



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Public Hearing
&
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



Monday, April 13, 2020

7:00 PM

Agenda:

- | | |
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This hearing is not a debate but rather an opportunity for public input. Everyone will be given an opportunity to comment on the questions, but you will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes for each question that you wish to discuss. If comments become repetitive, the hearing officer may limit comments to issues not previously presented. Written comments on all DNR or NRB advisory questions will be accepted until April 16, 2020. **AGAIN THIS YEAR:** For individuals who are unable to attend a hearing in person, an online input option will be available and open to the public until April 16, 2020 (see page 3 for information).

**The results of the 2020 Spring Hearings will be available online
as soon as they are compiled.
Visit dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”**



In partnership with WI DNR, share your adventures and memories, and you could win a great prize! Show us your photos or videos of landscapes, your dog, family, friends, fun, food, sunsets, sunrises, camp fires, cabins, your favorite hunting or fishing chair, the list goes on.

Visit <https://storiesfromthewildside.pgtb.me/CJW41G> and share your story from the wild side.

Online Input Option

For the second time ever, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be offering an online option for individuals who wish to provide input on the DNR, Natural Resources Board, and WCC advisory questions through an alternate method.

**Please note, the election of WCC delegates and input on citizen-introduced resolutions will remain unchanged and will require in-person participation.*

- The link for providing online input will be posted on the Spring Hearing webpage at <https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html> or go to **DNR.WI.GOV** and search keywords “**Spring Hearings.**”
- The online input option will go live at 7:00 pm on April 13, the same time the Spring Hearings begin, and will remain open for three days (72 hours).
- Individuals in attendance at the Spring Hearing can choose to fill out the paper input form the night of the hearing or take a random verifiable number that can be submitted using the online input option. The random verifiable number will allow an individual’s input to be tallied along with the input provided by in-person attendees in the county in which they attended.
- Individuals who are unable to attend a Spring Hearing can provide input through the online option (without the random verifiable number). This input will be compiled and considered with the overall input but will be separate from the county-specific (in-person) input.
- The questions in the online option are identical to the questions provided to in-person attendees through this questionnaire. Persons taking the online version will be required to sign in to the survey, just as in-person attendees are required to sign in at the hearing.
- There are some additional optional demographic questions being asked through the online input option which may be used as context to assist the DNR, NRB and the WCC when interpreting the input.

Click To Begin



Statewide In-Person Input

Please read instructions below carefully, as they have changed from past years.

After you have registered, you will be provided with **one** input form.

The front will be used to provide input on Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Board and Wisconsin Conservation Congress advisory questions in the questionnaire.

The back can be used to provide input on any citizen resolutions that are introduced on the floor this evening and are posted at your county's venue for your consideration.

You may use either a PENCIL or a PEN

For your input to be accurately captured:

- The question number on the input form that coincides with the question in the questionnaire
- Mark your input for each question clearly with an **X** or ✓

1. YES NO NO OPINION



- **NEW THIS YEAR:** There will be three options for each question. In order to get better information from participants, please indicate your preference (in favor or opposition) or indicate if you have **no opinion** on the subject. For those questions with multiple choices (a, b, c), if you have no opinion on the issue, please leave it blank.
- DO NOT use markers to complete the form
- DO NOT circle answers
- DO NOT make notes or stray marks on the form
- DO NOT scribble out mistakes
- If you DO NOT follow these directions and clearly mark your choice, your input may not be accurately counted.

If there are citizen resolutions introduced:

- Resolutions will be numbered by the WCC county chair and posted for your review.
- Resolutions are numbered in the following format:

- The first two numbers (27) are the county code.
- The second two numbers (01) are the resolution number for that county. This number will coincide with the number on the back of your form.
- The last two numbers (20) are the year it is introduced.

Example: 27 01 20

This is resolution number 1 introduced in Jackson County (27) in 2020.

Example Input Form:

2020 Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearing & Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting



C1

Natural Resources Board

Use the following format to mark your form:

Q1 Yes No NO OPINION

Q10 Yes No NO OPINION

Q11 Yes No NO OPINION

Q12 Yes No NO OPINION

Q13 Yes No NO OPINION

Q14 Yes No NO OPINION

*You may use pen or pencil.

Release Responsibly

(provide another catchable memory)



Land the fish as quickly as possible



Keep the fish in the water as much as possible



Handle the fish as little as possible. Use wet hands or gloves.



If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line and let it go.



Treat the fish gently throughout the release.

For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "responsible release"

WCC Delegate Elections

The delegate elections take place at 7:00 p.m. prior to the start of the DNR portion of the Annual Spring Hearing/County Conservation Meeting.

If you are a resident of the county in which you are attending the meeting, and are at least 18 years of age, you may vote for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates. Proof of residency within the county is required in order to receive ballots to vote for delegates. If you meet these criteria, you will receive:

- 2-Year Term ballot
- 2-Year Term run-off ballot

- 3-Year Term ballot
- 3-Year Term run-off ballot

2-YEAR
ELECTION BALLOT
2-YEAR
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

I vote for the above named individual to serve a
two-year term on the WCC.

3-YEAR
ELECTION BALLOT
3-YEAR
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

I vote for the above named individual to serve a
three-year term on the WCC.

Each April, there is one 2-year term and one 3-year term available on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), unless other vacancies occur. County residents in attendance at the annual county meeting have the opportunity to nominate themselves or a peer.

Nominees have the opportunity to say a few words (up to 3 minutes) on how they could best represent their county and serve as a conduit for local citizen input concerning all natural resource issues at a local and statewide level.

As a county delegate, you agree to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

Citizens in attendance at the county congress meetings have the opportunity to vote on nominees. For the nominee to be elected, they must receive a majority of the votes (at least 50% + 1) of participating voters in attendance.

Delegate Eligibility

Any citizen of the county who is able to represent the citizens of Wisconsin and be a local avenue for citizen input and exchange of ideas concerning all natural resource issues through the WCC on a local and statewide level is eligible to be nominated and to run for election that evening.

A delegate must:

- Be a Wisconsin resident.
- Be an adult (at least 18 years of age), and a resident of the county he or she wishes to represent. To give the widest geographic representation, it is recommended that not more than three members of the county delegation be from the same town, city or village.
- Be willing to volunteer their time and efforts by:
 - Attending two district meetings per year (*one in March and one in August*); assisting with the annual spring hearings in April; attending the annual convention in May and one or more advisory committee meetings in the fall of the year.
 - Working with local citizens and organizations on natural resource issues on a local basis and participating in outreach and outdoor initiatives of local and statewide significance.
 - Possibly serving as chair or alternate chair of their County Deer Advisory Council.

NOTE: The Conservation Congress is an equal opportunity organization, and welcomes participation from all individuals regardless of race, age, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, arrest, conviction, veteran status or political affiliation.



WORK EARTH DAY PLAY

VOLUNTEER EVENTS
APRIL-MAY 2020

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary
of Earth Day! Find a volunteer
event at a Wisconsin State Park
property:

dnr.wi.gov/calendar/workplayearthday



OutWiGo



Why stay in,
when you can
#OutWiGo?



Find your next adventure in
Wisconsin State Parks, Forests,
& Trails at dnr.wi.gov, keyword:
OutWiGo.



OutWiGo

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will hold its election of county delegates in each county. Upon completion of the delegate elections, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will hold public meetings at the same locations. The purpose of this portion of the meeting will be to gather public input on wildlife management advisory questions, which are being asked to gauge public opinion.

The Conservation Congress County Meeting will convene following the close of the DNR/NRB meeting. Immediately following the close of the Conservation Congress County Meeting, the WCC delegates (including those newly elected) will meet to elect the county delegation's chair and vice-chair.

