

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

Item No. 2.B.4.

SUBJECT: Congress Matters: Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2019 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions

FOR: January 2019 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Larry Bonde, WCC Chair

SUMMARY:

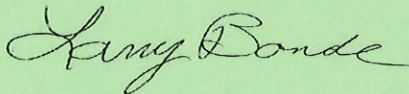
The Wisconsin Conservation Congress will advance 39 advisory questions for inclusion on the spring hearing questionnaire. The questions were those approved by the WCC District Leadership Council at their October 5, 2018, and January 4-5, 2019, meetings and will be used to gauge public opinion on a variety of natural resource issues. These advisory questions will be presented to the public for their input at the annual Department of Natural Resources Spring Hearing and Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting held jointly in each county of the state on Monday, April 8, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION: Information only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- Background memo
- WCC Spring Hearing advisory questions

- Type name of attachment if applicable
- Type name of attachment if applicable

Approved by	Signature	Date
Larry Bonde, WCC Chair		1-11-19

WCC Advisory Questions – 2019

WARM WATER

1. Protect or improve panfish angling in Cranberry Lake, Price County (510118)

Citizens have voiced concern that fishing pressure and harvest above what is usual could jeopardize the high-quality angling opportunity that Cranberry Lake offers for black crappies, bluegills, and yellow perch. Reducing the daily bag limit from 25 to 10 panfish in total could sustain and possibly improve the size structure of Cranberry Lake's panfish populations and distribute the harvest more evenly among anglers.

Do you support reducing the daily bag limit of panfish on Cranberry Lake from 25 to 10 panfish in total?

2. Northern pike harvest opportunity, Portage County (500418)

The current regulation for northern pike harvest in Portage County is a daily bag limit of 2 fish and a 26-inch minimum length limit, however, the northern pike regulation north of Hwy 10 across the rest of the state is 5 fish and no minimum length. Changing the regulation to a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length north of Hwy 10 (except for waterbodies with special harvest regulations; i.e. Wisconsin River) would allow anglers to harvest smaller fish and diversify the overall fishing opportunities in Portage County lakes north of Hwy 10. This change would simplify enforcement, reduce confusion among anglers, and provide consistency with adjoining counties to be uniform across the state. Portage County is the only county with areas north of Hwy 10 that have a minimum length of 26 inches for northern pike. Most lakes in Portage County (besides the Wisconsin River flowages) are small (less than 300 acres) and many are winter kill lakes. Most of these small waterbodies are not capable of growing large fish because they do not have the productive capacity to do so.

Would you support a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length for northern pike in Portage County north of Hwy 10 to match all adjoining counties?

3. Reduce daily bag limit for panfish on Huron Lake (700118)

Huron Lake is a small lake (40 acre) in the township of Oasis in Waushara County. Huron Lake is susceptible to being overfished, as there is a county park located on the lake. Also, due to the clarity of the water, it is a popular place for snorkelers and divers to spear panfish. Reducing the daily bag limit from 25 to 10 fish would protect and enhance the quality and size of the fish.

Would you support reducing the daily bag limit on panfish from 25 to 10 fish in total on Huron Lake?

4. Northern pike size limit on Wilson, Big Twin, Little Silver, Napowan, Gilbert, Pine (Springwater Township), and Mt. Morris lakes in Waushara County (700318)

These clearwater lakes are not achieving normal growth rates for northern pike. Pike seldom reach the 26-inch harvest minimum and due to overpopulation, are also reducing the forage base for most other species, namely largemouth bass and panfish.

Would you support a five-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit on northern pike on Wilson, Big Twin, Little Silver, Napowan, Gilbert, Pine (Springwater Township), and Mt. Morris lakes in Waushara County?

