

2021 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearings Advisory Questions

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

1. Resolution supporting the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (020220, 040620, 180120, 530120, 570420, 630120 and 660120)

Global climate change is real and a serious threat to Wisconsin, effecting farming, winter sports, wildlife, forests, and the economy.

Congress introduced a bill in the House of Representatives in 2019 that would have created the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. This bill would have required energy companies to pay a steadily rising fee on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas which, in theory, would drive down carbon pollution and stimulate conservation, technological innovation, clean energy, jobs and economic growth because energy companies, leading industries, and American consumers would move toward cleaner, cheaper options. However, it is likely that fees assessed to energy companies would be passed along to consumers in the form of higher energy costs.

The fees collected on carbon emissions would then be allocated to all Americans to spend any way they choose. The government would not keep any of the fees collected. Equal payment of funds to all families would protect our most vulnerable with most Americans receiving more in dividends than their increased energy costs. Fuel used on farms and by the military would be exempt. To protect U.S. manufacturers and jobs and encourage other nations to adopt similar policies, imported goods would pay a border carbon adjustment and goods exported from the United States would receive a refund under this policy.

Over 3,555 American economists, four former Federal Reserve chairs, 27 Nobel Laureate economists, 15 former chairs of the Council of Economic Advisers and two former Secretaries of the Treasury agree that carbon fees are "...the most cost effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary."

This model of carbon fees and dividends is supported by Trout Unlimited, Protect Our Winters, the National Ski Areas Association, U.W. Stevens Point, nine county and municipal governments, three major newspapers and over 135 Wisconsin organizations, sporting groups and businesses. The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763), had 86 cosponsors in the House of Representatives in 2019.

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| 1. Should the Wisconsin Conservation Congress endorse and encourage the U.S. Congress to enact carbon fee and dividend legislation with the intent of reducing CO2 emissions, benefitting conservation, and stimulating technological innovation and economic growth through revenue recycling? | 1. YES _____ |
| | NO _____ |
| | NO OPINION _____ |
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2-3. Eliminating the risk of a Line 5 spill (040520, 050420, 130420, 400120, 410520, 450220, 520220, 680220, 710320)

Enbridge Energy proposes to build a new segment of their Line 5 pipeline in Ashland and Iron Counties, re-routing the line to be outside the Bad River reservation within the Bad River watershed. The Line 5 pipeline travels from Superior, Wisconsin through Northern Wisconsin, across the Upper Peninsula of MI, under the Straits of Mackinac (where Lake Huron and Lake Michigan meet), into the Lower Peninsula, and then on to Sarnia in Ontario. The pipeline is more than sixty-six years old.

The pipeline has already spilled over 1.1 million gallons of oil in 33 incidents, according to the National Wildlife Federation. A study by the University of Michigan described the Straits as “the worst possible place for an oil spill in the Great Lakes.” The pipeline poses a risk to the Great Lakes, a source of drinking water for more than 1.6 million Wisconsin residents.

Enbridge’s proposed new 42-mile segment would mean more investment in old-fashioned technology and a pipeline that needs to be decommissioned. The area where Enbridge has proposed this new segment is upstream of Copper Falls State Park. It also risks cultural and natural resources that are important to the Bad River and many Tribes in the region, critical wetlands for the region, and other important natural resources.

2. Do you support WCC opposition to construction of a new 42-mile segment of the Enbridge Line 5 crude oil pipeline in Ashland and Iron Counties to replace the existing portion of the Line 5 pipeline that bisects the Reservation of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa?	2. YES _____
	NO _____
	NO OPINION _____

3. Do you support WCC opposition to issuance of any permits for the Line 5 project by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at the conclusion of its EIS process?	3. YES _____
	NO _____
	NO OPINION _____

4. Establish perennial vegetative buffers along rivers, streams, and ditches (660620)

Clean water is a universally recognized conservation goal. Perennial vegetative buffers of native species along lakes, streams and ditches keep flowing water clean and perennial vegetative buffers of native species along lakes, streams and ditches provide wildlife habitat. Perennial vegetative buffers of native species along lakes, streams and ditches filter our phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment and perennial vegetative buffers of native species along lakes, streams and ditches deter flooding by slowing run-off. Perennial vegetative buffers of native species along lakes, streams and ditches prevent erosion.

