

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

Item No. 6.A.

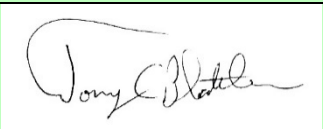
**SUBJECT:** Congress Matters: Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2022 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions**FOR:** February 2022 Board meeting**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Tony Blattler, WCC Chair**SUMMARY:**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress will advance 45 advisory questions for inclusion on the spring hearing questionnaire. The questions were those approved by the WCC District Leadership Council at their recent DLC Zoom meetings and will be used to gauge public opinion on a variety of natural resource issues. These advisory questions will be presented to the public for their input at the annual Department of Natural Resources Spring Hearing and Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting held online this year from Monday, April 11-14, 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Information only**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):**

- ☐ Background memo  
☒ **WCC** Spring Hearing advisory questions

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

Approved by	Signature	Date
Tony Blattler, WCC Chair		02/15/22

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# 2022 WCC Spring Hearing Questions

## Deer and Elk Committee

### **1. Antler Point Restriction Trial in Florence County (190121)**

Florence county's yearling buck harvest has been less than 50% in recent years and is lower than surrounding Northeast counties. However, hunters' survey responses indicate some support for opportunities to harvest bucks of elevated age and size. Some hunters complain that few mature bucks are observed and that this results in hunters spending fewer days afield, increases the number of hunters going elsewhere, and negatively impacts local businesses. This proposes that Florence County initiate a three-year trial period with antler point restrictions (APR) of three points per side (not counting brow tines) for hunters aged 18 and older. This restriction would not apply to disabled and military service hunters. After the three-year trial period, the outcome could be evaluated, and it could be decided if utilizing APR should be continued.

**1. Would you support the creation of a three-year antler point restriction trial for bucks with three points or greater on one side (excluding brow tines) in Florence County?** This restriction would not apply to youth 17 and under, disabled, and military service hunters.

### **2-4. Re-establish In-Person Deer Registration Stations, Back Tags, and Tagging Procedures (720321)**

There is a perception by some that current registration system increases the potential for improper, inaccurate or missing registrations. While there is no data to support this concern, there are questions by some as to whether all deer are actually being registered. E-registration allows for instantaneous access to data, better data, and improved convenience for customers. Some businesses that formerly served as registration stations feel that eliminating mandatory in-person registration has negatively affected them, however the precise impacts of this change are not known. Some also feel that the use of back tags allowed for easy identification of trespassers or others involved in illegal activities.

**2. Would you support re-establishing in person deer registration stations?**

**3. Would you support returning to the requirement to wear backtags? (Requires legislation)**

**4. Would you support returning to carcass tagging procedures as was done in the past? (Requires legislation)**

## **5. Deer Management Tool – Replacement Either Sex Tag for CWD positive Deer (530221)**

In some counties, deer populations are above population goals. High deer populations may result in forest regeneration issues, over browsing, and ag damage. CWD is spreading rapidly and the number of deer that test positive is increasing. This proposal seeks to provide more opportunities for in antlerless harvest by issuing an “either sex” tag to a hunter who harvests a CWD positive antlerless deer. There would be a limit of 1 replacement tag per hunter and the tag could be used in the current or following year. It would only be available in counties where the CDAC requested it be part of their management recommendations.

### **5. Would you support the issuance of one either sex tag to a hunter who harvests a CWD positive antlerless deer in a county where the CDAC has made this recommendation?**

## **6. Extend the 9-day Gun Deer Registration Deadline (690121)**

Currently a deer harvested in the gun season must be registered by 5:00 pm the day after recovery. Because of lack of phone service and access to online services in certain areas, for some this can be challenging. There is concern that this may result in some deer not being registered by hunters who couldn’t comply with that timeline. In an effort to simplify registration, and enhance compliance and harvest accuracy, some suggest the deadline should be extended to 5:00 pm the day after gun season closes.

### **6. Would you support the WCC working with the DNR to extend the gun deer registration deadline to 5:00 pm the day after season closes?**

## **7. Youth Statewide Antlerless Permits (570121)**

Youth antlerless permits are given to every hunter under 17 and are valid statewide, but currently youth must specify if it will be used on public or private land. Allowing a youth under 17 to harvest an antlerless deer on either public or private land increases the opportunity to harvest a deer, provides more opportunities for success and could benefit the recruitment of new hunters.