5. Remove the 36-inch size limit on sturgeon during spearing season (360618)

It is difficult to judge the exact size of a fish you may only see briefly through a hole in the ice. The size limit for sturgeon has changed multiple times dating back to 1941 (ranging from 30-45 inches) and there is no biological reason to have a 36-inch size limit. The females don't start spawning until they are about 55 inches (30 years old). Spearing is not catch and release and mortality of undersized fish is likely high. Spearers who return speared undersized fish to the lake likely cause the mortality of multiple fish during a season and it would be beneficial to have those fish counted against the quota. Eliminating the minimum length limit would also allow a spearer to fill a sturgeon tag with a smaller fish (whether intentional or inadvertent, misjudgment of size).

Would you support removing the 36-inch size limit on sturgeon during the sturgeon spearing season?

6. Designate a 14-18-inch slot limit with a maximum daily limit of one over 18 inches for largemouth bass in the Tiger Cat Flowage, Sawyer County (580418)

The Tiger Cat Flowage Chain is both an important recreational and economic resource in Sawyer County. The introduction of northern pike has adversely affected the largemouth bass population in the chain. A DNR survey in 2005 indicated the harvest rate for largemouth bass is double that of other northern Wisconsin lakes. More protective fishing regulations for bass may improve the quality of the bass population. Additionally, a denser population of larger bass should provide some predatory control on small northern pike.

Do you support a protective 14 inch-18 inch slot limit with a maximum daily limit of one over 18 inch for largemouth bass on the Tiger Cat Flowage Chain in Sawyer County?

7. Increasing size limit on muskellunge in the Lemonweir River (010118)

The current size limit for muskellunge in the Wisconsin River System in Adams County is 50 inches. The Lemonweir River is a large tributary that flows into the Wisconsin River south of the Highway 82 bridge. Size limit consistency throughout the system would be conducive to creating a trophy fishery and be helpful to law enforcement and anglers by making the rules the same.

Do you support increasing the size limit on Muskellunge from 40 inches to 50 inches in the Lemonweir River from the Mauston Dam downstream to the confluence of the Lemonweir River and Wisconsin River south of the State Highway 82 bridge with a daily bag limit of one per day?

District Leadership Council

8-9. Ban the use of underwater cameras for spearing lake sturgeon on Lake Winnebago system (080318)

Sturgeon spearing is a very traditional way of harvesting sturgeon and is entrenched in a strong tradition on the Winnebago system. There is a growing concern among some that the use of underwater cameras is going to continue to increase, resulting in a "perversion" of this traditional harvest. While some spearers are embracing these technologies, others are concerned that these advanced technologies have no place in a traditional harvest season. Camera use for spearing sturgeon has caused a rift and animosity between spearers using cameras and those that choose not to use cameras.

The use of underwater cameras to see and spear Lake Sturgeon on the Winnebago System has gained in popularity in recent years and one can only expect the use of cameras to grow. During the 2018 season DNR wardens noted that about 30% of spearers checked on Lake Winnebago were currently using cameras. Poor water clarity has been the primary impetus for the greater use of cameras. If underwater cameras do in fact add an advantage to harvest, it could result in a shortened spearing season in the future.

Currently the DNR is stating the use of underwater cameras is not a biological issue as the harvest cap system protects from over harvest and the harvest in dirty water years has been well below the cap. The DNR has conducted two surveys in 2013 and 2018 to gauge spearers' positions on camera use. Results have indicated a relatively even split from respondents for and against camera use. The DNR does not currently have information on the percentage of fish that are harvested with the aid of underwater cameras.

Would you support a rule prohibiting the use of underwater cameras as an aid in spearing Lake Sturgeon during the sturgeon spearing season on the Winnebago System?

Would you support a rule prohibiting the use of any electronic fish locator/fish finder equipment as an aid in spearing Lake Sturgeon during the sturgeon spearing season on Winnebago System?

