

2022 Conservation Congress Voter Guide

The Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter believes that our natural resources need to be managed in a way that ensures that all Wisconsinites have equal access to nature, land, water, and wildlife. As such, science, public input, and Tribal consultation should determine the rules and regulations around management. Sierra Club members include water drinkers, hikers, hunters, and others that agree that we need to ensure that these natural resources will be there for future generations.

Voting will be open from April 11 at 7:00 p.m. to April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Question	Vote	Notes/Learn More
Natural Resources Board Questions		
<p>18. Do you support having the Wisconsin DNR undertake a 2-year pilot project to test if offering a healthy herds incentive payment to landowners and hunters can increase the testing rates and remove CWD+ deer to levels effective in reducing prevalence and slowing disease spread?</p>	YES	We need to work together to reduce CWD and hopefully this pilot project will give us a guide forward.
<p>23. Deer Management Tool 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?</p>	YES	This offers an incentive for hunters to remove CWD deer from the landscape and curb areas of overpopulation.
<p>26. Reallocation of Funding to Establish a Statewide Dumpster Program for Deer Carcass Disposal Would you support a reallocation of antlerless fund fees to establish a statewide dumpster program for handling deer carcass disposal?</p>	YES	
<p>29. Imposing stricter regulations on PFAS chemicals Would you support additional testing for PFAS levels Imposing stricter regulations on PFAS chemicals in drinking water across Wisconsin?</p>	YES	PFAS are dubbed “forever chemicals” because they’re very difficult to break down, and, what’s more, are carcinogenic, interfere with our hormone systems, and have made their way into Wisconsin’s waterways and drinking water.
<p>30. Imposing stricter regulations on PFAS chemicals 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?</p>	YES	
<p>44. Allow the use of traps with a jaw spread up to 8 inches beginning on the opening day of wolf season 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?</p>	NO	This question is confusing and asks that trapping restrictions be reduced to benefit wolf trappers, undermining shared resources.

<p>47. Wolf Population Goals Support wolf population goal of 350 or less wolves</p>	NO	The state's wolf population goals should be based on what the science says is the right number, with consultation with the Tribes. The number should <i>not</i> be based on politics, as the 350 number is.
<p>51. Allow an assistant to help a disabled person fish 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?</p>	YES	Everyone should have equal access to enjoy Wisconsin's natural resources.
<p>53. Should DNR permit and regulate all hunting contests to control wanton waste, and carcass dumping 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?</p>	YES	Currently, there are no laws governing Wildlife Killing contests, despite concerns that they are ecologically damaging.
<p>54. Funding Lower Chippewa River Parcels Do you support the State of Wisconsin identifying funds available to purchase of the remaining 760 acres?</p>	YES	The area is filled with precious natural diversity and along with the beautiful views above the Chippewa River that should be protected from private and commercial development.
<p>57. Pass the Recovering America Wildlife Act Do you support having all of Wisconsin's Congressional delegation support the passage of Recovering America's Wildlife Act in this session?</p>	YES	This bill would invest nearly \$1.4 billion for states, territories, and tribes to amplify their work in recovering, conserving, and protecting at-risk wildlife and habitat.
<p>62. Ban dogs from hunting wolves in Wisconsin (411221) (requires legislation) Would you support banning the use of dogs from hunting wolves in Wisconsin should wolves get delisted again?</p>	YES	This controversial practice sets up potential violations of Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 951.08, which prohibits instigating fights between animals.
<p>63. Wildlife killing contests Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the WDNR to develop and support a ban on all wildlife killing contests?</p>	YES	Science shows that killing animals does not reduce their population (the 'goal' of these contests) and can have adverse ecological effects.

In addition to questions on the questionnaire, resolutions were introduced across the state. Please support all the resolutions below. (Your county may not have all of these resolutions)

Funding for WI Farmers for Non-Lethal Predator Prevention Programs

Do you support funding for farmers for non-lethal preventative measures to mitigate depredation?
Farmers need funding to prevent livestock depredation. Most predators can be discouraged by non-lethal means, while killing predators especially wolves and coyotes are often counterproductive.

Avoid All New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

Do you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress directing the Natural Resources Board and DNR to avoid all new fossil fuel infrastructure?
With the threat of climate change looming and fossil fuel prices at an all-time high, we need to do everything we can to reduce our fossil fuel dependency and move to clean energy.

Every Kid Outdoors Program

Do you support the Conservation Congress encouraging the DNR to register in support of proposed legislation for the DNR to accept Every Kid Outdoors passes at state parks in Wisconsin?
Passing this bill provides every 4th grader and their family the opportunity to enter state parks without fees.

Support for Clean Water

Do you support strong enforcement to reduce contamination of drinking water from improper manure management at factory farms?
Wisconsinites deserve to be able to drink their water without concerns for safety, yet many can not.

Getting Politics out of Conservation

Do you support having the WCC work with the public and conservation organizations and businesses to draft legislation that will reduce the political parties influence on the conservation of our natural resources?
Politics has no place in natural resource management.

