

Department of Natural Resources NEWS

October 20, 2009

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Lake Tomah carp removal project aims at improved fishery, lake habitat

TOMAH, Wis. -- In the past week and a half, thousands of dead carp have floated to the surface of Lake Tomah, the result of a chemical treatment by the state Department of Natural Resources.

From a biologist's perspective, it is a gratifying sight and for local residents it is cause for celebration. It means this reservoir has been released from the death grip of the invasive carp. Lake Tomah has been given that rarest of gifts – a fresh start.

In two to three years this weedless mud hole will once again be a clear-water lake with rich green plants waving in soft, near-shore currents. Within five years, healthy populations of northern pike, largemouth bass, black crappies and bluegills will thrill a new generation of fishermen.

“It’s wonderful and it’s exciting,” said Ruth Nystrom, an enthusiastic lakeshore resident who helped cook lunch for work crews on treatment day. “It’s going to be clear and the fishing is going to be good. It’s going to be a real asset for Tomah.”

Much of this excitement – highlighted by the low-flying helicopter used to drop precise amounts of rotenone on the lake.

In the meantime, Jordan Weeks, the DNR fisheries biologist who headed up the project, said the floating carp tell what happened to this lake.

“None of the carp were large,” Weeks said. “They reached a medium-small size and stopped growing. By rooting up every vestige of aquatic vegetation they had destroyed the habitat so thoroughly that even the famously hardy carp could not thrive.”

The decaying population of harmful invaders will soon disappear, with a good deal of help from flying scavengers.

“The seagulls are going to be too fat to fly this winter,” observed Joe McDaniel, chairman of the Lake Tomah Committee.

(more)



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Years of planning and weeks of precise calculations and detailed logistics preceded treatment day, Oct. 8, when more than two dozen DNR employees took up stations around the lake and along stretches of the Lemonweir River which carries water to and from the reservoir. Carefully measured doses of rotenone, an organic pesticide, were used to kill all fish in the lake. The chemical does not harm birds or mammals.

Fortunately, few game fish were affected because there were few game fish left in the lake. The DNR lifted all size and bag limits this past spring.

“I think the fishermen did a pretty good job this summer of cleaning it out,” McDaniel said. “Everything you see floating is carp, and there are thousands of them.”

Much work is left to be done. The lake will be kept three feet below normal elevation until late summer 2010 to allow aquatic vegetation to take root.

“The weed beds are out there,” McDaniel said. “They just weren’t able to grow because of the carp.”

The city will dredge out the sediment basin at the mouth of the Lemonweir so that silt falls out before it flows into the lake. Monroe County will bring in tons of rock to stabilize the small islands in the lake and to create off shore reefs to attenuate the erosive action of waves and boat wakes.

A new handicap accessible fishing pier will be erected over one of the lake’s best fishing holes. More than three dozen felled oak trees will be anchored offshore to create underwater structure and habitat, something for invertebrates to hang onto. DNR will begin stocking game fish and set regulations to allow a first-class fishery to develop.

“It’s been a busy project, working with the state,” said Ken Patterson, the city’s director of public works and a key member of the planning team.

Bryce Richardson, soil and water conservationist for Monroe County said much of the island restoration and rock work will begin this winter. Eventually, stinging nettle and canary grass will be replaced by more beneficial native plants.

“The coordination went well between the agencies,” Richardson said. “It was fun to be involved with it. As far as I can tell, everything is going according to plan.”

Weeks said it will take about four years to re-establish a fishery. With luck, he said, the lake won’t need another rescue for at least a half century.

“Thanks to all the help we got from the different groups, it went as well as it possibly could have gone,” Weeks said.

DNR watershed expert Patrick “Buzz” Sorge, who helped the city obtain grants for the project, credited McDaniel for revitalizing the lake committee and generating the social will to take on such a dramatic project.

McDaniel said when folks would complain about the upcoming treatment, he’d ask them how many ice shanties they saw on the lake in recent winters. The answer – hardly any. Back in the day, he said, Lake Tomah supported a village of ice fishing shacks.

In a few short years, McDaniel said, a new fishing village will spring to life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Jordan Weeks 608-785-9002 or Ed Culhane, DNR West Central Region public affairs manager - 715-839-3715

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New map offers view into how deer population estimates help determine season structure

MADISON – An online color map that compares estimated deer populations to population goals offers a view into how population estimates are used to determine season structures.

