

Wisconsin



Shoreland Development Standards Key Provisions 2009

The proposed improvements apply only to land in unincorporated areas – areas outside city and village boundaries. Existing homeowners would not be affected until they remodel their home or make a major change in how they manage their property, like clear cutting trees, mowing new areas or paving over areas.

- Building setbacks and minimum lot sizes stay the same
 - Structures must be at least 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark.
 - Minimum lot size would remain 10,000 square feet with 65 feet of frontage for lots served by sanitary sewers and 20,000 square feet and 100 feet of frontage for lots not served by sanitary sewers.
- Rules on legal nonconforming structures made clearer and more flexible – Legal nonconforming structures, those built before their counties adopted shoreland standards and now closer to the water than standards allow, could more easily be maintained and repaired. The proposal would:
 - Eliminate dollar limits on the maintenance and repair of legal nonconforming structures.
 - Allow some expansion of buildings at least 35 feet from the water if the owner takes offsetting steps like restoring native plants or taking measures to reduce runoff.
 - Set height restrictions for those portions of buildings within the first 75 feet from the water's edge.
 - New standard seeks to cut runoff pollution by limiting hard surfaces – Construction or expansion of buildings, driveways or other areas which prevent water from soaking into the ground is limited to 30 percent of the lot to reduce runoff and protect water quality in lakes and streams.

Questions and Answers

1. What are shorelands and why are they important?

Shorelands are land within 1,000 feet of a lake, pond or flowage, and land within 300 feet of the floodplain of a river or stream. They are important because the plants and trees in this area filter soil, fertilizer and other chemicals from the water that runs off land and into lakes and rivers. These plants, trees, and downed trees also provide important habitat for fish and wildlife, including favorites like loons and bald eagles. Development and land disturbing activities in shoreland areas can directly affect lake and stream water quality and habitat by reducing the amount of these important plants and increasing the roofs, driveways and other hard surfaces that generate more runoff.

2. Why change the current shoreland zoning minimum standards?

Wisconsinites love their world class lakes and rivers. They deserve world class protection into the 21st century. Minimum statewide standards are one part of that protection. But our current minimum standards were written in the 1960s and they have not kept up with development pressures and trends toward larger, year-round homes. New information and advances in technology allow us to change the standards to better protect water quality and habitat in our lakes and rivers while offering more flexibility for property owners and standards that are easier for the counties to apply.

3. If our home burns down, will we be able to rebuild it?

You can rebuild any home damaged or destroyed by violent wind, vandalism, fire or flood just as it was before the event.

4. How does this affect our lawn? Will we have to replace our lawn with a natural buffer?

All current lawns and landscaping can stay as they are. There is no requirement for everyone to plant shoreline buffers. If you choose to expand a house that is close to the water, you will need to make some landscaping changes on your property to reduce the water runoff and habitat loss resulting from that change. One option is establishing a buffer of native plants and trees – but there are other “mitigation” options available as well.

5. How will the changes affect what we can do with our home?

All homes can be maintained and improved with internal remodeling, new windows, doors, siding, insulation, electrical, plumbing and roofs, without cost limits.

6. We would like to expand our home. How will the changes affect us?

> If your home is located within 35 feet of the water, you could do internal remodeling including new windows, doors, siding, insulation, electrical, plumbing and roofs, but expansion or demolition and rebuilding would not be allowed.

> If your home is located between 35 and 75 feet from the water, you may expand as long as you do not exceed 30% of your lot in hard surfaces, and you have practices in place or implemented to reduce runoff and/or restore habitat, and to offset the increased runoff and other impacts of your project.

> Construction or expansion of buildings, driveways or other areas which prevent water from soaking into the ground is limited to 30% of the lot to reduce runoff and protect the water quality of lakes and streams.

> If your project does not meet the minimum standards, you can always apply for a variance. A variance is a way that projects may be approved when they are inconsistent with the zoning law and these should be few and far between.

7. We own a shoreland lot and would like to sell the lot or part of it. How will the changes affect us?

There are no changes proposed for existing lots.

8. If my lot is substandard does that make my home substandard?

No. A home does not become substandard or nonconforming because it is located on a substandard lot. A home is substandard if it predates and does not comply with current dimensional requirements such as the setback from the water.

9. What is mitigation and when is it required?

In the past variances and other mechanisms were required to provide flexibility under zoning regulations. Off-setting measures or mitigation eliminates the need for many variances and provides flexibility in development in exchange for practices that reduce water runoff or restore habitat. The following activities trigger mitigation requirements:

- Expansion of structures at less than the required shoreline setback
- Development on substandard lots
- Development with more than 15% of hard surfaces

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More information about the proposed statewide minimum shoreland zoning standards is available at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/news.htm>

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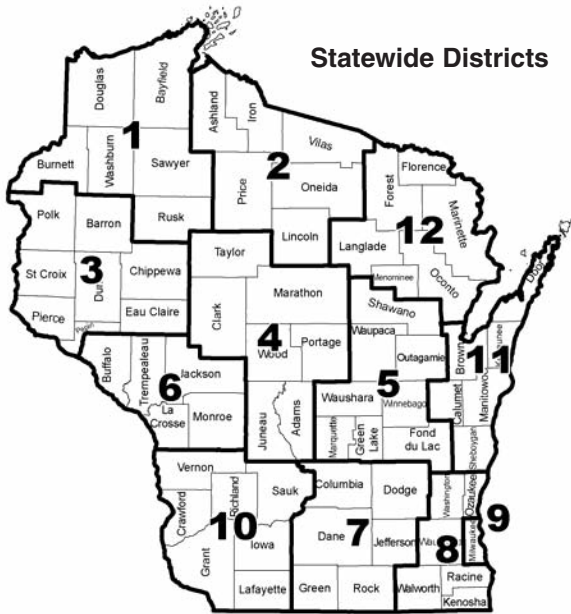
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Executive Director Activity

WWF Leads Successful Defense of Stewardship Public Access



By George Meyer, Executive Director

Reminiscent of the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee's midnight raid of the DNR's habitat stamp program four years ago, the same Committee, on the last night of its deliberations on this year's state budget, passed a lengthy amendment, buried in which was a measure removing the Stewardship Fund requirement that lands purchased with Stewardship grants must, in most situations, be open to public hunting, fishing and trapping. No warning was given, no public hearing was held.

The public access requirement for hunting, fishing and trapping was a key provision added to the Stewardship Fund when it was reauthorized in the last state budget. Without this provision, the Stewardship fund would not have been extended until the year 2020 and \$860 million would have been lost for purchases of lands for state wildlife and fisheries areas, forests, parks and natural areas.

The WWF found out about the amendment the next day and leapt into action. Immediately verifying what had happened, key legislative supporters of sportsmen and women were contacted. The WWF reached out to other hunting, fishing and trapping organizations and built a coalition to fight back for our public access. WWF and other organizations sent out hundreds of emails to sportsmen and women asking them to contact their own legislators and legislative leaders to reverse the Joint Finance Committee taking away of public access. Sportsmen and women heeded the action alert and hundreds of calls rolled into legislative offices.