4. **Would you support legislation to require perennial native species vegetative buffers of 50 feet along rivers and streams and 16.5 feet along ditches not covered by local zoning ordinances under Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program in NR 115?**

4. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

5. Evaluation and restriction of high capacity wells in the State of Wisconsin (660820)

Groundwater and surface water supplies are connected, and they are therefore essential to keeping Wisconsin's lakes streams and wetlands healthy. The State of Wisconsin continues to issue high capacity well permits, and these high capacity wells are increasing in number and have already been shown to have an effect on our water supply in many locations in our state. Many high capacity wells are lowering or drying up lakes and streams and family wells. Although the land where these high capacity wells are located are owned by individuals, the water belongs to all of the citizens.

5. **Should the Wisconsin Conservation Congress support DNR's use of a fact-specific determination process for high capacity well applications that considers environmental impacts such as potential effects on groundwater protection areas, water loss, degradation of safe drinking water or groundwater, and impacts when combined with other wells to springs, navigable waters and public water systems?**

5. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE

6. Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Fee increase to fund cold water fish hatcheries and rearing stations (160420) requires legislation

State of Wisconsin Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Stations require funding to adequately staff, maintain, repair and upgrade facilities to meet current demands. Wisconsin has a fish propagation system admired by many, but critical investments are necessary to meet future stocking needs. Doing nothing may result in shortfalls of fish for stocking statewide and could affect businesses benefitting from the \$2.75 billion in economic impact, 30,000 jobs, and the \$196 million in local and state tax revenues fishing provides annually in Wisconsin.

The Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp has been ten dollars (\$10) since 2004. Additional revenue could be raised with a fee increase designated specifically for hatchery and rearing station needs, adequate staffing, maintenance and repair. A Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp fee increase will help provide resources which will benefit Wisconsin residents, tourism, businesses and recreational opportunities throughout the State of Wisconsin.

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6. **Would you support legislation that would increase of the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp from ten dollars (\$10) to fifteen dollars (\$15) to provide additional revenue to the State of Wisconsin Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Stations and support the Wisconsin fish propagation system?**
6. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____
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MOTORIZED RECREATION COMMITTEE

7-8. Require in-person ATV/UTV and hunter safety classes (450320)

The option for online Hunter Safety was created as a convenience for members of the public who can't get into an in-person class because available classes are either filled up; or open classes are too far for them to travel. Youth under the age of 18 are required to have hands-on experience to earn their hunter safety certification, whether it is through a fully in-person class, or by doing the classroom portion online and then following up with a hands-on field day. There is currently no hands-on requirement for ATV safety or boating safety, however anyone under the age of 16 is required to take the in-person snowmobile safety course to be certified.

Many volunteer instructors who teach safety classes feel that it is important for their students to have a hands-on learning opportunity. Some of these students have never been on an actual ATV or handled a firearm and some instructors would like to provide them a hands-on experience that an online course cannot provide. In addition to the hands-on experience, it also gives instructors the chance to make sure students get helmets that fit correctly and to show them in person the correct way to handle and ride their vehicle.

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7. **Would you support requiring an in-person hands-on opportunity as part of the ATV/UTV safety training?**
7. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____
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8. **Would you support requiring an in-person hand-on opportunity as part of the hunter safety training for individuals over the age of 18 (6-8 hours of in-person education are already a requirement for persons under the age of 18 during non-pandemic years, however that requirement is currently waived based on the Covid-19 situation)?**
8. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____
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WARM WATER COMMITTEE

9. Allow unused Upriver Lakes Sturgeon Spearing carcass tag to be used on Lake Winnebago after the Upriver Lakes Spearing Season has closed. (520120)

The Upriver Lakes Sturgeon Spearing carcass tag is only valid on upriver lakes Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan.

The DNR will close the sturgeon season on the Upriver Lakes before the maximum 16 days when the following conditions occur: At the end of the fishing day in which 100% of any one of the three Upriver Lakes harvest caps is reached or exceeded, or 24 hours from the end of the fishing day within which a harvest of 90% to 99% of any one of the three Upriver Lakes harvest caps is reached.

It currently takes 7 or more years to receive an Upriver Sturgeon Spearing carcass tag and sometimes the season can be as short as 2-3 days.

Allowing a person in possession of an unused Upriver Sturgeon Spearing carcass tag to use his/her tag and spear on Lake Winnebago if the Upriver Season has been closed and the Lake Winnebago Season is still open would provide more spearing opportunity for the tag holder.