### **7. Would you support making youth antlerless permits valid on any land type—either public or private?**

## **8-9. Reallocation of Funding to Establish a Statewide Dumpster Program for Handling Deer Carcass Disposal**

The improper disposal of CWD positive deer carcasses can spread CWD within and into additional counties. Dumpster programs are an excellent solution to reducing that risk, and promoting best practice handling techniques for limiting that threat. A proposed example of how to create funding for

this suggestion is to eliminate the current antlerless tags, and charge \$8.00 or \$10.00 per tag for all antlerless tags in lieu of the current system of free and \$12.00 tags. Tag fees are being used for some dumpster support and for LTE's, but this option may generate additional funds to promote a larger scale dumpster program.

**8. Would you support a reallocation of antlerless fund fees to establish a statewide dumpster program for handling deer carcass disposal?**

**9. Regarding the above question:**

- a) I support eliminating the current antlerless tag system and replacing it with a system that would require paying \$8.00 for any antlerless tag and using the money to fund this dumpster program?
- b) I support eliminating the current antlerless tag system and replacing it with a system that would require paying \$10.00 for any antlerless tag and using the money to fund this dumpster program?
- c) I do not support changing the current system and reallocating funds to establish a statewide dumpster program.

**10. Related to captive cervid operations** (\*Note: captive cervid farms are under the jurisdiction of DATCP, not the DNR)

Due to an increase in the number of counties where CWD positive deer have been detected, some believe it is necessary for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress to gather statewide opinions concerning captive cervid operations (deer farms and shooting preserves) in Wisconsin. Recently CWD positive deer were found on captive cervid operations in Taylor, Langlade, and Outagamie counties, which were all associated with one source. Additionally, deer farms in Sauk and Vilas County have recently been found with CWD positive deer. In late May an adult deer which tested positive for CWD was found dead in Green Lake County.

As of 10-20-2021 there are 44 Wisconsin counties with CWD positive detections. Of those, there are 31 counties with wild CWD detections, 26 with CWD captive detections, and 13 which have both wild and captive CWD positive detections within them. At this time, there are 301 registered deer premises in Wisconsin with 68 of those being hunting ranches. There have been 34 farms with a CWD positive test since 2001, and 19 herds depopulated as a result of a CWD positive on them.

**10. Do you support or oppose the presence of captive cervid operations (game farms and shooting preserves) in Wisconsin?**

## **Environmental Committee**

### **11-12. Imposing stricter regulations on PFAS chemicals (680921, 520721, 411721, 400221, 370621, 320721, 300421, 130721, 041321, 180421, 170421, 020421, 260221, 500921)**

PFAS chemicals (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are found in objects such as Teflon, water resistant clothing, food packaging, and firefighting foam. These man-made chemicals may increase cholesterol levels, decrease the body's ability to respond to vaccines, increase the risk of thyroid disease, decrease fertility in women, increase risk of serious conditions in pregnant women, and pose a significant threat to our aquatic species and ecosystems. PFAS water contamination is undoubtedly a pervasive environmental issue; there are more than 50 PFAS contamination sites across Wisconsin. Due to the historical lack of regulations of PFAS chemicals, Wisconsin communities have suffered from consuming contaminated fish and drinking contaminated water. Fishing is an integral part of Wisconsin life, but its future is threatened by PFAS contamination. Because PFAS chemicals accumulate in fish, the DNR has issued fishing advisory warnings on major waterways around the state including Lake Superior, Lake Monona, and the Biron and Petenwell Flowages of the Wisconsin River, and the Bay of Green Bay and associated Tributaries. Communities reliant upon fishing such as the Ojibwe tribes are particularly vulnerable to the ramifications of PFAS pollution. Wisconsin's drinking water has also been compromised by PFAS contamination. Hundreds of residents across the state are now reliant on bottled water as their groundwater and well water is unsafe to drink due to high levels of PFAS.

**11. Would you support additional testing for PFAS levels in drinking water across Wisconsin?**

**12. Would you support the DNR continuing to advocate for strong PFAS protections and clean-up to ensure that everyone has access to clean drinking water and safe consumption of fish?**

## **Warm Water Committee**

### **13-14. Panfish/ Crappie Limit on the Willow Flowage, Oneida County**

The Willow Flowage receives very high fishing pressure throughout the year. With that has come a significant reduction in successful outings for panfish, and crappies in particular. New sonar technologies make it much easier to locate and catch fish. The Willow is capable of growing trophy size panfish.

**13. Would you support changing the panfish limit on the Willow Flowage to an aggregate bag limit of 10 panfish in total? (370421)** A proposed regulation of a 10-bag limit on panfish of any species would align with other reduced panfish limits in the state proposed by the panfish management team.