The color-coded map of Wisconsin’s deer management units (DMUs) assigns a color to a deer management unit in one of four categories according to population estimates: more than 20 percent below population goals; within 20 percent plus or minus of population goals; 20 to 40 percent above goals; and more than 40 percent above goals.

Populations determine structure

“Every year, following the close of hunting, biologists and population ecologists enter data from the hundreds of thousands of registration stubs collected at deer registration stations as a first step in determining future season rules,” said Keith Warnke, Department of Natural Resources deer and bear ecologist

“Registrations provide a massive amount of hunter-supplied data that are a key input to our population estimations, which in turn are the basis of the next year’s hunting season structure. Hunters can get a general idea of population trends in their unit from this map and areas that are below or close to goals. Depending on where you hunt, scouting, teaming up for drives and having a plan B will improve chances of success. As deer numbers approach healthy population goals, fewer deer may be seen in some DMUs compared to when populations were out of balance,” Warnke said.

“Blue DMU”

Not the title of a Nashville hit, blue-colored deer management units are those units estimated to be more than 20 percent below population goals. Accordingly, there are no (or very few) antlerless permits available for over-the-counter sales in 2009 in these units. This is intended to promote herd growth and increase deer numbers.

Most green and yellow units do have bonus antlerless deer permits available over-the-counter but the number of permits available has been adjusted on a unit by unit basis to maintain populations near goals.

Most red units, those estimated to be more than 40 percent above goals:

- have ample numbers of bonus antlerless permits available over-the-counter;
- are designated as Herd Control Units meaning hunters can use the free antlerless deer tag that comes with their deer hunting license; or
- are CWD units in which case EAB rules continue to apply.

(more)

Bonus antlerless permits limited

“Hunters can expect a season similar to 2008,” says Warnke. “Preliminary indications are that fawn production is about the same as it was last year and remains below the long term average. Indices to fawn production were up in some areas and down in others, but on the whole very similar to last year. Winter severity was moderate and herd growth will vary with varying fawn production. Deer numbers will vary by region and even unit. Units in the far northeast are below population goals and DNR has taken steps to bring deer numbers up in those units. In others, populations remain above goal and herd control seasons are in place for 2009.”

Accordingly, one change hunters in the northern and central forests will notice is many deer management units will be “regular” units in 2009 after many successive seasons of herd control or earn-a-buck. Hunters in DMUs designated as regular units by deer managers, will find limits on the number of antlerless deer hunters will be able to harvest.

And, earn-a-buck, a population management tool that requires hunters to first shoot an antlerless deer before shooting a buck, has been suspended while effective alternatives are considered everywhere except in Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone.

Public hearings, online survey seek input on proposed deer season framework

The state Natural Resources Board is seeking public feedback on proposed changes to Wisconsin’s 2010 and 2011 deer hunting season structures that are based on recommendations developed by a public panel charged with finding effective and hunter-supported alternatives to earn-a-buck. The panel’s complete report is available on the advisory committee Web site at [deerherd.editme.com] and the proposed changes can be found on the Natural Resources Board pages of the DNR Web site. [[meeting agenda](#)]

Public hearings on the proposal [<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/news/hearmeet.html#EAB>] have begun and continue through November 3. Those who are unable to attend a public hearing in person may comment on the proposal through an online comment form. The online comment form will be active through Nov. 3 and is available on the 2010 Deer Season Proposal [<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/hunt/deer/proposal.htm>] page of the DNR Web site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Warnke - (608) 264-6023 or Bob Manwell - (608) 264-9248

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New carcass movement restrictions in CWD zone

FITCHBURG, Wis. – Hunters and motorists are reminded that new regulations governing the transport of hunter harvested and vehicle killed deer from the chronic wasting disease – Management Zone (CWD-MZ) of southern Wisconsin took effect on Sept. 1.

The new rules, approved last year by the state Natural Resources Board, the seven citizen-member policy making body for the Department of Natural Resources, aim to “prevent the tissues most likely to contain CWD from being brought to areas of the state where CWD does not occur and introducing the disease there,” noted CWD project leader Davin Lopez.

