

## Your feedback on the draft plans

Drafts of the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (WWAP) and the Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Management Plan (FW&HMP) were placed online for public comment for 33 days from July 28 – August 30, 2015. Notice of the opportunity to comment were posted on DNR's public notice page and sent via government email delivery service.

**Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan** Of the 29 WWAP comments received, 23 were applicable to the WWAP in some way. None of the commenters indicated their position as unconditionally opposed. Two marked their support conditional upon certain clarifications and commitments. Approximately eight commenters were explicit in their support and appreciation of the objectives of the WWAP. Of the 28 people who provided comment (one organization provided two comment submittals), 17 represented themselves and 11 represented an organization.

Comments on the WWAP were diverse, although the topic of forests and forestry accounted for the largest proportion of the comments (seven out of 29). Most comments were based on issues and conservation actions discussed in the WWAP or registered an interest in participating in WWAP development and implementation as we move forward. The second most commonly mentioned topic was concern about degraded aquatic habitats from pollution, eutrophication, reduced water levels and siltation of lakes and rivers and effects on rare species and fisheries. A few comments addressed specific species or groups of species, particularly birds, insects, snails and mussels. And finally, some commenters called our attention to how fire is used as a management tool, the benefits of organic and sustainable farming and the overall importance of our planning efforts for helping species of greatest conservatino need and their habitats.

**Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Management Plan** Sixteen comments were received for the FW&HMP. There were general comments about the importance of fish and wildlife resources to Wisconsin's economy and the importance of retaining qualified professionals to manage those resources. Specific comments included:

Population and Habitat – deer habitat and disease management, fisheries management of lake trout versus salmon and Mississippi River fishing and hunting opportunities in the face of declining habitat.

Hunting and Fishing – DNR's goals for deer hunting and measures to achieve them, staying updated with changing demographics, technologies and land use and how these affect fish and game populations.

Access and use of public lands and waters – prioritizing acquisition and staffing toward areas with more use such as urban areas, retaining access to lakes and waterways in areas with shoreline development and use of ATV's in the northern state forests.

Ability to do the job – having sufficient resources to address monitoring and enforcement needs, how well are we achieving the goals of the plan past and present and workforce needs and compensation.

Water quality and nonpoint runoff – farm waste runoff affecting aquatic resources.

Comments on both plans demonstrated that citizens equate Wisconsin with natural resource diversity AND that citizens themselves are diverse in how they use and appreciate our natural places and wildlife. Some of the comments resulted in changes to the plans. Many of the comments for the WWAP were relevant to how the plan is implemented and the tools we develop to do that. Some comments or portions of comments reached beyond the scope of the two plans and were forwarded to other programs in the Department.