The WWF and its members made numerous contacts with the media and newspapers and radio stations started picking up on the controversy. Within a week, the banner headline of Madison's *Wisconsin State Journal* in bold stated: **Public lands fight simmering—Plan may restrict hunting, fishing access.** In the article the WWF called it the way it was: "As this word is getting out to

sportsmen, they are very upset. This is a priority and to have something taken away so sneakily is outrageous." In the same day's paper, there was a Letter to Editor by WWF District 10 Board Member Al Phelan that concluded: "The Legislature needs to overturn this motion and honor their past Stewardship agreement. Their word is their word."

Three days later, just in time while the full State Assembly began work on their version of the budget, the *Wisconsin State Journal* editorial headline read: **"Remove 'No Hunting' Sign from Budget"** The Assembly, led by Rep. Ann Hrachuck (Balsam Lake), Rep. Spencer Black (Madison), Rep. Scott Gunderson (Waterford) and Rep. Fred Clark (Baraboo) removed the Stewardship access weakening language from the Assembly version of the budget. Meanwhile in the Senate, Senator Jim Holperin (Conover), Senator Neal Kedzie (Elkhorn) and Dale Schultz (Richland Center) strongly supported sportsmen and women in their efforts to remove the offending provision from the Senate version of the budget. The Senate passed its version of the budget without the Stewardship weakening language. It became a virtual certainty that Wisconsin hunters, anglers and trappers had retained their public access rights on lands purchased with Stewardship funds.

This great effort at protecting the rights of sportsmen and women happened because of the vigilance and coalition building skills of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the efforts and diligence of hundreds of Wisconsin hunters, anglers and trappers. Your strong and fast response to protect your rights was definitely noticed in the State Capitol by both supporter and opponent alike.

However, sportsmen and women cannot rest on their laurels because of this successful effort. Legislators supporting those organizations that are trying to strip away public access for hunting, fishing and trapping have been rumored to be willing to introduce a separate bill in the Legislature with the same provisions that they inserted in the JFC version of the budget. In addition, the same organizations have been working to weaken the statutory public access requirements through the DNR's mandated rule-making process to implement the access provisions.

You should be proud of your efforts to protect public access rights but stay tuned and vigilant for future attempts to remove public access.

President's Report

Vol. I Part III

Well, here we go again. By now you have probably heard of an attempt to repeal the requirement that any person receiving a stewardship grant to acquire land, must permit public access to the land for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and other nature-based outdoor recreation, unless the Natural Resources Board finds it unnecessary to a) protect public safety, b) protect a unique plant or animal or, c) to accommodate usership patterns. As you may recall many of us fought long and hard to have that language included in the re-authorization of the program. The attempt to have this language repealed was included in the state budget in the middle of the night. I do not know about you, but I certainly have some concerns about anything the legislature does in the middle of the night.

Recently there was also a piece of legislation introduced (SB222) that would change group deer hunting regulations as well as make changes to the casing of firearms in vehicles. Notice for the public hearing on SB222 was a mere 24 hours, legal, but hardly appropriate. So much for public input.

Now, regardless of how you feel about these issues, we as sportsmen should and must be concerned about how these possibly changes came about. Please keep in mind while both of the previously mentioned methods of legislation were legal, in my opinion they both attempted to avoid public input. These types of fast tracked legislation regarding our natural resources, need to be communicated to sportsmen and women throughout the state as quickly and efficiently as possible. I am pleased to announce that the

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has been working on a way to do just that. The Federation is putting the finishing touches on an e-mail alert system to notify members of such actions. The system should be up and running by fall. While we continue to work out some of the details, you can sign up by visiting our web-site at wiwf.org and click on Camo Coalition. The Camo Coalition has endless opportunity for sharing information with its members. It will be the quickest way to reach thousands of members with the same message almost immediately. It is also able to help you notify your legislators. Please take a moment and sign up, it's easy. Watch for more on the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's Camo Coalition in future issues of the *Wisconservation*.

The Natural Resources Board at its May meeting established a special committee to develop potential alternatives to the unpopular Earn A Buck regulations. Ralph Fritsch will represent the Federation on this committee. Ralph is a past president of the Federation and currently serves as the chair of our wildlife committee. The committee will work with the DNR to develop acceptable alternatives that will be effective for deer management, supported by hunters and landowners and be able to be evaluated through established benchmarks. Please share any thoughts that you have on the subject with Ralph.

I am certainly glad to see the formation of this committee and look forward to hearing their recommendations.

Sincerely,
Jack Nissen
President

Hmong Hunting & Cultural Presentation at Sheboygan Falls Conservation Club

Hunter education instructors Cher Pao Vang and Sam Vang shared a powerpoint and personal testimonials on Hmong hunting, history and culture with members of the Sheboygan Falls Conservation Club on Tuesday evening, May 26, 2009. The presentation is part of a Harmony in the Woods outreach program which hopes to visit several more Sheboygan County gun and conservation clubs.

Cher Pao and Sam, both DNR certified instructors, explained how the Hmong were allies with the Americans during the Vietnam War and how their subsequent persecution by the Laotian communist government following the fall of Saigon and withdrawal of American troops in 1975 led to the escape of thousands of Hmong Lao Veterans ultimately to the United States. Cher Pao said he was a 9 year old boy during his own family's time of escape.

Both Cher Pao and Sam participated in the DNR's Hmong hunter education initiative in 2007 which instructed several Lao Veterans in hunter regulations and local firearm techniques. They said the Hmong community's love of hunting continues from its time in southeast Asia right up to today, where they enjoy the

outdoors and recreating in large family groups.

Club members at the presentation noted the similarities between Hmong large family hunting groups to some of the large local big gun deer driving groups. They also acknowledged how much of a learning curve it must be to get up to speed on Wisconsin hunting regulations, just as it is to learn the hunting regs in another state or even in Canada.

The presentation was accompanied by Lil Pipping, former president of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and current president of the Tri-County Sportswomen Club; Dave Taylor, immediate past-president and now first vice-president of the Sheboygan County Conservation Association; Mark Pearce and John Plenke, local DNR conservation wardens, and Eileen Hocker, DNR Law Enforcement diversity outreach coordinator.

Thousands of Hmong Lao Veteran allies of American forces and their families escaped Lao communist persecution and emigrated to the U.S. during the 1980s and 90s. Approximately 6,000 Hmong currently call Sheboygan County home.