Under the new regulations, the movement of *whole* deer carcass from the CWD-MZ to elsewhere in the state is banned. However, hunters and motorists will be allowed to move whole, registered carcasses of deer shot or hit by a vehicle within the CWD-MZ into a deer management unit (DMU) adjoining the CWD-MZ.

The rule affects carcass movement in 22 DMUs located in all or parts of Adams, Crawford, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marquette, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Vernon, Walworth and Waukesha counties.

Also beginning Sept. 1, Wisconsin will restrict the importation of whole cervid carcasses (deer, elk and moose) into the state from areas within states or Canadian provinces that have CWD. The disease has been discovered in wild deer or elk herds in 11 states and two provinces.

There are a number of parts from legally possessed deer to which the restriction doesn't apply that can be legally transported anywhere in Wisconsin. These include:

- Meat that's cut and wrapped, either commercially or privately.
- Quarters or other portions of meat to which no part of the spinal column is attached.
- Deboned meat.
- Hides with no head attached.
- Finished taxidermy heads.
- Antlers with no meat or brain tissue attached.
- Skulls with attached antlers, but no meat or brain tissue attached.
- Upper canine teeth.

CWD is an always fatal nervous system disease known to naturally infect white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose and elk. It belongs to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) or prion diseases. Though it shares features with other prion diseases, like mad cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep, it is a distinct disease known only to affect members of the deer family.

2009 Season Structure in the CWD-MZ

The remaining deer hunting seasons in the CWD-MZ are as follows:

- Archery season: Sept. 12 to Jan. 3, 2010 (Earn-a-buck)
- Traditional nine-day firearm season: Nov. 21-29 (Earn-a-buck)
- Late firearm season: Dec. 10-13 (antlerless-only)
- Holiday firearm season: Dec. 24-Jan. 3, 2010 (Earn-a-buck)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Davin Lopez, CWD Project Leader, Madison: 608-267-2948 or Greg Matthews, Regional public affairs manager, Fitchburg: 608-275-3317

Comments sought on transportation, utility right-of-way management practices

Oct. 26 deadline to participate in online survey

MADISON – The Wisconsin Council on Forestry is seeking public feedback on the last in a series of voluntary Best Management Practices that focus on reducing the spread of invasive species from transportation and utility corridors into nearby forested areas.

“We hope these voluntary guidelines can minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species in transportation and utility corridors. They should work if the practices become a regular part of planning, construction, and maintenance activities,” said Bernadette Williams, an invasive species specialist with the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

The draft Invasive Species Best Management Practices for Transportation and Utility Rights-of-Ways in Wisconsin is available on the Wisconsin Council on Forestry Web site at [<http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/transportation/pdf/PublicCommentROWManual.pdf>]. Utilities and transportation representatives, government agencies, environmental groups, and the general public are invited to review the document and then participate in an online survey [<https://doa.wi.gov/DNRSurveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=395>] on the voluntary suggestions included in the manual. The deadline for completing the online survey is October 26.

With direction from the Wisconsin Council on Forestry, a group of representatives from the state’s utilities, transportation agencies and government entities, and environmental organizations developed specific suggestions to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species in utility and transportation corridors. These include roads and the adjacent shoulder area, drainage ditches, railroad beds and surrounding land, pipeline and pipelines and power lines, activities that involve the disturbance of soil. The recommendations include planning and construction activities, maintenance work that continues after a transportation/utility project is completed, and the safe disposal of collected materials that have the potential to spread invasive species.

“Invasive species present a substantial threat to the long-term health and sustainability of Wisconsin’s forests,” Williams said. “The advisory group emphasized the best way to deal with problems from invasives is a voluntary approach developed through a cooperative and partnership-based process.”

Williams said the practices, commonly referred to as BMPs, “recognize a wide range of possible response options to any invasive species situation.”

Factors considered in the development of the BMPs include day-to-day project work as well as planned projects; the size of a project, known invasive species in an area; employee training, re-vegetation options; and the level or detail of planning.

Once these transportation and utility corridor practices are finalized later this year, the manual will join the General Forestry, the Recreational Forest User, and the Urban Forestry BMP manuals.