10. Reduce daily bag limit on long-tailed ducks to three (680118)

At the present, Wisconsin has a 6-bird daily bag limit on long-tailed ducks ("Old Squaw"). There has been an increase in open water hunting on the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan which has resulted in an increase in harvest of long-tailed ducks. Due to the remoteness and massive area of the arctic which these birds nest there are relatively poor population estimates. However, it is generally believed and accepted that the continental population is roughly 1 million birds. Wisconsin harvests an average of 5,000 Long-tailed ducks each year, but there has been concern expressed by hunters regarding how easily and how many long-tailed ducks are being harvested on Lake Michigan.

Would you support the WDNR to reduce the daily bag limit on long-tailed ducks to 3 until population research is completed?

11. Increase setback from fields to streams to 30 feet (requires legislation) (530218)

Currently over 700 streams and rivers in Wisconsin are listed as impaired. A majority of this impairment is due to suspended solids (turbidity from soil loss) and nonpoint nutrient pollution (phosphorus impairments). Current setbacks can be as little as 5 feet and not all farmers use nutrient management plans. Expecting all farmers to have nutrient management plans requires cost sharing. When funding is limited, plans often don't happen.

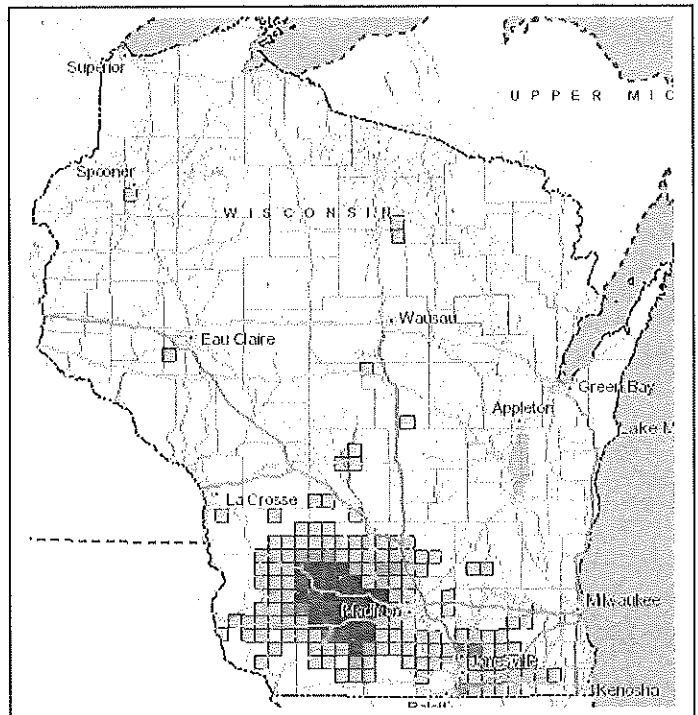
Do you favor the Conservation Congress working with the Natural Resources Board and the state Legislature to increase the distance from agricultural fields to streams and rivers to 30 feet, and encourage vegetation?

12. Conducting a pilot CWD Payment for Positives program in 2019 (330118)

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is causing serious damage to Wisconsin's deer herd and deer hunting heritage. 2018 surveillance detected a record 965 CWD-positive deer; of which 99% were within the southern farmland deer management zone. The percentage of the southern farmland deer herd infected with CWD also increased significantly.

The Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies recently identified best management practices for combating CWD. To manage CWD spread and prevalence, they recommend using hunting to target deer herd cohorts most likely to have CWD, as well as, CWD hotspots.

The CWD Payment for Positives (P4P) goal is to increase the disease control effectiveness of Wisconsin's deer hunting seasons. Participation is completely voluntary. P4P pays both landowners and their hunters a significant financial reward for each CWD-positive deer they harvest. A smaller reward would also go to cooperating CWD sampling businesses to encourage more sampling sites. Using Wisconsin's database of 226,000 tested deer, P4P would create probability maps to help landowners and hunters make harvest choices on their land. A pilot would test whether P4P can increase both the rate of CWD sampling and removal of CWD positive deer from infected areas. If the pilot is successful, the P4P program can be ramped up for full implementation as a tool to reverse rising CWD prevalence.