The public hearings/meetings will be held on Monday, April 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

01	Adams	Adams County Community Center, 569 N. Cedar St., Adams, WI 53910
02	Ashland	WITC-Ashland, Conference Center, 2100 Beaser Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806
03	Barron	Barron County Government Center, 335 E. Monroe Ave, Barron, WI 54812
04	Bayfield	Bayfield County Courthouse, Upstairs Board Room, 117 E. 5th Street, Washburn, WI 54891
05	Brown	NWTC - Green Bay Campus, 2740 W. Mason Street, SC130, Green Bay, WI 54307
06	Buffalo	Alma High School, S1618 State Road 35, Alma, WI 54610
07	Burnett	Burnett County Government Center, 7410 Cty Road K, Siren WI 54872
08	Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, 206 Court St., Rm. B025, Chilton, WI 53014
09	Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School, Auditorium, 750 Tropicana Blvd, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
10	Clark	Loyal City Hall, 301 N Main Street, Loyal, WI 54446
11	Columbia	Columbia County Health and Human Services Building, 111 E. Mullet Street, Portage, WI 53901
12	Crawford	Prairie Du Chien High School Auditorium, 800 East Crawford Street, Prairie Du Chien, WI 53821
13	Dane	Waunakee High School Performing Arts Center, 301 Community Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597
14	Dodge	Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center auditorium, N7725 Highway 28, Horicon, WI 53032
15	Door	Sturgeon Bay High School Commons, 1230 Michigan St, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
16	Douglas	Northwestern Elementary School, 10462 US Highway 2, Poplar, WI 54864
17	Dunn	Dunn County Fish and Game Clubhouse, 1600 Pine Ave, Menomonie, WI, 54751
18	Eau Claire	Chippewa Valley Technical College, Room 30, 620 West Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI, 54701
19	Florence	Florence Nat. Res. & Wild Rivers Interp. Center, 5631 Forestry Drive, Florence, WI 54121
20	Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, Auditorium, 525 E Pioneer Rd, Fond Du Lac, WI 54935
21	Forest	Crandon School District, 9750 US Highway 8 W, Crandon, WI 54520
22	Grant	Lancaster Community Schools Auditorium, 925 West Maple Street, Lancaster, WI 53813
23	Green	Monroe Middle School - Auditorium, 1510 13th Street, Monroe, WI 53566
24	Green Lake	Green Lake School, 612 Mill Street, Green Lake, WI 54941
25	Iowa	Dodgeville High School Gymnasium, 916 W. Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533
26	Iron	Iron County Memorial Building, 201 Iron Street, Hurley, WI 54534
27	Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, 1202 Pierce St., Black River Falls, WI 54615
28	Jefferson	Jefferson High School, 700 W Milwaukee Street, Cafeteria Room, Jefferson, WI 53549
29	Juneau	Olson Middle School, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948
30	Kenosha	Kenosha County Center, Hearing Room, 19600 75th Street, Bristol, WI 53104
31	Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, 911 3rd Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
32	La Crosse	Onalaska High School - Performing Arts Center, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
33	Lafayette	Ames Road Multi-Purpose Building, 11974 Ames Road, Darlington, WI, 53530
34	Langlade	Antigo High School, Volm Theater, 1900 Tenth Ave., Antigo, WI 54409
35	Lincoln	Merrill High School Auditorium, 1201 North Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452
36	Manitowoc	UWGB Manitowoc Campus, 705 Viebahn St, Manitowoc WI 54220
37	Marathon	DC Everest Middle School, 9302 Schofield Ave, Schofield, Wisconsin 54476
38	Marinette	Wausaukee High School, N11941 US Highway 141, Wausaukee, WI 54177
39	Marquette	Montello High School, 222 Forest Lane, Montello, WI 53949
40	Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse, W3269 Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
41	Milwaukee	Cudahy High School, 4950 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy, WI 53110
42	Monroe	Meadowview School, Auditorium, 1225 North Water Street, Sparta, WI 54656
43	Oconto	Suring High School, 411 Algoma St, Suring, WI 54174
44	Oneida	James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia Ln, Rhinelander, WI 54501
45	Outagamie	Appleton North High School, North Auditorium, 5000 North Ballard Road, Appleton, WI 54913

46	Ozaukee	Webster Middle School, Commons, W75N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg, WI 53012
47	Pepin	Pepin County Government Center, 740 7th Ave West, Durand, WI 54736
48	Pierce	Ellsworth High School, 323 West Hillcrest St, Ellsworth, WI 54011
49	Polk	Unity High School, 1908 WI-46, Balsam Lake, WI 54810
50	Portage	Ben Franklin Junior High, 2000 Polk St, Stevens Point, WI 54481
51	Price	Price County Courthouse, County Board Room 101, 126 Cherry Street, Phillips, WI 54555
52	Racine	Union Grove High School, Theater, 3433 S. Colony Ave (STH 45), Union Grove, WI 53182
53	Richland	Richland County Courthouse Court Room, 181 W. Seminary St., Richland Center, WI 53581
54	Rock	Craig High School- Small Auditorium, 401 S Randall Ave, Janesville, WI, 53545
55	Rusk	Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 Edgewood Ave East, Ladysmith, WI 54848
57	Sauk	UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County (Room A104), 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
58	Sawyer	Winter School Auditorium, 6585 West Grove Street, Winter, WI 54896
59	Shawano	Shawano Middle School - LGI Room, 1050 S Union St, Shawano, WI 54166
60	Sheboygan	Plymouth High School, 125 South Highland Ave, Plymouth, WI 53073
56	St. Croix	St Croix Central High School - Commons, 1751 Broadway St, Hammond, WI 54015
61	Taylor	Medford Senior High Theater Room, 1015 West Broadway St., Medford, WI 54451
62	Trempealeau	Arcadia High School, Room 219, 756 Raider Dr., Arcadia, WI 54612
63	Vernon	Vernon County Court House, 400 Court House Square St, Viroqua, WI 54665
64	Vilas	St. Germain Elementary School, Gymnasium, 8234 Hwy 70 W., St. Germain, WI. 54558
65	Walworth	Delavan-Darien High School, Large Meeting Room, 150 Cumming St., Delavan, WI 53115
66	Washburn	Spooner High School Auditorium, 801 Cty Hwy A, Spooner, WI 54801
67	Washington	Kewaskum High School, 1510 Bilgo Lane, Kewaskum, WI 53040
68	Waukesha	Waukesha West High School, Auditorium, 3301 Saylesville Road, Waukesha, WI 53189
69	Waupaca	Waupaca High School, E2325 King Road, Waupaca, WI 54981
70	Waushara	Waushara County Courthouse, Board Room 265, 209 S. Saint Marie Street, Wautoma, WI 54982
71	Winnebago	Webster Stanley Middle School, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
72	Wood	Pittsville High School - Auditorium, 5407 1st Ave, Pittsville, WI 54466

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to serving people with disabilities and pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Kari Lee-Zimmermann at (608) 266-0580 with specific information on your request by April 5, 2020.

Comments on DNR or NRB advisory questions may be submitted to the agency contact person no later than April 16, 2020:

- Wildlife Rule Coordinator, Scott Karel, 101 South Webster St., PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, (608) 267-2452, scottr.karel@wisconsin.gov.
- NRB Liaison, Laurie Ross, 101 South Webster St., PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, (608) 267-7420, Laurie.Ross@wisconsin.gov.

Written comments, whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail, will be summarized for the Natural Resources Board, however, they will not be combined with the input received at the county hearings or through the online input option.





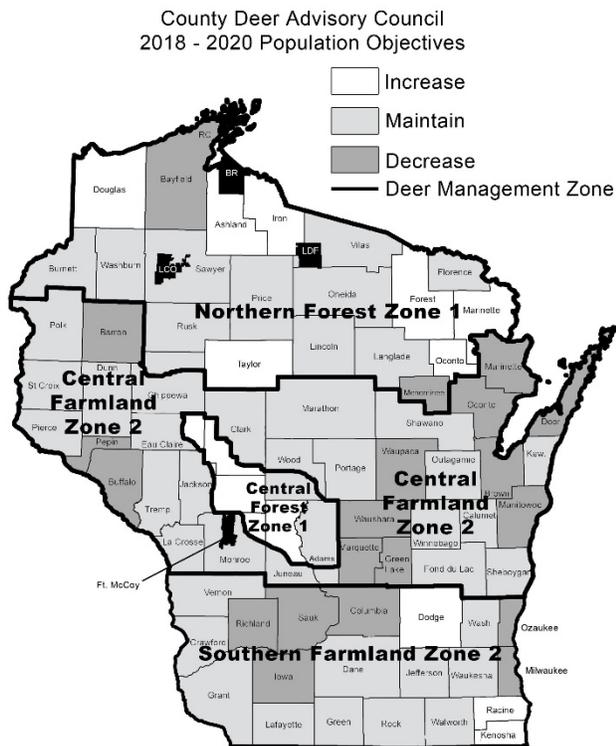
CDAC Spring Quota Recommendations

Your County Deer Advisory Council wants YOUR input on the proposed 2020 antlerless deer quotas

Visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html> to provide your comments.