2009 Artist of the Year



Artist Brian Kuether and WWF President Jack Nissen

WWF April 2009 Legislative Report

2009-2011 Legislative Bills with WWF Position

(changes since April are in bold)

Assembly Bills

- AB 3—Bans the use and sale of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus with exceptions
Support—Protects water quality and fish and wildlife habitat important to anglers
Passed the Assembly and Senate—Signed into law
Counterpart bill is SB 5
- AB 4—Repeals Past Legislation Regarding the Early Musky Bass Seasons
Support—Current statutory restrictions did not have angler public input
Passed the Assembly and Senate—Signed into law
Counterpart bill is SB 48
- AB 7—Declaring portions of the Brunsweler River in Ashland County a State Wild River
Support—Protects fish and wildlife habitat on a largely undeveloped river
Passed by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Counterpart Bill, SB 6 passed Senate and Assembly—**Signed into law**
- AB 43—Designating the Totogatic Rivers as a State Wild River
Support—Protects fish and wildlife habitat on a largely undeveloped river
Passed the Assembly; **Passed the Senate; on Governor's Desk**
- AB 83—Reducing the Fishing License Fees for Additional Disabled Individuals
Passed the Assembly Veterans and Military Affairs Committee
Support—Recognizes the great sacrifice of our disabled veterans
- AB 84—Additional Requirements for Natural Resource Board Membership
In the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Support—Recognizes long time history of NRB appointments
- AB 86—Authorizing Non-residents over 65 to Use Crossbows
Passed the Assembly Fish and Wildlife Committee
In the WWF Wildlife Committee
- AB 90—Creating a Slow-No-Wake Zone within 100 feet of Lakes' Shoreline
Support—Protects Fish and Wildlife Habitat and shore and boat fishing in near shore areas of lakes
Counterpart Bill, SB 12 has passed the Assembly and awaits Governor's signature
- AB 138—Restoring the Appointment Authority of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board
In Assembly Natural Resources Board
Support—Overwhelming support in hunting, fishing and trapping community;
- AB 139—Adjusting Littering Penalties for Larger Violations
In Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Support—Will reduce larger littering law violations
- AB 150—Authorizing the Possession and Sale of Green Fur
Passed Assembly, Passed Senate, On Governor's Desk
Support—Updates antiquated laws on the sale and possession of green fur
- AB 162—Regulation of Invasive Plants and Animals
In Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Public hearing held in Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Support—Invasive species have serious adverse impact on fish and wildlife habitat

Assembly Bills Introduced Since April

- AB 219—Mandatory Wearing of PFDs by 12 year olds and lower ages
In Assembly Tourism and Recreation Committee
Support—Protects youth from accidental drowning
- AB 222—Hunting Mentor Bill
Passed Assembly, Passed Senate, on Governor's Desk
Support—Will provide greater hunting opportunity for youth and adult hunting
- AB 250—Regulation of Dog Breeders
In Assembly Consumer Affairs Committee
Oppose—As written, seek changes to address sportsmens' concerns
- AB 256—Regulation of Wind Generation Facilities
Passed Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee
Support—Has been modified to better protect migratory birds and bats
- AB 257—Environmental Violation Penalty Surcharge
In Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Support—provides additional funding for environmental education
- AB 281—Reduction of Phosphorus in Dish Detergents
Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Support—Increase protection of water quality and fish and wildlife habitat
- AB 299—Regulation of Materials Containing Mercury
In Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Support—Will reduce mercury contamination in fish

Senate Bills

- SB 5—Bans the use and sale of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus with exceptions
Support—Protects water quality and fish and wildlife habitat important to anglers.
Counterpart Bill AB 3 passed the Assembly and Senate; Signed into Law
- SB 6—Declaring portions of the Brunsweler River in Ashland County a State Wild River
Support—Protects fish and wildlife habitat on a largely undeveloped river
Passed the Senate and Assembly; **Signed into Law**
Counterpart bill is AB 7
- SB 12—Requires a 100 foot slow-no-wake zone from shore for watercraft, retains 200-foot zone for personal water craft—allows local exceptions
Support—Protects fish and wildlife habitat and shore and boat fishing in near shore areas
Passed the Senate and the Assembly; on Governor's Desk
Counterpart Bill was AB 90
- SB 47—Declaring portions of the Totogatic River in Bayfield, Sawyer, Washburn, Douglas and Burnett Counties a state wild river
Support—Protects fish and wildlife habitat on a largely undeveloped river
Passed the Senate and the Assembly; On Governor's Desk
Counterpart to AB 43
- SB 48—Repeals past legislation regarding the early musky and bass season
Support—Current statutory restrictions did not have angler public input
Counterpart Bill AB 4 passed the Assembly and Senate; Signed into law
- SB 61—Creates a deer license plate with the revenue going to the fish and wildlife account
Support—Would create additional voluntary funding for the Fish and Wildlife Account
In Senate Natural Resources Committee
- SB 107—Recycling of Electronic Devices
Passed Senate
In WWF Environment Committee
- SB 110—Regulation of Dog Breeders
In Senate Agriculture Committee
Support—Deals with Problem "Puppy Mills" while not causing over regulation of sportsmen and women that raise dogs
- SB 112—Authorizing the Sale and Possession of Green Fur
Passed Senate, Passed Assembly, On Governor's Desk
Support—Reforms Antiquated Laws Regulating the Possession and Sale of Green Fur
Counterpart to AB 150
- SB 113—Restoring the Appointment Authority of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board

- In Senate Natural Resources Committee
Support—Restores system strongly supported by hunters, anglers and trappers
Counterpart to AB 138
- SB 119—Regulation of Open Burning of Solid Waste and Waste Tires
In Senate Environment Committee
In WWF Environment Committee
- SB 123—Regulation of Invasive Aquatic Plants and Animals
Passed Senate and Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Support—Invasive species have serious negative impacts on fish and wildlife habitat
- SB 139—Regulation of Metallic Mining
In Senate Environment Committee
In WWF Environment Committee

Senate Bills Introduced Since April Board Meeting

- SB 167—Hunting Mentor Bill
Passed Senate, Passed Assembly, On Governor's Desk
Support—Will increase hunting opportunities for youth and adults
- SB 207—Youth Target Shooting Bill
In Senate Natural Resources Committee
Support—Will increase shooting and hunting proficiency and safety
- SB 222—Changes Group Hunting Laws Including Archery and Changes Laws Relative To Firearms in Vehicles
Hearing held in Senate Natural Resources Committee
In WWF Wildlife Committee

Senate Joint Resolution

- SJR 10—Constitutional Amendment preventing the diversion of funds from segregated accounts
Support—This constitutional amendment will protect the fish and wildlife stamp accounts from being diverted to purposes other than what they were established for.
In Senate Ethics Reform and Government Operations Committee
- AJR 16—Constitutional Amendment preventing the diversion of funds from segregated Accounts
Support—This constitutional amendment will protect the fish and wildlife stamp accounts from being diverted to purposes other than what they were established for.
In Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Counterpart to SJR 10

2009 WWF Print Now Available



"Morning Majesty"

Brian Kuether

Edition Size: Signed and Numbered 400
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Price: \$25.00
Remarques are available for additional cost.
Shipping and Handling: \$5.00

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation 2009 Print of the Year

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Growing up in rural Wisconsin, Brian Kuether has always had an intimate familiarity with the natural world and the landscapes and wildlife which have surrounded him. At a very young age he spent countless hours observing, sketching and just being around animals.