**14. Would you support maintaining the daily panfish bag limit of 25 on the Willow Flowage, but no more than 10 of any one species? (440121)**

**15. Plum Lake Muskellunge Size Increase (640921)**

The State of Wisconsin manages certain lakes as trophy Muskellunge waters. Vilas County is within the historical natural range of Muskellunge and has historically been considered a premier destination for anglers seeking a trophy Musky experience. Plum Lake in Vilas County has the size, musky population density, and forage base consistent with development of fish to a trophy size of 50 inches and more.

**15. Would you support changing the size limit on Muskellunge in Plum Lake in Vilas County from 40 inches to 50 inches with a daily bag limit of one fish?**

**16. Panfish Limit Change for Lake Dubay (370121)**

With increased usage and harvest, there is concern that the panfish average size and population has declined severely on Lake Dubay in Marathon County over the past 10 years. Adjusting the daily bag limit to 10 panfish rather than the current 25 could help maintain a sustainable and fishable population for the future.

**16. Would you support changing the daily bag limit on panfish in Lake Dubay to 10 per day (all species in aggregate)?**

**17. Harvest Regulation on Panfish for Lake Helen (Portage County) (500521)**

Presently, Lake Helen is subject to the standard daily bag limit of 25 panfish per day. With ever increasing fishing pressure on this relatively small fishery, maintaining quality, abundance and size structure of bluegill, black crappie, and yellow perch remains difficult. A regulation change to a 10 daily bag limit for all panfish species in aggregate on Lake Helen could help to maintain and improve panfish size structure and population abundance. Currently the Lake Helen District Fish Committee is actively pursuing habitat improvements to support this new regulation.

**17. Would you support changing the daily bag limit on panfish in Lake Helen to 10 per day (all species in aggregate)?**

**18. Remove Burbot from the list of Wisconsin Rough Fish (131121, 640521, 600421, 520121, 050321, 110221, 270321, 430121, 681621, 490321, 410421, 660321, 560821) (requires legislation)**

Burbot (also called eelpout and lawyer) is a valuable native fish species found in Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and many inland Wisconsin waters. Burbot, along with Lake Trout, were one of the top native predatory fish in Wisconsin's Great Lakes waters. Burbot numbers have rebounded in recent years and are increasingly popular with sport anglers. Presently, Burbot are considered a "rough fish" by law. As a result, they are not protected and can be taken year-round and in unlimited numbers by hand,

hook and line, spear and other methods. Removing Burbot from the list of rough fish would allow it to be managed as a game fish.

**18. Would you support a legislative change that would remove Burbot from the list of Wisconsin rough fish?**

**19. Ten Panfish Bag Limit on Lake Mendota in Dane County (131921)**

Recent fish sampling data collected by the DNR on Lake Mendota suggests that population densities of some panfish, bluegills and perch in particular, are not optimal. Lake Mendota provides anglers with the opportunity to catch some of the biggest bluegills in the state, but data also shows that numbers of bluegills are low. Panfish in Lake Mendota are under further pressure not only from anglers, but from game fish predation as well, as evidenced by the fact that Lake Mendota is managed as a trophy fishery for Northern Pike and Walleye. Reduced panfish bag limits will help create a higher quality fishing experience for all anglers.

**19. Would you support changing the regulation on Lake Mendota to a 10 panfish daily bag limit?**

**20. New panfish harvest regulation from 25 bag limit to 10 bag limit on Lake Jacqueline (aka Glisezinski Lake) (500321)**

Lake Jacqueline is a relatively small fishery in Portage County that receives considerable pressure. For a small lake, moderate fishing pressure combined with high panfish exploitation resulting from a 25-fish daily bag limit can ultimately result in a panfish fishery that has variable quality year to year. Comparative data from other similar small lakes that have evaluated reduced panfish bag limits provides support for the proposal of reducing the panfish bag limit from a 25- to a 10-fish daily bag in aggregate may be necessary to consistently achieve a quality panfish fishery in Lake Jacqueline. The lake Jacqueline district fish committee, with habitat rehabilitation and bag limit restrictions, hope to improve the quantity and quality of this lake's panfish population.

**20. Would you support changing the panfish bag limit on Lake Jacqueline (Glisezinski Lake) from 25 daily aggregate to 10 panfish aggregate?**

**21. Little Green Lake panfish limit from 25 to 10 per day (240421)**

Little Green Lake is fished hard for panfish both summer and winter. To increase populations and size structure, homeowners and businesses around this Green Lake County lake would like to see the daily bag limit reduced from 25 to 10 panfish.



