when muskrat and mink pelts become prime in different locations. The advantage of the staggered openings may not outweigh the disadvantages of regulations which may be more complicated than needed.

Under this proposal, the muskrat and mink seasons would open on the third Saturday in October and close on the Sunday nearest March 7 statewide except in the Mississippi River Zone, where the season opening date would not be modified. This question asks the public to balance their concerns about regulations that may be overly complicated against perceptions about the ideal time to begin harvesting muskrats and mink based on pelt primeness.

Currently, the season dates for muskrat and mink trapping are:

1. ‘North zone’ — Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continuing through the last day of February.
2. ‘South zone’ — Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 28 and continuing through the last day of February.
3. ‘Winnebago zone’ — Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 28 and continuing through March 15.
4. ‘Mississippi River zone’— Beginning on the second Monday in November or the day following the close of the open season for ducks as established under sub. (1) (b) 1., whichever occurs first, and continuing through the last day of February.



37. Do you favor opening the muskrat and mink season statewide beginning on the third Saturday in October and continuing through the Sunday nearest March 7, except that the opening day would not change in the Mississippi River Zone? 37. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 38. Establish that, when the bear hunting season is open, hunting hours apply to people who are training bear hunting dogs as well as to people who are hunting bears

Currently, there are no restrictions on the time of day for training dogs used to hunt bears. In the past, training dogs by trailing wild bears was not legal during the hunting season for bears. With the passage of 2011 ACT 28, training dogs to pursue wild free-roaming bears is also allowed whenever the season is open for hunting bears with dogs.

This proposal will require that all bear pursuit activities take place only during normal bear hunting hours when the bear hunting season is open in order to eliminate the need for conservation wardens and others to determine who is hunting and who is only training dogs to pursue bear. Consistent hours for hunting and training activity also addresses fairness concerns between groups of people who are pursuing the same species in the same areas.

Bear dog training typically is done during daylight hours so this will not result in a significant loss of dog training opportunity.

38. Do you favor establishing that, when the bear hunting season is open, it is only legal to train dogs to pursue free-roaming wild bears during the same hours that are legal for hunting bears? 38. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 39. Establish that certain traps placed for weasels need to be checked by the trapper at least once every four days instead of daily (2014)

Trappers in Wisconsin normally use enclosures to trap weasels in winter. These enclosures are generally a shoebox sized container with small opening on one end, a body grip trap positioned near the front of the enclosure by the opening, and bait placed in the rear of the enclosure. These trap types were found to meet humane standards, with weasels usually expiring soon after entering the enclosure. Because this is a dry land set, it currently needs to be checked daily. Some trappers would like to have more time to tend these specific types of traps.

Weasels in these enclosed, body grip traps in winter expire quickly, are chilled and preserved, out of sight from the public and unavailable to scavengers. If the enclosure is securely fastened to an immovable object, any non-target species that could reach through the small opening with a front paw could pull it out without harm.

39. Would you support allowing trappers four days to check weasel enclosures if the enclosure meets the following requirements:

- The opening is not larger than 1 3/8 inches diameter (this size restriction would specifically target weasels and effectively eliminate the accidental take of other furbearers including the American marten)
- The enclosure set uses a bodygrip trap
- The enclosure is secured to an immovable object to allow non-target furbearers to self-release without harm?

39. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 40. Require 24 hour harvest reporting of otter and fisher (2014)

The Department currently has the authority to close the bobcat, fisher, otter, Canada Goose, and wolf hunting or trapping seasons earlier than the date established by rule, if it determines that a harvest quota for that species will be exceeded. For bobcat, wolves, and geese in certain zones, hunters or trappers must report their harvest within 24 hours to the Department, giving the Department current harvest level information upon which the decision to close a season can be made.

Otter and fisher trappers must only register their legal take within 5 days following the month of harvest, which does not provide timely harvest information. Establishing a requirement of reporting fisher and otter harvest to the Department within 24 hours would be consistent with rules for the other species and improve the Department’s ability to prevent overharvest.

Under this proposal, harvest could be reported by telephone or internet, similar to the way bobcat, goose, and wolf harvest is reported. Registration of harvested fisher and otter would still be required within five days following the month of harvest, similar to bobcat and wolves.

40. To provide the Department with the ability to prevent the overharvest of otter and fisher, do you favor requiring 24 hour harvest reporting of otter and fisher? 40. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 41. Allow unattended, overnight placement of portable stands and blinds on Department owned and managed lands (2014)

Currently the overnight, unattended placement of tree stands and ground blinds for hunting is not allowed on Department managed lands. This regulation is designed to prevent the “staking out” or making advance claims to hunting locations in favor of a first-come-first served practice. However the overnight placement, remaining in place for as long as an entire season, of stands is allowed on some other public lands not managed by DNR and may also be practical on Department lands.

This proposal asks members of the public to balance a philosophy of trying to reduce conflict and maintain a level playing field on public lands versus the convenience of not having to carry and place a tree stand or blind for each hunt, especially for an aging demographic of hunters.

Under this proposal, tree stands could only be placed beginning on September 1 and must be removed by January 31 of the following year. The proposal requires that all unattended tree stands be marked with the owner’s Department customer identification number or name and address. It would be illegal to cause damage to the tree, but careful pruning of limbs less than 1 inch in diameter would not be considered causing damage to the tree the stand is placed in. This does not permit cutting trees, bush and other vegetation for shooting lanes.

This proposal would clarify that any person may use a stand that is not occupied and being used by the owner and that stand placement does not reserve a location for exclusive use by any individual. However, the owner of the blind or stand would retain the authority to remove and relocate their stand at any time. It would be illegal to relocate a blind or stand that was lawfully placed by another.

41. Do you favor allowing the unattended, overnight placement of portable stands and blinds on Department owned and managed lands, but limiting the period when stands and blinds may be left unattended to September 1 through the following January 31? 41. YES____ NO____

PROPOSED LOCAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

QUESTION 42. Eliminate the refuge/closed area at Mecan Springs, Waushara County, as recommended in voting by the Conservation Congress in 2012 (Waushara County)

A closed area/waterfowl refuge is currently established at Mecan Springs, also known as the Greenwood Wildlife Area, to protect a flock of non-migratory Canada geese. Giant Canada geese are now prevalent across the state and the refuge may no longer be needed for that purpose.

The area is currently closed from September 1 until waterfowl seasons end in the middle of December. Eliminating the closed area would extend the season for fishing, canoeing, kayaking and allow more time for deer, turkey and small game hunting.

42. Do you favor eliminating the refuge/closed area at Mecan Springs, Waushara County and allowing all normal hunting, fishing, and trapping activities during the fall season? 42. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 43. Simplify pheasant hunting regulations at Richard Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County by eliminating the arm band requirement (2014)

Pheasant hunters at the Richard Bong State Recreation Area are currently required to wear an arm band, purchased each day at the check-in station, while hunting. The primary intent of this requirement is to make it easy for law enforcement staff to identify hunters who have entered the property without paying the daily pheasant hunting fee. However, the arm band requirement is time consuming and relatively expensive to implement. There may be a number of simple alternatives to issuing arm bands, such as issuing a paper receipt confirming payment was made. Law enforcement could request the receipt when they periodically conduct license checks.

