

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

**SUBJECT:** Congress Matters: Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2015 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions

**FOR:** January 2015 Board meeting

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Rob Bohmann, WCC Chair

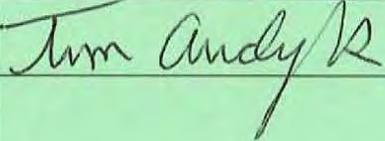
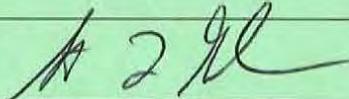
**SUMMARY:**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress will advance 41 advisory questions for inclusion on the spring hearing questionnaire. The questions were those approved by the WCC Executive Council at their January 9-10, 2015 meeting 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 jointly in each county of the state on Monday, April 13, 2015.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Information only

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

- Background memo
- 2015 WCC advisory questions

| Approved by                   | Signature   | Date    |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|
| Tim Andryk, Bureau Director   |  | 1-15-15 |
| Not applicable, Administrator |   |         |
| Cathy Stepp, Secretary        |  | 1/16/15 |

cc: Board Liaison – AD/8

# WCC 2015 Proposed Spring Hearing Questions

## **Ag Damage Ad Hoc Committee Advisory Questions:**

### **QUESTION 1. Setting values for wild animal protection surcharges**

Wisconsin State Statute, section 29.983 sets a monetary value on fish and wildlife species in Wisconsin. These values are used in forfeiture cases for the unlawful killing, wounding, catching, taking, trapping, or possession of wild animals. With the exception of the current value of elk at \$2,000 none of the other values have changed since the statute's creation in 1991. Deer, coyote, lake sturgeon, and raccoon are valued at \$43.75, a sandhill crane is valued at \$262.50, and a turkey at \$175.00.

**Do you support the state legislature reviewing and adjusting these values to higher values where appropriate?**

### **QUESTION 2. Deductibles for crops damaged by wildlife**

Currently under Wisconsin State Statute, crop owners who apply for crop damage compensation have to meet a \$500 threshold, or deductible, to receive damage compensation. For example: if they have \$1,000 worth of damage they receive a \$500 payment or if they have \$5,000 of damage, they receive a \$4,500 payment. The maximum compensation limit is currently \$10,000. This is not an equitable way to meet the deductible as it favors a crop owner who has more damage to their crops, typically larger producers.

**Do you support the state legislature changing the law to make the deductible for all crop damage claims to be 10% of the claimant's total assessed damages while keeping the current \$10,000 maximum compensation limit? (For example: \$100 deductible for \$1,000 of damage and a \$1,000 deductible for a \$10,000 claim.)**

### **QUESTION 3. Provide an ethical hunter verification system for landowners to check potential hunters or trappers**

Currently, there is no readily available system for landowners in the state to verify whether hunters or trappers wishing to hunt or trap on their property are reputable or not. Washington State has developed a "master hunter program" in which hunters submit to a background check and in some cases an advanced hunter safety course. Upon certification, these people are eligible to hunt on property landowners have enrolled in that program. This provides a reasonable level of assurance to land owners that they are allowing qualified people on their property to hunt or trap.

The Master Hunter Card (MHC) could be similar to the WDATCP certification for chemical applicators and could be renewable every 5 years. A minimal fee could be charged to cover the costs of issuing the MHC.

Landowners would have the ability to find qualified individuals to give access to their land.

Some landowners experiencing wildlife damage of crops and property have found it difficult to get hunters and trappers that they can be confident would respect their property. A MHC certification could give them that confidence.

**Would you be in favor of the DNR developing a master hunter program for landowners to verify the reputability of any person asking permission to hunt or trap?**

## **Bear Committee Advisory Questions:**

### **QUESTION 4. Bear hunting with dogs in Zone C (700314)**

Currently bear hunting with dogs is allowed in Zones A, B, and D.

**Would you support bear hunting with dogs in the portion of Zone C north of highway 21, consistent with bear hunting in Zones A, B, and D with a 3 year sunset clause?**

### **QUESTION 5. Earlier bear hunt in Zone C (100114, 270114, 720314)**

Hunter success in Zone C has fluctuated much in the past years. A large acorn crop in a particular year may have a significant effect on the use of bait stations by bears.