**21. Would you support reducing the panfish limit on Little Green Lake from 25 to 10 panfish?**

**22. Lake Wissota Walleye Slot Limit (090521)**

Due to the slow growth rate of walleye in Lake Wissota, a slot limit may help protect spawning females. A minimum length limit of 14" and protected slot of 16-24" with one walleye over 24" per day as part of a 3 fish daily bag limit may improve the walleye fishery on Lake Wissota.

**22. To help protect the spawning sized walleye population of Lake Wissota, would you support a 3 bag daily limit with a 14-16" harvest limit, protected slot of 16-24" and one over 24" allowed as part of the daily bag?**

**23. Electric motor to no wake on Woodman lake, Grant County (220121)**

Woodman Lake has a boat launch that grants access to the Wisconsin River (approximately 0.6 miles by water). By reclassifying Woodman lake from electric motor only to no wake, boaters can more efficiently get access to the river.

**23. Would you support making Woodman Lake a slow no wake body of water?**

**Motorized Recreation Committee**

**24. Allow multiple riders on ATV's for outdoor recreation (550221) (Requires legislation)**

It was recently made illegal transport passengers on an ATV if that ATV isn't designed for passengers. For some, this change has had a challenging impact on the ability to pursue outdoor recreational activities like hunting, fishing, trapping, and agricultural activities. It is no longer legal for a parent to take their child out on a four-wheeler to go ice fishing, bait bears, check trail cameras, check traps, etc. on an ATV that is only designed for a single rider. If a family can't afford to buy a new UTV or ATV designed specifically for two riders, the passenger would need to walk.

**24. Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR, Legislature, and the NRB to allow passengers on ATV's not designed to transport passengers, for hunting, fishing, trapping, and agricultural activities?**

## **Fur Harvest Committee**

### **25. Allow the use of rimfire rifles or handguns to dispatch trapped animals within 50 feet of the centerline of unpaved roads (040621, 720821)**

In Wisconsin, all live furbearing animals taken during the open season for such species shall be released unharmed or dispatched immediately and made part of the daily bag. For some large or aggressive species it is only practical or humane to dispatch them with a firearm. With some exceptions, Section 167.31(2)(d) of the Wisconsin State Statutes prohibits the use of a firearm within fifty feet of the centerline of a public roadway. One exception allows small game hunting within fifty feet of the centerline of an unpaved road with a muzzleloader or shotgun loaded with shot shell or chilled shot number BB or smaller.

It is proposed that to create a more uniform and simplified rule, and to assure the quick and humane dispatch of trapped animals within fifty feet of the centerline of unpaved roads, the Conservation Congress should work with the Wisconsin legislature to add an exception to ss 167.31(2)(d) to allow the dispatch of legally trapped furbearing animals with a rimfire rifle or handgun within fifty feet of the centerline of any unpaved road.

### **25. Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the Wisconsin legislature to add an exception to ss 167.31(2)(d) to allow the dispatch of legally trapped furbearing animals with a rimfire rifle or handgun within fifty feet of the centerline of any unpaved road?**

### **26. Allow the use of traps with a jaw spread up to 8 inches for dryland sets beginning on the opening day of wolf season (040721, 090721, 560321)**

In Wisconsin, a person may not set place or operate any jawed trap with a jaw spread width of more than 7 inches from the opening day of the trapping season until November 30 unless it is a water set or with a jaw spread width of more than 8 inches at any other time or as a water set.

The Wisconsin wolf season begins on the first Saturday in November and is set by statute. Wolf zones have in all cases, closed when the harvest quota was reached.

“The 2019 Best Management Practices for Trapping Wolves in the United States”, published by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, recommends wolf traps with an inside jaw spread up to 8 inches to assure a humane catch and hold. States with wolf trapping seasons, including Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and the provinces of Canada use the Best Management Practices as a guideline, and allow jaw spreads larger than 7 inches. Some allow a spread up to 9 inches.

### **26. Do you support a change to the Wisconsin trapping regulations to reduce the period during which the 7 inch size restriction is in place from the opening day of trapping season to the opening day of the wolf season, or November 30, whichever comes first?**

## **27. Disabled Trapper Permit (100120)**

In Wisconsin, only the holder of a harvest tag issued for bobcat, fisher or otter may place and set a trap intended to catch those species, and the person who tags a trapped bobcat, fisher or otter must be the person who made the trap set.

This rule creates a challenge for disabled trappers who may not be able to navigate rough terrain or get down into a waterway to physically set a trap. An exemption which would allow trappers who hold a bobcat, fisher or otter harvest permit, and also possess a class A or B disabled hunting permit to be accompanied and assisted by another licensed trapper who could assist in setting the trap could increase the ability of disabled trappers to participate in the sport. The disabled trapper would be required to advance to a point within twenty-five yards of the set and tags of both trappers would be required on each trap.