43. Do you favor simplifying pheasant hunting regulations at Richard Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County by eliminating the requirement to wear an arm band? 43. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 44. Establish a controlled dove hunt at Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County in order to improve hunter satisfaction by reducing hunter interference (2014)

Richard Bong Recreation Area, located in Kenosha County, currently experiences very heavy dove hunting pressure that detracts from the quality of the hunting experience in the southwest part of the property. Prior to Department ownership, the Special Use Zone was to be an aircraft runway and a little over two miles of gravel was laid and shallow run-off ponds were built. When the property became a recreation area the runway and surrounding area were set aside to support a variety of activities, many non-traditional for Department lands, because of the heavy disturbance. The area is also very attractive to doves and dove hunters as well as many other people who use the area for a variety of activities in September.

This proposal would create a 300 acre controlled hunting area in the Special Use Zone where hunters are restricted to 8 locations identified by posts. Only 3 hunters would be allowed per post and they must hunt within 10 feet of the posts. Hunters could only shoot to the south. In the remaining portions of the park open to hunting, hunters would not be restricted to a specific area to hunt doves.

This proposal is intended to improve the hunting experience and safety by reducing over-crowding.

44. Do you favor establishing a controlled dove hunt at Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County in order to improve hunter satisfaction by reducing hunter interference? 44. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 45. Increase the daily pheasant hunting fee at Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County from \$3.00 to \$12.00 (\$5.00 if stocking did not occur that day) because the current fee is not sufficient to cover the cost of this stocking program (2014)

At Richard Bong Recreation Area hunters pay a daily hunting fee of \$3.00 to hunt stocked pheasants with a daily bag limit of two birds after opening weekend. This fee has not been updated since being established in 1982. An increase to \$12.00 (\$5.00 if stocking did not occur that day) will allow the fees collected from the managed pheasant hunt program to more closely meet the expense of the stocking program.

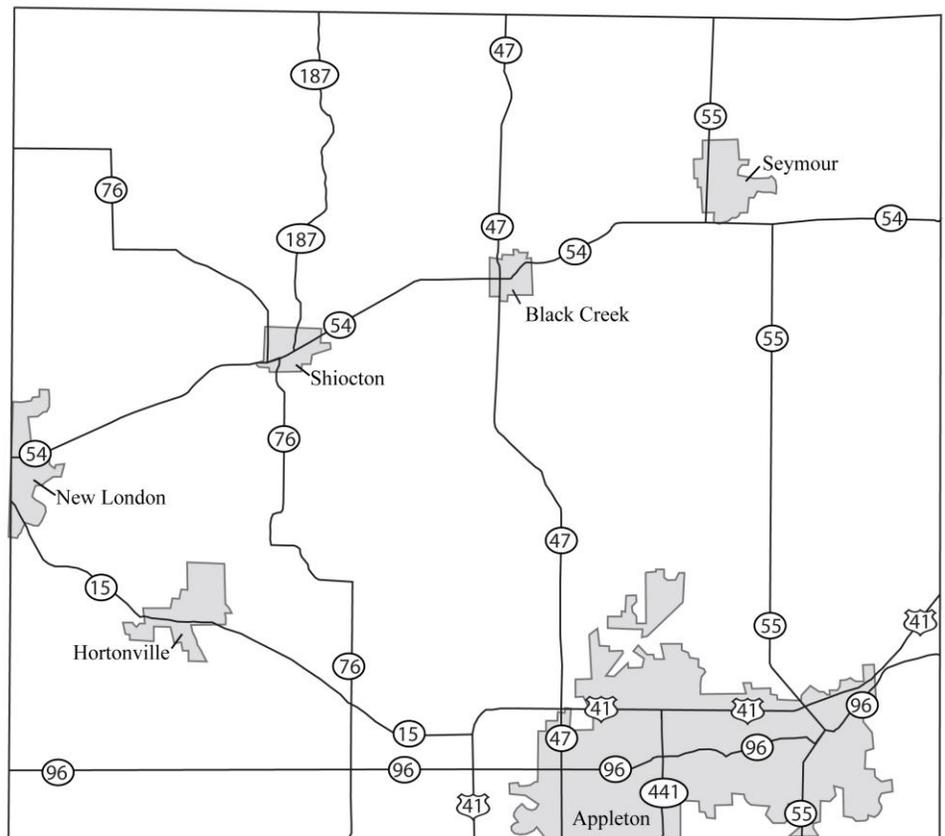
This recreation area is the only property that is stocked daily for much of the season, including weekends. The intensive stocking allows the Department to provide a high quality hunt even with some of the most significant hunting pressure of any Department-managed property. Staff at the property receive periodical shipments of birds from the state game farm, hold them in flight pens on the property, and then catch, crate and distribute them daily. Additional check-in procedures, facility maintenance, and regular stocking are labor intensive with expenses that significantly exceed the revenue generated by the daily \$3.00 fee. A fee increase will help support this very popular hunting opportunity in an area of the state where there is significant demand for quality public hunting opportunities.

45. Do you favor increasing the daily pheasant hunting fee at Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County from \$3.00 to \$12.00 (\$5.00 if stocking did not occur on that day) because the current fee is not sufficient to cover the cost of this stocking program? 45. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 46. Allow the use of rifles for firearm deer hunting in part of Outagamie County (2014)

Currently, rifles are not allowed for deer hunting in Outagamie County and firearm season deer hunters are restricted to shotguns, handguns, and muzzleloaders. The Department does not view the current prohibition as necessary for biological or safety reasons. This proposal would allow the use of rifles in areas of Outagamie County north of Hwy 54 during the gun deer season.

As a Conservation Congress advisory question at 2012 spring hearings, allowing rifles in the area north of Hwy 54 was supported in Outagamie County and statewide by a vote of Ayes, 2,103; Noes, 703. If approved, this proposal would be in effect for the 2014 firearm deer season and there is a possibility that it could be implemented in 2013, however, notice of the rule change could not be provided in regulations pamphlets because of printing deadlines.



OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

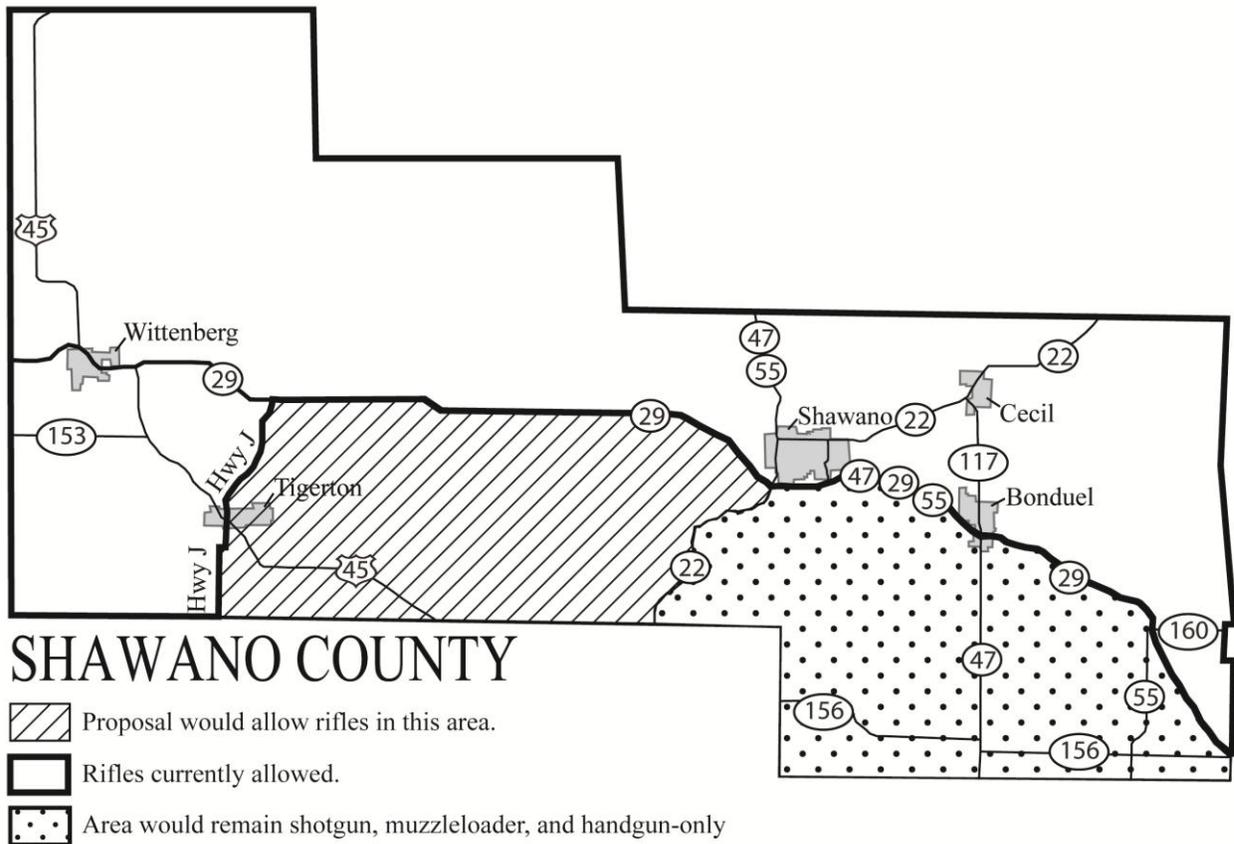
46. Do you support allowing the use of rifles North of Highway 54 in Outagamie County during the gun deer season? 46. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 47. Allow the use of rifles for firearm deer hunting in more of Shawano County (2014)