Funding for a 2019 pilot program would need to be authorized in the 2019-21 budget bill. The recommended funding source is existing tax revenue generated from Wisconsin's \$1.3 billion deer economy. The cost of a pilot depends on the level of reward chosen and scope of the pilot. The table shows a range of costs for a pilot yielding 500 CWD-positive deer.

Reward payment level	\$750/deer	\$1,000/deer	\$1,250/deer
Pilot Cost ¹	\$900,000	\$1,150,000	\$1,400,000

¹ -Includes 500 payments to landowners and hunters & \$300 payment to sampling site businesses

Do you favor conducting a pilot CWD Payment for Positives program to test if CWD testing rates and removal of CWD-positive deer can be increased from infected areas?

Deer & Elk

13. Restore deer tagging requirements in statute (requires legislation) (041018, 050418, 060418, 090318, 131618, 160518, 180418, 240418, 270218, 280118, 340118, 350418, 380318, 400118, 440118, 450418, 490218, 560518, 640218, 641018, 660118, 670418)

The state budget that passed in 2017 contained language that removed the requirement to place a carcass tag on a deer after harvest.

Would you support a legislative change restoring the carcass tag requirement when harvesting deer?

14. Baiting and Feeding Ban (requires legislation)

New research from the University of Wisconsin-Madison helps to confirm the longstanding suspicion that CWD prions accumulate in the environment of areas like mineral licks and baiting and feeding sites where deer congregate. Scientists concluded that environmental reservoirs of prions could serve as additional transmission routes of CWD, which can also pass from deer to deer by direct contact.

To protect the health of our wild deer population, would you support a statewide ban on baiting and feeding of deer?

Turkey & Upland Game

15. Require pheasant, grouse and quail hunters to wear blaze orange or pink (720318)

Safety should be the most important part of any hunt. Blaze orange has proven to be effective in preventing accidents by providing visibility, avoiding crowding and eliminating conflicts. Many game farm pheasant hunts require blaze orange/pink to be worn for safety and visibility of hunters in thick cover.

Do you support requiring pheasant, grouse and quail hunters to wear blaze orange or florescent pink on 25 percent of their outer clothes above the waist, including a hat, if worn?

Fur Harvest

16. Allow the use of firearms to dispatch legally trapped animals within 50 feet of unpaved roads (requires legislation) (020518, 040318, 350318, 430318)

Currently, it is not legal to discharge a firearm within 50 feet of the centerline of any road. A statutory exception allows the hunting of small game within 50 feet of the centerline of an unpaved road with a muzzleloader or a shotgun loaded with a shot shell or chilled shot size BB or smaller. However, animals legally trapped within 50 feet of the centerline of any road cannot be dispatched with a firearm. Some animals, such as wolves, raccoons, and coyotes are most safely and most humanely dispatched with a rim fire rifle, or handgun.

Do you support a legislative change that would allow the dispatch of legally trapped animals within 50 feet of the centerline of unpaved roads, using a rim fire rifle or handgun?

17. Expansion of fisher season length to February 15 (requires legislation) (690218)

The raccoon, fox, coyote and fisher trapping seasons begin on the Saturday nearest October 17. The raccoon, fox and coyote seasons end on February 15; however, the fisher season ends on the Sunday nearest January 6.

Fishers have a season bag limit of one, by permit. The other three species have no season bag limit, and no special permits are required to harvest them. For the 2018-19 permit drawing, the minimum number of preference points required to be awarded a fisher permit was three in the north fisher zone, and one in the south fisher zone.

Some trappers would like to see the fisher season extended to close on the same day each year, as the raccoon, fox and coyote seasons do. This will offer increased opportunity for trapping after there is a snow cover. Because the wait for a fisher permit is relatively short, this change would not be expected to significantly increase the waiting period between permits drawn by an individual trapper.

