

20 02 2015

## **Audit and Investigation into WDNR Budget Cuts to Determine Where Money Saved by Budget Cuts is Going.**

### **The Problem:**

There has been a number of cuts to the WDNR during the last biennium and drastic cuts are being proposed in the budget for the next biennium. The majority of the cost of running the WDNR is from license fees, permit fees, and Federal subsidies with only a small amount coming from general revenue (taxes).

The cuts being proposed would severely limit the ability of the WDNR to perform the services expected from the people buying licenses and obtaining permits. There is even discussion about eliminating departments such as the science division that is responsible for monitoring and performing research on diseases, invasive species, clean water, and clean air. The Fisheries Department and other departments are also seeing major cuts. The warden staff continues to operate below minimum levels even though money exists to cover the cost of adequate staffing.

We should be asking where the money saved by all these cuts is going. These funds are segregated funds and legally should not be transferred to general revenue.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Fond du Lac County on April 13, 2015, recommend that the Conservation Congress and the Natural Resources Board work with the Legislative Audit Bureau to determine where the money from WDNR budget cuts have gone and where the money from proposed cuts is intended to go, and are unused funds being transferred to the general revenue fund at the end of a budget year?

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