- ↳ CDACs are groups of public stakeholders that provide deer management recommendations for each county
- ↳ Every 3 years: CDACs form deer population objective recommendations (increase, decrease or maintain herd size)
- ↳ Each Spring: CDACs develop antlerless quota, permit level, and season structure recommendations for your county
- ↳ For more information on CDACs: dnr.wi.gov, keyword "CDAC"

In an effort to bring deer management closer to the local level, the Department of Natural Resources established a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) for each county in Wisconsin in 2014.



Natural Resources established a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) for each county in Wisconsin in 2014. Each council provides deer population objective and antlerless harvest quota recommendations to the DNR and Natural Resources Board. Council membership consists of members of the public who represent agriculture, forestry, transportation, tourism, urban issues, hunting and the Deer Management Assistance Program. Chairs and alternate chairs for the CDACs are selected from among each county's Conservation Congress delegates. Local DNR wildlife, forestry and law enforcement liaisons attend CDAC meetings to provide data and answer questions but are not voting

CDAC Charter

- Gather public opinion on deer populations and goals, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies.
- Review and consider scientific metrics on deer herd trends, impacts to habitat and agriculture and human-deer interactions.
- Provide the department with recommendations on deer population objectives, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies.

Population objectives are not established for tribal reservation units as identified on this map.



members. All CDAC meetings are open to the public and offer opportunities to provide public comments.

WEIGH IN ON 2020 ANTLERLESS HARVEST QUOTAS AND PERMIT LEVELS

Councils are now developing 2020 antlerless harvest quota and permit level recommendations that will be used to achieve the county’s population objectives. CDACs consider a variety of indicators including harvest data, winter severity data and public input when developing quota recommendations for the 2020 deer seasons. The first round of meetings to discuss quota recommendations occurred in late March and early April. The public comment period on those recommendations will be available from April 16-28 and can be found at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html>. CDACs will determine final recommendations for 2020 antlerless quotas and permit levels at their final meeting during the week of May 4.

CDAC Resources

CDAC website: visit dnr.wi.gov, keyword “CDAC.” The CDAC website is a portal to the meeting schedule, meeting minutes, CDAC recommendations, contact information, and other resources.

- ➔ CDAC members and contact information by county: click on the “Find” tab, then enter county name.
- ➔ Meeting schedule for spring 2020: click on the “Find” tab, then enter your county name to find meeting schedule, member contact information and county specific data.
- ➔ Online public input opportunities: check the CDAC website frequently for updates. Public review of preliminary quota recommendations runs from April 16-28, 2020.
- ➔ Learn more: check out the frequently asked questions (FAQ tab), or email DNRCDACWebmail@Wisconsin.gov with any other questions.

Important dates: spring meetings will be devoted to quota recommendations.

March 30-April 2, and April 6-9	Review data and form preliminary 2020 antlerless harvest quota, permit and season structure recommendations.
April 16-28	Public comment period.
May 4-8	Review public feedback and determine final recommendations.
June 24	Recommendations approved at NRB meeting.

MEMBERSHIP Some councils still have open seats for qualified candidates. If you are interested in applying, visit the CDAC website and determine if your county has seats available. When you are ready to apply, click on the application link. Paper applications may also be available; contact your county’s CDAC chair for more information.



Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Meetings

Please utilize page 1 of your input form.

STATEWIDE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1-7: Requiring the use of non-toxic ammunition on state owned or managed lands

For questions one through seven, the term “state owned or managed lands” applies to any of the following areas:

- (a) All lands, structures and property owned by the department.
- (b) Lands owned by the state of Wisconsin which are under the management, supervision and control of the department.
- (c) Lands under easement to or lease by the state of Wisconsin which are under the management, supervision and control of the department. (This may include VPA lands but would not cover properties enrolled in MFL)

The department is exploring requiring use of non-toxic shot on state owned lands or for certain species. Reasons for exploring the use of non-toxic shot include unintended lead poisoning of game and non-game species, lead buildup in areas with concentrated hunting, and potential human health risks. Many state owned and managed properties are popular hunting destinations and enjoy heavy use by our sporting public. But a consequence of their popularity is the heavy burden of lead shot being deposited on DNR-managed lands, resulting in continued contamination of these sites and the predictable negative consequences for our waterfowl, game birds, and other wildlife. Cases of lead poisoning in bald eagles and scavengers spike dramatically during the fall hunting seasons due to the accessibility of gut piles and carcasses from harvested deer. If ingested, relatively small amounts of lead can poison birds; two or three pellets are fatal in some species. And in cases where lead poisoning itself is not fatal, behavioral and physiological changes can influence susceptibility to predation and infectious disease, increasing the probability of death. Because wildlife affected by lead toxicity tend to seek isolation and protective cover, they may not be readily apparent.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a nationwide ban on the use of lead shot for hunting waterfowl in 1991 after determining toxic impacts to waterfowl and their predators. The USFWS has required non-toxic shot use for all types of hunting on all waterfowl production areas nationwide since 1998. In Wisconsin, that regulation covers over 20,000 acres of federal lands open to public hunting. In addition, on National Wildlife Refuges in Wisconsin non-toxic shot is required for hunting migratory and upland game bird species, including wild turkey. In 2007, Wisconsin, the department expanded the requirement for non-toxic while hunting other

wetland migratory birds such as rails and snipe statewide. In 2008, the department implemented a non-toxic shot requirement for hunting mourning doves on all department lands.

1. Do you support requiring the use of non-toxic shot on all state owned or managed properties, except for department designated shooting ranges?

1. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION

2. Do you support requiring the use of non-toxic bullets and shotgun slugs on all state owned or managed properties, except for department designated shooting ranges?

2. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION

3. Do you support requiring the use of non-toxic shot for the hunting of doves statewide?

3. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION

4. Do you support requiring the use of non-toxic shot for the hunting of pheasants on state owned or managed properties?

4. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION

5. Do you support requiring the use of non-toxic shot for wild turkey on all state owned or managed properties?

5. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION

6. Do you support requiring the use of non-toxic shot for ruffed grouse on all state owned or managed properties?

6. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION

7. Do you support requiring the use of non-toxic shot and ammunition for small game mammals on all state owned or managed properties?

7. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION

QUESTION 8: Restrict the placement of non-agricultural artificial water sources in CWD areas

The current definition of “bait” in administrative code exempts drinking water. Many hunters place artificial sources like stock tanks out in the field or woods and fill them periodically with water to draw deer to a specific location. These artificial water sources can be a potential pathway for transmission of CWD prions between deer. This proposal would not restrict the use of birdbaths, ponds or other naturally occurring sources of water but rather plastic or metal tubs that are used for non-agricultural purposes.

-
8. Do you support restricting the placement of artificial water sources that are not for agricultural purposes of attracting deer or elk in CWD-affected counties?
8. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 9: Establish a raffle or lottery system for a new all-inclusive and multi-species license that would award the winner(s) the ability to hunt each of the species included in the license during the same year *(Requires legislation)*

Some states offer unique opportunities for sportsman to apply for and receive a special hunting license that includes a suite of difficult to draw hunting authorizations. For instance, the winners of the Pure Michigan Hunt are granted licenses that allow them to hunt elk, bear, spring and fall turkey, and the first pick at a managed waterfowl hunt area, all during the same calendar year. These drawings are very popular and proceeds from the application helps fund wildlife habitat restoration and management within their state. Several hunting opportunities in Wisconsin are for species with very limited draws (elk) or have high applicant numbers (bear, bobcat) which cause extended wait times of more than five years or more.

-
9. Do you support the department working with the legislature to establish a special raffle or lottery where the winner(s) would receive several otherwise difficult-to-draw tags and authorizations and the proceeds would go to wildlife habitat management and restoration in Wisconsin?
9. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

WISCONSIN OTTER TRAPPERS

Starting March 1, there is no longer an application deadline for river otter.