Do you support a legislative change that would extend the fisher season to close concurrently with the raccoon, fox and coyote season?

18-20. Remove colony trap placement and funneling restrictions (230518, 710518)

Currently, colony traps are legal to use for muskrat trapping in Wisconsin. There are trap size restrictions in place. Colony traps cannot be set within 3 feet of a culvert, cannot be baited or lured to attract muskrats and they must be set completely under water. No fencing, netting or other material (including other colony traps) can be used to create an underwater obstruction designed to force or channel any wild animal into the trap.

These restrictions were put in place as precautions when colony traps first became legal. The Fur Harvest Study Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress feels that adequate time has passed to lift some of these restrictions without fear of negative consequences.

Do you support rule changes that would allow the placement of colony traps within three feet of culverts?

Do you support rule changes that would allow the use of bait and/or lure in conjunction with colony traps?

Do you support rule changes that would allow the use of fencing to create an obstruction designed to force or channel muskrats into the trap? All other restrictions would remain in place.

Legislative Committee

21-22. Change youth hunting age limit back to 10 years old (requires legislation) (180518, 560318, 180118)

When first passed into law, the mentored hunting rules allowed anyone 10 years and older to participate, one firearm between the mentor and the mentee, and did not require them to take hunter education. In 2017, the Legislature removed the age restriction from statute, meaning anyone at any age could participate as a mentored hunter and removed the one firearm restriction. Currently, twelve states have no age restriction for hunting.

Would you favor making it illegal for a person younger than 10 years old to obtain a hunting license?

Would you favor returning state statute to require only one firearm between a mentor and the mentee?

23. Designate the hickory nut as the state nut (requires legislation) (240318)

At present, Wisconsin does not have a designated state nut. The hickory nut has been an important resource for Native Americans in Wisconsin for thousands of years and continues its tradition with rural farm families that have cared for and harvested these long-lived trees. It is a primary forage for wildlife and consumed by thousands of residents who consider hickory nuts a seasonal delicacy.

Would you favor the legislature passing legislation to designate the hickory nut as the state nut?

24. Identification for non-motorized watercraft (requires legislation) (140418)

Presently, Wisconsin does not require identification for non-motorized watercraft, such as canoes, kayaks and skiffs. There have been instances that a non-motorized watercraft is found floating in a lake/river or along a shoreline with no one in it, making it hard for law enforcement to locate the owner and determine if an accident has occurred. Searches have been conducted based on not being able to contact the owner of the watercraft, requiring time and effort from law enforcement and rescue personnel, only to find out that no one was in the watercraft prior to being found. Currently, owner identification is required for ice shanties and waterfowl blinds on state properties.

Would you favor legislation that would require the owner of a non-motorized watercraft to affix identification to the non-motorized watercraft?

25. Increase Wisconsin Inland Trout Stamp fee (requires legislation) (170318, 180618, 220118, 320318, 630418)

The sale of Wisconsin's Inland Trout Stamps funds trout stream restoration, stream improvement, surveys and stream maintenance activities. On average 25 miles of stream improvements are made per year. Over the years 865 miles of streams have been improved out of nearly 13,000 miles of trout streams in Wisconsin. Over 700 miles of trout streams in northern Wisconsin are kept free of beaver dams annually. Since 2011, Trout Stamp annual expenditures have averaged \$1.6 million per year, with an average of 140,000 stamps sold at \$10.00. Costs of materials, fuel and labor continue to rise with an increased need for trout stream restoration work.

Would you favor a legislative change to an increase in the Inland Trout Stamp from \$10.00 to \$15.00 to allow for more trout stream restoration?

26-27. Remove mandatory uncocking or encasing requirements of unloaded crossbows (requires legislation) (360518)

All firearms (excluding handguns) must be unloaded when inside any vehicle, whether moving or stationary. A loaded firearm may be placed on, but not inside, a vehicle that is stationary.

