

# IDEAS FROM THE SPORTING HERITAGE COUNCIL

*This is a list of ideas that Sporting Heritage Council members and speakers at Council meetings have generated. No votes were taken and the Council does not endorse any specific Idea below.*

## **LEGISLATIVE**

No more new regulations, there are too many already. Keep regulations simple.

Badger Forever program. People that leave WI but have a history of hunting, fishing and trapping in the state can receive a resident license.

For convicted wildlife offenders, develop a program where the offender completes a certain number of hours with a partner group that does restoration projects as their restitution for the crime.

Legislation to allow off-road vehicles or ATV/UTV's to be used to go into areas to retrieve an animal.

Add 16 and 17 year olds to the eligible participants for Youth Hunts.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

Establish a website or bulletin board that could match hunters, fishers and trappers with others that they could go out with them. This would be particularly valuable for elderly people but also could match up a fisher without a boat with someone who has a boat or any age single person. Partners in the Outdoors.

Prepare a pamphlet that shows where you can fish from shore in Wisconsin.

More statewide archery and gun range development.

Contact the National Sport Shooting foundation to do a program called "Hunting Works"

A formal mentor training program is needed.

Engage the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to recruit new hunters, fishers and trappers.

A website that matches mentors with potential hunters, fishers, and trappers.

Establish a mentoring program that is long term, at least 3 to 5 years.

Establish strong relationships with established groups and have them be contacts for local meetings and groups

Offer incentives for people to become or stay as mentors.

An “A to Z” website for new hunters, fishers and trappers to show them everything they need to know to get started and to get outfitted and know where to go to hunt, fish or trap.

Use existing groups to get the message out and to train and then publicize potential mentors.

Use social media more and use television to get messages out about the outdoors.

We should target women and the Hispanic community as potential new recruits.

We should target white male non-hunters.

Increase the availability and use of GIS/GPS and other apps for hunting and fishing.

Use the WI Hunters Network to get information out for Trade-a-Trip or Hunter Swap.

### **ACCESS**

Allow ATV's on more lands to help access areas to hunt, fish and trap.

A state fund to help local governments assist in keeping their access sites, particularly boat ramps maintained. This will need a legislative change.

Do a search of old plat maps to produce an updated document that shows roads that go to access points on lakes and streams.

Support more funding for maintenance and dredging of boat access sites.

Signage and postings need to be kept up or added to so the people know where to go to hunt, fish or trap.

Vouchers or incentives for landowners to open their land to hunting, fishing, trapping.

### **State Government or DNR Programs or Expansions**

Involve all Law Enforcement agencies statewide to help mentor and educate new hunters, fishers and trappers.

Use the local foods angle to attract potential but non-traditional people... "Gourmets Gone Wild".

Expand the "Hunting for Sustainability" course taught by Keith Warnke.

Target college students for recruitment.

Tap DNR employees to do more education and mentoring.

Probationary wardens assigned to help mentor in their first months of the job.

DNR should hold yearly fish meetings-much like we hold for deer hunting-in every county.

DNR should collect e-mail addresses and then send these people Thank You E-mail and reminders of up-coming seasons.

DNR should send hunters a link to a "one-click" website that would allow simple ordering of a license.

We need to evaluate what is working, and what is not working.

Ask hunters at the point of sale whether they would like to be a mentor for another new hunter.

Create a Youth Coordinator position.