

Citizen Resolution # 670722

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Require the annual purchase of a Grouse Stamp authorization to hunt grouse in Wisconsin

Wisconsin is one of a few (if not the only) states east of the Mississippi River that is home to four native species of the grouse family. Population declines, both recent and historical, of all four species create concern for their future sustainability in our state. Sharp-tailed grouse have been an "on again, off again" game bird in Wisconsin the past several years, with recent numbers so low sharp-tail seasons have been closed. The threatened greater prairie chicken shares a similar plight, experiencing a serious reduction in both range and abundance in the last 30 years. The spruce grouse, found only in a handful of far northern counties, has protected status in our state. Some estimate its numbers between 4000 and 6000. Its secretive nature and lack of studies cloud its true status in Wisconsin. The ruffed grouse retains game bird status in the state and Wisconsin's population is among the highest in the United States. However, most indices of ruffed grouse abundance and habitat health contained in the Ruffed Grouse Management Plan (RGMP) show several decades of decline in both grouse numbers and the early-succession forest habitat grouse depend on. Each of these grouse species require unique stages of plant community succession and their specific habitat requirements have been compromised by human impacts and land use changes. The sustainability of the four species in Wisconsin will depend, in part, on funding for habitat management, acquisition, and research.

Would you support the state requiring hunters to purchase a Grouse Stamp or similar authorization to hunt grouse, with funds generated used for habitat management, acquisition, and research benefitting all four of the state's native grouse species?

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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.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. 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.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.