As an artist, Brian is constantly experimenting with a sense of realism in his work. He patterns his work after that which moves him about a subject. His style reflects a certain amount of spontaneity and renders a slight impressionistic feel which creates an atmosphere that never dulls the viewer. Brian invites the viewer to experience life the way he sees it.

Brian Kuether is an artist of versatility. He paints landscapes, figures and portraits, as well as wildlife subjects. His favorite medium is oil, but he has worked with a variety of dry mediums as well, especially when working his studies.

Having traveled extensively throughout the country, Brian has been afforded the opportunity to sketch and paint on location, to visit museums, study master painters and to gather reference material from wilderness areas. His art has been collected throughout the world.

Brian may be contacted by email: bkdouble@yahoo.com

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Wisconsin Outdoor Youth Expo



Wildlife & Heritage Camp volunteers at the 2009 Wisconsin Outdoor Youth Expo! Reaching over 3000 students with topics based around wildlife calling, habitat, identification, tracking and trapping. Volunteers represented several organizations including the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, WI Department of Natural Resources, Gen Ebert, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Wisconsin Trappers Association, Conservation Congress, All Canada Show, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center.

Make Safety Skills a "Habit" at Shooting Ranges

Wisconsin hunters must add safe practices to the list of skills they want to hone as they head to the more than 400 public and private shooting ranges across the state, according to the state hunter education administrator.

"It's been said it takes 2,000 repetitions before it becomes a habit. But most hunters don't handle their firearms that many times each year," said Conservation Warden Tim Lawhern, who coordinates the Department of Natural Resources hunter education program. "Practicing safety each time you handle your firearm should be second nature. But, it is hard to create a habit if you're not handling your firearm that often."

While there are general safety rules that apply at all times, Lawhern said, shooters must take time to acquaint themselves with the special rules that apply to the specific range they are shooting on.

"Follow them to the letter," he said.

In addition to those special site-specific safety rules, Lawhern offers these to use no matter when you are handling

your firearm:

- Do not shoot tracers, incendiaries or armor-piercing ammunition. These can cause fires and damage property.
- Never shoot at someone else's target. Your bullet could end up where you don't want it.
- Keep guns pointed down-range.
- Do not put your finger on the trigger before your sights are on target and you are ready to fire.
- Never leave a loaded firearm unattended on the bench.
- Do not uncase a gun behind the firing line. Instead, take the cased gun to the bench, take it out of the case, making sure the muzzle is pointed down-range.
- Never assume you can do something because you watch another do it.
- Obey the posted rules at the range you are shooting on.
- Keep your actions open when you are not shooting. Even using a "chamber flag" will help others see your firearm is not loaded.

"Remember, amateurs practice until they get it right. Professionals practice until they can't get it wrong," Lawhern said.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Grants

USFWS Release 6/09

Conservation of Neotropical Migratory Birds & Habitat (\$23 Million)

Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced more than \$4.8 million in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants for 36 projects supporting neotropical migratory bird conservation throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Partners will match these funds with more than \$18 million that will support habitat restoration, environmental education, population monitoring, and other priority activities within the ranges of neotropical birds in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico and 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

"As we mark the observance of International Migratory Bird Day and celebrate the incredible journeys these birds make between their summer and winter homes. I'm honored to be able to support partnerships that are making a real difference for neotropical migrants," said Salazar. "These grants will support important multi-national partnership projects throughout the hemisphere so future generations of people in North, Central and South America can enjoy and appreciate these remarkable birds."

Nearly 350 species of neotropical migratory birds breed in the United States and Canada and winter in Latin

America, including plovers, terns, hawks, cranes, warblers and sparrows. The populations of many of these birds are presently in decline, and several species are currently protected as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000 established the matching grants program to fund projects promoting the conservation of neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Funds may be used to protect, research, monitor and manage bird populations and habitat, as well as to conduct law enforcement and community outreach and education. By law, at least 75 percent of the money goes to projects in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, while the remaining 25 percent can go to projects in the United States.

Wisconsin Project: The Golden Sand Resource and Conservation Development Council will use a grant of \$250,000, matched by \$750,000 in partner funds, to help the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources enhance conservation of 130 neotropical migratory bird species by preserving 750 acres, providing breeding, nesting, migratory and stopover habitat.

State Wildlife (\$61 Million)

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that more than \$61 million will be distributed to the fish and wildlife agencies of the 50 states, commonwealths, the District of Columbia, territories, to help conserve and recover imperiled fish and wildlife through the State Wildlife Grant Program. The State Wildlife Grant program (SWG) provides states, the District of Columbia, commonwealths and territories federal funds for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of fish and wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished. These program funds come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

"The State Wildlife Grant program exemplifies the Department of the Interior's strong support for conservation efforts by the states," said Salazar. "Along with President Obama's commitment to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the State Wildlife Grants will provide states critical funding to help conserve their highest priority wildlife, plants and habitat."

Funds support both planning and implementation activities. Planning activities must contribute directly to the development or modification of a State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (also known as a Wildlife Action Plan). Implementation activities are activities designed to execute their Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. Priority for use of these funds is placed on those species with the greatest conservation need, while also considering the relative level of funding available for the conservation of those species.

Colorado's efforts to conserve the Gunnison sage-grouse provide an excel-

lent example of how states are putting SWG funds to use. A number of interrelated SWG-funded projects have completed sage grouse conservation actions outlined in the Colorado Wildlife Action Plan. The effort includes partners such as Colorado Audubon, which has created a citizen volunteer corps to monitor habitat conditions in the Gunnison Basin and to improve habitat on other public and private lands, while Colorado State University will create a habitat guide to help private and public land managers adapt their grazing and land management practices to benefit sage grouse. Conservation easements now protect thousands of acres of high quality sage grouse habitat. These cooperative actions involving the public, private conservation groups, sportsmen, landowners and federal land managers will help the Gunnison sage-grouse survive on a working landscape.

The State Wildlife Grants program provides grants to state and other eligible jurisdictions through a formula-based distribution calculated using the state's land area and population. Congress initiated this grant program in FY 2002 and funded it from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Since the program's inception, Congress has provided \$502,246,708 for conservation work on state and private lands.

Please visit the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program web site at <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG09Apportionment.pdf> for state, commonwealth, and territory funding allocations.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Wisconsin: | |
| Reverted 2007 Funds | \$18,251 |
| 2009 Funds | \$1,068,828 |
| Total | \$1,087,079 |



10 Waters and 4 Recipes to Turn Good Fishing into Good Eating

SPOONER - Catch-and-release has caught on so big in the bass fishing world that Wisconsin anglers are only keeping about 5 percent of what they catch.

They kept only 550,000 of the 10 million small mouth and largemouth bass they caught in 2006, according to a mail survey of anglers. In contrast, Wisconsin anglers in the same year kept about 30 percent of the walleye they caught, or 2.2 million of 7 million caught.

In some places in northern Wisconsin, bass are very abundant and can make a tasty meal. Fisheries managers are encouraging harvest on these waters to keep the numbers in balance and to improve bass growth rates. As always, larger bass are less common and anglers should consider releasing them.