Currently, rifles are not allowed for deer hunting in Shawano County in areas south of State HWY 29 and east of County HWY J. Firearm season deer hunters are restricted to shotguns, handguns, and muzzleloaders. This proposal would expand the area where rifles are allowed to include the portion of Shawano County bounded by Highway 29 on the north, County Highway J on the west, the Waupaca County boundary on the south, and Highway 22 on the east.

The Department does not view the current prohibition as necessary for biological or safety reasons. As a Conservation Congress advisory question at 2011 spring hearings, this proposal was supported in Shawano County and statewide by a vote of Ayes, 2,305; Noes, 801.

If approved, this proposal would be in effect for the 2014 firearm deer season and there is a possibility that it could be implemented in 2013, however, notice of the rule change could not be provided in regulations pamphlets because of printing deadlines.



47. Do you support expanding the area of Shawano County where rifles may be used for deer hunting to include the area bounded by Highway 29 on the north, County Highway J on the west, the Waupaca County boundary on the south, and Highway 22 on the east?

47. YES _____ NO _____

DEPARTMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS - WILDLIFE

QUESTIONS 48- 51. Regulations for training dogs that will be used to hunt wolves

2011 ACT 169 established a wolf hunting season and authorized the hunting of wolves with the aid of dogs. Although training dogs to hunt wolves is currently not allowed as the result of an injunction from the courts, it may be allowed if rules are written. There are very few rules currently in place that would apply to training dogs to hunt wolves, unless new rules are written.

Under this proposal, training dogs would be prohibited during most of the year, including the summer period. Training dogs would be allowed during the period of the hunting season when it is also legal to hunt wolves with dogs and in March (day after the nine-day gun deer season through March 31).

Dog trainers would be limited to using no more than six dogs in a pack, although dogs could be replaced with fresh dogs as long as there are not more than six dogs used at one time. This six dog restriction is identical to regulations that are already in place for hunting wolves with dogs and for training and hunting bears with dogs.

Dogs used in training would be required to possess some form of identification such as a tattoo or collar with the owner's name and address attached. A person using the dogs would also be required to possess rabies vaccination tags for the dogs. This is identical to regulations currently in place for hunting wolves with dogs and for training and hunting bears with dogs.

At times when the season for hunting wolves with the aid of dogs is open, people who are training, but not hunting, would need to follow normal hunting hours. People who are actually hunting wolves with dogs are limited to daylight hours under current rules. This regulation would eliminate the need for conservation wardens to determine who is hunting and who is only training if they receive a complaint.

48. Do you favor limiting the training of dogs used to hunt wolves to the period beginning on the day after the nine day gun deer season through March 31? **48. YES** ____ **NO** ____

49. Do you favor limiting people who are training dogs to hunt wolves to using no more than six dogs in a pack, with the replacement of dogs allowed as long as there are no more than six dogs used at one time? **49. YES** ____ **NO** ____

50. Do you favor requiring that dogs used in training possess some form of identification such as a tattoo or collar with the owner's name and address attached, and that the owner possess the dogs vaccination tags while afield? **50. YES** ____ **NO** ____

51. Do you favor establishing that dog training for wolves is limited to normal hunting hours at times when the season for hunting wolves with the aid of dogs is also open? **51. YES** ____ **NO** ____

QUESTIONS 52- 63. Expanding open water hunting opportunities for waterfowl

Wisconsin has a long tradition of restricting waterfowl hunting to the near shore and marsh areas of lakes and flowages. This provides safe open water resting areas for migrating waterfowl and may help ducks remain in an area for a longer period during the hunting season. However, “open water” hunting is allowed on some large lakes and the Great Lakes where it is believed that open water hunting does not eliminate safe resting areas. This type of hunting may involve specialized boats and other equipment and primarily targets diving species of ducks. All open water blinds must be removed at the close of hunting hours each day.

The waters where open water hunting is currently allowed are:

- Grant County and the Lake Pepin portions of the Mississippi river (non-refuge areas) regardless of the distance from shore provided the blinds are securely anchored.
* *Federal laws do not allow hunting in open water beyond 100 feet from shore near Potosi, Wisconsin river mile 586.3 to 592.1 in Grant County.*
- Big Green Lake, Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Green Bay provided if beyond 500 feet of any lake or bay shoreline. Blinds do not have to be anchored in these areas.
- Lake Winnebago and Petenwell flowage if more than 1,000 feet from any shoreline including islands provided blinds are securely anchored.

Following a citizen request to increase hunting opportunities by expanding the number of lakes available for open water duck hunting, an ad hoc committee of citizens conducted a statewide review of 130 of the state’s largest lakes. Nine local meetings were held around the state. The committee recommended that the following 12 (Poygan and Winneconne are considered one lake) be considered for open water duck hunting. The committee recommended an additional lake that is no longer included because it was not supported during voting on an advisory question in 2012.

Beaver Dam Lake in Dodge County (excluding Rakes and Trestle Works Bays), Lake Butte des Morts in Winnebago County, Lakes Poygan and Winneconne in Waushara and Winnebago counties, Castle Rock Lake in Adams and Juneau counties (south of railroad bridge and county road G), Grindstone Lake in Sawyer County, Fence, North Twin and Trout Lakes in Vilas County, Lake Puckaway in Marquette and Green Lake counties (the waters west of the west end of the dredge bank, excluding the waters east of the west end of the dredge bank), Shawano Lake in Shawano County, Lake Wisconsin in Sauk and Columbia counties (north of railroad bridge), and Lake Wissota in Chippewa County (south of county road S and north of county road X).