Stewardship Fund

Do you support continuation of longstanding state policy to preserve Wisconsin's public, protected lands forever, and affirm the integrity of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program that was designed to do so?
The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship fund is meant to protect Wisconsin lands permanently.

Eliminate Compensation for Hound Owners

Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the state legislature to end the payments to Hound Owners for dogs killed or injured by wolves while training or hunting bear?
Wisconsin is the only state that pays for the cost of a dog that is killed while hunting or training bears.

Oppose Sandhill Crane Hunting

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress needs to formally oppose SB 620 and the creation of a recreational Sandhill Crane hunt. Do you support the WCC taking a formal position against a Sandhill Crane hunting season in WI?
Sandhill cranes are an important migratory species. The eastern Sandhill crane has a low reproductive rate and are in population recovery status across most of their range. Juvenile sandhill cranes can be confused with other, endangered cranes, like the whooping crane. ([More here](#))

End Killing Contests in Wisconsin

Do you support the WCC advising the WDNR to seek a legislative ban on all wildlife killing contests?
Science shows that killing animals does not reduce their population (the 'goal' of these contests) and can have adverse ecological effects.

Remote Voting

Do you support the WCC changing their Code of Procedure (COP) to require online voting for WCC delegates to ensure voting for WCC delegates takes place each year?
The Conservation Congress Spring hearings are a unique opportunity to directly weigh in on natural resource management in Wisconsin. They should be as accessible as possible for everyone to vote.

All WCC Meetings Have a Virtual Option

Do you support that the Conservation Congress change their Code of Procedure (COP) to require all meeting types to have either remote-first hybrid or virtual only meetings moving forward?
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Trap Warnings to Ensure Public Safety

Do you support implementation of public notification measures for areas where active trapping is taking place on DNR managed public lands and waters?
Our public lands should be there for everyone to use and this simple measure will make it safer for all to enjoy.

Eliminate Nighttime Hunting on Public Land

Do you support the Conservation Congress work with the WDNR to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change restricting nighttime hunting of coyote and wolves on Multi Use Public Land?
Wolf hunting at night with dogs, ATVs, and snowmobiles raises public safety concerns, is disruptive to people who live in rural areas, and contributes to illegal poaching activities.

Ban the use of Hounds When Hunting Wolves

Do you support the WCC working with the Legislature to change state law to prohibit the use of hound dogs to hunt wolves to be consistent with Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 951.08, which prohibits instigating fights between animals?
This controversial practice sets up potential violations of Wisconsin's law that prohibits instigating fights between animals. The risk of it happening is significant and real as documented in DNR WI Wolf Season Report 2021.

Restrict Lead Fishing Tackle in Wisconsin

Do you support the WCC working with the DNR, the Natural Resources Board and our state legislature to implement a limitation on lead jigs and sinkers weighing 1oz or less? Limitation could be phased in. *As responsible hunters and stewards of the land, it is our responsibility to reduce lead in the environment to ensure a diverse and viable wildlife population for future generations.*

Adjust the Time Period Bear Baiting Is Allowed

Would you support the WCC work with the DNR to develop a plan to safely and gradually decrease the number of days that bear bait may be placed, to reach a goal of 24 days?

Ban Chocolate Bear Bait

Would you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress working with the DNR to implement a ban on chocolate bear baits?

Studies in WI have shown that 40% of a black bear's diet is from bait due to WI's extended baiting period of 5.5 months and brings the black bear population over its natural biological carrying capacity. This unrestricted baiting, sets up high potential for conflict between wolves and bear hunters with hound dogs.

Chocolate is a known toxic substance and can make wildlife sick or even kill them. It is toxic to bears, wolves, foxes, coyotes and domestic pets. So much so, Michigan's Bear Hunters worked hard to have it made illegal there.

Restrict Lead Ammunition for Hunting in Wisconsin

Do you support the WCC working with the DNR, the Natural Resources Board and state legislature to implement limitations on lead ammunition? This would exclude ammunition used in target shooting and could be phased in over time.

Lost tackle has a direct impact on populations of loons, swans, eagles, and osprey. In the last 27 years, Northern Wisconsin's Common Loon population has decreased by 22%. A recent study that sampled 1200 eagles in thirty-eight states, including Wisconsin, found nearly half of all bald and golden eagles suffer from chronic lead poisoning.

Reduce the Hound Training Season Pursuing the Black Bear

Do you favor adopting a shorter hound training season that will benefit the physical health and welfare of the bears and dogs? If yes, the WCC will propose the DNR and NRB implement a rule change.

Requiring hound owners to register will provide a revenue stream to the DNR. It also spreads out the training pressure on the landscape for the hunter doing the training and also reduces the harassment of wildlife from hounds running free in the woods.

Hound Training using Live Captive Animals in WI

Do you agree the WCC should work with the WI DNR to put a stop to the use of live captive animals for penning and dog field trial training to resolve animal welfare, ethical and fair chase issues?