What you need to know:

- » Otter management is shifting to a bag limit/quota framework beginning with the 2020-21 season.
- » Each licensed trapper may harvest a maximum of two otter during the 2020-21 otter trapping season.
- » Otter harvest authorizations can be used in either otter zone (Northern or Southern).
- » The DNR will continue to establish an annual statewide quota for river otter and can close the season once that quota is met.

dnr.wi.gov
keyword “trapping”



ATTENTION

BEAR HUNTERS!



New zone boundaries are in the works for the 2021 season.

New zones proposed in the 2019-2029 Black Bear Management Plan will better reflect bear distribution, habitat type and public land access across the state.



New bear zones are working their way through the approval process. Final 2021 zones are expected by mid-summer 2020.

Applications for the 2021 season will open mid-summer 2020 after zones are set. The deadline is still Dec. 10 as usual.



2020 Hunters

- 🐾 No zone changes for the 2020 season.

2021 Applicants

- 🐾 Review proposed zone boundaries.
- 🐾 Sign up on the DNR website for notification when application opens.

dnr.wi.gov
keyword "bear"



NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD ADVISORY QUESTIONS

The following questions are presented by the Natural Resources Board to gain public input on possible changes to big game hunting in Wisconsin. The full Board approved these questions for inclusion at their January meeting.

QUESTION 10: Extend the current nine-day firearm season by adding ten days

Wisconsin has one of the country's shortest regular firearm deer seasons with just nine days of gun hunting for bucks. Providing additional firearm hunting opportunity that also includes bucks would increase excitement and participation in our premier hunt and may be important for the future. A longer season would provide days of high-quality hunting with moderate hunting pressure, buffer impacts of bad weather on opening weekend, and generally expand hunting opportunities to more people.

State law has established that the traditional firearm deer season begins the Saturday prior to the Thanksgiving holiday with limited exceptions for youth and disabled hunts. This proposal would extend the current firearm hunting season for both bucks and antlerless deer so that it would run until the day before the current December firearm antlerless-only hunt begins. Muzzleloaders, crossbows, and archery equipment will continue to be allowed with a gun deer license. There would no longer be a muzzleloader-only season but we anticipate the same type of high quality hunting opportunity to be available to more people during that time frame.

-
10. Do you favor improving firearm deer hunting opportunities by extending the season to run for 19 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving?
10. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 11: Eliminate the antlerless-only holiday firearm deer season

There is a 4-day antlerless-only firearm season in mid-December that begins on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday. Additional days of firearm hunting for deer of either sex are proposed in the previous question and, if supported, would result in firearm deer hunting being allowed continuously for more than three weeks beginning on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and continuing through the second week in December.

Considering the additional deer hunting opportunity proposed in the previous question and, in order to simplify deer hunting season frameworks and to reduce user conflict that occurs during the holiday hunt, the holiday hunt could be eliminated.

-
11. Do you support eliminating the antlerless-only holiday firearm deer season if an additional 10 days of firearm deer hunting will occur after the traditional 9-day season?
11. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 12: Establish a no-hunting period before the first day of the firearm deer season with the exception of waterfowl hunting

Until 2002, the archery deer season closed on the Sunday prior to the firearm deer season opener. Except for waterfowl, no firearm hunting was allowed for any species on the Friday before the firearm deer season. Some people believe that the break from hunting pressure allowed things to “settle down” in the field and that it generated excitement and built anticipation for opening day of the traditional firearm deer season.

Today, the archery and crossbow seasons, along with a variety of other seasons including fall turkey and small game run up to and concurrently with the traditional November firearm deer season. This proposal would close all hunting seasons, except for waterfowl, for a period of days prior to the opening of the November firearm deer season.

-
12. Do you:
- A) favor restoring a **2 DAY REST PERIOD** prior to the nine-day firearm season to reduce hunting pressure in order to increase excitement and anticipation for the premier hunting opportunity of the year?
 - B) favor restoring a **5 DAY REST PERIOD** prior to the nine-day firearm season to reduce hunting pressure in order to increase excitement and anticipation for the premier hunting opportunity of the year?
 - C) favor **NO CHANGE** to the current season structure?

(Choose only one option. If you do not have an opinion, leave blank.)

QUESTIONS 13: Invalidate archery and crossbow buck tags during the firearm season

Until 2002, the archery deer season closed five days prior to the traditional nine-day firearm deer season and did not reopen until five days after the firearm season closed. This put emphasis and focus exclusively on our premier firearm hunting season and likely also prevented illegal activity such as filling archery deer tags with deer harvested using firearms.

Currently, archery and crossbow hunting does not close during the traditional either-sex firearm deer season. Hunters can currently fill their bow buck harvest authorization with a bow or crossbow during any firearm season that allows buck harvest because the seasons run concurrently. This proposal would close the archery and crossbow seasons during the traditional either-sex firearm season and during a muzzleloader season if there continues to be a distinct muzzle-loader only hunt. Hunters could continue to hunt with the weapon of their choice through the lesser-weapons law, but only to fill a valid gun buck harvest authorization.

-
13. Do you support restoring emphasis on Wisconsin’s firearm deer hunting opportunity by not having crossbow and archery buck tags valid during the firearm season?
13. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTIONS 14: October season for hunting with crossbows

The department recently completed a comprehensive analysis of weapon use during deer hunting seasons, particularly crossbows. While the report found no biological impacts to the deer herd from use of crossbows it did show a disproportionate harvest of bucks by crossbow hunters. Important reasons for establishing hunting seasons and regulations are to distribute harvest and to improve hunting experiences. The future of hunting depends on providing high quality hunting opportunities for people who use all the legal methods including firearm, bow and crossbow.

Starting in 2014, the legislature approved a trial crossbow season to run concurrent with the archery season. It allowed crossbow hunting for all hunters regardless of their age or physical abilities. Rulemaking authority to modify the season was also granted to the department at that time. In the 2019 season, 42% of the registered antlered buck harvest occurred prior to the opening day of the gun deer season. This has impacted the firearm season to the point that it may no longer meet the expectations that firearm deer hunters have historically had.

It is possible to again meet the expectations for firearm hunters by reducing the disproportionate buck harvest and reduce hunting pressure a couple weeks before the gun deer opener while still maintaining exceptional crossbow hunting opportunity. By limiting the portion of crossbow season prior to the firearm season for those not disabled and over 60 to October, excellent opportunities during a prime part of the fall season which includes the early part of the rut will still exist for all crossbow hunters. The archery season would not be modified. Crossbow use by people age 60 and older and by disabled permit holders would continue to be allowed during the entire archery season. Hunters could continue to hunt with a crossbow during the firearm season through the lesser-weapons law, but only with a valid gun license.

-
14. Do you support allowing hunting with crossbows for everyone prior to the gun deer season from October 1st thru October 31st and reopening for the duration of the archery season after the gun deer season? Those 60 and over or holding a disabled permit will continue to be able to utilize crossbows for the full archery season.
14. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

- INSPECT boats, trailers and equipment
- REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals
- DRAIN all water from boats, vehicles and equipment
- NEVER MOVE plants or live fish away from a water body

QUESTION 15: Simplify and streamline regulations by eliminating deer management zones and continuing to manage by county units and public or private land antlerless tags

A way to simplify deer hunting regulations and possibly improve participation in deer hunting would be to eliminate the current four deer management zones, Northern Forest, Central Forest, Central Farmland and Southern Farmland. Deer harvest would still be managed effectively based on county management units and with tags valid either for public land or for private land only.

Currently ten counties are split between forest and farmland zones. Deer harvest quotas would still be managed at the county level, but counties would no longer be able to split their county into both the forest and farmland zones. Forest areas in these counties tend to also contain the county’s public lands and so managing by zones is likely an unneeded extra layer of regulations.

Current county options to hold a holiday hunt or extended archery and crossbow seasons are currently limited to counties in farmland zones. Free antlerless tags for private or public lands may continue to be issued if needed by recommendation of County Deer Advisory Committees.

15. Do you support simplifying regulations by eliminating the four deer management zones and continuing to manage deer harvest with county units and public or private land tags only?	15. <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NO OPINION
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The following questions are presented by individual NRB members.

