

64-03-15

yes - 48  
no - 18

License Fee Increase

Wisconsin ranks near last in the country in number of wardens and biologists per sportsman utilizing its natural resources. In order to better protect and understand these resources, our state should be at the other end of these rankings to insure quality experiences for all its users.

In light of recent budget cuts on top of any already tight budget, there are many jobs either terminated or left unfilled. In some cases, new warden recruits this state pays to train, end up seeking employment in other states with higher pay.

An example in North Central Wisconsin is that the quantity of lakes far exceeds the number of biologists needed to give these lakes the attention they need. Our already understaffed field wardens are further limited on how much field time they can spend protecting our resources.

Wisconsin has not had a license fee increase in over 8 years! A two to three dollar per license increase on average would potentially raise 3-5 million dollars or more. This could assist the DNR to fund more biologists and wardens and keep the best of each in this state.

Be it resolved that the Conservation Congress at the annual meeting held on April 13, 2015 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Natural Resource Board to assist the DNR's budget deficit by increasing license fees.

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