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Together, Williams said, the voluntary recommendations offer a thorough and comprehensive approach to help landowners, land managers, general and urban forestry professionals (including front-line staff), environmental organizations, and anyone and everyone who enjoys the outdoors to continue to utilize and protect the state's forest resources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Bernadette Williams – (608) 266-0624 or Bob Manwell - (608) 24-9248

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New videos can help landowners rid woods of common invasive plants

MADISON - Three new online videos can help landowners save the oaks on their property while helping rid their woods of some of Wisconsin's most common and problematic invasive plants.

The videos can be found online at [http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/action_woodlot.htm] -- and the timing couldn't be better.

"Now's a good time to get out and walk your woods to look for invasive plants," says Matt Zine, who leads the Department of Natural Resources crew that fights invasive species on state Natural Areas and who is featured in the videos. "It's the best time to separate them from the native plants."

For one thing, the three invasive plants featured in the videos – garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle – remain green as the other plants and trees around them are losing leaves or turning brown.

The three invasive plants compete for water and nutrients with native plants, often crowding them out and the wildlife that depends on them. Garlic mustard also emits chemicals that can prevent oaks and other plants from growing. And honeysuckle and buckthorn, both invasive shrubs, can shade out other plants, Zine says.

The new videos feature short segments demonstrating how to identify each of the three invasive plants and show controlling buckthorn and honeysuckle infestations by cutting the shrubs close to the ground and treating the stumps with herbicides. The garlic mustard segment demonstrates herbicide control of that prolific and damaging invader.

The Web page housing the videos provides links to other methods of controlling invasive species in woods, close-up photographs of the invaders, and more information about their origins and impacts. The methods featured in the video are less labor intensive than other methods and can work well for larger infestations. Regardless, Zine counsels property owners that they will likely need to repeat the process for several years, regardless of which control methods they use, because seeds from these plants can remain viable in the soil for many years.

The video was produced, directed and edited by Mary Farmiloe and was funded through a grant from the Natural Resources Foundation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE VIDEO CONTACT: Lisa Gaumnitz (608) 264-8942

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OUTDOORS CALENDAR

*Indicates date remains the same each year, except some permit deadlines may be extended one day if they fall on a Sunday or Federal Holiday.

October 25

- Period 2 Collins Zone Canada goose closes.

October 26

- Period 3 Collins Zone Canada goose opens and runs through Nov. 20.

October 31

- Lake trout season closes on waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan and their tributaries.*
- Deadline to purchase Lake Winnebago system sturgeon spearing licenses.*
- Fox season opens in the southern zone, through Feb. 15, 2010.
- Coyote trapping season opens in southern zone through Feb. 15, 2010.
- Mink season opens in Winnebago zone through March 15, 2010.
- Muskrat season opens in south zone through Feb. 28, 2010 and Winnebago zone through March 15, 2010.
- Non resident raccoon season opens through Feb. 15.

November 1

- Periods 1 Horicon Zone Canada goose closes.
- Wild ginseng season closes.*

November 2

- Period 2 Horicon Zone Canada goose runs through Dec. 16.
- Woodcock season closes.

November 7

- Beaver trapping season opens in the northwest zone (A), northeast zone (B) through April 30 and in the southern zone (C) through March 31.
- Otter trapping season opens in all zones and runs through April 30 in the North zone and through March 31 in the Central zone and South zone.

November 8

- Sharp-tailed grouse season closes.

November 9

- Mourning dove season closes.*

November 15

- Trout and salmon fishing closes on downstream section of Lake Superior tributaries that remained open after Sept. 30. (see current trout fishing regulations for stream sections).*

November 19

- Early archery deer season closes statewide. Reopens Nov. 30 through Jan. 3, 2010.
- Fall turkey hunting season closes.
- Fall crow season closes.

November 20

- Collins zone Canada goose hunting period 3 closes.
- It is illegal to hunt with a firearm the day before the gun deer season opens, except for waterfowl hunting or hunting on licensed game farms or shooting preserves, or within the CWD management zone.

November 21

- Regular gun deer season open through Nov. 30.

November 24

- Northern zone duck season closes.

November 29

- Regular gun deer season closes.

November 30

- Muskellunge season closes.*
- Turtle season closes.*

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DNR Public Hearings and Meetings

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call the contact person listed for the meeting or hearing with specific information on your request at least 10 days before the date of the scheduled hearing.