QUESTION 16: Prohibit baiting and feeding of deer statewide *(Requires legislation)*

Currently, baiting and feeding deer is banned in 52 of 72 counties. In the past two years, 25 counties have been added to the list of counties with bans after new CWD detections in wild or captive deer. A case of bovine tuberculosis, which can spread to deer, was also confirmed in cattle in 2018. Research has indicated that supplemental feeding increases deer concentration and interaction at feeding sites and promotes the accumulation of disease-causing agents at specific sites through the repeated deposition of saliva, urine and feces. A statewide ban on baiting and feeding will help protect the health of the deer herd and could slow the spread of disease.

16. Do you support the department working with the legislature to restrict the baiting and feeding of deer statewide?	16. <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NO OPINION
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

QUESTION 17: Close the crossbow season in November and reopen it when the traditional firearm deer season opens

This question seeks input on another way to address some of the concerns that people have expressed with the current crossbow season. It would be possible to allow crossbow hunting concurrently with archery gear during both September and October, close the crossbow season on November 1, and reopen it when the firearm deer season opens.

Doing so would continue to provide significant opportunities to hunt with crossbows during a long season. The closure would reduce hunting pressure during the build up to the traditional firearm deer season and may result in additional bucks available to firearm hunters. The archery season would not be modified. Crossbow use by people age 60 and older and by disabled permit holders would continue to be allowed during the entire archery season.

-
17. Do you favor closing the crossbow season on November 1 and reopening it when the traditional firearm season opens?
17. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 18: Establish a spring bear hunting season

Spring bear hunting is popular in several Western states, Maine, and the Canadian provinces. Seasons are normally held in May and June. Some hunters believe that fur quality is excellent in spring. Spot-and-stalk tactics may at times be a practical spring hunting method. Use of bait would be an effective hunting method, perhaps even more effective than in early fall when natural food is more abundant.

If spring hunting were allowed, it would continue to be illegal to shoot a cub or a sow with a cub. Bear tags for the calendar year are currently issued early enough that they could be valid for both the spring season and the regular fall season.

A spring bear season would distribute hunting pressure and could result in a higher quality fall season with less hunting pressure. A spring season of two-or three weeks duration would contribute to the diverse hunting opportunities that are available.

-
18. Would you support establishing a spring bear season in Wisconsin?
18. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

Please utilize page 2 of your input form to provide your feedback on any citizen introduced resolutions.

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress County Meeting that is held in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Public Hearings annually in April.

Results of citizen resolutions introduced at the 2020 Spring Hearings will be posted on the WCC website (dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”) by April 22, 2020.

Resolutions are introduced and input is provided by the public in attendance at local Conservation Congress meetings in April.

- If a majority of the input received is not favorable, the resolution is referred back to the author and not advanced further.
- Authors are encouraged to work with their local county Conservation Congress delegates to reevaluate the idea and perhaps reintroduce the resolution in a subsequent year.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress Resolution Process

Resolutions that pass are assigned to a WCC advisory committee for further examination and vetting.

- Resolutions that do not pass out of committee are referred back to the author and are not advanced further.

Resolutions that pass out of WCC committees are referred to the District Leadership Council and recommended for statewide input as an advisory question on the next April's questionnaire.

- Resolutions that do not pass the District Leadership Council are referred back to the author and are not advanced further.

Questions that pass the District Leadership Council are placed on the questionnaire and the public in attendance at the Conservation Congress County Meetings in April can provide input on those advisory questions.

- The full body of the Conservation Congress meets in May to take a Congress position on the issue based on the public's opinion and the results of the advisory questions.
- All questions and results from the annual convention in May are then forwarded to the Natural Resources Board as advisement from the Conservation Congress.



How to Write a Resolution

Resolution Content

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public input at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

Resolution Format

- ✓ **The resolutions must be typed.**
- ✓ Resolutions must be 250 words or less, on one side of an 8 ½ x 11 white sheet of paper and there will be no attachments or additional sheets accepted for the same resolution.
- ✓ The author's name, mailing address, county, telephone number and signature are required to be at the bottom of the resolution.

Resolution Presentation

- Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution within the county. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced.
- No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.
- Resolutions not meeting the above criteria and/or verbal resolutions will not be accepted.
- Provide the Congress County Chair with **TWO COPIES** of the resolution for submission at the beginning of the evening, one to be part of the official record and the other to be posted for public viewing.
- Individuals in attendance at the meeting can provide input on the resolution being introduced within the county.

Sample Resolution

Designating the morel as the state fungus (requires legislation)

At present, Wisconsin does not have a designated state fungus.

The morel is important to many citizens; from the thousands of Wisconsin mushroom hunters that take to the woods to look for these edible wild mushrooms to the thousands of others that consume them and consider them a seasonal delicacy.

Morels typically grow in sandy soils near ash, aspen, elm and oak trees (usually dead or dying trees) and they require very specific temperatures, site and weather conditions to grow, so the quantity and time period that they are available is limited. Given the challenges associated with finding and harvesting these mushrooms, as well as the fluctuation in the number produced annually, the ability to locate and sell morels to other citizens provides an economic boost to successful hunters.

Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the state legislature to designate the morel as the state fungus?

Name of Author: John Q. Public
Name of Organization (*optional*): Private Citizen
Address: W12345 State Road 6
City, State, Zip Code: Hometown, Wisconsin 54321
Name of the County Introducing In: _____ County

Telephone Number (*including area code*): 123-456-0789
Email (*optional*) JQP@myemail.com

See WCC Resolution Process (page 21)

*Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the department for administrative purposes.

WISCONSIN Youth Conservation Congress

We need your help!

We are looking for students who are interested in:

- Spending time outdoors
- Participating in mentored hunting, fishing & trapping opportunities
- Contributing to their community
- Engaging with local conservation leaders and policy makers
- Kick-starting a career in natural resources

Please share information about this program with a future conservation leader in your county

The goal of the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress (YCC) is to effectively engage, educate, and involve youth in the management and protection of our natural resources and foster a conservation ethic through participation on the Wisconsin YCC.



Visit: <https://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/ycc.html> for application forms and more information. Questions? Contact the Youth Conservation Congress Coordinator: Kyle Zenz, 715-299-0925, Kyle.Zenz@wisconsin.gov



Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting

Please continue on page 1 of your input form.

(Please note: any numbers in parenthesis following the question title are referencing the resolution(s) from which the question originated.)

DEER & ELK COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 19-20: Return of Earn-A-Buck *(Requires legislation)*

The legislature eliminated the DNR’s ability to use Earn-A-Buck (EAB) as a herd management tool in 2011. EAB required a hunter to first harvest an antlerless deer before harvesting an antlered deer. It was unpopular with many hunters, but effective as a management tool and previous use of EAB in Wisconsin showed that antlerless harvest increases by about 0.8 antlerless deer per square mile, and the buck kill is reduced by about 0.23 deer per square mile in those areas where EAB was used versus those areas that did not have EAB requirements. No other herd management tool has been as effective at slowing, stopping, or reversing herd growth in high density areas.

<p>19. Do you support legislation that would return authority to the DNR to utilize Earn-A-Buck as a herd management tool in overpopulated counties?</p>	<p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NO OPINION</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>20. If greater flexibility is returned to the DNR, do you support allowing CDACs the ability to make recommendations regarding using Earn-A-Buck in their respective counties?</p>	<p>20. <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NO OPINION</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

QUESTIONS 21-22: Grant CDACs the authority to make recommendations regarding baiting and feeding in their respective county *(Requires legislation)*

Currently, the circumstances in which the department can impose baiting and feeding bans is limited by statute. As a result, the department is unable to identify baiting and feeding regulations as a topic for which CDACs can provide recommendations. The ability to make recommendations regarding baiting and feeding would be a helpful tool for the CDACs make sound population control decisions.

-
21. Do you support legislation that would give more authority to the DNR to determine baiting and feeding regulations, including when and where bans are put in place?
21. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

22. If greater flexibility is returned to the DNR, do you support allowing CDACs the ability to make recommendations regarding baiting and feeding in their respective counties?
22. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 23: Refined antlerless only tool for CDACs

Deer population control in some farmland units/counties has been a real challenge for the CDACs. Herd levels continue to rise despite the utilization of all feasible tools available to the CDACs. In the past Earn-A-Buck was a tool that tied the ability to harvest a buck to population control. This tool was removed by the legislature.