**27. Do you support a change in the existing trapping regulation as described above that would exempt disabled trappers from trap placement and setting requirements when trapping bobcats, fishers or otters?**

## **Turkey & Upland Game Committee**

### **28. Hunting Small Game Mammals and Unprotected Species with a Slingshot and Small Game License (681221) (requires legislation)**

Although hunting with slingshots is permitted in 33 states, Wisconsin regulations do not permit the use of slingshots for hunting. Modern slingshots can be very effective for taking small game mammals as well as pests and vermin. Wisconsin currently allows use of .17 caliber air rifles for hunting small game and unprotected species. The projectiles fired from a modern slingshot typically have more mass and momentum than the projectiles fired by those air rifles. Participation in small game hunting has steadily declined over several decades. Before that decline, small game hunting was often the first hunting experience for many people. Because hunting with a slingshot requires only minimal equipment at minimal cost, it can be a useful and effective tool for introducing new people of any age to the hunting sports. Allowing use of slingshots could provide additional hunting opportunities in areas where hunting with firearms is prohibited, or when a near-silent hunting method with minimal gear is desired. Under current regulations, the category Small Game Mammals includes squirrels, cottontail rabbits, and snowshoe hares. It DOES NOT include furbearers such as bobcat, coyote, fox, and raccoon. Turkey and other game birds are NOT included in this proposal.

**28. Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the state's legislature and the DNR to establish regulations permitting persons with a valid small game license to use a slingshot to hunt Small Game Mammals (squirrels, rabbits and hares) and unprotected species?**

## **Wolf Committee**

### **29. Support wolf population goal of 350 or less wolves (090821, 440221, 720721, 470121, 350121)**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress overwhelmingly supported a resolution in 2011 favoring a population goal of 350 or less wolves in the Wisconsin wolf management plan. There are many farm and wildlife organizations that support this goal, along with 36 county board resolutions. The Wisconsin wolf population, estimated at its lowest point in the annual cycle in spring 2020, was estimated at approximately 1195 wolves. Wolf depredations, harassments, and threats continue to be an issue across Wisconsin.

### **29. Do you support a population management goal of 350 wolves or less for the state of Wisconsin?**

## **Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee**

### **30-31. Maintain hands on hunter safety classes (030121, 050121, 060321, 080121, 100121, 110321, 130121, 140221, 150121, 200621, 240521, 250121, 330221, 360221, 390121, 410321, 440621, 450721, 490221, 500721, 520621, 540421, 560621, 580221, 600221, 660221, 670121, 680621, 700221, 710121)**

Hunter Education has been a fixture in Wisconsin since 1967 and the people of Wisconsin expect hunters, of any age, to practice safe gun handling skills. Volunteer instructors continue to train over 21,000 new hunters each year. Since the program began, over 1.2 million hunters have been certified. In 1966 there were 264 hunting incidents and that is now down to an average of 20/year from 2010-2020. Wisconsin presently has "hands-on" training options available to the public to meet their schedules, so no additional costs to Wisconsin will be incurred. The importance of engaging students in "hands-on" learning, including the four safety rules (which are: Treat every firearm as if it is loaded; Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; Be certain of your target, what's in front & beyond; Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until ready to shoot) is of paramount importance and the retention of material learned solely from a computer only based course is minimal for many. "Hands on" training will assure the public that these new hunters were properly evaluated and certified in safe firearm handling practices. It is recommended that any new hunter under the age of 18, be required to take a "hands-on" safety course. It is also recommended that any adult, new to hunting with firearms, be strongly encouraged to take a "hands-on" safety course."

### **30. Would you support the Conservation Congress, in an effort to continue the reduction of hunting incidents, work with the NRB and State Legislature to mandate that any new hunter under the age of 18 be required to take an in-person, "hands-on" safety course?**

**31. Would you support the Conservation Congress, in an effort to continue the reduction of hunting incidents, work with the NRB and State Legislature to mandate that any new hunter, regardless of age, be required to take an in-person, “hands-on” safety course?**

**32. Allow purple heart recipients to hunt over bait on private land at same time on odd years when dog hunters go first (040121) (requires legislation)**

In Wisconsin, the opening date of the bear season varies depending on whether the license holder hunts over bait or with the aid of dogs. In odd-numbered years, those hunting with the aid of dogs may begin one week sooner than those hunting over bait, with each respective season running for 28 consecutive days. This is only a concern in Zones A, B, and D where use of dogs is allowed. In Zones C, E, and F, where dogs are not legal to use for hunting, all methods already share the same opening day. There may be a disadvantage in years when hunters who are aided by dogs are permitted to pursue bear before hunters who prefer bait may begin. Some feel harvest success rates when hunting over bait are highest when able to hunt during the first week and reduced during the second week in years when hunting with dogs is allowed first. The later in the season the hunt, the more likely weather will impact a hunt. Bears are also less likely to hit baits due to hibernation habits. (Wisconsin 2019-2029 Bear Management Plan: Section 1, Page 5).

