

WCC Spring Hearing Questions - Wildlife

Q	Question	Position	Background
14	Does the public support more testing and stricter standards for PFAS levels including in biosolids and groundwater?	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.
15	Do you support increasing the protection of Wisconsin’s environment by recommending the Wisconsin Legislature reinstate the Prove It first Mining Law-1997 Act 171?	YES	The reason for Wisconsin’s landmark “Prove it First” law for mining in metallic sulfides is simple and remains true to this day: there has never been an example of a metallic sulfide mine that has safely operated and closed without polluting the environment
16	Do you support the WCC working with the DNR, the Natural Resources Board and our state legislature to implement a statewide ban on lead jigs and sinkers weighing 1oz or less?	YES	As responsible 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.
17	Do you support the Conservation Congress and WDNR working cooperatively with other conservation organizations to develop a statewide outreach program that increases the use of non-lead ammunition to end the lead poisoning of wildlife?	YES	<p>Lost tackle directly impacts populations of loons, swans, eagles, and osprey. In the last 27 years, Northern Wisconsin's Common Loon population has decreased by 22%.</p> <p>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.</p>
18	To reduce potential groundwater and surface water nitrate and ecoli contamination, do you support the DNR requiring best available groundwater monitoring protocols for all permitted CAFO operations in Wisconsin?	YES	Wisconsinites deserve to be able to drink their water without concerns for safety, yet many can not.
19	Do you support a ban on the shining of wildlife in the state of Wisconsin from Sept 15th thru December 31st?	YES	Hunting at night with dogs, ATVs, and snowmobiles raises public safety concerns, is highly disruptive to people who live in rural areas, and contributes to a greater likelihood of illegal poaching activities
21	Do you support the conservation Congress work with the DNR and the Legislature to develop language to strengthen Wis Waste of Resources 23.095 (1M) to prohibit the waste of game animals and fish in Wisconsin?	YES	Most states have wanton waste laws to prevent people from harvesting animals and then not utilizing them. Wildlife killing contests leave piles of dead coyotes, crows, and other species. Our state’s wildlife is considered a public resource, and

			behavior that results in the needless killing of wildlife without any utilization undermines the ability for everyone to enjoy our natural resources.
23	Do you support opening the beaver season two weeks earlier and closing it four weeks later in each zone?	NO	With such an outdated Beaver Management Plan, and new information about the benefits of beavers on ecosystems and flood mitigation, the plan should be updated before increasing hunting of beavers
24	Do you support allowing the continuously scanning of the landscape while hunting at night, using infrared light-based equipment?	NO	Hunting at night with dogs, ATVs, and snowmobiles raises public safety concerns, is highly disruptive to people who live in rural areas, and contributes to a greater likelihood of illegal poaching activities
25-30	Hazardous Wake from Wake Surfing Boats	YES	These boats create hazardous wakes that create a safety hazard to others using the lake; damage the environment; and erode the shoreline. Particularly concerning is the churning of the lakebed, destruction of aquatic plants & spawning beds, and swamping of loon nests.
36	Would you Support Legislation Creating a Free Fishing Weekend Specifically for Veterans "Vets on the Lake" for All Waters in Wisconsin?	YES	Removing barriers like the cost of a license or entrance fee are important steps to making sure everyone has access to enjoy our natural resources.

Additionally, we're asking voters to support the following resolutions we've put forward (these will only be in counties where residents introduced the resolution):

Removal of administrative barriers to Stewardship Program project approvals

The program has enabled the Department of Natural Resources, local communities, and conservation nonprofits to conserve land, create parks and fisheries, protect habitat, and expand recreational opportunities. This program has benefitted every county in the state.

Unfortunately, unnecessary layers of bureaucratic red tape have delayed and attempted to halt a number of Stewardship Program projects.

Wisconsin DNR Support of Farmers with Non-lethal Prevention Programs

Farmers need funding to prevent livestock depredation. Most predators can be discouraged by non-lethal means, while killing predators, especially wolves and coyotes, is often counterproductive.