A new tool that ties the ability to harvest a buck with population control is needed. However, it must be targeted at season frameworks, not the individual hunter. If the CDACs had the ability to recommend restricting buck harvest by designating additional portions of the deer hunting season as antlerless only, it would become a more useful tool than the present unfeasible tool of a total antlerless only season.

-
23. Would you support the WCC working with the DNR and NRB to create a tool for the CDACs to use only in farmland units that have exhausted all other feasible tools to create antlerless only seasons for portions of the season rather than the total antlerless only option that currently exists?
23. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-



QUESTION 24: Sixteen-day gun deer season opening the Saturday nearest the 15th of November
(Requires legislation)

Opening the gun deer season earlier in the month, closer to the rut, may result in more deer sightings and may increase harvest opportunities for bucks and does. The additional days would also increase hunting opportunity for the gun hunters. While a significantly lower percentage than in the past, approximately 60-70% of the deer harvested each year occurs during the 9-day gun deer season. Many counties of the state for which a 3-year “decrease” or “maintain” population objective has been established are seeing an insufficient number of deer harvested to slow or reverse herd growth to help achieve the county’s management objective. Slowing the spread of CWD is dependent on reducing deer numbers through the harvest of additional deer. By opening the season on the Saturday closest to the 15th, the opening day would never be earlier than November 12 or later than November 18, thereby reducing the likelihood of having adverse weather or reduced rutting activity have a negative impact on the harvest.

-
24. Would you support the WCC working with the DNR, NRB and legislature to create a 16-day gun deer season opening on the Saturday nearest the 15th of November? 24. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

BEAR COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 25: Allow bear hunters on private land to use man-made containers for baiting (620319)

Current regulations prohibit the use of man-made containers for bear baiting. Understandably, there would be litter concerns if allowed on public land. Some other states as well as Canada allow the use of barrels or plywood boxes for bear baiting because it helps keep bait dry and fresh, as well as it keeps other non-target wildlife from getting into the bait such as squirrels and raccoons.

-
25. Do you support allowing the use of man-made containers to bait bear on private land? 25. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 26: Bear bait containment

Currently it is illegal for any person to place, use or hunt over bait placed for bears that is not enclosed in a hollow log, a hole in the ground or a stump which is capped with logs, rocks, or other naturally occurring and unprocessed substances.

The concern with this definition is that the stumps that are being used have no bottoms. Without a properly secured bottom, animals are able to dig under and pull out the material contained inside which creates an illegal bait site. It also allows material to be exposed to deer and wolves. A congregation site for deer can increase the likelihood of CWD being spread between animals and a congregation site for wolves can increase encounters with other species including hunting dogs.

This proposal would allow for the use of processed wood materials as well as adhesives and/or nails/screws to properly secure a bottom to the stump. This change would be applicable on both public and private land.

By making this change, a bottom could be properly secured to the stump so it would not come apart when animals are present creating a safer legal bait. It would help to decrease the potential spreading of CWD if an infected deer were present in the area and would help to decrease the likelihood of the bait site becoming a congregation site for wolves which in turn would make it safer for the use of hunting dogs.

-
26. Would you support the WCC work with the DNR to come up with a solution to allow the use of processed materials and man-made adhesives, in addition to the required log or stump, for the construction of a bear bait container that is not buried in the ground to prevent the incidental spread of bait into the environment?
26. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

TURKEY & UPLAND GAME COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 27: Establish an earlier opening date for spring turkey season (200419)

Spring turkey seasons beginning on the third Wednesday in April and continuing Wednesday through Tuesday of the following week for 6 consecutive 7-day time periods. The current season framework has the last period extending to the Memorial Day weekend each year. In some years, this moves the last period to a time when much of the turkey breeding is winding down, weather is getting warmer, and insects and foliage have increased, which effects hunting conditions. However, an earlier season can negatively impact turkey production by interfering with breeding activity and harvesting dominant toms before they've had a chance to breed one or multiple hens. Biologists generally time spring turkey seasons to begin in conjunction with or immediately following peak nest initiation, which occurs sometime around April 20 in Wisconsin.

-
27. Would you support moving the opening of the spring turkey season to the second Wednesday in April which would be one week earlier than it is now?
27. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 28: Oppose Back Forty proposed metallic sulfide mine (020319, 130619, 310619, 320319, 320419, 380119, 380219, 630519)

Aquila Resources' Back Forty Project, a proposed open-pit metallic sulfide mine, would be located on the banks of the Menominee River, which empties into Lake Michigan and is one of the largest watersheds in Northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Menominee River provides a unique habitat for species of special concerns such as lake sturgeon and freshwater mussels, which would be negatively impacted by discharges into the water. The potential impacts of the mine include long-term leaching of acid-producing wastes into the ground water and the river. Hazardous wastes generated by the mine would degrade water quality and present risks to human health and the environment in Wisconsin as well as Michigan. Potential

economic losses including reduction in property values and loss of tourism revenue are not factored into the permitting review process. The approval of this mine will result in the irreversible loss of significant cultural resources of the Menominee Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, including Native American grave sites and other areas of historical significance.

-
28. Would you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress informing the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that the proposed Back Forty Mine Project poses a significant threat to water quality in the Menominee River and Lake Michigan? 28. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 29: Allow introductory operation of motorized recreational vehicles (450219) (Requires legislation)

Many Wisconsin business are dependent upon tourism dollars. The Department of Tourism estimates that motorized recreation brings in over a billion dollars annually to the state's economy. However, currently there are very limited legal ways to introduce new people to the sport (allow them to try it) unless they have completed a DNR approved safety course or are operating on private property. Some would like to expand the opportunity so that organizations, groups and venues such as conservation clubs, recreational groups, school programs, sporting good retailers, etc. would be able to sponsor an event that introduces individuals to recreational motorized vehicles as long as the person supervising the participants is a DNR certified safety instructor.

-
29. Would you support allowing persons who have not completed an approved safety course to operate a motorized recreational vehicle at any event designed to introduce them to the sport? 29. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 30: Creating a full-time shooting sports coordinator (450119)

Currently the state lacks the personnel, resources and funding to establish and manage a statewide shooting competition program. The intent of this type of program is to provide a means of teaching and developing marksmanship skills. Currently there is no statewide program available.

-
30. Would you support the Conservation Congress, working with the DNR and the legislature, to create and fund a full time Shooting Sports Coordinator position within the department, as a means of developing and managing a statewide shooting competition? 30. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 31: Experimental badger season

There is currently no harvest season for badgers in Wisconsin. As a result, no harvest information has been collected which could be analyzed and used to assess the condition of the population. However, recent genetics studies indicate badger in Wisconsin are widespread, appear to utilize a variety of habitats and genetic diversity is similar to western states that support robust badger populations. It has been suggested that the badger population in Wisconsin is large enough, and robust enough, to support a regulated trapping season with a limited harvest.

31. Do you support a three-year experimental badger harvest season?

31. YES

NO

NO OPINION

QUESTION 32: Record keeping for wild animal sizes (150119, 150219)

In Wisconsin, no public agency keeps records of wild animals by weight and measure. Therefore, there cannot be a state record fisher, beaver, wolf, or any other species which is not measured and recorded by private organizations. It also means that no animal harvested in Wisconsin will be considered for a national or world record. The harvest of world record animals has been reported in Wisconsin in recent years.

32. Do you support the creation of a measuring and record keeping function in the DNR for large and small furbearing animals?

32. YES

NO

NO OPINION

QUESTION 33: Change the starting date for the use of cable restraints (550219, 610219)

Currently, fox, coyote, and bobcat trapping seasons open on the third Saturday in October. However, trappers cannot begin using cable restraints in trapping these species until December 1. Cable restraints have been legal in Wisconsin for many years, but when they were first implemented, a later date was set for their use to reduce incidental capture of non-target animals until the effects could be more clearly understood. They have been tested for best management practices and found to be humane, and especially beneficial when non-target animals are caught. They are normally released without injury, or ill effect. Some trappers would like to be able to use cable restraints from the first day of the season.

33. Do you support a change which would allow the use of cable restraints in trapping fox, coyote, and bobcats beginning on the first day of the season for those species?