A slightly earlier season in Zone C would not have a negative biological effect on the bear population. Some feel an earlier start to the bear hunting season in Zone C would give a hunter a greater chance of harvesting a bear.

**Would you support an early opening for the bear harvest season in Zone C starting on September 1 with a season closure consistent with other closures as in the past?**

## **Deer & Elk Committee Advisory Questions:**

### **QUESTION 6. Antler Point Restrictions (030314, 100314, 520114)**

Deer management recommendations are now determined at the county level with each county being a deer management unit and having a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC).

Antler Point Restrictions that are supported at the county level could be recommended by the CDAC to the DNR for implementation in that county.

**Do you support the DNR implementing antler point restrictions upon the recommendation of the County Deer Advisory Council?**

**QUESTION 7. County Deer Advisory Council option for hunting white deer (720114)**

Several areas of the state are becoming populated with white deer. This population is increasing because white deer are protected.

Some landowners report seeing only white deer during the hunting season and dominant white bucks seem to chase other bucks away preventing harvest opportunities.

**Do you support a rule change that would allow County Deer Advisory Councils to recommend the hunting of white deer in their respective counties?**

**QUESTION 8. Change deer baiting and feeding laws (480114)**

Current laws enacted by the legislature prohibit baiting and feed of deer in all counties where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in either wild or game farm deer. In those counties not affected by CWD, it's legal to bait and feed deer which creates inconsistent hunting regulations between counties.

Banning deer baiting and feeding from September 1 through the last day of any deer hunting season could eliminate numerous issues that many associate with the distribution and movement of deer.

**Do you support a legislative change to ban deer baiting and feeding statewide from September 1 through the last day of any deer hunting season?**

**QUESTION 9. Strengthen laws regarding wanton waste (060114)**

Wisconsin laws pertaining to the wanton waste of game are currently vaguely written and have proven to be difficult to enforce. The current law is as follows:

Wisconsin State Statute, section 23.095 - Protection of natural resources.

(1) (a) "**Damage**" means **to commit a physical act that unreasonably** destroys, molests, defaces, removes or **wastes**.

(1g) GENERAL PROHIBITION. No person may damage or attempt to damage any natural resource within the state.

(3) PENALTIES.

(a) Any person who violates sub. (1g) shall forfeit not more than \$100.

**Would you support an effort by the WCC and the DNR to work together with the legislature to develop a tougher and more precise wanton waste law for Wisconsin?**

## **Environmental Committee Advisory Questions:**

### **QUESTION 10. Silica Mining in Wisconsin Study Update (090414, 131714, 180314, 270214, 510214, 630314, 720614)**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed a report on Silica Sand Mining in Wisconsin in January 2012. Silica sand mining continues to grow with a strong demand for frac sand. The silica sand mining industry is currently concentrated in West Central Wisconsin with potential to expand to other parts of the state containing deposits of minable sand. The published report does not include a technical analysis of the potential cumulative impacts on open space, groundwater, air quality, soil erosion, or fish and wildlife habitat. The report does not specify a process whereby WDNR will evaluate and consider such cumulative impacts. A study that would include citizen and local official input as well as cumulative short and long term natural resource, transportation and regulatory impacts, property values, tourism and archeological resources should be conducted.

**Should the Natural Resources Board and the DNR partner with appropriate state and federal agencies to conduct a comprehensive and independent evaluation of the environmental impacts of silica sand mining in Wisconsin?**

## **Fur Harvest Committee Advisory Questions**

### **QUESTION 11. Fisher season extension (690114)**

The fisher harvest in Wisconsin is regulated by a quota system. Permits are randomly drawn, based on preference points. The number of permits issued is a function of the harvest quota and the success rate of trappers in filling their permits in the last three years. Should the harvest quota be met before the scheduled season end, the Department of Natural Resources has the authority to close the season early.

The current fisher season begins in mid-October, and runs through December 31. Some trappers have expressed an interest in extending the season to allow trapping opportunities after the close of the last deer seasons. These trappers point out that if the longer season results in a higher success rate, the population would be protected by the automatic reduction, the following year, in the number of permits issued to harvest a given quota and, if the harvest quota should be exceeded, the department can close the season early.