Hearings

October 20 - Pursuant to §§ 66.1006 Wis. Stat. and 31.06 and Wis. Admin. Code NR 1.92 a telephone prehearing conference in the matter of an application of the Town of Egg Harbor to discontinue two undeveloped ways that provide access to Green Bay, Town of Egg Harbor, Door County, will be held at 10 a.m. originating from the Division of Hearings and Appeals 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, **Madison**. To participate in this conference contact the Division of Hearings and Appeals by Oct. 16, 2009. For more information contact the Division of Hearings and Appeals at (608) 266-7709.

October 20, 21 & 22 - Pursuant to §§ 29.0916 and 227.11, Wis. Stats., interpreting §§ 23.0915 and 23.0917, Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings on creation of ch. NR 52 Wis. Adm. Code relating to public use of lands acquired under the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. Chapter NR 52 creates standards and criteria that will be used by the DNR and the Natural Resources Board to determine whether it is reasonable to prohibit one or more nature based outdoor activities, defined as hunting, trapping, hiking, fishing, and cross country skiing. The rule identifies three primary reasons for prohibiting one or more of these activities: to protect public safety, to protect unique plant and animal communities, and to accommodate usership patterns. The rule also requires that when one or more nature based outdoor activities is proposed to be prohibited, the DNR will notify the public by posting the information on the DNR Web site. The public will have a chance to comment on the proposal to buy the land and prohibit the activity. The DNR and the Natural Resources Board will evaluate the public comments and apply the standards and criteria identified in the rule when determining whether the prohibition meets the intent of § 23.0916, Wis. Stats. The proposed rule and fiscal estimate may be reviewed and comments electronically submitted through the Wisconsin Administrative Code Web site [<http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>] (search using keyword "NR 52"). Written comments on the proposed rule may be submitted until October 30, 2009 via U.S. mail to Mr. Douglas Haag, Bureau of Facilities and Lands, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or by e-mail to DouglasJ.Haag@Wisconsin.gov. Written comments whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearings. For more information or a copy of the proposed rule and fiscal estimate contact Douglas Haag at the address above or by calling (608) 266-2136. A 30-minute informational briefing on the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program will precede the hearing at 6 p.m. The public hearings will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an overview of § 23.0916, Wis. Stats., and the proposed rule. Public Comments will be accepted beginning at 7 p.m. The remaining hearings will be held on the following dates at these locations :

October 20, Madison - Madison Area Technical College, Truax Campus (Student Lounge – 142C), 3550 Anderson St.

October 21, Green Bay - Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (Room CB213 C&D), 2740 W. Mason St.

October 22, West Bend - UW Washington County (Lecture Hall 201), 400 S University Dr

October 21 - Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 66.1006 and 31.06 and Wis. Admin. Code NR 1.92 a Class 1 Contested Case public hearing in the matter of the application of the Town of Goodman to discontinue eight public accesses to water on Lake Hilbert, Town of Goodman, Marinette County, will be held at 12:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Marinette City Hall, 1905 Hall Avenue, **Marinette**. The Town of Goodman filed an application with the Department of Natural Resources for a permit under Wis. Stat. § 66.1006 to discontinue eight (8) ways to Lake Hilbert, a navigable water. The eight ways proposed to be discontinued are located in Section 6, 7, and 8, T37N, R17E, in the Town of Goodman, Marinette County: The Department of Natural Resources issued Notice of a Proposal to Abandon a Way to Water and filed a Request for Hearing with the Division of Hearings and Appeals. For more information contact the Division of Hearings and Appeals at (608) 266-7709.