33. YES

NO

NO OPINION

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 34: Extend the late bobcat permit period to February 15 (520119)

Currently, there are two management zones open to bobcat harvest (Northern and Southern Zones). Within each respective zone, there are two time periods. Period 1, the early season, opens the 3rd Saturday in October and closes December 25th. Period 2, the late season, opens December 26th and closes on January 31st the following year. Hunters/trappers are issued a bobcat permit for a specific zone and time period.

The department establishes an annual harvest quota for each bobcat management zone. This zone quota is split evenly between each time period, however, the number of permits issued for each time period is based on the harvest success rate calculated in previous harvest seasons. Past experience has shown that success rates are higher during period 2 (late season) in each zone, which means less permits are issued for the later time periods. In some years, the number of permits issued for each period is considerably different due to differences in harvest success rates in each zone.

While the second time period is shorter than the first, the success rate is significantly higher, so there are fewer permits issued for the later time period. Adding days to the season could increase the success rate (which could lower the number of permits available the following year), but if the quota is met prior to the end of the season, the DNR has the ability to close the harvest season early if necessary.

The fox season, and the coyote trapping season open the 3rd Saturday in October (same as bobcat) but end on February 15th (15 days after the bobcat season closes).

-
34. Do you support changing the closing date of the late bobcat permit period to February 15, concurrent with the closing of the fox season, and the coyote trapping season? 34. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 35: Allowing the spearing of carp during the sturgeon spearing season

Currently the only body of water and time of year you cannot spear carp is on the Lake Winnebago system during the sturgeon spearing season. There are times when visibility is poor during the sturgeon spearing season and there is a fair amount of large carp currently in the Winnebago system which can create a situation where a spearer may be inadvertently in violation by spearing a carp. There have not been any biological or enforcement issues identified that suggest this restriction is necessary.

-
35. Would you support a rule change that would allow the legal spearing of carp during the sturgeon spearing season for those who possess an unused sturgeon spearing authorization on the Lake Winnebago System as long as the carp is removed from the lake and properly utilized according to current rule for taking of rough fish? 35. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

WARM WATER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 36-37: Namekagon River and St. Croix River smallmouth bass and musky minimum size and bag limit (070119, 580119)

River fisheries are sensitive to flooding of nest beds and bag limits. The Namekagon River and St. Croix River (these rivers are connected) are valuable economic and recreational resources for Sawyer, Burnett, and Washburn Counties. DNR census studies of the Namekagon River show that it has lower smallmouth bass populations compared to other regional river fisheries (Chippewa and Flambeau). These same studies show that the Namekagon River has the potential to become and remain a smallmouth bass and musky "trophy fishery," which is currently an important driver for out of state/region anglers to visit and support the local economy.

-
36. Would you support reducing the daily bag limit for smallmouth bass on the Namekagon River and St. Croix River to one fish with a harvest minimum size of 18 inches? 36. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

37. Would you support reducing the daily bag limit for musky on the Namekagon River and St. Croix River to one fish with a harvest minimum size of 50 inches? 37. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 38. Reduced daily bag limits for panfish on Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, Marathon County (370519)

The Big Eau Pleine reservoir located in south central Marathon County is considered by some to be one of the premier destinations statewide for fishing opportunities. Currently the daily bag limit for panfish is 25 in aggregate with no size limit. Recent DNR population surveys have identified low numbers of strong year classes within the yellow perch and crappie species on the Big Eau Pleine. A reduced daily bag limit may extend panfish harvest opportunities year-round by reducing excess exploitation. This bag limit reduction may potentially result in increased population density of medium to large adults and improved reproduction among panfish species.

-
38. Would you support reducing the daily bag limit to 10 panfish for the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir? 38. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 39: Northern pike limit on Wallace Lake, Washington County (670119)

Currently, Wallace Lake has a 26-inch minimum length limit for northern pike and some feel there is an abundance of undersize northern pike in Wallace Lake, preventing northerns from achieving legal harvest size. A slot limit would protect spawning females while allowing the harvest of smaller pike for consumption.

-
39. Would you support a daily bag limit of 2 northern pike and no minimum length limit, except that all northern pike between 25 to 35 inches must be released on Wallace Lake in Washington County? 39. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 40: Green Lake panfish bag limit reduction, Washington County (670219)

Since two lakes near Green Lake in Washington County have reduced bag limits, Green Lake has seen an increase in fishing pressure, affecting the quantity and size of its panfish population. This proposal would align Green Lake’s panfish bag limit to those of surrounding lakes.

-
40. Do you support reducing the panfish daily bag limit on Green Lake, Washington County, to a total daily bag limit of 10 panfish? 40. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 41: Protection of spawning walleyes in the Wisconsin River from the Scott Street Bridge (Wausau) downstream to Prairie Du Sac Dam (720519)

Throughout the year the area from the Prairie Du Sac Dam upstream to the Scott Street Bridge-Wausau receives an intense amount of fishing pressure from local communities, especially during the spawning season. The current size limit for walleye is a minimum length limit of 15 inches with a protected slot of 20-28 inches with one over 28 inches allowed for harvest, and a total bag limit of 5 fish. Under this resolution, walleye fishing would continue throughout the year, however the size and bag limit would be one walleye over 28 inches from the first Saturday in March to the general opener.

-
41. Would you support a change stating that from the first Saturday in March to the general fishing opener, one walleye over 28 inches in length can be harvested per day? Upon the general fishing opener the current size limit for walleye (minimum length limit of 15 inches with a protected slot of 20-28 inches with one over 28 inches) would be in effect. 41. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 42: Avril, Presque Isle and Van Vleit Chain of Lakes (Vilas County) muskellunge size limit increase (640519)

Wisconsin manages certain lakes as trophy muskellunge waters. Vilas County is within the historical natural range of muskellunge and at one time was the premier destination for anglers seeking a trophy musky experience. Avril, Presque Isle and Van Vleit Lakes have the size, population density and forage base consistent with development of fish to trophy size of fifty inches and more. This proposal may benefit local economies by increasing tourism that may currently be diverted to neighboring states and Canadian provinces.

42. Would you support a rule change to increase the minimum size limit for muskellunge on Avril, Presque Isle and Van Vleit Lakes to 50 inches and a daily bag limit of one fish?

42. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 43: Removal of largemouth bass size limits on Buckatabon Lakes, Vilas County (640619)

Some feel that there is an overpopulation of largemouth bass on Buckatabon Lakes in Vilas County, that could be negatively impacting other species of fish. Removing the current size limit of 14 inches completely or replacing the current size limit with a restrictive slot size of no minimum length limit, yet protective slot of 14-18" with one over 18 inches may improve the population and size structure of largemouth bass on this lake and may also improve the ecology for other fish species.

-
43. Do you:
- A) support an elimination of the size limit on largemouth bass on the Buckatabon Lakes? The daily bag limit would remain 5 fish per day.
 - B) support a restrictive slot size limit of no minimum length limit, yet protective slot of 14-18" with one over 18 inches allowed for harvest on the Buckatabon Lakes? The daily bag limit would remain 5 fish per day.
 - C) prefer no change to the current regulations for largemouth bass on Buckatabon Lakes?

(Choose only one option. If you do not have an opinion, leave blank.)

QUESTION 44: Panfish bag limit on Big Round Lake, Polk County (490119)

Big Round Lake is a popular panfishing lake and as a result has heavy fishing pressure in summer months as well as ice fishing months. The current bag limit on Big Round Lake is 25 panfish per day. Individuals have expressed concern that the fishing pressure on the lake has reduced the size of panfish in the lake. While data indicate that anglers are catching bluegills over 8 inches, a bag limit of 10 panfish in aggregate may help improve size structure of bluegills and other panfish.

44. Would you be in favor of reducing the daily bag limit to 10 panfish in aggregate on Big Round Lake, Polk County?

44. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 45: Add Forest County to list of counties allowing for 1 line/lure per angler, 3 lines per boat max while motor trolling (210219)

Motor trolling is a highly productive way of catching fish. Currently, fishing by trolling with a motorboat using three lines/lures per angler is allowed in most counties in Wisconsin except Florence, Iron, Lincoln, Oneida, Sheboygan, Vilas, Waupaca and some waterbodies in Sawyer County (where only one line/lure per person, 3 lines max per boat are allowed).

