

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

SUBJECT: Wildlife Management's 2022 spring meeting agenda

FOR: February 2022 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Scott Karel, Wildlife Policy Specialist

SUMMARY:

Annually the department submits proposals or advisory questions on subjects including hunting, trapping, and wildlife management for consideration at the statewide April spring fish & wildlife hearings/meetings. This year's agenda includes a series of questions that are advisory only. This year agenda includes:

Question 1. Increase the student registration fee for trapper education.

Question 2. Remove the requirement for youth hunters to have a goose permit for the youth season.

Question 3. Allow the purchase of multiple spring turkey harvest authorizations per day after the season opens.

Question 4. Allow applicants to keep their preference points if they fail to apply for three years. (Requires legislation)

Question 5. Have a single raccoon hunting season starting date. (Requires legislation)

Question 6. Remove the prohibition of hunting certain species by landowners without a permit during the 24-hour period prior to the firearm deer season. (Requires legislation)

RECOMMENDATION: Information only

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

[X] Background memo

[] Type name of attachment if applicable

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[] Type name of attachment if applicable

Table with 3 columns: Approved by, Signature, Date. Rows include Eric Lobner, Bureau Director; Keith Warnke, Division Administrator; and Preston D. Cole, Secretary.

cc: Board Liaison - AD/8

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by Sarah Barry

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CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 21, 2022

TO: All Members of the Natural Resources Board

FROM: Preston D. Cole, Secretary

SUBJECT: Wildlife Management 2022 Spring Hearing Agenda

The following questions will be in the 2022 Wildlife Management Spring Hearing Questionnaire. In even numbered years, the legislature does not review administrative rules and the department's questions are advisory-only and are not rule proposals. Questions which are supported could be topics of future rule making.

Background:

Annually, the department submits proposals and advisory questions on a variety of subjects including hunting, trapping, wildlife management and the management of department lands. The statewide April spring fish and wildlife hearings/meetings are the traditional vehicle for citizen input on these proposals. The origins of these questions are most often: 1) department staff specialists from the bureau of law enforcement, wildlife management, endangered resources and customer service and licensing; 2) publicly supported Conservation Congress advisory questions from prior years that were forwarded by the Congress's executive council; or 3) advisory questions suggested by the Natural Resources Board.

Summary of Agenda Items:

The following questions are the proposed subjects of voting at the 2022 spring fish and wildlife meetings held jointly with the Conservation Congress in April.

Question 1. Increase the student registration fee for trapper education.

Question 2. Remove the requirement for youth hunters to have a goose permit for the youth season.

Question 3. Allow the purchase of multiple turkey harvest authorizations per day when the season is open for hunting.

Question 4. Allow applicants to keep their preference points if they fail to apply for three years. (Requires legislation)

Question 5. Have a single raccoon hunting season starting date. (Requires legislation)

Question 6. Remove the prohibition of hunting certain species by landowners without a permit during the 24-hour period prior to the firearm deer season. (Requires legislation)

Department questions of statewide interest

Question 1. Increase the student registration fee for trapper education.

The Wisconsin DNR and Wisconsin Trappers Association have responsibilities in the education of Wisconsin trappers. Trapper education is imperative to educate citizens and trappers about furbearer biology, trapper ethics, trapping techniques, trapper responsibilities, trap handling, regulations and the humane treatment of animals. Trapper education has been mandatory in Wisconsin since May 12, 1992.

Current administrative rules establish a fee for the Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program (WCTEP). The last time the student registration fee was increased was in 2008. At that time, it was increased from \$8 to \$12.

Student fees are used to prepare and distribute materials used in the WCTEP such as the student manual, course equipment, electronic media, furbearer management publications, trapper education pamphlets, and other related items. Fees are also used to administer the program including instructor reimbursement (venue rental fees, travel costs), insurance coverage and other costs with coordinating the statewide program.

1. Do you support an increase in the student registration fees for trapper education course to cover costs of the program?

- **Yes, increase the fee \$4 (total course fee of \$16) _____**
- **Yes, increase \$8 (total course fee of \$20) _____**
- **No, I don't support increasing the fee _____**

Question 2. Remove the requirement for youth hunters to have a goose permit for the youth season.

During the annual two-day youth waterfowl hunt in September, hunters under the age of 16 are allowed to hunt all species of wild duck, mergansers, geese, coots, and moorhens. During this youth season all license and stamp requirements are waived, except for the state Canada Goose Hunting Permit. Waiving this permit would provide consistency to youth hunters by waiving all applicable state and federal license, stamps and permits for the youth season.

2. Do you support removing the requirement that youth hunters have a state Canada Goose Hunting Permits during the annual youth waterfowl hunt?

_____ Yes _____ No

Question 3. Allow the purchase of multiple turkey harvest authorizations per day when the season is open for hunting.

Current rules only allow turkey hunters to buy a single bonus harvest authorization per day in zones where the number of applicants is less the available quota. The purpose of the rule is so when bonus authorizations first go on sale individuals can't buy up a large amount of leftover authorizations for early seasons before others get a chance to purchase them. However, in many cases when the later hunting periods are open there are still thousands of left-over authorizations still available statewide. Allowing hunters to purchase more than one authorization for a period once the season is open to hunting would allow hunters to potentially cut down on trips to a service center or visits to GoWild during these later seasons and serve as an incentive to purchase some of these additional left over tags.

3. Do you support allowing turkey hunters to purchase more than one bonus authorization per day once the season is open to hunting?

_____ Yes _____ No

Question 4. Allow applicants to keep their preference points if they fail to apply for three years.
(Requires legislation)

Various statutory provisions establish that limited draw permit (turkey, bear and others) applicants who fail to apply at least once during any 3 consecutive years shall lose all previously accumulated preference points. This provision may not be as important as it once was as information storage and management technology has improved. Loss of points results in customer dissatisfaction.

4. Do you support legislation that would allow applicants to keep their preference points if they fail to apply for three years?

Yes No

Question 5. Have a single raccoon hunting season starting date. (Requires legislation)

State statute mandates separate opening dates for raccoon hunting. It requires the department open the season for raccoon hunting for residents two weeks earlier than for non-residents. The staggered opening days of the raccoon hunting season for residents and non-residents contribute to season complexity. The DNR is not aware of any significant competition for this resource or overcrowding that would support the continued approach of having separate opening dates.

5. Do you support legislation that would create a single raccoon hunting season starting date for both residents and nonresidents?

Yes No

Question 6. Remove the prohibition of hunting certain species by landowners without a permit during the 24-hour period prior to the firearm deer season

Current state law allows the owner or occupant of any land, or a member of their family, to hunt or trap beaver, coyote, fox, raccoon, woodchuck, rabbits and squirrels on their land without a license. However, these individuals are prohibiting from hunting these species 24 hours before the start of the 9-day firearm deer season. This law is likely outdated as various DNR regulations on hunting during that 24-hour period by non-landowners have already been repealed.

6. Do you support removing the prohibition of landowners hunting certain species in the 24 hours prior to the start of the gun deer season.

Yes No

Drafter: Scott Karel

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