**Do you support a rule change to extend the fisher season to end concurrent with the earliest Wisconsin otter season (currently the south zone which ends March 31)?**

### **QUESTION 12. Traps set in "weasel boxes" (090614)**

In Wisconsin, weasels are sometimes trapped using a trap set within a baited box. Currently, these "weasel box" sets must be checked once every four days if the entrance hole is no greater than 1 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches in diameter, the enclosure set employs a body grip trap, and the enclosure is securely anchored

to an immovable object. This allows these weasel sets to be run together with underwater beaver traps, and be checked at the same time. Since the weasels are killed by the trap, it should not subject the weasels to any undue suffering. Box sets with an entrance hole greater than 1¾ inches in diameter must be checked daily.

**Do you support a rule change to expand the four-day trap check for "weasel boxes" to include those trap sets with an entrance hole greater than 1¾ inches in diameter?**

**QUESTION 13. Eliminate the otter lottery drawing (230214)**

To harvest an otter in Wisconsin, a trapper must first be awarded a harvest permit through a lottery process and they may not receive a permit every year. Otter populations are estimated statewide and the available permits are divided between the three zones based on past experience in each zone. Many trappers believe that populations are higher than estimated. They are frustrated that they are unable to trap otters every year, and can rarely take more than one otter per year. It is suggested that a system similar to neighboring states with a season bag limit for all trappers of two otters each season would create more opportunities. They believe that current otter numbers would support this increased harvest.

**Do you support an otter season with no lottery and a season bag limit of two per licensed trapper?**

**QUESTION 14. Trapping license endorsement to trap turtles**

Currently turtle trappers must have either a small game license or a fishing license. It is felt that it would be appropriate to also allow turtles to be trapped by those who possess a trapping license.

**Do you support legislation allowing the trapping of turtles by individuals possessing a valid trapping license?**

**QUESTION 15. Remove otter and fisher permit application fees from patron license benefits (360113)**

Currently, anyone purchasing a patron license can ask to be entered in the drawing to receive a permit to harvest a fisher and/or an otter. It is widely believed that many patron license purchasers who receive these permits are less likely to use them than trappers who apply for the permit through the normal process and pay the required \$3.00 fee. Unused permits reduce the success rate in filling the permits and result in more permits being issued to harvest the intended number of animals. However, many suspect that the unused permits must result in animals which should have been available for harvest not being harvested, and therefore, a reduced recreational opportunity. These same concerns have resulted in bear and bobcat permit application fees having been removed from the patron license in the past. A change in current law to require that patron license purchasers pay the \$3.00 application fee for fisher and otter permits will require legislation.

**Would you favor legislation and rule changes to require purchasers of patron licenses to pay an additional \$3.00 fee for fisher and/or otter permit applications?**

## **Great Lakes Committee Advisory Question:**

### **QUESTION 16. Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp fee increase (020114, 160114, 260114)**

Revenue from the sale of the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp helps support the DNR trout and salmon rearing and stocking program for the Great Lakes. Legislation in 2014 directed the DNR to provide some funding from this Great Lakes stamp for sea lamprey treatments and barriers. An increase in the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp fee would help state hatcheries to continue to provide cultural, historical, economic, and biological services that benefit all Wisconsin residents.

**Would you support legislation to increase the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp fee?**

## **Land Use Committee Advisory Questions:**

### **QUESTION 17. Target Shooting on Department lands (Columbia County) (110414)**

There are no established public shooting ranges in Columbia County.

**Would you support the establishment of a safe and controlled public shooting range on DNR property in Columbia County?**

### **QUESTION 18. Uncontrolled target shooting on DNR lands (Columbia County) (110414)**

Uncontrolled target shooting has been a problem on DNR owned property in Columbia County, such as the Swan Lake Wildlife Area.

**Would you support the DNR request that the Natural Resources Board approve an amendment to the Columbia County Master Plan for DNR lands to address uncontrolled target shooting?**

### **QUESTION 19. Saving the monarch butterfly (450114)**

Wisconsin's monarch butterfly population is at historic lows. The major reason for the monarch population reduction is that female monarchs only lay their eggs in/on milkweed plants and there has been a widespread loss of milkweed plants in Wisconsin resulting in the migration of fewer monarchs.