"No one should feel bad about harvesting largemouth bass in northwest Wisconsin," says DNR fisheries biologist Larry Damman, who is stationed in Spooner. "They are our most abundant and under-utilized, naturally reproducing game fish. High minimum size limits coupled with angler catch and release ethic have resulted in many lakes with over abundant, stunted populations where few largemouth ever reach legal size. The biological need is to harvest fish less than the present minimum size limit."

Here are 10 waters to try in northwestern Wisconsin where harvest is encouraged and there are no minimum length limits. Check the Hook and Line Regulations for 2009-2010 for specific regulations.

Polk County: Balsam, Butternut Lake; Big Round Lake; Half Moon Lake; Pipe Lake and Ward Lake.

Washburn County: Big McKenzie Lake and Middle McKenzie Lake, both of which are actually in the southern bass zone, and Long Lake and Nancy Lake.

For anglers who don't automatically think of bass as shore lunch, here are some recipes shared by Larry Sperling, editor of Natural Resources magazine, to whet their appetite. Remember to follow the safe eating guidelines to enjoy eating your catch while limiting exposure to environmental contaminants like mercury and PCBs.

STEAMED ASIAN-STYLE BASS

INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons peanut oil
1 small onion, thinly sliced
Salt
One 1 1/2-inch piece of fresh ginger, peeled and grated (3 tablespoons)
2 1/2-pounds bass, skin-on, scaled fillets
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 teaspoon sesame oil
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
1 scallion, cut into 2-inch julienne strips

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat 1 tablespoon of the peanut oil in a small skillet. Add the onion and a pinch of salt and cook over high heat, stirring once or twice, until browned, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a small bowl and stir in the ginger.

2. In a large wok, set a steamer or round rack that will sit at least three

inches above the bottom. If you don't have a wok, just place a vegetable steamer in the bottom of a Dutch oven or four-quart pot with a cover. Add 2 inches of water and bring to a boil. Set the fish on a heatproof plate that will fit in the wok or pot and sprinkle the onion and ginger on the fish. Set the plate on the rack, cover the wok and steam the fish over moderate heat until just cooked through, about 20 minutes.

3. Drizzle the fish with soy sauce. In a small skillet, warm the remaining 1 tablespoon of peanut oil with the sesame oil over moderately high heat, then pour it over the fish. Sprinkle with the cilantro and scallion and serve.

BLACKENED BASS

INGREDIENTS

Buy commercial blackened fish spice or make your own

Spice mix

1 teaspoon sweet paprika
2 1/2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon onion powder
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
3/4 teaspoon white pepper
3/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano

Margarine (not butter), melted
Fresh bass fillets, about one pound apiece

DIRECTIONS

1. Mix spice mix together and store in a shaker bottle.

2. Dip fish fillets in margarine and refrigerate on waxed paper or in a pan until margarine is congealed.

3. Sprinkle both sides of fish liberally with the spice mix.

4. Heat a cast iron pan outside at least 10 minutes until it is blistering hot. Place one tablespoon margarine in bottom of pan and immediately place fish fillet into pan. The fish will cook so hot and almost steam while it is cooking. Turn once after a few minutes when the fillet is speckled with light dark brown spots of cooked spice. Turn only once, remove and keep warm in oven until all fillets are cooked. Let the pan reheat between batches. Cooking time per side will vary with thickness. Generally allow 1 1/2 minutes per side per inch of thickness.

Note: DO NOT try this inside. The smoke, odors and spattering from the hot cooking surface will stink up any kitchen and is a pain to clean. This is an ideal dish for a campfire.

BASS FISH BALLS OR PATTIES

INGREDIENTS

1 pound cooked bass, cooled and minced
1 small onion minced fine
1/2 fresh hot pepper or 1/8 teaspoon dried red pepper flakes
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 teaspoon thyme, fresh, minced

1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
Cooking oil

DIRECTIONS

1. Cook bass by poaching or boiling in a minimal amount of water. Cool, mince with a fork and set aside.

2. In a small bowl, mince the fish with a fork. Add the onion, pepper, garlic, thyme and salt and mix. Add minimal water to moisten the fish mixture. In a separate bowl, combine the flour and baking powder. Sprinkle the dry ingredients into the fish mix until it is firm enough to form small balls or flattened patties.

3. Heat a skillet on the stove top and heat about a quarter-inch of oil in the bottom. Form the fish mixture into one-inch balls or half-inch thick patties. Fry small quantities in the hot oil until brown. Transfer browned balls or patties to a serving dish lined with paper towel and serve with lemon slices or tartar sauce.

FRIED BASS

INGREDIENTS

Eight fresh bass filets, about eight to 12 ounces apiece
1 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon black pepper, ground
1 teaspoon sweet paprika
Two eggs
1/4 cup water
1 1/2 cups crushed crackers, dried potato flakes, seasoned bread crumbs or corn flake crumbs
Two cups cooking oil

DIRECTIONS

1. Set up three pans to dip the fish. In the first pan, mix flour, salt, pepper and paprika. Set aside. In the second pan, beat eggs and water until frothy. Set aside. In the third pan, place crumb mixture of choice.

2. Dredge fish fillets in the seasoned flour mix on both sides and shake off excess. Dip coated fillet in egg wash on both sides. Lift fillet and let excess liquid drain back into the pan. Dip fillet in final crumb mixture, patting mix on both sides. Set coated fillets aside until ready to cook.

3. Heat oil in pan and cook fish a few fillets at a time until golden brown on each side. Let the oil warm up to frying temperature again between batches. Place cooked fish on a platter lined with paper towel and keep warm in a 250 degree oven until all fillets are cooked. Serve with lemon slices, malt vinegar or tartar sauce.

Sperling says that bass are also very tasty just baked in a casserole with a little soup mix on top and served on rice. "Just mix any canned 'cream of whatever' soup with about a quarter cup of dry sherry or sauteur wine, pour over seasoned fish fillets and bake in a 350 oven covered for about 40 minutes and uncovered for another 15 minutes.

Wisconsin Fishing

Fast Facts

- 635,000 boats registered in Wisconsin
- Boats registered in IL, MN and Iowa add hundreds of thousands to this total
- Fishing is the top activity enjoyed while in a boat
- 20 people died in 2008 in boating accidents
- 79% of boat operators in accidents had not taken a safety course

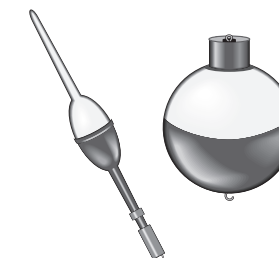
The Public Trust Doctrine

Wisconsin's Waters Belong to Everyone

Wisconsin lakes and rivers are public resources, owned in common by all Wisconsin citizens under the state's Public Trust Doctrine. Based on the state constitution, this doctrine has been further defined by case law and statute. It declares that all navigable waters are "common highways and forever free," and held in trust by the Department of Natural Resources.



Be Safe Out There!