October 21, 22, 27 & 28 - Pursuant to §§ 280.11 and 281.17(8), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings on repealing and recreating Chapters NR 809 and NR 811; and the creation of NR 810, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to public drinking water systems. The proposal was triggered by changes in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct Rule was promulgated on 1/04/2006 and revises the monitoring locations and compliance calculation methods for disinfection byproducts. The Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule was promulgated on 1/05/2006 and requires increased source water monitoring with new treatment levels associated with the monitoring results. The Groundwater Rule was promulgated on 11/08/2006 and requires that water systems initiate new monitoring and correct significant deficiencies identified during department inspections in order to protect consumers from viruses. The Short Term Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule were promulgated on 10/10/2007 and changed the monitoring, reporting and public notification requirements related to lead and copper. In order to maintain primacy for the Safe Drinking Water Act, Wisconsin must adopt all federal requirements under the Act or have requirements that are more stringent than the Act. In addition to adopting the federal rules, the proposed rules include a requirement for mandatory disinfection at municipal water systems as an enhancement of the federal requirements, updates and clarifications to design standards for community water systems, and creation of a separate administrative rule on operations and maintenance of public water systems in order to improve the usability of the drinking water codes. The major impact of the rule changes will be related to the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct Rule because of the large number of municipal water systems that disinfect (over 500) and the changes to the monitoring requirements and compliance calculations. Additionally, the requirement for mandatory disinfection of all municipal water system will require 71 municipal water systems that do not currently disinfect to do so. The proposed rule and fiscal estimate may be reviewed and comments electronically submitted through the Wisconsin Administrative Rules Web site: [<http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>]. Written comments may be submitted via U.S. mail to Mr. Lee Boushon, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Comments may be submitted until November 11, 2009. For more information or a copy of the proposed rule contact Lee Boushon, Chief Public Water Supply Section (608) 266-0857.

The hearings will be held:

October 21, Green Bay - 1 p.m. at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Mary Anne Coffrin Hall Room 137 (MAC 137), 2420 Nicolet Drive.

October 22, Madison - 1 p.m. at the State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), Room 713, 101 South Webster St.

October 27, Eau Claire - 1 p.m. at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Old Library 1118, 105 Garfield Ave.

October 28, Spooner - 10 a.m. at the University of Wisconsin-Extension Spooner Northern District Conference Room, 702 Front St.

October 21, 26, 27, 28 & November 3 – Pursuant to §§ 29.014, 29.063, 29.177 and 227.11, Wis. Stats., interpreting §§ 29.014, 29.063, 29.177 and 227.11, Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings on revisions to ch. NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code relating to the seasons for hunting deer. These proposed rules establish the deer season framework for hunting with archery gear, firearms and muzzleloaders. The proposal includes:

1) **November firearm season.** Statewide 16-day beginning two Saturdays prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. CWD zone would use the same dates. Season would be the normal bucks plus variable quota system;

2) **Archery seasons.** Open statewide on the Saturday closest to September 15 and continues through the Thursday immediately prior to November firearm season. Statewide season reopens on first day of the November gun season and continuing through the second Sunday in January. In herd-control units, the archery season would continue through January 31. Bonus buck incentive for all hunters beginning December 26 through January 31 in herd control units. CWD zone would use the same dates.

4) **Youth season.** Statewide 5-day either-sex season beginning the second Saturday in October. Saturday through Wednesday.

5) **Early muzzleloader season.** Statewide 5-day, antlerless-only by permit beginning the second Saturday in October. Saturday through Wednesday.

6) **October herd control firearm seasons.** Herd control units only. 5-day, antlerless-only season beginning the second Saturday in October. CWD October season would use same dates. Saturday through Wednesday. When October herd control seasons are held on lands that are part of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, the five-day season will begin on the Thursday nearest October 27.

7) **Late muzzleloader season.** Statewide 7-day season beginning the Monday immediately following the November firearm season (Bucks plus quota). CWD zone would use the same dates.

8) **December firearm season.** Central Forest & Farmland zones. 4-day, antlerless-only season beginning the Thursday immediately following the late muzzleloader season. Appropriate antlerless permit required. CWD zone would use the same dates.

9) **Holiday herd control firearm season.** Central Forest & Farmland zones. Herd control units only, 10-day antlerless-only season beginning December 26th. CWD zone would use same dates.

The rule also includes: a **bonus buck incentive** where hunters harvesting an antlerless deer in herd control units beginning on December 26 with this incentive are eligible for a bonus buck tag valid through the end of all deer seasons; and **public/private land tags** for herd control units only and only outside of the CWD Management Zone. Herd control tags will be specific to public or private lands. Public land tags will be issued based on the percentage of public land within herd control units. The proposed rule and fiscal estimate may be reviewed and comments electronically submitted through the Wisconsin Administrative Rules Web site [<http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>]. Written comments on the proposed rule may be submitted via U.S. mail to Keith Warnke, Bureau of Wildlife Management, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Comments may be submitted until November 3, 2009. Written comments whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearings. For more information or a copy of the proposed rule and fiscal estimate contact Keith Warnke at - (608) 264-6023. The public hearings will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an informational presentation and overview of the proposed rule. Public comments and statements will be accepted beginning at 7 p.m. The following hearing locations and dates are scheduled:

October 21, Madison - Lussier Family Heritage Center - Main Level, 3101 Lake Farm Road.