**Would you support DNR efforts to institute a public awareness campaign aimed at restoring more milkweed vegetation in Wisconsin?**

### **QUESTION 20. Designation of the monarch butterfly as Wisconsin's state butterfly (450114)**

Twenty-seven other states already have a designated state butterfly. Designating the monarch butterfly as Wisconsin's state butterfly could support and enhance efforts to save the monarch butterfly in Wisconsin.

**Would you support legislation to designate the monarch butterfly as Wisconsin's state butterfly?**

**QUESTION 21. Opening DOT mitigation lands to hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross country skiing.**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) owns wetland mitigation sites throughout the state of Wisconsin. Some of these sites would be ideally suited for public recreational use. One example is a 345 acre tract of DOT owned lands in the Town of Stockton, near Stevens Point in Portage County. This property is not currently open to the public for hunting and trapping.

**Are you in favor of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to open wetland mitigations sites to the public that are suitable for public hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross country skiing?**

**Legislative Committee Advisory Questions:**

**QUESTION 22. Give authority to conservation wardens to enforce trespass laws related to hunting, fishing, trapping and other activities regulated by the DNR (570114)**

At present, Wisconsin trespass laws can only be enforced by local or county law enforcement officers. These officers are often busy with other business and cannot respond in a sufficient period of time. Wardens are often involved with these cases to address potential violations of laws the DNR enforces related to seasons, bag limits, method of harvest and hunting from roadways, but have no authority to initiate charges for associated trespassing.

**Are you in favor of giving authority to Wisconsin DNR conservation wardens to investigate and issue citations for trespass violations when the trespassing occurred while the person was engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping or other activities the DNR regulates?**

**QUESTION 23. Increase fines for dogs/hounds running at large while hunting or training (130514, 710114)**

Currently the "dogs running at large" state violation is found under Wisconsin State Statute, section 174.042(4) and the penalty established is as follows:

(4) PENALTIES. If the owner of a dog negligently or otherwise permits the dog to run at large or be untagged, the owner shall forfeit not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 for the first offense and not less than \$50 nor more than \$200 for subsequent offenses.

**Are you in favor of the state legislature increasing the minimum forfeiture penalties from \$25 to \$250 and maximum forfeiture penalties from \$100 to \$500 for dogs running at large while training or hunting on private lands without permission?**

**QUESTION 24. Sandhill crane hunting season (360114, 550114)**

There are 700,000 sandhill cranes in North America and 17 states have hunting seasons including two states in our flyway: Kentucky and Tennessee. A management plan approved by 31 states and Canadian

provinces in eastern North America established that the Eastern Population of sandhill cranes was large enough to be hunted and established a process for a state to apply for a limited quota based hunting season. In Wisconsin, the state legislature must approve a quota-based hunting season on sandhill cranes before the DNR can develop a season.

**Do you think Wisconsin should have a sandhill crane hunting season?**

### **Migratory Committee Advisory Questions:**

#### **QUESTION 25. Opening day shooting time (410214, 500314)**

Currently Wisconsin opens the waterfowl season at 9:00 am. Minnesota and Iowa start before 9:00 am.

**Do you favor a duck season opener at one half hour before sunrise?**

#### **QUESTION 26. Unattended decoys on private lands (520514)**

It has been proposed that water set decoys be allowed to be left unattended on water areas completely surrounded and enclosed by private land under one ownership with no public access at any time during the year. This would free private land waterfowl hunters from having to set and then pick up their water set decoys at the end of each hunt. It is presently legal to leave unattended decoys on dry land. This proposal is currently legal in other flyway states and there is no biological detriment occurring from this practice.

**Do you favor legislation that would allow water set decoys to be left unattended on water areas completely surrounded and enclosed by private land under the same ownership with no public access at any time during the year?**

### **Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee Advisory Questions:**

#### **QUESTIONS 27. Start Wisconsin .22 rifle team challenge (041014)**

Currently, there is not an organized statewide .22 rifle team challenge where shooting teams can compete. Shooting sports promote hunting heritage and develop good firearm safety practices among hunters and non-hunters.