<p>9. Would you support allowing a valid, unfilled Upriver Sturgeon Spearing carcass tag to be used on Lake Winnebago if the Upriver Season is closed and the Lake Winnebago season is still open to increase opportunities for those with a valid, unfilled Upriver Sturgeon Spearing carcass tag?</p>	<p>9. YES _____</p> <p> NO _____</p> <p> NO OPINION _____</p>
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10. 50-Inch Minimum Length Limit for Muskellunge in Waukesha County (680420)

In Waukesha County, Wisconsin, the minimum length limit for muskellunge harvest is 40 inches. The waterbodies in Waukesha County (lakes and rivers) have shown excellent growth potential with numerous 50-inch fish caught annually. Increasing the minimum length limit to 50 inches would increase muskellunge trophy angling opportunities in Waukesha County.

<p>10. Would you support increasing the current minimum length for muskellunge from 40 inches to a 50-inch minimum length limit for the harvest of muskellunge in all waters of Waukesha County?</p>	<p>10. YES _____</p> <p> NO _____</p> <p> NO OPINION _____</p>
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11. Stop fishing guides from gifting fish to paying clients (070220)

Section 29.539, Wis. Stats., states that no person may sell, purchase, barter, or trade, or offer to sell, purchase, barter, or trade or have in possession or under control for the purpose of sale, barter, or trade any game fish. This statute prohibits a licensed fishing guide from providing to a client fish caught by the guide during a guided trip in exchange for any compensation or reward. Whether a guide is permitted to gift the guide’s catch to the client without compensation or reward depends on a number of circumstances. Guides may not gift their catch to a client while on the water, as doing so places the client in violation of daily bag limits. However, guides may gift their catch to a client off the water without placing the client in violation of daily bag limits, provided the total number of fish possessed by the client is within the lawful possession limits for each species of fish.

Enforcement of s. 29.539, Wis. Stats., can difficult because it depends on the specific arrangements made between the guide and the client regarding the services to be provided by the guide and type of compensation, if any, that will be offered by the client, as well as the location where the exchange of fish occurs. In addition, guides often fish the same bodies of water repeatedly, sometimes taking out multiple clients per day. A guide who continually gifts the guide’s catch to the client may in effect catch the daily bag limit for a body of water more than once in the same day while evading enforcement.

11. Would you support legislative clarification that would specifically prohibit licensed professional fishing guides from providing or gifting the guide’s catch of fish to their clients? The ability to gift fish to another person would not be affected provided there is no compensation or reward.

11. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

DEER & ELK COMMITTEE

12. Implementing CWD Best Management Practices (570120,440220)

Wisconsin currently leads the nation in Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) positive deer detected in 2019, including 3 new counties. Expanded testing and increased placement of carcass disposal dumpsters may help to curb the spread and rising prevalence of this disease. A CWD vaccine, if even possible, is likely years away. Quicker CWD test research is helpful, but does nothing for hunters looking for increasingly scarce CWD-free venison to eat. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) convened CWD experts to create recommended Best Management Practices aimed at reducing disease prevalence. The Best Management Practices identify areas such as limiting live animal movement, limiting carcass movement, limiting the unnatural concentration of cervids, developing and implementing a CWD Management Plan that would include surveillance, monitoring, and activities that manage disease prevalence.

12. Would you support the Governor, Wisconsin legislators, the NRB and DNR Secretary uniting to implement the AFWA Best Management Practices for Prevention, Surveillance, and Management of Chronic Wasting Disease to control the spread and slow the increasing rate of prevalence of CWD in Wisconsin’s deer herd?	12.	YES _____
		NO _____
		NO OPINION _____

13. Using high fences to alter natural wildlife movement (270220)

In some cases, private landowners are building miles of deer-proof 8-foot high fences to divert wildlife and inhibit their natural movement or attempt to keep deer in a specific area for personal gain. Some trophy hunting operations are currently using fences to funnel wild deer into large mostly-fenced properties, using a series of high fences, gates, and cameras. In Wisconsin, one 33-foot opening somewhere in the fence makes them exempt from virtually all captive wildlife laws, even if the fence is otherwise miles long. Other states such as Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Michigan have taken steps to prevent this inhibiting the natural movement of a publicly held trust. Michigan, for example, passed regulations requiring fences to have wildlife passages. Sections of fence no more than 52 inches high constitute a “passage” as long as other factors do not act as barriers.

13. Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the NRB to enact administrative rules which would further define the use of deer proof fences or similar barriers that inhibit the natural movement of wildlife as the illegal taking of wildlife to prevent the privatization of Wisconsin’s public resources through construction of these facilities?	13.	YES _____
		NO _____
		NO OPINION _____

14. White Deer Season (720120)

Albino, white and piebald deer have a recessive genetic mutation that causes a total absence (in the case of albinos) or lack of (in white and piebald deer) body pigment. Albino deer are completely white with eyes, nose and other soft parts being pink. White deer are deer that are white except for the hooves, tarsal glands, head or parts of the head, and their hooves, eyes and nose are dark. Piebald deer have varying amounts of brown fur beyond what is present in white deer and they too have dark eyes, nose, and hooves.

In the wild, white fur and markings place these animals at a selective disadvantage because they lack the typical protective coloration and are more visible, making them more susceptible to predators. These animals often have other recessive traits and physical maladies such as poor eyesight in albinos, because of their pink eyes. These recessive genetic conditions are quite rare (estimated at less than one percent under natural conditions) and the phenomenon is often localized in a specific area. From a strictly biological perspective, there is no reason to protect white deer. It is currently illegal to harvest white and albino deer statewide. Piebald deer are not protected.

14. Would you support legalizing the harvest of white (not albino) deer statewide?

14. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE

15. Expand the use of cable restraints (520620)

The use of cable restraints is relatively new in Wisconsin. They are a uniquely Wisconsin tool for the taking of fox, coyote, and bobcats. Trappers have found them to be safe and useful. The original season was very short, and rules for their use were conservative. Because of positive feedback from trappers and others who have encountered cable restraints in the outdoors, rules and seasons have been slowly liberalized.

Some feel that it would be beneficial to allow the use of cable restraints by landowners, on their own land, to harvest other species, and for nuisance control. Their use could be expanded to include any species which are found to be practicable.

15. Do you favor expanding the use of cable restraints, by landowners within current trapping season restrictions, on their own land to harvest any of the species which are found to be practicable based on the ongoing humaneness research data being done by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)?

15. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

16. Change opening time of muskrat trapping on opening day of muskrat season (220120, 250120, 330120, 360120, 680920, 540420)

Muskrat trapping can occur on any body of water in Wisconsin. However, muskrats are most concentrated on and trapping is therefore most focused on, large marshes and backwaters. These areas are largely publicly owned.

Currently, trappers can tend traps any time of the day or night. As a result, trappers begin trapping at midnight on opening day. The rush for the best trap sites is competitive and often, by daylight, the most competitive trappers have their sets placed in the most optimal areas.

Some feel that this poses an undesirable disadvantage for young trappers. They feel that opening the season, on public lands, at 6:00 am on opening day would allow a more fair opportunity for trappers who prefer not to set out in the dark to place their traps and especially for young trappers who may not be able

to get to the public lands that early. Alternately, the time was changed to midnight on opening day because others felt that the prior trapping hours, 4:00 am-8:00 pm, put those trappers who worked during the legal trapping hours at a disadvantage. The starting time for trapping is essentially a social issue and does not have a biological effect on the population.

16. Do you favor opening muskrat season on public lands, at 6:00 am on opening day? The opening time for private lands would remain midnight on opening day.

16. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

17. Allow the use of traps with a jaw spread of nine inches in water and under ice sets (140320)

Currently foothold traps used in water sets may not have a jaw spread width greater than eight inches. Trap manufactures now market modern traps with jaw spreads approaching nine and one-half inches. Some trappers would like to be allowed to use this new technology which is felt to be more humane and efficient. This proposal would not change the allowable jaw spreads of traps used in dry land sets.

17. Do you favor allowing the use of foot hold traps in water sets with jaw spreads up to nine and one-half inches?

17. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

18. Lengthen the beaver and otter season (720420)

Beaver zones A and B cover that part of Wisconsin lying north of highway 64. Beaver season in those zones run from the first Saturday in November until April 30. Zone C covers most of the southern part of the state. The season in zone C runs from the first Saturday in November until March 31. The season end dates are related to population trend objectives for each zone. The objective in Zone C is to maintain the population. Some trappers would like to see the seasons run concurrently through April 30.

Currently, beaver prices are low, and therefore trapping effort is low. Extending the season may increase participation, but if fur prices are the driving factor, extending the season isn't likely to change harvest considerably.