Current law allows for an unloaded (bolt removed)/uncocked crossbow to be placed within a vehicle for transport, and an unloaded/cocked crossbow must be enclosed within a carrying case when being transported by a vehicle. It is illegal to place a cocked crossbow on a stationary vehicle unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a case.

Would you support a legislative change to allow unloaded/cocked crossbows to be placed on a stationary vehicle when uncased?

Would you support a legislative change to allow an unloaded/uncased/cocked crossbow to be placed within a vehicle for transport?

28. License fee increase to fund cold water fish hatcheries (requires legislation) (160418)

Wisconsin state fish hatcheries are vital to the stocking of the Great Lakes. Our hatcheries need adequate funding for staff, maintenance, upgrades and eventual replacement to meet fishery demands. The Great Lakes fishery provides a benefit for Wisconsin residents, tourism and business through the recreational opportunities this world class fishery provides.

Would you favor an increase in the Great Lake Trout & Salmon Stamp from \$10.00 to \$15.00 with the additional \$5 going specifically to hatchery needs?

Environmental Committee

29. Allocation of Invasive Species Control Fund for *Phragmites australis*, Common Reed (requires legislation) (110218, 131518)

Phragmites australis (Common Reed) is an aggressive invasive plant species that inhabits wetlands including highway drainage ditches and agricultural lowlands. It spreads via seed and rhizome, and roots can grow over 15 inches per year and outcompete native species. Removal is intensive and can require herbicides, burning, and mowing. It is spreading from east to west across Wisconsin, but the DNR, DOT and private landowners have been working to reduce the spread along this line.

Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the Natural Resources Board and legislature to create a *Phragmites australis* Control Fund?

30-31. Ban lead ammunition and fishing gear in Wisconsin (requires legislation) (131418)

Lead is currently the industry standard for hunting ammunition and fishing tackle. Scientific evidence shows that lead from spent ammunition and fishing tackle is a source of lead poisoning for at least 130 species of birds and wildlife and it's often fatal. Lead has been removed from common sources such as paint and gasoline for years, and in 1991 a federal prohibition of lead shot used for waterfowl hunting went into effect to help prevent die-offs of aquatic game birds. Non-toxic bullets, shot and fishing tackle are commercially available and in many cases are comparable to lead in performance and price.

Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR, Natural Resources Board and state legislature to implement a ban on lead ammunition? This would exclude ammunition used in target shooting and could be phased in over time.

Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR, Natural Resources Board and state legislature to implement a ban on lead fishing sinkers, lures and tackle weighing 1 ounce or less? This could be phased in over time.

32. Perform groundwater study at Brule State Fish Hatchery (160618)

The Brule State Fish Hatchery was built on the Little Brule River to provide trout fingerlings to the Brule River, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and other inland locations. Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) was detected in the Great Lakes in 2005. VHS is a threat to more than 25 freshwater fish species. The Brule River is a tributary to Lake Superior, and as such risks spreading VHS. Utilizing natural artesian water for the fish hatchery would remove the VHS issue for fish coming from the hatchery.

Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR and the Natural Resources Board to complete a groundwater study at the Brule State Fish Hatchery to determine its suitability for use to provide fingerlings with no VHS exposure?

Shooting Range Ad Hoc Committee

33. Creation of pilot program for temporary shooting ranges for scholastic shooting teams (040118)

Scholastic shooting teams are growing in popularity across the US and in Wisconsin. In some areas of the state there are no clay target shooting ranges located within a reasonable distance to be practical

for schools to form shooting teams, and in the areas that do have shooting ranges located within a reasonable distance from the schools, the established ranges may not have the capacity/ability to accommodate school shooting programs. In addition, the process to site and get necessary permits for a new shooting range is complicated and can take several years to complete.