October 21, Rhinelander - James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia Lane.

October 21, Ashland - Ashland AmericInn Conference Center, 3009 Lakeshore Drive E.

October 26, Appleton - Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton Campus, Room C190, 1825 North Bluemound Drive.

October 26, Eau Claire - Chippewa Valley Technical College auditorium, Room M103, 620 W. Clairemont Ave.

October 27, Racine - Racine Case High School, 7345 Washington Ave.

October 28, Pewaukee - Waukesha County Technical College, Room C051/C057, 800 Main St.

October 28, Spooner - Spooner High School Auditorium, 801 County A.

November 3, Stevens Point - Portage County Courthouse Annex, Conference Room 1, 1462 Strongs Ave.

October 23 - A final telephone prehearing conference and/or telephone hearing in the matter of the application of the Racine County Drainage District to modify the order setting water levels or flows on Wind Lake, Town of Norway, Racine County will be held at 10 a.m. originating from the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, **Madison**, will initiate the call. To participate or for more information contact the Division of Hearings and Appeals at (608) 266-7709.

October 26 -- Pursuant to §§ 23.11(1), 29.014(1), 29.041, 29.519, and 227.11(2)(a), Stats., interpreting §§ 23.09, 29.011(1) and (2), 29.014(1), 29.041 and 29.519, Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold a public hearing on proposed Natural Resources Board Order No. FH-23-09 pertaining to commercial fishing for lake whitefish in Lake Michigan, including Green Bay at 5 p.m. in the Jane Greene Room, Door County Public Library, 107 S. Fourth Ave., **Sturgeon Bay**. The proposal would amend § NR 25.06 (2) (e) 2., of the Wis. Admin. Code to increase the total allowable annual commercial harvest of lake whitefish from each of the three fishing zones in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan. All three harvest limits, and therefore all individual licensee whitefish catch quotas, would be increased by 16.6 percent. The overall total allowable commercial harvest for the entire lake would be increased by 410,000 pounds, or from 2,470,000 pounds to 2,880,000 pounds. For the three zones, the increases are as follows: Zone 1 – 225,518 to 262,952 pounds, Zone 2 – 2,029,662 to 2,366,569 pounds,

and Zone 3 – 214,820 to 250,479 pounds. The increases for each zone are allocated according to the same proportions as the current zone allocations of the lake-wide harvest limit. This rule is of interest to commercial fishers and was initiated in response to their expressed concerns. The rule will be enforced by Department Conservation Wardens under the authority of chapters 23 and 29, Stats., through routine patrols, record audits of wholesale fish dealers and commercial fishers and follow up investigations of citizen complaints/ 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. The rule and fiscal estimate may be reviewed and comments electronically submitted through the Wisconsin Administrative Rules Web site: <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>. Written comments on the rule may be submitted via U.S. mail to William Horns, Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921. Comments may be submitted until October 31, 2009. Written comments whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearings. For more information of a copy of the rule and fiscal estimate contact Bill Horns at - (608) 266-8782.

November 3 - Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 66.1006 and 31.06 and Wis. Admin. Code NR 1.92 a Class 1 contested case public hearing in the matter of the application of the Town of Oakland to discontinue Kulbeck Park, a public access to Devils Lake, Located in the Albert Kulbeck Subdivision, Town of Oakland, Burnett County, will be held at 1 p.m. in Room 160 at the Burnett County Government Center, 7410 County Road K, **Siren**. The Town of Oakland filed an application with the Department of Natural Resources for a permit under Wis. Stat. § 66.1006 to vacate a public access to Devils Lake specifically, Kulbeck Park, located in the Albert Kulbeck Subdivision. Kulbeck Park is an undeveloped public park in section 27, Township 40 North, Range 16 West in the Town of Oakland, Burnett County, Wisconsin. The Department of Natural Resources issued Notice of a Proposal to Vacate a Way to Water and filed a Request for Hearing with the Division of Hearings and Appeals. For more information contact the Division of Hearings and Appeals at (608) 266-7709.