**Would you support the development of an organized statewide .22 rifle team challenge?**

## **Outreach & Public Relations Committee/ Executive Council Advisory**

### **Questions:**

#### **QUESTIONS 28, 29, 30. Posting or delisting the Winnebago System as federal waters (200114, 200214)**

The Winnebago system includes all the waters of Lake Winnebago, Lake Poygan, Lake Winneconne, and Lake Buttes des Morts. It also includes the Wolf River from Lake Buttes des Morts to the Shawano Dam and the Fox River from Lake Buttes des Morts to Portage including Buffalo Lake and Lake Puckaway. These waters are designated federal waters and as such, are under the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard. State and federal boating regulations are different, but both apply to federal waters.

A Captain's License issued by the United States Coast Guard is required for persons who guide for fishing on the Winnebago System. Because these waters are not always posted as federal waters at access points, and they are not consistently identified in the Wisconsin boating and fishing regulations as federal waters, it is difficult to know what the boating and guide requirements are for these waters. The United States Coast Guard occasionally patrols these waters and issues citations for violations.

It would take an act of Congress to remove the designation of federal waters on the Winnebago System. If the waters within the Winnebago System were delisted as federal waters, the requirement of a Captain's License could be eliminated. Wisconsin law enforcement would continue to enforce the requirement of a state guide's license in order to guide for fishing on these waters. This change could provide more opportunities for guiding. It could create a positive economic impact for those wanting to guide on this system and businesses could benefit from increased tourism.

**Would you support the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin working with the United States Coast Guard and the Federal Government to post federal waters as federal waters at all public access points?**

**Would you support the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin working with the United States Coast Guard and the Federal Government to delist the Winnebago system waters as federal waters?**

**Would you support the Conservation Congress, the Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin work with the Federal Government to eliminate the requirement of a Captain's License on the Winnebago system, so only a state guide's license would be required for those who guide for fishing on the Winnebago System?**

## **Warm Water Committee Advisory Questions**

#### **QUESTION 31. Reinstate dark house spearing on Wisconsin/Michigan boundary waters (050114, 380114)**

Dark house spearing through the ice for northern pike was traditionally allowed on the Wisconsin/Michigan boundary waters until the late 1980's. Currently, the spearing of northern pike through the ice is legal in Wisconsin only on the waters of Lake Superior and in seven other states (mainly in the west). By re-instating the regulation to allow the spearing of northern pike through the

ice on Wisconsin/Michigan Boundary Waters, another opportunity would be regained by anglers wishing to pursue this activity. This may result in increased license revenue and more people enjoying the outdoors. However, some concerns have been expressed by musky anglers in the waters of Green Bay regarding protection of that species. The DNR is willing to meet with the "dark house" user groups to discuss the feasibility of a dark house pike fishery, but there are user conflict concerns with both anglers and tribal harvest.

**Do you support allowing the harvest of northern pike through the ice by the method of spearing from a dark house on the Wisconsin portion of the Wisconsin/Michigan boundary waters from December 1 through March 1, with hole size and marking restrictions that match those for lake sturgeon spearing on the Winnebago system?**

**QUESTION 32. Trolling while fishing with live bait (640514)**

Motor trolling is defined as trailing a bait or lure from a boat while being propelled by a motor or sail and is currently illegal except in certain counties or waters and for certain disabled anglers.

Position fishing is defined as fishing from a boat where the fishing line extends vertically in the water while the boat is maneuvered by a motor. Position fishing is allowed statewide in all waters.

Some anglers would like to be able to fish for muskies by trailing a line off the back of the boat (trolling) while simultaneously fishing with another line and using an electric trolling motor. This would allow the angler to cast and retrieve artificial baits, while having a rigged sucker off the boat. Fishing would be done in accordance with the fishing regulations of Wisconsin.

**Do you favor a rule change to allow the trolling of a sucker or other fish as bait while casting and retrieving with another line and using the aid of a motor statewide?**

**QUESTION 33-34. Warm water habitat restoration and enhancement**

Over time the productivity of most warm water habitats has been altered by pollution, riparian and general watershed development, exotic invasions, etc. Fish management tools like stocking and regulations may mitigate habitat loss, but do not correct it. Unlike trout streams, techniques to restore and enhance warm water habitats, primarily lakes, have not been well funded or researched for effectiveness. Research is needed to identify the specific habitat limitations of lakes and develop techniques to address them.