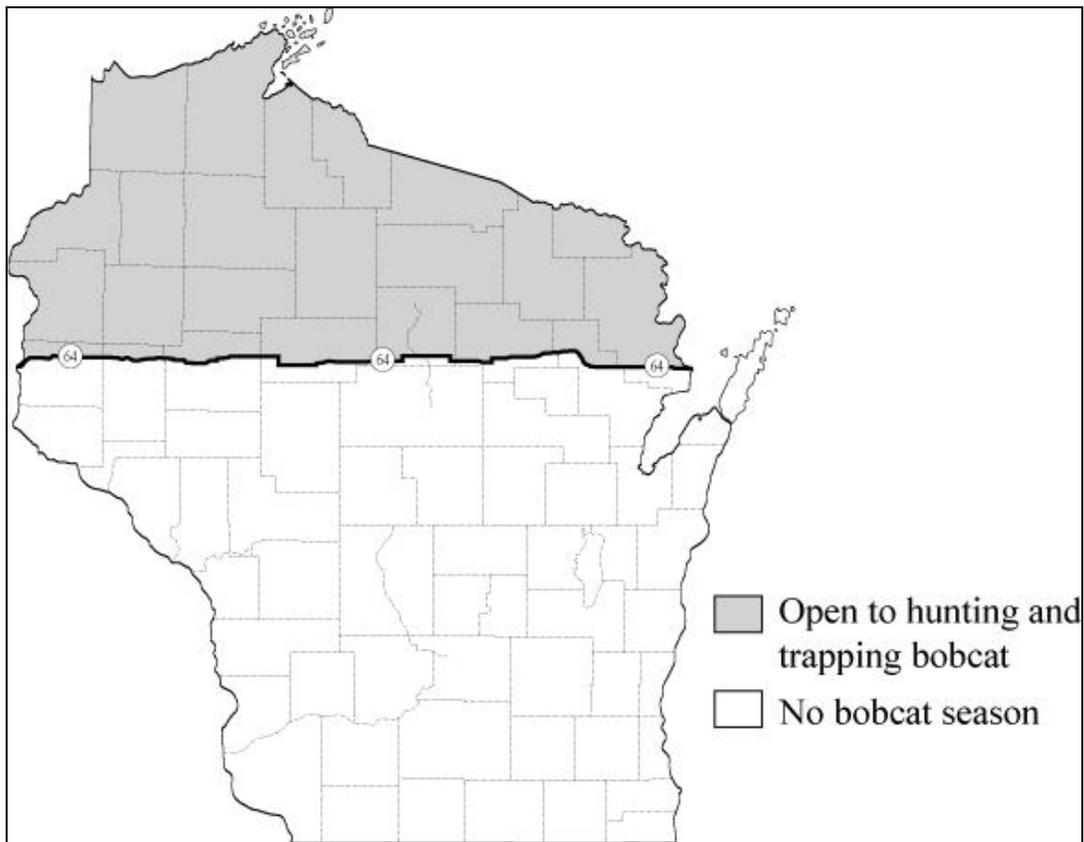
In order to increase areas available to waterfowl hunters and to provide more opportunities for a unique type of waterfowl hunting, do you favor allowing hunting from open water areas if the hunter is more than 1,000 feet from shoreline including islands on the following waters or portions of waters?

52. Beaver Dam Lake in Dodge County (excluding Rakes and Trestle Works Bays).	52. YES ___	NO ___
53. Lake Butte des Morts in Winnebago County.	53. YES ___	NO ___
54. Lakes Poygan and Winneconne in Waushara and Winnebago counties.	54. YES ___	NO ___
55. Castle Rock Lake in Adams and Juneau counties (south of railroad bridge and county road G).	55. YES ___	NO ___
56. Grindstone Lake in Sawyer County.	56. YES ___	NO ___
57. Fence Lake in Vilas County.	57. YES ___	NO ___
58. North Twin Lake in Vilas County.	58. YES ___	NO ___
59. Trout Lake in Vilas County.	59. YES ___	NO ___
60. Lake Puckaway in Marquette and Green Lake counties (the waters west of the west end of the dredge bank, excluding the waters east of the west end of the dredge bank).	60. YES ___	NO ___

61. Shawano Lake in Shawano County.	61. YES ___ NO ___
62. Lake Wisconsin in Sauk and Columbia counties (north of railroad bridge).	62. YES ___ NO ___
63. Lake Wissota in Chippewa County (south of county road S and north of county road X).	63. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 64. Expand the area where bobcat hunting and trapping are legal

Bobcat hunting and trapping are currently allowed north of State Highway 64. This area is where the Department has developed a population estimate and is managing harvest based on established goals which are important to maintain the bobcat population.



Many people have commented to the Department that bobcats occur in areas south of State Highway 64 and are interested in expanding the current harvest zone. Research currently occurring in this region may provide the Department with important information in determining if controlled harvest would be reasonable.

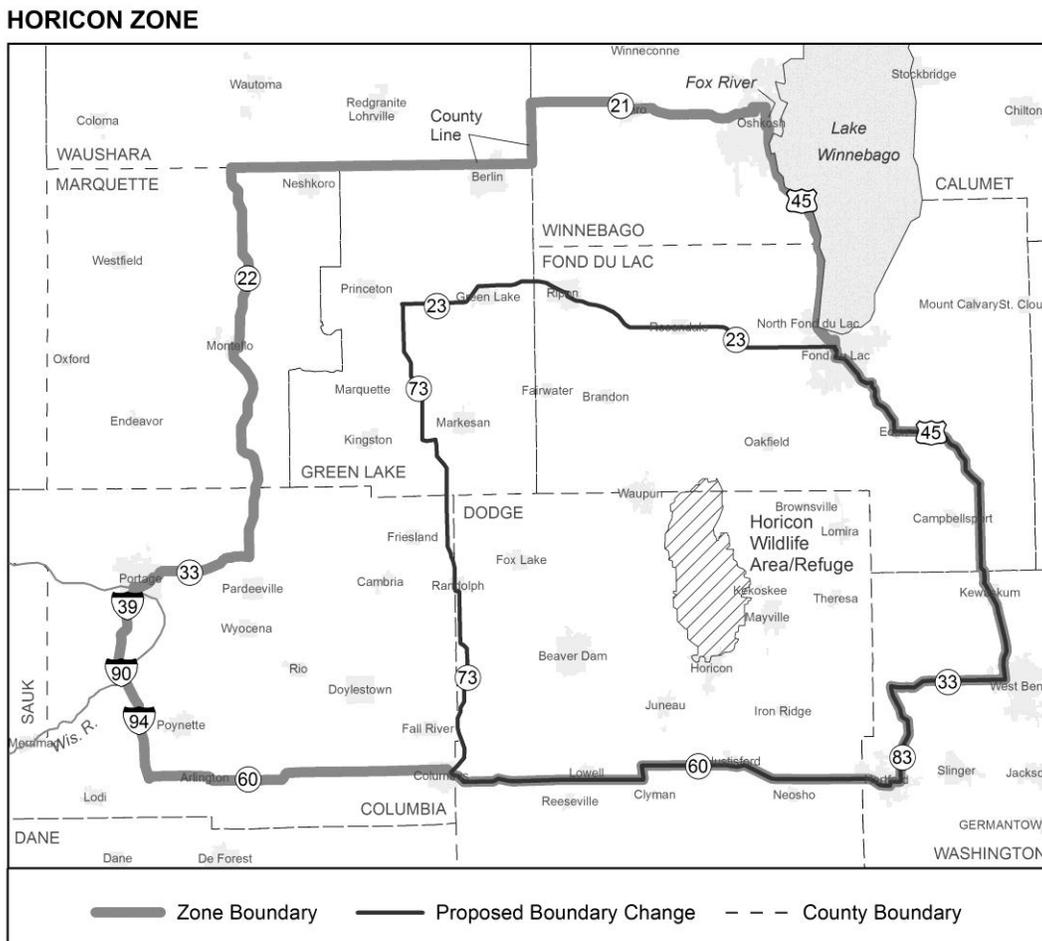
64. If new information suggests a huntable population of bobcats in areas of the state where hunting and trapping are not currently allowed, would you support creating a new zone or otherwise expanding the area where hunting and trapping are currently allowed?	64. YES ___ NO ___
---	---------------------------

QUESTION 65. Canada Goose hunting simplification, reducing the size of the Horicon Zone

In an effort to provide additional hunting opportunity and simplify regulations, while still protecting the Ontario nesting Canada geese from overharvest, it may be possible to shrink the size of the Horicon Zone. Areas removed from the Horicon Zone would become part of the Exterior Zone.