18. Do you favor running the beaver season in zones A, B, and C concurrently through April 30?

18. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

19. Changes to trespass laws and their enforcement (130220, 160220, 540220, 680620) requires legislation

Current law does not give DNR conservation wardens authority to investigate trespassing. Those complaints must be enforced by local or county law enforcement. Some property owners are becoming frustrated as local and county law enforcement have many priorities other than trespassing complaints and many times trespass issues arise in relation to natural resource recreation activities.

19. 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?	19.	YES _____
		NO _____
		NO OPINION _____

20. Firearm safety curriculum in schools (140420) requires legislation

Currently there is no curriculum offered for firearm safety in schools. 2017 Assembly Bill 427 was introduced to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop curriculum for a comprehensive firearm safety course in conjunction with DNR, law enforcement and firearm safety organizations. The bill did not require school districts to offer the course, but made it available for interested school districts to offer as an elective course. With many accidental firearm discharges resulting in injury or death due to lack of knowledge regarding safe handling of firearms, some believe it is time to teach as many youth as possible about firearm safety.

20. Do you favor the Conservation Congress, working with the DNR and the Legislature, to help draft a bill similar to 2017 Assembly Bill 427 regarding development of curriculum for a comprehensive firearm safety course in our schools?	20.	YES _____
		NO _____
		NO OPINION _____

21. Restore local control to counties on lake shore zoning ordinances (660420) requires legislation

Currently state law mandates uniform lake shore rules. This means that county lake shore ordinances may not be stricter than state law. There is a belief by some that this has weakened zoning ordinances by removing local control and limiting a county's ability to develop regulations that are unique to their environmental concerns.

21. Do you favor the DNR working with the Legislature to restore local control by allowing counties to develop ordinances to protect their lakes, rivers and wetlands?

21. **YES** _____
 NO _____
 NO OPINION _____

22. Increase funding for additional scientist positions at the Office of Applied Science (660720) requires legislation

In 2015, the DNR’s Bureau of Science Services was replaced with the Office of Applied Science. Some positions were reassigned or eliminated. Issues concerning fisheries, water, air, wildlife, forestry and other natural resources require research. Science and research are important to our Department of Natural Resources.

22. Do you favor the Conservation Congress working with the legislature to add more positions to the Office of Applied Science?

22. **YES** _____
 NO _____
 NO OPINION _____

TURKEY & UPLAND GAME COMMITTEE

23. Study to determine effects of dog training and trialing on nesting birds (500220, 670120, 680820)

Dogs are an important component of hunting various species of wildlife in Wisconsin. The training and trialing of various dog breeds is important to assure that hunting dogs behave and conduct themselves in a highly skilled manner.

NR1.11(12), Wisconsin Administrative Code, provides that the DNR strongly encourages the use of well-trained hunting dogs in the pursuit and retrieval of game and to achieve that goal supports extensive training and field trial competitions for hunting dog breeds.

Current state regulations limit the training and trialing of dogs, on state owned land, between April 15-July 31 each year because of concerns of the impact on nesting birds. There is concern in the hunting dog training/trialing community that this restriction is not well founded in scientific studies.

Various hunting dog clubs and associations including the Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs, the Wisconsin Sporting Dog Association, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association are in support of a well-designed scientific study being funded and conducted to determine the actual impact of dog training/trialing on nesting birds. There have already been discussions with the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point faculty on designing such a study.

There has never been a study like this done before and it would help to unlock thousands of acres of state-owned land for dog training that is already open for public hunting. This study could have a national impact on the training /trailing communities of our country as well.

A grant could be requested from Pitman-Robertson Funds due to the potential national impact of the study.

23. Would you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress recommend that the Natural Resources Board work with the Wisconsin DNR, the Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs, the Wisconsin Sporting Dog Association, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association and other interested parties to request grant funding and conduct a 2 year scientific study on public properties to determine the impact of dog training /trailing on nesting birds between April 15 – July 31?

23. YES _____
 NO _____
 NO OPINION _____

24. Allow training, trialing and hunting without dogs being on an 8-foot leash (090220, 510120)

NR 1.11 (12), Wisconsin Administrative code, provides that the DNR “Strongly encourages the use of well-trained hunting dogs in the pursuit and retrieval of game; that extensive training and field trial competition provide hunting dogs which are proficient at finding and retrieving more game; and that the department will actively participate in programs which assist and encourage the training of hunting dogs including the designation and management of specific state controlled lands for trials and training provided this use does not conflict with the primary purpose of the property.”