Kewaunee River Fish Stocking Moved to Root River Following Manure Spill

KEWAUWEE - The Department of Natural Resources will stock steelhead into the Root River near its weir facility on the Root River in Racine County.

On April 10th, an accidental release of manure into the headwaters of the Kewaunee River potentially threatens the water quality at a planned stocking area on the river. Accordingly, DNR Fisheries staff, who had to move 20,000 Ganaraska strain steelhead and 3,700 Chambers Creek strain steelhead out of the hatchery this week, choose the Root site instead. The young fish were already marked with a fin clip to identify the strain when they return to the weir and stocking could not be delayed any further. The fish are needed for egg collection.

Each year the Kewaunee River is stocked with Steelhead, Brown Trout,

Chinook and Coho Salmon for Lake Michigan fishing. The Kewaunee is also stocked with extra trout and salmon to assure adequate spawning fish return to the Besadny Fish Facility weir where eggs are collected and sent to the DNR Hatcheries to raise trout and salmon for restocking Lake Michigan. Prior to the mid-April manure spill, the Kewaunee River had received its entire quota of coho salmon and brown trout, and a portion of the steelhead destined for the Kewaunee.

DNR fisheries staff and water quality biologists will continue monitoring the river's water quality while cleanup progresses. Until the situation on the Kewaunee River is corrected and the upstream reaches of the river return to normal dissolved oxygen levels, the DNR will not be stocking any additional trout or salmon into the river. Recent readings

conducted on Wednesday showed dissolved oxygen levels to be much improved downstream from the spill.

Additional fish scheduled for stocking in the Kewaunee River this spring include approximately 80,000 Chinook salmon fingerlings.

The farm owner responsible for the manure spill has been cooperating with the DNR, and extensive on-going efforts are being made to clean up and mitigate the environmental impacts of this manure spill. These efforts include preventing the movement of the manure farther downstream by blocking the road culvert, bypassing fresh water from upstream past the contaminated water, physically pumping out the manure-contaminated water that got into the river, and introducing truckloads of fresh water immediately downstream from the spill site.

VHS Fish Disease Found in Smallmouth Bass from Green Bay

MADISON - Test results returned Thursday show that VHS fish disease has been detected in smallmouth bass from Green Bay, state fisheries officials report.

The deadly fish disease was found in smallmouth bass from the bay in 2007, so this is not a new species nor location with VHS. It does show that the disease is active this year and underscores the need for anglers and boaters to take steps to prevent its spread, says Mike Staggs, Wisconsin's fisheries director.

"This is an important reminder that VHS is still out there and that we all need to take steps to prevent it from spreading to new lakes and rivers," Staggs says. "That includes not moving live fish, draining water from your boat and equipment, buying your bait in Wisconsin and following rules for using leftover bait."

"It's particularly important that anglers and tournaments that target smallmouth bass in Green Bay diligent-

ly take the prevention steps and consider additional measures, like disinfecting live wells that were holding smallmouth bass."

The three smallmouth bass from Sturgeon Bay were sent to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Madison earlier this spring for testing after anglers and DNR staff observed a high percentage of smallmouth bass with open skin lesions. DNR received word Thursday that VHS had been isolated from the fish.

DNR biologists in the Peshtigo area are now sending down a smallmouth bass found dead near the mouth of the Oconto River in Green Bay for DNR fish health specialist Sue Marcquenski to assess whether VHS is possible, in which case the fish would be sent on for testing. A citizen had reported seeing many dead small mouth bass in this area within the past couple of weeks.

So far, preliminary results from VHS tests on several waters statewide have

not found the disease, meaning VHS has not been detected elsewhere in the state beyond the Lake Winnebago and Lake Michigan systems.

VHS fish disease is not a human health threat but can kill 37 different species of fish, including trout, musky, bass and bluegill, and it caused large fish kills in some Great Lakes waters in 2005 and 2006. The disease was first detected in Wisconsin in 2007 in fish from the Lake Winnebago system and the Lake Michigan system; tests since then suggest the disease hasn't spread beyond those waters.

Anglers inadvertently moving infected live bait is a main way that VHS fish disease can spread; VHS can also be spread through VHS-contaminated water.

More information about VHS and steps to prevent it can be found online: VHS and You: Keeping Wisconsin's Waters Healthy.

Updated Fish Consumption Advice Available for 2009

MADISON - Updated fish consumption advice, new materials in Hmong and Spanish, and a new video are now available online to help anglers enjoy eating their catch while limiting their exposure to environmental contaminants.

"Fish are a low-cost meal and are rich in vitamins and minerals, but you need to be aware of the kinds and sizes of fish you eat and where they come from," says Candy Schrank, the Department of Natural Resources toxicologist who coordinates the fish consumption advisories that DNR and the Department of Health Services update and issue every year.

"Choose wisely: A health guide for eating fish in Wisconsin" will help anglers balance their consumption of store bought and locally caught fish with guidelines on intake of mercury and PCBs, two environmental contaminants that accumulate in fish across the country and can cause health problems for people who eat too many fish with high contaminant levels.

"People who aren't familiar with the advice should read our "Choose wisely" pamphlet carefully, and those who are

should see if their favorite fishing spot is on a list of waters with higher contaminant levels or if there have been any changes in consumption advice."

Printed copies of the fish consumption advisory are available at DNR offices as well.

All state waters are covered by the same general consumption advice. On 148 waters, people are advised to further limit their consumption of fish because higher levels of mercury and PCBs have been found in fish from those waters, Schrank says.

More materials available for non-English speaking anglers

Brochures describing the general consumption advice that applies to all waters are now available online on the DHS web pages and also on DNR fish consumption advisory web pages.

Dr. Henry Anderson, chief medical officer of the Department of Health Services, said the new materials aim to reach out to Hmong and Spanish speaking residents who eat sport fish. Surveys have shown a lower awareness of the fish consumption advisory among those

groups.

"We've added two new guides in Hmong and Spanish to better reach their anglers and their families with important information about eating the fish they catch," he says.

Find more information on the Department of Health Services Eating Safe Fish web pages. [dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/fish].

Mostly minor changes in advice for 2009, but four lakes added to special advice list.

The 2009 updated fish consumption advisory reflects results from recent fish sampling from 96 waterbodies conducted by the DNR and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and analysis of those results by DNR and DHS toxicologists. Most of the results resulted in minor changes to consumption advice, but four new lakes were added to the list of those with specific consumption advice because of higher levels of mercury. Those lakes are Tug Lake in Lincoln County and Big Fork, Island, and Planting Ground lakes of the Three Lakes Chain in Oneida County.

Volunteers Awarded for Work on Controlling Invasive Species

Thousands of volunteers, landowners and professionals around the state spend their weekends and evenings battling invasive species. The Wisconsin Governor's Council on Invasive Species recently recognized some outstanding individuals and groups fighting invasive species with Invader Crusader Awards.