-
45. Would you support adding Forest County to the list of existing counties in Northern Wisconsin with a 1 line/lure per person, 3 line maximum per boat restriction while motor trolling? 45. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 46: Allow for underwater spear fishing in Forest County (210319)

Underwater spear fishing (while skin diving or scuba diving) is generally allowed statewide in most counties per s. NR20.02 (3) and s. NR 20.20 provided the season for the species is open and the rough fish spearing season is open. Because some counties in the north do not allow spearing for rough fish, the season for underwater spearing would be closed. Creel data comparison demonstrated that underwater spear fishing was not more efficient than hook and line in Forest County lakes where spear fishing previously occurred.

-
46. Would you support opening Forest County waters to underwater spear fishing for panfish and rough fish? 46. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 47: Change opening date of musky fishing season to the first Saturday of May in the Northern Zone, with the month of May being catch and release only (640319)

Currently, the musky season opens on the Saturday nearest Memorial Day in the Northern Zone while the season for walleye, northern pike and largemouth bass opens on the first Saturday in May. Allowing musky fishing opportunities to begin on the same date fishing begins for other species, even if those opportunities are limited to catch-and-release, could benefit businesses in the North by increasing tourism opportunities. No adverse biological effects would be expected from an additional catch-and-release opportunity for musky.

-
47. Would you support a change in the musky season opener to the first Saturday in May, with catch and release only through the month of May? 47. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
This would create a catch-and-release only season from the first Saturday in May to the Friday before the Saturday nearest Memorial Day, with the harvest season starting the Saturday nearest Memorial Day.
-

GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 48: Restore anadromous (lake run) fish passage to the Iron River, Bayfield County (160119)

The Iron River in Bayfield County is the third largest trout stream tributary to Lake Superior. Prior to the Orienta Dam installation in 1923, anadromous (lake run) fish species ascended Orienta Falls on the Iron River. The dam failed in 1989 and was removed shortly after. A lamprey barrier was installed at that time blocking upstream migration for all species and has remained in that condition ever since.

Sporting groups including the Brule River Sportsmen's Club, Douglas County Fish & Game League, Western Lake Superior Trollers Association, Wild River's Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and Douglas County Conservation Congress support the restoration of fish passage on the Iron River. A 1993 DNR Study Report estimated the anadromous salmonid run on the Iron River would annually increase Wisconsin's Lake Superior anadromous fishery by nearly 29% and contribute an estimated \$300,000 to the local economy.

Four of the five goals outlined in the draft Lake Superior Fishery Management Plan directly relate to restoring fish passage for anadromous fish:

- Protect, maintain and improve the diversity and connectivity of tributary coastal and main lake habitats of Lake Superior's fish community.
- Work with stakeholders to identify and implement strategies that protect, support and enhance the diversity, sustainability and viability of the Lake Superior fishery for state and tribal sport, commercial and subsistence fishing.
- Develop, evaluate, and implement strategies to maximize the resilience of Lake Superior fisheries through controls, management and mitigation of future threats.
- Identify strategies to coordinate with stakeholders to improve Lake Superior fisheries.

However, removal of the barrier would open 186 miles of tributaries to Lake Superior. There is concern about the potential spread of aquatic invasive species (particularly VHS) with alteration of the barrier (VHS is currently found only below Orienta Falls Dam). The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and other partners and stakeholders would need to be consulted with any potential modifications to the barrier. USFWS has expressed concerns due to the proximity to the Iron River National Fish Hatchery.

Currently, there are healthy populations of brook trout in the headwaters of the Iron River and downstream brown trout become more abundant. The possible impacts on these populations would need to be assessed prior to alteration of the barrier. The Wisconsin DNR recently released the Fish Passage at Dams Strategic Analysis that would be used in any decision-making process.

48. Would you support working with local conservation groups and the DNR to restore fish passage for migrating (lake run) fish to the Iron River in Bayfield County?

48. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 49: Appropriate harvest and protection level(s) for native Buffalo fish

Bigmouth and smallmouth buffalo fish are currently categorized as a "rough fish" and often inappropriately labeled as a "carp." Buffalo are a native fish species which evolved along with other North American fishes. Currently, there are no bag limits, no restricted seasons, or minimum size limits.

Because buffalo have low reproductive rates and at least locally declining populations, these two fishes may require protections.

-
49. Would you support the WCC recommending that the DNR and Natural Resources Board study the buffalo fish species to determine and establish appropriate levels of harvest protection within Wisconsin waters? 49. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 50: Boating safety improvement on lakes of 50 or more acres (020119) *(Requires legislation)*

Since the 1950s the Wisconsin Boating Regulations have allowed boaters on lakes with public access that are 50 acres or larger to be used for high speed boating. In 2010, state statute was changed to require boating speeds of slow-no-wake within 100 feet of the shoreline. On certain smaller lakes this may mean that there is more congestion in the center portion of these lakes, which can cause dangerous conditions for boaters, anglers and others using these lakes. The suggested change is to only allow boating in excess of slow-no-wake on lakes that have 50 or more acres of surface water outside of the current 100 feet from shore slow-no-wake zone. There is no suggested change to the 100 feet from shore slow-no-wake zone requirement.

-
50. Would you favor the Wisconsin Conservation Congress working with the legislature to change boating regulations to only allow boating in excess of slow-no-wake **on lakes with 50 or more acres** of surface water not currently restricted to slow no wake zones? 50. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 51: Changes to trespassing laws and their enforcement (250119) *(Requires legislation)*

Currently trespassing laws can only be enforced by local or county law enforcement, not conservation wardens.

-
51. Do you favor the DNR working with the legislature to authorize wardens to investigate trespass complaints and issue citations when it involves recreational and natural resource trespassing? 51. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 52: Establish a non-resident wild rice harvester license (040419) (Requires legislation)

Currently harvest of wild rice is only allowed by Wisconsin residents at \$8.25 and tribal members with tribal ID. Non-residents are not allowed to harvest wild rice in Wisconsin. In Minnesota, residents may purchase a season license for \$25 or a daily license for \$15. Tribal members only need to possess a tribal ID. In 2004, Minnesota established a one-day non-resident wild rice license for \$30. They did this to allow non-resident riparian landowners, family, friends and citizens the privilege of experiencing the harvest. Some would like this same privilege to be allowed in Wisconsin as an incentive to the restoration of wild rice.

-
52. Would you favor the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, the DNR and the legislature working together to establish a non-resident 3-day wild rice harvest license for the cost of \$30?
52. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTION 53-54: Increase price of non-resident licenses & fees for bear and deer hunting (560119) (Requires legislation)

Currently the majority of DNR funding comes from hunting, fishing and trapping license fees. When more funding is needed, either license fees are raised or programs are cut. Wisconsin is attractive to non-resident deer hunters for trophy deer and Wisconsin is known as one of the number one bear hunting states in the US. An increase in these licenses could provide additional funding to wildlife and fishery programs.

A Wisconsin non-resident deer license is \$160, and a bear license is \$251. Other state non-resident fees are as follows:

	Bear	Deer
Minnesota	\$230	\$186
Illinois	not offered	\$411 archery, \$200 firearm
Iowa	not offered	\$644 (includes all fees and licenses)
Michigan	\$20	\$25
(requires a non-resident base license (\$151) for any hunter in addition to the individual species license)		
Wyoming	\$373	\$374
Colorado	\$101 (fishing included)	\$396
Montana	\$350	\$337

-
53. Would you favor the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the DNR working with the legislature to increase the cost of a non-resident deer license?
53. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

-
54. Would you favor the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the DNR working with the legislature to increase the cost of a non-resident bear license?
54. YES
 NO
 NO OPINION
-

QUESTIONS 55: Alternative funding sources to Fish & Wildlife Account in addition to hunting, fishing and trapping licenses (110119) (Requires legislation)

Currently, the DNR’s wildlife and fisheries management programs receive funding from license and stamp sales, federal grants and legislative appropriations. However, license and stamp sales are the most significant source of funding. Declines in license and stamp sales reduce funding, which can result in reduced staff, reprioritization of work and project delays.

55. Would you favor the legislature creating an alternative funding source in addition to license fees? 55. YES

NO

NO OPINION



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Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
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&

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
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