November 4 - Pursuant to §§ 30.03(4)(a) and 227.01(3)(b), Wis. Stat., a Class 2 contested case public hearing in the matter of the abatement action on the motion of the Department of Natural Resources against an alleged illegal structure placed and maintained by William Pfafflin on the bed of the Mississippi Pool No. 7 (Lake Onalaska) in the Town of Campbell, LaCrosse County, Wisconsin will be held at 9 a.m. in Room 30 at the La Crosse State Office Building, 3550 Norman Coulee Road, **La Crosse**. The hearing will determine whether the alleged actions by William Pfafflin violate Wis. Stat. §§ 30.12, 30.13, and 30.294. The hearing may result in the issuance of an order abating the maintenance of the current structure and directing the current owner to perform or refrain from performing such acts as may be necessary to fully protect and effectuate the interests of the public in these navigable waters. DNR staff conducted field investigations and allege the following: A structure on the west side of French Island extends onto the bed and into the waters of Lake Onalaska, a navigable water of the state, from shoreline owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("COE"). DNR staff concluded that the structure exceeded the standards that allow a pier to remain in Wisconsin navigable waters without a state permit. On June 24, 2002, DNR issued a citation for obstructing navigable waters in violation of Wis. Stat. § 30.15. The citation was later dismissed on the prosecutor's motion. DNR then decided to seek enforcement via a Wis. Stat. § 30.03 hearing. The Department alleges that the existing structure violates the statutes relating to navigable waters and infringes on the public rights relating to the navigable waters of Lake Onalaska. For information call the Division of Hearings and Appeals at (608) 266-7709.

Meetings

October 20-21 - The State [Natural Resources Board](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/) [http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/] will meet in Room G09 of the State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), 101 South Webster St., **Madison**. [NRB meeting agendas](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/agenda.html) [http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/agenda.html] are available on the Natural Resources Board Web pages. For more information contact Laurie Ross, Natural Resources Board Liaison at (608) 267-7420.

October 26-27 – The Department of Natural Resources Silviculture Team will meet at 10 a.m. at the Black River Falls DNR Service Center, 910 Highway 54 E, **Black River Falls**, regarding chapters and issues pertinent to the Silviculture Handbook, including Red pine chapter, Intermediate Treatments, Emerald Ash Borer, Site Productivity, team progress and other issues. A field trip will look at red pine management. For more information, contact Julie Peltier at 262-670-3404.

October 28 – The DNR fall wolf population monitoring meeting will be held from 10:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Park Falls Public Library, 410 Division St., **Park Falls**. The main purpose for this meeting is to review surveys from spring and summer, and plan winter survey activity. There will also be some information items with presentations from Adrian Treves on attitude surveys, and Jen Stenlein on estimating wolf populations with genetic markers. For more information contact Adrian P. Wydeven at (715) 762-1363.

November 4, 9 & 10 – The Department of Natural Resources will hold public stakeholder meetings to provide information related to the proposed electronics recycling bill that has passed both houses of the state Legislature. Though the bill has not yet been finalized or signed by Governor Doyle, it would go into effect January 1, 2010. Because of the short time that would be available for implementation, the DNR is scheduling meetings around the state for stakeholders to learn more about the requirements in the current version of the bill and how the DNR would plan to handle registration and other program elements should the bill become law. The meetings will be of primary interest to the electronics manufacturers, recyclers, collectors and retailers that would be regulated under the bill. Local governments currently involved in electronics recycling, or that might get involved in the future, are also encouraged to attend. Though not required, registration is encouraged to plan for adequate space and handouts. To register, visit <http://doa.wi.gov/DNRSurveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n20H582>. The remaining meetings will be held:

November 4, Eau Claire - 1 to 3:30 p.m., Chippewa Valley Technical College, 620 W. Clairemont Ave.

November 9, Menasha - 1 to 3:30 p.m., Fox Valley Technical College, 1478 Midway Rd.

November 10, Bristol - 10 to 12:30 p.m., Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th St.



Department of Natural Resources – CE/6
PO Box 7921 Madison WI 53707-7921

Waterfowl Hunters

***Be on the look out for trumpeter swans.
Killing a swan can be a costly mistake,
resulting in thousands of dollars in fines and restitution.***