During regular Canada Goose seasons in the Horicon and Exterior Zones, Wisconsin harvests geese from 2 nesting populations; geese that nest locally and geese that nest in wilderness areas of northern Ontario. Harvest of the Ontario population is shared among several states and is managed to avoid overharvest. The Horicon Zone is an area where the Ontario nesting geese concentrate during migration and regulations are designed to avoid overharvest. Maintaining the Horicon Zone regulations is important because more than 20% of the statewide regular season harvest occurs in the counties near Horicon Marsh.

However, Canada Goose hunting regulations are regularly reviewed and can adapt to changes in hunting pressure and goose distribution. In recent years, greater than 80% of the Canada Goose harvest within the Horicon Zone has occurred in Dodge and Fond du Lac counties. The band recoveries from Canada geese that nest in northern Ontario are highest on the eastern counties of the Horicon Zone within about 20 miles of the Horicon Marsh. Western and northern areas of the Horicon Zone experience very low Canada Goose harvest. Based on these data and suggestions offered during meetings in 2012, the Department proposes shrinking the Horicon Canada Goose hunting zone by establishing the western boundary at Highway 73 and the northern boundary at Highway 23.



65. Do you favor shrinking the Horicon Zone by moving the northern boundary south to Hwy 23 and the west boundary to Hwy 73 (see map)?

65. YES ____ NO ____

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 66-67. Options to expand the use of crossbows

Crossbow use is currently allowed for anyone during firearm seasons for most species including deer. The use of crossbows for hunting deer outside the firearm deer seasons is limited to persons with certain disabled permits and persons over the age of 65. There has been considerable interest to expand deer hunting opportunity with crossbows outside the firearm deer seasons.

At a recent stakeholder meeting to discuss crossbow expansion there was significant support for expansion of crossbow use for deer hunting outside the firearm seasons. At the meeting there were two proposals put forth with Proposal #1 gaining the greatest consensus.

Policy makers are seeking public input on these two proposals to craft legislation necessary to expand crossbow hunting opportunity.

Proposal #1

This proposal was for full Inclusion; an Archery/Crossbow Season.

- Crossbow hunting for deer at any legal hunting age and running concurrent with the entire archery season.
- An Archery/Crossbow License that includes one buck tag and one antlerless tag that when purchased would identify if the hunter will be hunting with a bow, crossbow, or both.
- At the time of registration, harvest would be recorded as a bow or crossbow kill.
- The proposal also included “Last in-First out” language, meaning if for biological or social reasons the non-firearm harvest needed to be reduced, restrictions would be placed on crossbow use before any restrictions would be placed on bow use.

Proposal #2

This proposal was for a defined Crossbow Season and a separate Crossbow License.

- Crossbow hunting at any legal age with the purchase of a Crossbow License that includes one buck tag and one antlerless tag.
- The crossbow hunting season for any age would be limited to the start of the archery season and run through Sunday of the fourth week.
- Persons over the age of 65 and disabled hunters would continue to hunt the entire duration of the archery season.
- Only one buck total would be able to be harvested with possession of a crossbow and/or archery tag.

66. Do you favor proposal #1?

66. YES___ NO___

67. Do you favor proposal #2?

67. YES___ NO___

QUESTION 68. Hunting wolves with dogs

Hunting wolves with dogs and training dogs to hunt wolves are controversial. In 2012, the state’s wolf quotas were quickly and fully reached without the use of dogs.

68. Would you favor legislation to prohibit the use of dogs to hunt and training dogs to hunt wolves?

68. YES___ NO___



Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2013 Annual Recognition Awards

Each year the Wisconsin Conservation Congress recognizes individuals and organizations who have dedicated themselves and their time to the conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources. These awards are intended to acknowledge the hard work, exemplary leadership, and commitment of these individuals and groups to continuing our outdoor legacy for generations to come.

The three categories for nominations are Statewide Organization of the Year, Local Organization of the Year, and Educator of the Year.

Conservation clubs and sportsmen and women throughout the state are asked to help this effort by nominating a deserving club, organization, or educator. The awards will be presented to the winners at the WCC Annual Convention in Eau Claire on May 10, 2013.

Nomination forms can be found on the WCC website at dnr.wi.gov – search “Conservation Congress” (nomination form can be found under Community Outreach).



Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 69. Panfish

There continues to be pressure put on the DNR to respond to angler demands to reduce bag limits on panfish species.

-
69. Do you support a regulation change addressing panfish overharvest allowing a bag limit split by species? 69. YES___ NO___
-

QUESTION 70. Hunting/ trapping in state parks

Wisconsin Act 168, Known as the "Sporting Heritage Act", established that state parks would be open for hunting and trapping, unless parks or portions of parks are closed by the Natural Resources Board to protect public safety or to protect unique plant or animal communities. In addition, the legislation prohibited hunting and trapping within 100 yards of any designated use area, including trails.

The Natural Resources Board approved a modified proposal limiting hunting and trapping from November 15 - December 15, and from April 1 through the third spring turkey season, and allowed bow hunting from November 15 through the end of the deer archery season in early January.

The Department of Natural Resources developed a proposal to implement this law change that would have opened area of state parks for hunting and trapping from October 15 to the Thursday prior to Memorial Day weekend for any seasons that were opening during this timeframe.

This legislation was introduced in response to a 2011 Wisconsin Conservation Congress advisory question that passed in all 72 counties for hunting, and in 71 of 72 counties to allow trapping in state parks.

-
70. Would you support expanding the hunting opportunities in state parks from the plan approved by the Natural Resources Board to the plan proposed by the DNR? 70. YES___ NO___
-

BEAR COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 71. Transfer Class A Bear Harvest Permit (from resolution 510112) (requires legislation)

At present there is no way to transfer a Class A Bear Harvest Permit to a currently active duty Armed Forces member or Purple Heart recipient.

Permits that are transferred have already been applied for and received by a person. There is no need to have any special permits available above and beyond the approved quotas or permits that the DNR has set for that year's season.

-
71. Are you in favor of a Class A Bear Harvest Permit holder to have the ability to transfer their Bear Harvest Permit to any currently active duty Armed Forces member or Purple Heart recipient for a once in a lifetime transfer? 71. YES____ NO____
-

BIG GAME COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 72. End the December antlerless deer season (from resolution 160512)

The December antlerless gun deer season was established to provide additional opportunity for hunters and reduce the deer herd in designated units. The December antlerless gun season follows three consecutive weekends and 19 days of firearm hunting pressure on deer.