The 2009 awards were given out at the Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin's Annual Meeting on May 30, 2009 that was held at the UW-Madison Arboretum. Award Winners include:

Voluntary Efforts:

• **Susan Kenney, Sauk-Prairie River PALS, Sauk City** – In 2006, Susan started simply with pulling garlic mustard along the Sauk River. It has now evolved into a project that involves elementary and high school students, planting of native species, installing bird houses, a Garlic Mustard Festival, and a first controlled burn this spring. She has also worked with local government officials to educate them about the effects of invasive species.

• **Roma Lenehan and Glenda Denniston, Friends of Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Madison** – For many years, Roma and Glenda have been a force to be reckoned with at Lakeshore Nature Preserve where they lead invasive plant control efforts. In addition, they have done an outstanding job of collecting records of control efforts and results. Both Roma and Glenda have written several articles for the Friend's newsletter and have done many tours.

• **Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Cooperative, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties** are all a part of this regional effort. Organized in 2007, SEWISC is comprised of multiple public and private organizations. In just one-and-a-half years, this group has created a protocol for monitoring, prioritizing and containing species and has held trainings and workshops to reach out to local citizen groups, nature centers, and local government agencies. They have a goal to develop a template weed ordinance that can be used as a guide for municipalities.

Professional Efforts:

• **Bill Moore, Ecological Woodland Management, Platteville** – As a

restoration ecologist, Bill works not only to restore the prairies and savannas, but to teach the landowners about the commitment needed to control invasive species and manage their land. He recommends that the landowners work beside him to learn the techniques for various control methods.

• **Peter Layton, Tallgrass Restoration, Milton** – In 2003, Peter purchased 220 acres with the intention to restore it and to save the land from development. Being within an important bird area in the Lake Koshkonong watershed, he has increased the quality avian habitat to 220 acres of grassland. He has also worked on continuing preservation of his other parcel of land due to at-risk species that have called it home. His land is benefiting future research on bio-fuels and their effect on bird and insect communities by having an agreement with Michigan Tech. Peter is also on the steering committee for the Invasive Removal Squad which is an establishing Cooperative Weed Management Area in Rock, Green, and Jefferson counties.

• **Gypsy Moth Suppression Team, Wisconsin DNR, Andrea Diss-Torrance, Bill McNee, Mark Guthmiller, Colleen Robinson-Klug** – Formed in early 1990s to create a cost-share program for landowners and communities to suppress gypsy moths, this group has stayed committed to protecting our forests. Andrea Diss-Torrance has been the coordinator since it started, Bill McNee and Mark Guthmiller are regional DNR suppression program coordinators, and Colleen Robinson-Klug is the natural resource educator for the program. Thousands of acres of oak forests have been protected through their efforts which include providing financial support for suppression and training for community awareness. They have designed an invasive insect education program that teaches children and adults about the biology and management of invasive insects. A well informed public takes ownership of their areas and takes steps to suppress gypsy moths.

These awards are a part of Invasive Species Awareness Month. This is a time where individuals and groups throughout the state hold workshops, work parties, and field trips to educate others about invasive species in their areas and about to make a difference. More information about these activities can be found at www.invasivespecies.wi.gov.

2009 Waterfowl Season Public Hearings

• **August 3, 4, 5 & 6** – The Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings on revisions to ch. NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to the 2009 migratory game bird seasons and waterfowl hunting zones. Season dates and bag limits will be set for ducks and Canada geese. Under international treaty and federal law, migratory game bird seasons are closed unless opened annually via the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulatory process. Because of the timing of Wisconsin's rule process and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife rule process, the actual season lengths, dates and bag limits cannot be determined at this time for much of the rule. For more

information contact James Christopoulos, Assistant DNR Migratory Game Bird Ecologist at (608) 261-6458. The hearings will all begin at 7 p.m. and will be held:

• **August 3, La Crosse** – State Office Bldg, Rooms B-19 and B-20, 3550 Mormon Coulee Road.

• **August 4, Rice Lake** – Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC), Room 243, 1900 College Dr.

• **August 5, Appleton** – Agricultural Services Center, Main conference room, 3369 West Brewster St.

• **August 6, Pewaukee** – Comfort Suites Lake Country, Thunder Bay room, N14 W24121 Tower Place.

\$100,000 Awarded for Citizen Monitoring Projects

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary Matt Frank today announced the 2009 Citizen-Based Monitoring Partnership Program awards, providing \$100,000 to help fund 22 high-priority natural resource monitoring projects conducted by citizen groups across the state. For the \$100,000 awarded by the DNR this year, citizen groups will invest an estimated \$188,600 in volunteer time and \$98,500 in cash from other sources for an effort totaling \$387,100.

"Wisconsin has been an international leader in environmental stewardship for decades, and citizen-based monitoring has a long history here," Frank said. "It is important to recognize the valuable contributions these programs make to the conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources and support their efforts. These projects help engage Wisconsin students and citizens in the proactive conservation of our vital natural resources."

Through the Citizen-Based Monitoring Partnership Program, the Department of Natural Resources works with community and school groups, conservation organizations and other agencies to gather critical information on plants, animals, water and other natural resources. Projects are selected through a competitive review process with projects eligible to receive up to \$4,999 in funding per year. Since 2004 the Partnership Program has helped fund 114 high priority natural resource monitoring projects statewide.

One of the selected projects, the Eau Claire County Forest Barrens Inventory, will receive \$4,980 in funding and the project's sponsors, Beaver Creek Reserve Citizen Science Center and Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department, will contribute \$6,400 in cash and 300 volunteer hours worth another \$6,000.

More information on Wisconsin's citizen-based monitoring program is available on the Wisconsin Citizen Based Monitoring Web site (cbm.wiatri.net).

The 22 projects and sponsoring organizations awarded Partnership Program funding for the 2010 fiscal year are:

• Volunteer Carnivore Tracking Master Tracker and Training Program – Timber Wolf Alliance (\$4,999).

• Middle and Lower Sugar River Citizen Monitoring Program Development – Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (\$4,890).

• Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring on Rusk County Lakes – Rusk County Waters Alliance (\$1,569).

• Monitoring Lake Level Trends in Northeastern Wisconsin – North Lakeland Discover Center (\$4,999).

• Iron County American Marten Monitoring – Expanding a School and Community-Based Research Project - North Lakeland Discover Center (\$4,999).

• Expanding on a Landowner Monitoring Strategy for Native Biodiversity in Southwest Wisconsin –

Blue Mounds Area Project (\$3,445).

• Kickapoo River Watershed Extended Water Quality Monitoring Program- Valley Stewardship Network (\$4,500).

• Monitoring Protocols for Landowners – Development of a Monitoring Handbook of Tiered Skill-Level Techniques, Protocols and Data Collection – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (\$4,999).

• Piloting a Landowner Monitoring Strategy of Indicator Species for Habitat Health in the Lower Kickapoo River – Kickapoo Initiative (\$3,900).

• Third Annual Kirtland's Warbler Census in Wisconsin – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (\$4,818).

• Project RED (Riverine Early Detectors) – River Alliance of Wisconsin (\$4,999).