Over the last five years, the Wounded Warriors In Action (WWIA) has sponsored four Purple Heart recipients to hunt with transferred tags in Wisconsin. We expect that volume of hunters to remain consistent in future years.

This proposal would allow Purple Heart recipients with a legally awarded or transferred bear tag to hunt week one during the odd years with the same laws and statutes that are present and in place for week two.

**32. Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the state legislature to allow Purple Heart recipients the right and privilege to hunt bear first, on private land, in both even and odd numbered years?**

**33. Allow an assistant to help a disabled person fish (131721)**

People with significant disabilities cannot always fish independently and often require assistance in order to participate in the sport of fishing. The assistance needed can include everything from baiting the hook to reeling in the fish. According to current law a person helping someone with a disability fish needs to have their own fishing license if they are assisting with the baiting, casting, reeling and taking off the fish.

**33. Would you support waiving the license requirement for an assistant who is helping a person with a disability with the process of fishing, including baiting, casting, retrieving and handling**

**of the fish?** The assistant would need to be in direct contact with the person with a disability at all times and the person with the disability would need to have a valid fishing license.

#### **34. Implement a Wanton Waste Law in Wisconsin (requires legislation)**

Currently Wisconsin does not have a Wanton Waste Law for game animals. In Wisconsin if a person hunting or trapping harvests an animal and removes it from the field, they are no longer obligated to utilize the animal for food, pelt, or taxidermy. For example, if a person harvests a deer, takes it home, and hangs it up until it completely decomposes, they are breaking no laws. Most states have wanton waste laws to prevent people from harvesting animals and then not utilizing them. This regulation would not apply to animals that are unfit for use, as their parts are damaged, decayed, diseased or infected.

#### **34. Do you support the conservation Congress work with the DNR and the legislature to develop a Wanton Waste law that will prohibit the waste of game animals in Wisconsin?**

#### **35. Should DNR permit and regulate all hunting contests to control wanton waste, and carcass dumping**

Currently Wisconsin does not require a permit for or otherwise regulate hunting contest where promoters give out prizes for individuals or teams that bring in the largest or highest number, or weight of animals. Wisconsin does require a permit for and regulate some fishing contests, where incentives, prizes, points or money are awarded.

Due to the growing popularity and size of these contests, there is a growing concern among sportsmen and non-hunters alike that there should be permits and regulations in place to insure proper use of animals, and proper disposal of “unfit for use” animals and their parts.

#### **35. Do you support the Conservation Congress work with the DNR and legislature to develop a permitting and regulating process for hunting contests, similar to what they already do for fishing contests?**

### **Land Use Committee**

#### **36. Funding Lower Chippewa River Parcels (060521)**

Various land parcels along the Lower Chippewa River have been offered for sale to the State of Wisconsin by Xcel Energy. Several such parcels lie within current boundary of the Tiffany State Wildlife Area and provide key public access points into Tiffany. Other parcels of interest adjoin portions of the

Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area and under Xcel Energy ownership these parcels have remained open to public hunting and recreation for decades.

These land areas include rare habitats critical to various plant and wildlife species. Habitat types include oxbow floodplains, forest, riparian and upland barrens, grasslands, and sand prairie.

Approximately 300 acres have already been preserved, however, there are additional parcels totaling approximately 760 acres and have been offered for sale to Landmark Conservancy. Under Landmark's ownership parcels would remain open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross country skiing, and outdoor use.

Public support for described purchase has been widespread and inclusive of The Wisconsin Conservation Congress, The Lower Chippewa River Alliance, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Mondovi Conservation Club, Dairyland Power Cooperative, the Prairie Enthusiasts, the Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership, Alma Rod and Gun Club, Buffalo County Conservation Alliance, Dunn County Fish & Game Association, Alliance of Dunn County Conservation and Sports Clubs; and/plus adjacent county boards and township boards.

- 36.** Do you support the State of Wisconsin identifying funds available to purchase of the remaining 760 acres?