-
72. Do you support elimination of the December antlerless gun deer season? 72. YES____ NO____
-

**ENDANGERED RESOURCES & LAW ENFORCEMENT
COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

QUESTION 73. Remove backtag requirements (from resolutions 570212, 500212, 660212, 200112, 670512, 680512, & 710212) (requires legislation)

Wisconsin is one of two or three states that still require bear and deer hunters to display backtags during the designated hunting seasons. Some hunters cite noise, the inconvenience of changing tag holders from garment to garment, damage to clothing, and the possibility of facing a citation if the backtag falls off as reasons for removal of Wisconsin's backtag requirement for deer and bear hunting. Generally, landowners have supported the backtag requirement as a means to identify trespassers.

-
73. Do you favor removing Wisconsin's requirement of wearing a backtag during the archery and gun deer and bear hunting seasons? 73. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 74. Expand definition of artificial lights allowed for predator hunting (from resolution 160312) (requires legislation)

Wisconsin Statute 29.314 currently restricts the use of a light for hunting coyotes, foxes, raccoons, wolves, and other non-protected species to a flashlight at the point of kill while hunting on foot. Flashlight is defined by the statutes to mean “a battery-operated light” which is “designed to be held and carried by hand.” Since this statute originated, many lights designed to be mounted to the firearm or headlamps designed to be worn on the head or hat have come into the market and in practice are being used to hunt coyotes, foxes, raccoons, wolves, and other non-protected species while on foot at the point of kill. DNR law enforcement looks favorably on any reasonable efforts to improve safety through better target identification consistent with the rule of firearm safety on knowing your target and what is beyond.

74. To simplify the law and bring it in line with what is commonly practiced, do you support changes to Wisconsin State Statute ss. 29.314 (4)(b)2., (5)(b)2. and 3., that would allow a person to use any type of light at the point of kill while hunting on foot raccoons, foxes, coyotes, wolves, or other unprotected animals during the open season for the animal hunted, and no longer limit a person to only the use of a flashlight? 74. YES _____ NO _____

FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 75. Allow trapping on NPS (National Park Service) owned land along Namekagan/ St. Croix Rivers (from resolutions 040212, 160112, 580112, & 660312) (requires federal rule change)

The Totagatic River is a tributary of the Namekagan River, which in turn flows into the St. Croix River. The Totagatic River is a state-designated wild river, and as a result, trapping is still allowed there. However, the Namekagan and St. Croix Rivers are a part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and therefore are protected and administered by the National Park Service (NPS). In Wisconsin, trapping is not allowed on NPS owned land or adjacent river areas. However, individuals may trap on privately-owned parts of the river with the permission of the landowner and public land (and the adjacent river areas) not owned by NPS.

75. Would you support allowing trapping on National Park Service owned land and adjacent river areas along the St. Croix, Namekagan, and tributaries? This would require a change in federal regulations. 75. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 76. Extend muskrat season until March 31

Musk rats are late primers—that is, they produce their best quality pelts before “ice out” which normally comes after the end of the current season. Late March is a time of seasonal changes (rising temperatures, longer days, receding ice) that cause muskrats to become very active. This increased activity affords trappers an excellent opportunity to harvest prime pelts.

76. Would you support extending the muskrat season from the current season end date to March 31? 76. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 77. Statewide bobcat season

Currently hunting and trapping for bobcats is only allowed North of State Hwy 64 with two split seasons starting in the middle of October to December 25. The second part is December 26 to the end of January. The harvest goal is split between these two seasons. The harvest goal is set each year by DNR staff. There have been an increasing number of sightings on trail cameras, incidental takes by trappers, and road kill incidents south of State Hwy 64 indicating that there is an increasing population in the southern portion of the state. For years, there has been interest in a statewide bobcat season by some members of the public.

77. Do you support allowing the statewide hunting and trapping of bobcats using the same harvest goal as is presently being used North of State Hwy 64? 77. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 78. Simplify season framework

Currently the coyote and fisher trapping seasons, and the raccoon (residents), fox and bobcat hunting and trapping seasons, do not start on the same date as the wolf season begins. The legislature has established that the wolf season opens on October 15 each year.

Currently the coyote & fisher trapping season, and the fox, bobcat and resident raccoon hunting and trapping seasons all open on the Saturday nearest October 17. This can lead to incidental coyote, raccoons, fox, bobcat or fisher being caught in wolf traps a few days before their respective seasons open, and the trapper not being able to keep and utilize those animals. To correct this problem and also simplify the rules we propose the season dates for these six species to begin on the same date as the opening day of the wolf season, statewide. Coyote hunting season would not change and remain open all year. The ending dates for all these species would also remain unchanged.

78. Do you favor opening the coyote and fisher trapping seasons, and the fox, bobcat and resident raccoon hunting and trapping seasons on October 15 each year to be consistent with the new wolf hunting and trapping season opening date? 78. YES____ NO____

HUNTING WITH DOGS COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 79. Dog training in Bear Zone C

Wisconsin bear hunters generally choose between two primary methods of hunting bears—one method is using bait and the other is using dogs to track and locate a bear. Hunting bear over bait is legal statewide while hunting bear with the aid of dogs is restricted to Zones A, B, and D. The practice of training dogs to hunt bear is currently allowed statewide including Zone C during July and August, where the practice of using dogs to hunt bear is prohibited.

79. Would you support closing Zone C to bear dog training seven days before the bear hunting season begins? 79. YES____ NO____

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 80. Increase non-resident deer license fees (from resolution 110112) (requires legislation)

Wisconsin's non-resident deer license fees are low compared to some other states.

80. Would you favor that the State of Wisconsin increase the non-resident deer license? **80.** YES____ NO____

QUESTION 81. Sport License change (from resolution 360112) (requires legislation)

A number of hunters no longer use a firearm to hunt deer, some due to legal issues. Currently, Sport Licenses include general fishing, small game and firearm deer licenses. This proposal would allow a choice between a gun deer or archery deer tag when purchasing a Sport License.

81. Would you favor the ability to choose between a gun deer and an archery deer license when buying a Sport License? **81.** YES____ NO____

QUESTION 82. Non-motorized boat registration (from resolution 250112) (requires legislation)

All boaters use or have access to many resources such as public landings, municipal water patrols, and DNR law enforcement when recreating on Wisconsin waters.

Currently, only motorized boats help pay for these things through boat registration. Besides increasing revenue for these amenities, requiring non-motorized boats to have registration would help return the craft to the owner if lost or stolen and would also help in search and rescue events.

82. Would you favor all non-motorized boats in the State of Wisconsin be registered through the Wisconsin DNR? **82.** YES____ NO____

QUESTION 83. Armed Forces licenses (from resolution 580312) (requires legislation)

Currently Wisconsin issues about 2,000 free licenses to active duty Armed Forces members that are residents. Wisconsin has a large number of non-resident visitors, some of whom are active duty members on leave or furlough. Wisconsin could offer these non-resident service members a hunting or fishing license at a minimal cost. A minimal charge is needed to receive federal Pittman Robertson funds for each license issued by the state.

83. Would you favor a rule change allowing non-resident active Armed Forces members on leave or furlough to buy, at a reduced cost, a hunting and/or fishing license? **83.** YES____ NO____

QUESTION 84. Hunting feral pigs (from resolution 720212) (requires legislation)

Feral pigs are present in Wisconsin and are an unprotected species with no bag limit. Feral pigs can cause a great deal of agricultural damage. Currently a Small Game License is needed to shoot feral pigs with a firearm (except that landowners may shoot feral pigs on their own property without a license). An archery license does allow the harvest of unprotected species (like feral pigs) with archery equipment.