**Do you favor a DNR initiative to determine the most effective techniques to restore and enhance the productivity of warm water resources, primarily lakes?**

**Do you favor the utilization of new funding sources, such as a habitat stamp or other non-fish and game fund sources, to support warm water habitat initiatives?**

**QUESTION 35. Definition of attended lines (210414)**

The definition of an attended line in open water is an angler must be within 100 yards of any line at any time. The definition of an attended line while ice angling is an angler must attend the line immediately after an indication of a strike. This means there is no maximum distance anglers can be from their lines. With new electronics and smart phone apps, an angler could be inside watching TV waiting for a text message telling them what line to attend. In Minnesota, ice anglers must remain within sight of their lines or within 200 feet of their tip-up.

**For rule simplification and better understanding, would you favor changing the definition of an attended line, any time of the year, to be that anglers may be no more than 100 yards from any of their fishing lines at any time?**

**QUESTION 36. Eliminate largemouth bass size limit on Cosgrove Lake, Florence County (190114)**

DNR fish surveys show Cosgrove Lake in Florence County has an overabundance of small sub legal largemouth bass. The forage fish are declining and there are no predators for the largemouth bass.

**Do you favor eliminating the minimum size limit for bass on the Cosgrove Lake Chain, Florence County?**

**QUESTION 37. Harvest of bait minnows from VHS waters for personal use (220114)**

Currently, the harvest of bait from Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) affected waters is prohibited. Bait may be harvested from non-VHS affected waters by the following methods only:

- 1) Hook and Line
- 2) With seines no more the 35 feet long with a mesh no larger than ½ inch
- 3) With dip nets no more than 8 feet in diameter or square
- 4) With traps no more than 24 inches long and 16 inches in diameter or square, with a throat measuring 1½ inches or less. All traps must bear their owner's name and address and be emptied at least once every 48 hours.

**Do you favor the daily harvest of bait, by the above methods from VHS affected waters, and return of this bait to those same waters?**

**QUESTION 38. Limit motorized watercraft on spring spawning marshes of the Fox River (240414)**

Walleye eggs and aquatic vegetation are being destroyed in the walleye marshes of the Fox River by motorized watercraft. Motorized watercraft churn bottom sediments and grind and displace aquatic vegetation to which walleye eggs are attached. Eggs sink into the bottom sediment where they suffocate.

**Do you favor a change in state law to prevent entry of motorized watercraft to public and private spawning marshes of the Fox River except for Department of Natural Resources fisheries assessment activities between March 15 and the first Saturday in May?**

**QUESTION 39. Limit motorized watercraft on spring spawning marshes of the Wolf River (200314)**

Walleye eggs and aquatic vegetation are being destroyed in the walleye marshes of the Wolf River by motorized watercraft. Motorized watercraft churn bottom sediments and grinds and displaces aquatic vegetation to which walleye eggs are attached. Eggs sink into the bottom sediment where they suffocate.

**Do you favor a change in state law to prevent entry of motorized watercraft to public and private spawning marshes of the Wolf River except for Department of Natural Resources fisheries assessment activities between March 15 and the first Saturday in May?**

**Wolf Committee Advisory Questions:**

**QUESTION 40 and 41. Change the opening day of the wolf harvest season (540114)**

*NOTE: At the time of print, gray wolves have been relisted by the federal government under the Endangered Species Act and there is currently no harvest season for wolves in Wisconsin. The below suggested changes to the state's wolf harvest season are asked only to provide public input on the season structure in the event that wolves would be federally delisted and management was returned to the state.*

Under the current structure, the wolf harvest season opens on October 15 every year. The rush to harvest a wolf before the zone closes has created conflicts between trappers and hunters with bird hunting dogs being caught in the traps. The wolf pelt is not prime but the risk of zone closure forces trappers to harvest animals before the pelts are prime. Moving the season opening date to a later date would help to alleviate these problems.

**Would you support the WCC to work with the NRB and the state legislature to change the opening of the wolf harvest season to the first Saturday in November?**

**Would you support the WCC to work with the NRB and state legislature to change the opening date of the wolf harvest season to the Saturday before the opening day of the 9 day gun deer season?**