## **Legislative Committee**

### **37-38. Canoe & Kayak Registration (330421) (requires legislation)**

There are approximately 200,000 canoes and kayaks in Wisconsin, none of which are required to be registered. The majority of states surrounding Wisconsin have a registration requirement and fee. Every year canoes and kayaks are found floating on our lakes and rivers with no way of knowing who owns them or if someone has gone missing or may be hurt. This potentially puts our emergency personnel at risk and takes up valuable time. Requiring registration of nonmotorized boats could enhance safety. The fee could generate revenue which may only be used for safety efforts.

- 37.** Do you favor the DNR and the NRB working with the Legislature to create a registration system and fee for canoes and kayaks? The system would take into consideration individuals and businesses with multiple canoes and kayaks (camps, rentals, etc).

- 38.** Do you favor requiring contact information for the owner placed on of canoes and kayaks with no fee associated (similar to the requirements for treestands, traps, and ice shacks)

**39. Pass the Recovering America Wildlife Act (040821, 010221, 080410, 180221, 280121, 320821, 330321, 380121, 450621, 500621, 510221, 520321, 570321, 600321, 680421, 720121, 050421, 130521, 440321, 170221)**

Similar to the rest of the country, Wisconsin has 417 “At Risk” nongame fish and wildlife species, that, unless population declines are reversed, will become endangered and threatened. The major reason for these population declines is loss of habitat.

A large bipartisan coalition of Senators and Representatives in the current Congress is reintroducing Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA), which will dedicate \$1.4 billion nationwide to address this critical need. The bill implements the recommendation of national business and conservation leaders that funds be allocated to conserve the Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in State Wildlife Action Plans. The legislation will allocate new funding to each state similar to how Pittman-Robertson (wildlife) and Dingell-Johnson (fisheries) funds are distributed. The funds will be managed through the Wisconsin’s State Wildlife Grant program with our current share increasing from \$1 million a year to \$20 million.

Wisconsin’s 2015-2025 Wildlife Action Plan, which sets the priorities for the grant program, was developed by a broad group of state conservation groups including the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and other sporting organizations. Wisconsin’s plan designates as Species of Greatest Conservation Need 140 bird, mammal, fish and herp species and over 300 species of insects and invertebrates. Examples include monarch butterflies, bats, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Lake Sturgeon and Ornate Box Turtles. Sportsmen and women recognize that increased habitat for Species of Greatest Conservation Need will benefit game species.

**39. Do you support having all of Wisconsin’s Congressional delegation support the passage of Recovering America’s Wildlife Act in this session?**

**40. Revised definition of a Muzzleloader (690221) (requires legislation)**

Current muzzleloader regulations during the muzzleloader only deer season require that all muzzleloaders must have a solid threaded breech plug making them capable of being loaded only from the muzzle. Black powder revolvers are not legal during the muzzleloader only deer season because they are capable of being loaded by the cylinder instead of the muzzle.

There are new safer technologies such as Federal Firestick, that require the projectile to be loaded from the muzzle, however this technology does not have a solid threaded breech plug. To enable the use of these new technologies during the muzzleloader only deer season, it requires a change to the definition of a muzzleloader by removing the solid threaded breech plug requirement.

**40. Do you favor the Wisconsin Conservation Congress working with the DNR and the Legislature to change the definition of a muzzleloader for the muzzleloader only deer season?**



#### **41. Use of PCP Air Guns (270121) (requires legislation)**

Pneumatic (air gun) technologies are being used for hunting all across the continent. These technologies include air gun rifles, air gun shotguns and air guns using arrow-based projectiles. These air guns are being used for small game, predator, and big game hunting. These air guns will generate anywhere from 20 to 40 ft-lbs for small game in .22 or .25 caliber and 200 to 800 ft-lbs in .357 to .72 caliber for big game.

**41. Do you favor the Wisconsin Conservation Congress working with the DNR and the Legislature to allow the use of pneumatic technologies to be aligned with current firearm hunting regulations and seasons?** Deer hunting would require a .35 caliber or larger and Bear and Elk would require .45 caliber or larger. Furthermore, arrow based projectiles would be allowed during the firearm seasons only with current bolt requirements of at least 14" in length and a broadhead with a minimum of 7/8" cutting diameter for big game. Require current requirements for small game and while also allowing their use for bowfishing. Pneumatic shotguns would be allowed during all seasons with the current shot size, type of shot and number of rounds required.