84. Should the State of Wisconsin allow hunting feral pigs year round with any hunting license? 84. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 85. Transfer of license/ permit (from resolution 440111) (requires legislation)

Some Wisconsin senior and/or disabled residents may not have the opportunity to harvest a bear, bobcat, turkey, fisher, otter, or sturgeon, as the ability to harvest these species requires individuals to obtain a harvest permit using the cumulative point preference system. The length of time it takes to secure a permit varies, but can be a number of years. This extended period of time required to acquire a permit may prevent some senior and/or disabled residents with deteriorating health from participating in one of these harvest opportunities.

85. Would you support legislation to allow the transfer of a valid permit from a successful permit holder to a senior (65 years of age or older) or disabled resident for a “first time” or “one time” harvest opportunity? 85. YES ___ NO ___

<p>MIGRATORY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION</p>

QUESTION 86. Waterfowl hunting concealment rule

Current law requires that boats and blinds used by waterfowl hunters hunting from the water be at least 50% concealed by “naturally occurring growth of emergent vegetation rooted to the bottom” which is located within 3 feet of the boat or blind. There has been much discussion over various concerns with the concealment of boats and blinds and the current concealment rule for waterfowl hunters. To resolve these concerns, would you be in favor of the following revised rule?

86. “Open water” means any portion of a navigable water body which does not contain a naturally occurring growth of vegetation that provides all of the following:

1. The vegetation is of sufficient height and density to conceal at least 50% of the hunter and the boat, blind or similar device within or behind the natural growth of vegetation when viewed from at least one direction horizontally and parallel to the water surface from a height approximately 3 feet from above the water level.
2. The vegetation that provides the 50% concealment shall be within 3 feet of the exterior of the boat, blind or similar device.

86. YES ___ NO ___

These changes would allow the use of any rooted naturally occurring vegetation located within 3 feet of the hunter’s boat or blind, including shoreline or upland vegetation, to provide the required 50 % concealment.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 87. Minnow harvest regulations as pertaining to control of fish diseases and invasive species (from resolution 220512)

Since 2008 it has been illegal to collect minnows from waters suspected to be infected with the fish disease Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), or in any connected waters not separated by a barrier that is impassable to fish. It remains legal to transport minnows away from such waters if purchased from a Wisconsin bait dealer and either not exposed to water or fish from that water body or only used again on the same water body.

This regulation is very difficult to enforce because it is extremely hard for law enforcement to determine if water has or has not been exchanged, or if minnows were purchased or caught on that water body.

87. Do you favor changing the rules regarding minnow harvest on all Wisconsin VHS suspect waters so that:

- Minnows may be collected on VHS suspect waters for personal use by ordinary traditional methods; and that
- Such minnows may only be possessed on/at such waters in quantity consistent with daily personal use, (determination or quantity TBD); and that
- No minnows may be transported away from such water bodies except during ice fishing and only if the minnows are purchased from a Wisconsin bait dealer or are either not exposed to water or fish from that water body or only used again on the same water body?

87. YES ____ NO ____

OUTDOOR HERITAGE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 88. Allow 14 & 15 year olds to participate in the youth hunts unaccompanied by a mentor (from resolution 620112)

Currently, 14 and 15 year olds who have passed a hunters safety class may hunt all seasons unaccompanied by a mentor with the exception of the youth hunts (October gun deer, turkey, & waterfowl). During this set of seasons only, 14 and 15 year olds are required to hunt accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Changing this law would simplify deer hunting regulations for the youth hunts and bring the regulations into alignment with the rest of the hunting seasons for the youth of our state.

88. Would you support a rule change that would allow 14 and 15 year olds who have passed hunters safety to hunt unaccompanied during youth hunts?

88. YES ____ NO ____

QUESTION 89. Allow 16 & 17 year olds to participate in all youth hunts (from resolution 520112)

Currently, youth hunts for deer, turkey, and waterfowl are scheduled one weekend each year prior to the normal hunting season. These hunts are set aside for 10-15 year olds. Currently, only 10-15 year olds may participate in the youth hunts, but the Junior Conservation Patron, Junior Sports, Junior Small Game, and Junior Gun and Archery Deer License are for 12-17 year olds, but 16-17 year olds aren't allowed to participate in the youth hunts. There are youth that don't get introduced to hunting until they're 16 or 17 and currently can't participate in the youth hunts.

Changing the law to allow 16-17 year olds to participate in the youth hunts would allow mentors to recruit more youth hunters, increase youth hunting opportunity, and simplify hunting rules and seasons by making youth hunts concurrent with the youth hunting licenses.

89. Would you support a rule change that would allow 16 and 17 year olds to participate in all youth hunts? 89. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 90. Eliminate Inland Trout & Great Lakes Stamp for 16-17 year old youth (from resolution 520312) (requires legislation)

Currently, 16 & 17 year olds who purchase a fishing license are required to purchase a \$10.00 Great Lakes Salmon/ Trout Stamp to fish for salmon/ trout on Lakes Michigan or Superior, and a \$10.00 Inland Trout Stamp to fish for trout on any inland body of water.

Eliminating the stamp requirements for 16 & 17 year olds may eliminate a barrier to participation for those youth who find the cost of the stamp prohibitive to their participation, and simplify fishing regulations for youth.

90. Would you support a rule change that would eliminate the Inland Trout and Great Lakes Stamp requirements for 16 and 17 year olds who hold a valid fishing license? 90. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 91. Eliminate hunting stamp requirements for youth (from resolution 520212) (requires legislation)

Currently, 10-17 year olds who purchase a small game license must also purchase a Pheasant Stamp to hunt pheasants. Youth, 10-17 years old, must also purchase a Turkey Stamp in addition to their license if they're going to hunt turkey. A Federal or State Duck Stamp is not required for 10-15 year olds in order to hunt waterfowl, but 16-17 year olds are required to purchase both stamps if they're going to hunt waterfowl.

Eliminating the state hunting stamp requirements for youth through the age of 17 to hunt pheasants, turkeys, and waterfowl may help to recruit more youth hunters, eliminate cost prohibitive barriers to participation, and simplify hunting rules for youth.

91. Would you support a rule change that would eliminate the state Pheasant, Turkey and Waterfowl Stamp requirements for all youth hunters? This would not affect federal stamp requirements. 91. YES____ NO____

UPLAND GAME COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 92. Pheasant hunting season opening time change to 9:00 a.m. (from resolution 140112)

Current regulations open the pheasant season at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the Saturday nearest October 17. Weather conditions can be dry and mid-day temperatures can reach 60 degrees or more. A state wide opening of pheasant season at 9:00 a.m. would allow for hunting during cooler temperatures and wetter conditions and may provide a more enjoyable opening day experience without compromising hunter and dog safety. Waterfowl season currently opens at 9:00 a.m.

92. Would you be in favor of uniform statewide pheasant hunting season opening time of 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 17? 92. YES____ NO____

WARM WATER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 93. Bluegill bag and size limits on Allequash Lakes, Vilas County (from resolution 640512)

Upper and Lower Allequash Lakes in Vilas county, in the past, have shown the ability to grow quality-sized bluegills. In recent years, due to fishing pressure specifically targeting bluegills, the average size has been greatly reduced.

93. Do you support reducing the daily bag limit for bluegills to 10 with a minimum size limit of eight inches on Upper and Lower Allequash Lakes in Vilas County? 93. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 94. Crappie size and bag limit on Lake Wausau, Marathon County (from resolution 370512)

With the increase in the popularity of ice angling and the advancement of fishing technology and angling techniques there has been a decline in the size structure of the crappies in Lake Wausau, Marathon County. Many feel the current bag of 25 without any size limit for crappies is wrong for today's angling techniques.