In areas with these problems, the option of a temporary shooting range may allow school teams to be established until the permanent range approval process is complete. A pilot program establishing a few temporary ranges within a reasonable distance from the school and with the permission and cooperation of a private land owner and area residents within a 1-mile radius of the temporary range could eliminate these issues. These ranges would have a four-year sunset on operation, and to avoid landowner liability with the environmental issues associated with lead, non-toxic shot may be required.

Would you support a four-year pilot program creating a few temporary shooting ranges to be used for school sponsored teams that do not have access to local facilities, in which a lead-free ammunition requirement may be in place?

Bear Committee

34. Restore the bear application to the Conservation Patron License (requires legislation) (660618)

The bear application was removed from the conservation patron license in 1997. At the time, it was thought that people were applying for a permit just because it was free on the patron's license and would lengthen wait times. Since then, bear permit applications have steadily gone up disproving that assumption.

Do you favor returning the bear application to the Conservation Patrons License?

35. Quartering of deer, bear and elk in the field (440518)

Current WDNR rules prohibit field quartered deer, bear and elk from being divided into more than 5 parts and only the entrails may be left in the field. Bear may not be divided in a manner that does not keep one part of the bear intact to allow for the measurement of the tip of the nose to the base of the tail to prove a minimum length. Allowing hunters to quarter big game reduces spoilage and facilitates an easy and quick removal from the field.

Do you favor a rule change to allow quartering of deer, bear and elk in the field at the point of recovery without limiting the number of parts an animal is divided into and at a minimum the four quarters, back straps, and inside loins be removed from the field? For bear, a portion of the bear's head and/or spinal column must be retained in no more than 2 pieces to demonstrate that the bear is a minimum of 42 inches long.

36-37. Non-resident hunting laws (requires legislation) (370118)

The application fee for bear (for both resident and non-resident hunters) is \$4.50, and the application fee for bobcat (for both resident and non-resident) is \$6. Current wait times for bobcat tags in the northern unit is over 10 years and the southern unit is 4 years. The wait time for a bear tag is anywhere

from 1 to 9 years depending on the zone. Currently, non-residents have the same chance of drawing a harvest permit as a resident.

Do you favor raising the non-resident application fee for bear to \$40?

Do you favor raising the non-resident application fee for bobcat to \$40?

Land Use Committee

38. Creating a centralized list of timber sales (550118)

The timber industry is second only to agriculture in economic impact on Wisconsin, however the timber market is continuing to become more complicated due to market fluctuations and quota available to independent contractors. Tracts of industrial forests have also increasingly been divided into smaller parcels. If these smaller sales could be aggregated, buyers and sellers could both benefit.

Currently, there is no centralized listing of private land timber sales that buyers can use to find timber to buy. The DNR could utilize its website to provide an opportunity for buyers to search for established private land timber sales by location, species, and product (pulp, saw timber, etc.). Such a system may benefit landowners, loggers, truckers, mills and the businesses that rely on these contractors.

Would you support the Conservation Congress work with the DNR to create a web-based application that will provide landowners and consultant foresters a venue to list established timber sales for loggers and timber buyers who are looking for timber sales?

39. Restore public funding for public lands (120218, 230218, 420418, 540618)

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the management of more than 1.5 million acres of lands and adjacent waters of the state that are available for public use for a wide variety of outdoor activities. These state lands and waters include parks, natural areas, wildlife and fishing areas, and public hunting grounds that provide significant contributions to our quality of life and economy. Public assets require maintenance, management and development with public resources paid by all state residents.

Financial resources to manage, maintain and provide infrastructure on these lands have been diminishing, partly due to lack of budgetary funding resources. These lands and waters are public resources for the benefit of the residents of Wisconsin and an asset of the state that should be adequately managed, maintained and developed for use by the public like other state assets.

Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the Natural Resources Board, state legislature and the people of the state to provide adequate budgetary finances to maintain, manage and develop public lands to their full potential for the benefit of the residents of Wisconsin?