#### **42. Modifying Wisconsin Constitution to Increase the Uses of Boating Registration Fees (540121) (requires a constitutional amendment)**

In the past several years there have been multiple resolutions passed by the Conservation Congress that have called for legislation to expand the use of boat registration fees for improving watercraft access and for controlling invasive species in lakes and streams. While such resolutions have had strong WCC support, legislation has not been introduced because a 1973 Wisconsin Supreme Court case, **State v. Jackman**, interpreted Article IX, Section 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution that states that Wisconsin lakes and streams "...shall be common highways and forever free...without any tax, impost or duty therefor". The Supreme Court held that under the quoted language, Wisconsin could only use boat registration fees for boating safety purposes such as boat registration and boating safety enforcement. This resolution supports an amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution which would also narrowly allow boating registration fees passed by the Legislature to be used for boating access and invasive species control purposes. These purposes would benefit boating use of Wisconsin lakes and streams.

**42. Should the Conservation Congress work with the Department and the Legislature to adopt a Wisconsin Constitutional Amendment to allow boating registration fees to be used for boating access and invasive species control in addition to boating safety?**

#### **Migratory Committee**

#### **43. Legalize the use of "F" size shot for waterfowl hunting in Wisconsin (520521)**

Currently size “F” shot is not allowed to be used while waterfowl hunting in the state of Wisconsin it is legal in other states. While “F” shot is not commonly sold in retail stores, it is easily found for custom reloading purposes. 10-gauge shotguns have been proven to pattern large shot more effectively than smaller gauges. 10-gauge enthusiasts often reload their own ammo.

**43. Do you support the legalization of size ‘F’ shot for waterfowl hunting in the state of Wisconsin?**

***The following questions were not advanced by a Wisconsin Conservation Congress Committee, but met the requirements from the WCC’s Code of Procedures which states that “any same or like resolution that has passed in at least the same three counties for two consecutive years shall be forwarded, at the request of the author(s), to the statewide ballot” (WCC COP XI.D.2).***

**44. Ban dogs from hunting wolves in Wisconsin (411221) (requires legislation)**

Dogs hunting wolves wasn’t anticipated following wolf delisting in January 2012. Dogs are run through wolf territories despite WDNR alerts, resulting in dogs and wolves getting injured and killed. Hound hunting, (six hunting hounds per wolf) will force harassed wolves to alter their behavior to perceive dogs as a threat when their territories are invaded, often deadly to both species. Exhausted wolves, harassed by hounds for six-months can’t hunt, care for young or protect territory. Wisconsin anticruelty laws prohibit canine fighting. The scientific community majority and hunters agree that dogs hunting wolves is not necessary to have a successful hunt. Hound hunting is proven to be disruptive to wolves causing a dramatic increase in wolf conflicts and wolf depredation/compensation payments that could better be spent on other WDNR conservation efforts. Depredation monies should not be paid for hunting hounds being put at risk. Wolves were relisted as endangered (December 2014). Congress may take legislative action to permanently delist the wolf, returning management to Wisconsin which allows hound hunting of wolves, NOT advised by wolf experts.

**44. Would you support banning the use of dogs from hunting wolves in Wisconsin should wolves get delisted again?**

**45. End All Killing Contests**

Wildlife killing contests promote indiscriminate killing of native wildlife with the use of calls, hounds, and high-tech tools. 40+ Wisconsin contests have been identified via fliers and social media; annual Moondog Madness being the largest. Petitions, billboards, LTEs, and more recently undercover contest video footage have raised public awareness and support for ending these events. In response, organizers now operate in secret using private forums, code words, undisclosed weigh-in locations, and virtual video check ins. Cash and prizes, including weapons, award teams killing the most, biggest, smallest coyote, fox, bobcat, rabbit, and more. A ban on contests would not impact lethal take of coyote for livestock protection, or any form of hunting including fishing derbies and "Big Buck" competitions.

The DNR does not monitor/regulate contests; they are not required to respond to hounds at large or trespassing on private land. Wanton cruelty and waste, and illegal disposal of carcasses on public land have been reported to and documented by WIDNR (e.g., 5/2018 Morgan Falls area, Ashland County; 4/2019 Old HW 2, Bayfield County; 2/2017 Shiocton). Contest photos of mutilated, bullet-ridden furs indicate many pelts are useless. Increasing support for this resolution shows hunters and non hunters alike do not endorse indiscriminate killing for fun, prizes, and cash. This divisiveness over contests is evident on social media; many hunters express concern that public support for traditional, ethical, humane, fair chase hunting is at stake. 7 states have banned competition killing, all citing 70 conservation scientists' 2018 findings that indiscriminate killing serves no effective management tool.

**45. Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the WDNR to develop and support a ban on all wildlife killing contests?**

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