94. Do you support reducing the daily bag limit for crappies to 10 with a minimum size limit of 10 inches for Lake Wausau in Marathon County? 94. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 95. Reduce bag limit for bluegills on Chequamegon Waters, Taylor County (from resolution 610312)

The quality and quantity of bluegill populations on the Chequamegon Waters of Taylor County seems to be declining. Many feel the current daily bag limit of 25 bluegills is too high.

95. Do you support reducing the daily bag of bluegill from 25 to 10, but still have a total daily aggregate bag of 25 panfish? 95. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 96. Change walleye size and bag limit on Spirit Lake and North Spirit Lake, Taylor County (from resolution 610212)

Spirit Lake and North Spirit Lake, Taylor County, have a walleye protected slot size limit. No fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept. The limit is five fish daily with only one over 18 inches. Because there is no natural reproduction and the population is maintained solely through stocking, many feel this is the wrong regulation. The Spirit Lake Improvement Association would like to see the harvest reduced.

-
96. Do you support removing the 14 to 18-inch protected slot size limit, with a daily bag limit of five walleye on Spirit and North Spirit Lakes in Taylor County and replacing them with an 18-inch minimum size limit and a daily bag limit of three walleye? 96. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 97. Musky size limit on Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages (from resolution 290212)

The Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages on the Wisconsin River have low densities of muskies and both have the potential to grow true trophy fish. They have high densities of prey and they fit the DNR's criteria of "trophy waters" for musky.

-
97. Do you support increasing the minimum size limit for musky on Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages from 45 inches to 50 inches? 97. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 98. Size and bag limit change for northern pike on Winnebago System waters (from resolution 450112)

Currently the Winnebago System has a daily bag limit of two and a minimum size limit of 26 inches on northern pike. Results of spring netting surveys show an abundance of smaller northern pike less than 26 inches but few fish above the 26-inch limit. Anglers would be more than willing to harvest these fish less than 26 inches.

-
98. Do you support changing the daily bag and size limit on northern pike in the Winnebago System from a daily bag limit of two and a minimum size limit of 26 inches to a bag limit of two but only one may be less than 26 inches? 98. YES _____ NO _____
-

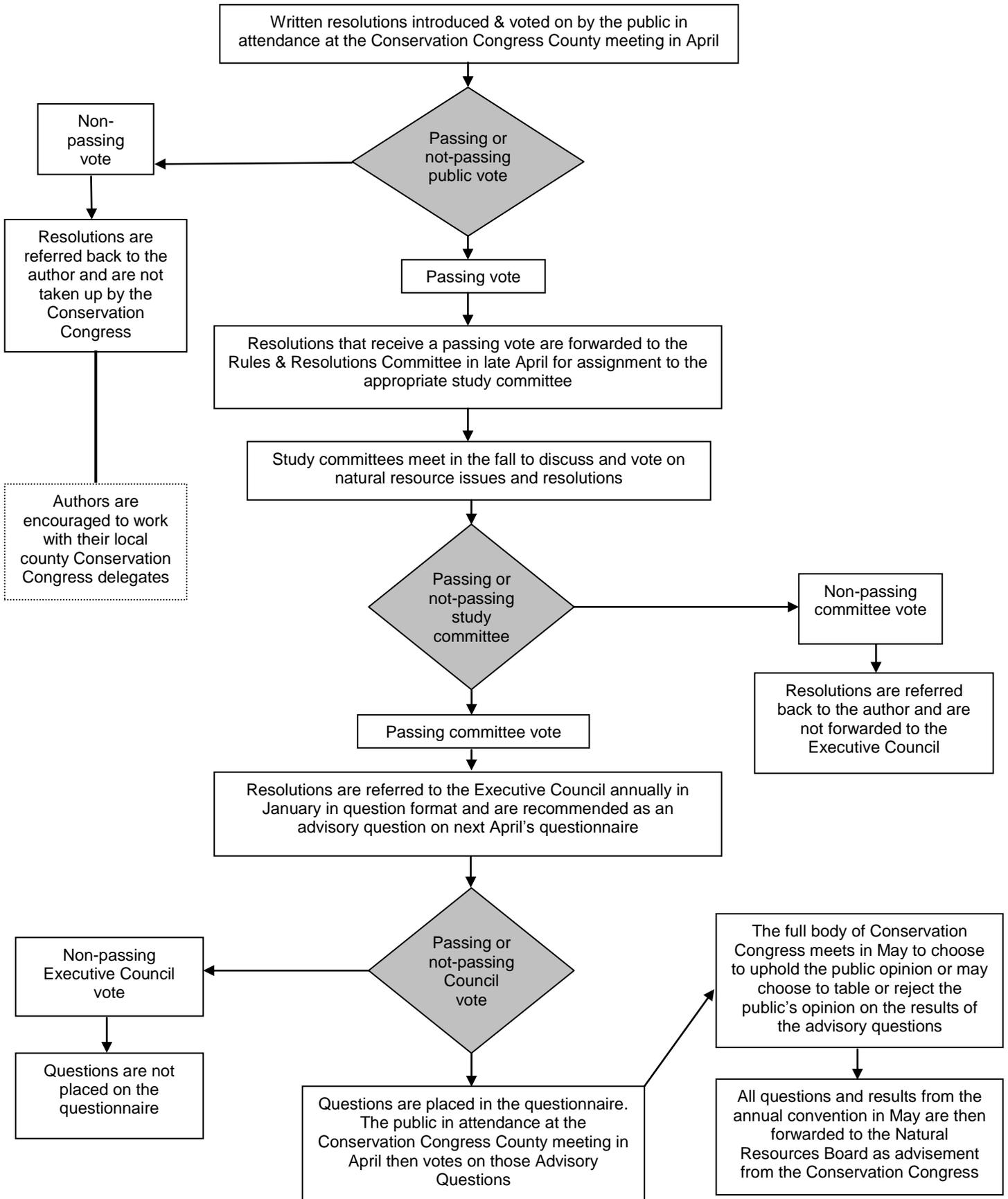
WOLF COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 99. Introduce year-round coyote hunting (from resolution 160712)

Coyote hunting has historically been closed at times when firearm deer seasons are open in Wolf Management Zone 1 in northern Wisconsin. This closure was established when wolves were listed in Wisconsin and federally as an endangered species, to prevent incidents of misidentification by people intending to harvest coyotes.

-
99. Do you favor a continuous coyote hunting season through the gun deer seasons in Wolf Management Zone 1? 99. YES _____ NO _____
-

The Conservation Congress Resolution Process



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 annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings in April.

Resolution Format

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 and reasonable.
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 38). Please make sure to indicate whether or not you have already spoken with local Department staff and your local county congress delegates.

Resolution Presentation

- ✓ 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 author's name, mailing address, county, telephone number and signature is required to be at the bottom of the resolution.

Sample Resolution

- Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution within the county. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced.
- No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.
- Written resolutions not meeting the above criteria and/or verbal resolutions will not be accepted.
- 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.
- Individuals in attendance at the meeting can vote on the resolution being introduced within the county.

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 11, 2011 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 WCC
Resolution
Process
(page 53)

Notes

**Thank you
for attending this year's
meeting!**



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Public Hearing**

&

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



**Interested in making a difference
by becoming part of the
Wisconsin Conservation Congress?**

**Talk to one of your local delegates or visit the
Conservation Congress website at:
dnr.wi.gov – search “Conservation Congress”**