Current state regulations limit the training and trialing of dogs between April 15 and July 31 each year because of concern on the impact on nesting birds. Dogs must be on an 8-foot leash at all times or you are in violation of NR 17.04 (2)(a) of the administrative code.

On State owned land open to public hunting and are not designated open to dog training under NR17.05, dogs shall be controlled by a person using a leash which is no more than 8 feet in length from April 15, to July 31.

Currently there are hunting seasons in April open on state-owned land and people are using the state-owned land for hunting. Some feel that dog training should also be allowed because these lands are open to public hunting. Currently you can train your dog on private land, county land and federal lands but not on state-owned land during April 15 to July 31. This rule change would make it more consistent statewide.

Various hunting dog owners and associations such as the Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs, The Wisconsin Association of sporting dogs, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Bear hunters Association and the Wisconsin Coon hunters Association support these changes.

24. Do you support the allowing dog training, trialing, and hunting on state-owned land from April 15-July 31 without requiring the use of an 8-foot leash?

24. YES _____
 NO _____
 NO OPINION _____

BEAR COMMITTEE

25. Delete NR 10.07 (1)(i) from the administrative code and related references to it. (040220, 090120, 510220, 680320)

Currently, NR 10.07(1)(i) reads:

NR 10.07 (1) No person shall:

(i) Dog use. Hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of dog or Dogs May 1 to June 30 in that portion of the state north of the highways shown on the following map except for dog trials and training under permit as established by NR 17 NR 10.07 (i) map reference.



This rule was originally intended to control the training and trialing of dogs used for hunting bear. Wisconsin now has a very sound and restrictive bear dog training season that covers the original concern this rule tried to address.

As written, this rule could be interpreted as meaning that any dog, whether pet or hunting dog, that pursues any wild animal on any land, public or private, could be found in violation of this rule and subject to ticket or fine. The rule is too vague and is no longer necessary with the current training and trialing rules in place. This rule has never been applied to the southern portion of the state without issue, there is no reason that this rule needs to continue to be applied to the north.

This rule change is supported by the Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs, The Wisconsin Association of sporting dogs, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Bear hunters Association, and the Wisconsin Coon hunters Association.

<p>25. Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR and Natural Resources Board to eliminate NR 10.07(1)(i) and related references to it in administrative code?</p>	<p>25.</p>	<p>YES _____</p> <p>NO _____</p> <p>NO OPINION _____</p>
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OUTDOOR HERITAGE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

26. Every Kid Outdoors Pass for Wisconsin State Parks (130720, 170320, 270420, 410320, 450120, 520320, 680120)

National Every Kid Outdoors was started in 2015 and gives 4th graders and their families 1-year free access to national parks. Since then, several states have begun to accept these passes at their state parks as a way to introduce new people to their state park system. Most 4th graders are registered by their teachers for the national program so all that Wisconsin would have to do is accept these passes at state parks; there would be no separate applications to handle.

26. Do you support the Conservation Congress working with DNR to accept Every Kid Outdoors passes at state parks in Wisconsin?	26.	YES _____
		NO _____
		NO OPINION _____

TROUT COMMITTEE

27. Catch and release of brook trout on Nichols Creek (600220)

The brook trout is the only native inland trout species to this state. In many areas of Wisconsin, the brook trout is becoming threatened or even extirpated in streams and rivers where they used to flourish. In many cases, the brook trout need our help and protection to keep their numbers healthy. Maintaining and increasing brook trout populations is a priority in the Wisconsin Inland Trout Management Plan 2020-2029.

The current regulation on Nichols Creek is a three (3) fish daily bag limit, eight inches or more on any trout species. Nichols Creek is a Class 1 trout stream (High-quality trout water that has sufficient natural reproduction to sustain populations of wild trout, at or near carry capacity). Brook and brown trout are the only trout species present and in the last four years, brown trout numbers have more than doubled according to DNR shocking surveys. The 2018 survey showed brown trout numbers at 418 and brook trout numbers at 13 per mile. Over the past four years the brook trout numbers have not changed.

27. For Nichols Creek, do you support changing the regulations to 5 trout in total, brown and rainbow trout no minimum length, all brook trout caught shall be immediately released?	27.	YES _____
		NO _____
		NO OPINION _____