• Citizen-Based Monitoring Field Practicum & Curriculum: Flambeau Mine Biodiversity Assessment – Bruce High School, Rusk County, Wisconsin (\$4,999).

• Aquatic Macrophyte Surveys in Rivers of the Upper St. Croix Watershed: Working to Identify and Limit the Spread of Eurasian Water – Grantsburg High School, Burnett County, Wisconsin (\$4,998).

• Citizen sampling to confirm, quantify and identify sources of E. coli pollution in the Bad River Watersheds – Bad River Watershed Association (\$4,990).

• Implementing a Statewide Red-shouldered Hawk Survey in Wisconsin - Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (\$4,999).

• Monitoring Kilbourn Creek: A Service-Learning Program at Indian Trail Academy – Indian Trail Academy, Kenosha Unified School District (\$3,992).

• Monitoring Phosphate in the Creeks Feeding Little Sturgeon Bay – Little Sturgeon Area Property Owners Association (\$528).

• Eau Claire County Forest Barrens Inventory – Beaver Creek Reserve Citizen Science Center and Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department (\$4,980).

• Red Cedar River Basin Monitoring Group: A Partnership for Action – Tainter and Menomin Lake Improvement Association (\$4,999).

• Carnivore and Timber Wolf Population Survey and Training of Friends of Crex Volunteers – Friends of Crex Volunteers and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (\$4,150).

• Building a Diverse Audience through Citizen-based Monitoring: A Career Pipeline Approach – Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee (\$4,999).

• Expanding Invasive Species Identification in Manitowoc County – Manitowoc County Lake Association & Woodland Dunes Nature Center (\$4,950).

Annual Survey Indicates Solid Ruffed Grouse Population in State

Wisconsin's ruffed grouse population appears to be on an upswing for a fourth year in a row, according to data that state wildlife managers collected during the 2009 spring drumming counts.

"The central and northern management regions showed the greatest increase in drumming activity over last year with 14 percent and 6 percent increases, respectively," said Scott Hull, upland wildlife ecologist for the Department of Natural Resources. "The southwest region showed a decrease of 24 percent and the southeast region showed a decline with 58 percent fewer drums than in 2008." Population estimates for ruffed grouse are divided into four management regions around the state.

"In total, drumming counts increased by 3 percent over the last year. That is on top of a 7 percent increase recorded between 2007 and 2008" said Hull.

The 2009 ruffed grouse survey report is available on the Wisconsin Wildlife Surveys page of the DNR Web site.

While this increase may not be huge, Hull said, in general it is still a "welcome indication" that the Wisconsin ruffed grouse population is rising in the current population cycle.

For reasons not well understood by biologists, grouse populations cycle up and down over an 8 to 10 year period.

The previous high population point was in 1999.

"These are good survey results, and I'm optimistic that we'll have a successful grouse season in 2009," said Hull.

Each spring, biologists, wardens, foresters, members of the Ruffed Grouse Society and other volunteers travel survey routes stopping to listen at predetermined locations for the unmistakable sound of drumming ruffed grouse. Drumming is the sound produced by a male grouse during the spring breeding season. The male will display on a drumming log with the intention of attracting a female by rapidly beating his wings producing a drumming sound.

"Ruffed grouse drumming surveys are helpful in tracking statewide population changes over the long term," said Hull. "However, they are not good predictors of local harvest or hunting opportunities. The most successful hunters usually are those who spend the most time in the field and cover the most ground."

There are two ruffed grouse hunting zones (pdf) in the state. The hunting dates for Zone A are Sept. 12, 2009 through Jan. 31, 2010. The dates for Zone B are Oct. 17 through Dec. 8, 2009. Daily bag limits are 5 birds per day in Zone A and 2 birds per day in Zone B. Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit.

Interior Review Shines Light on Controversial Utah Oil and Gas Leases

Bureau of Land Management Release
6/09

WASHINGTON, DC — A report released today by the U.S. Department of the Interior reveals flaws in the process through which a controversial set of oil and gas leases were offered in Utah in the waning days of the previous Administration, including several near Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, and Dinosaur National Monument.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, who commissioned the report from a team led by Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes, agreed with the report's recommendations, and has directed several follow-up actions, including directing that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in coordination with other federal and state agencies, formulate a comprehensive air quality strategy for the region and to form a special BLM team to conduct a final decision-making review of the 77 parcels in question. The report groups the parcels into categories, noting that some of the parcels, particularly those in areas with existing oil and gas development, may be appropriate for development after a final review. Other parcels in and near sensitive landscapes will require a more extensive, site-specific review.

"This report helps us unwind the problems that landed these 77 parcels in court with a temporary injunction," said Secretary Salazar. "It is clear that in the rush to sell the leases, the previous Administration bypassed normal reviews and consultations with the National Park Service. Only when the light of public scrutiny was shed on the situation did they reconsider some of the most problematic leases, but many of the 77 parcels that were auctioned off are close to National Park units and even closer to other sensitive, world-class landscapes including Desolation Canyon and Nine Mile Canyon."

On January 17, 2009, a federal district court enjoined the U.S. Department of the Interior from entering into oil and gas leases for 77 parcels in Utah that had been included in a December 19, 2008 auction. The court entered a temporary injunction against the sale of the parcels after concluding that plaintiffs had established "a likelihood of success on the merits" regarding their claims that the proposed lease

sales violated the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Management Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

On February 6, 2009, Secretary Ken Salazar concluded that the issues raised by the court, along with other concerns that had been raised about the lease sale, merited a special review. Accordingly, Secretary Salazar directed that the leases be withdrawn from further processing and he subsequently requested that Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes lead a Departmental team that would evaluate the lease sale and make recommendations regarding the matter.

The Hayes Report released today is based on a review of the administrative record that accompanied the auction of the 77 parcels; an inspection of the parcels in question via overflight or on-the-ground inspection; interviews of BLM, National Park Service (NPS), and other Interior Department officials who were involved in lease-related decision-making; a listening session with state and local officials and representatives, followed by a public town hall meeting for interested members of the public (held in Vernal, Utah on May 26); and conference calls with industry representatives and conservationists.

The Hayes Report made several recommendations, all of which Secretary Salazar has directed to be implemented, including:

- That BLM work more closely with the National Park Service to avoid a repeat of last fall's inappropriate public listing of parcels adjacent to three National Park units for oil and gas leasing;
- That a special BLM team be created to make final decisions regarding potential reoffering of some of the 77 parcels for oil and gas leasing. The review team grouped the parcels in several categories, noting that some parcels, such as those in current production areas, appear to be appropriate for oil and gas leasing, while other parcels will need more extensive review; and
- That BLM initiate a comprehensive air quality strategy for the region, in consultation with the National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and state officials. That Interior issue guidance to assist BLM officials in making leasing decisions on lands that are near parks and other sensitive landscapes, including parcels that have wilderness characteristics or other values that may not be consis-

tent with oil and gas development;

The Hayes Report is available online at <http://www.doi.gov/utahreport/>

The BLM (Department of the Interior) manages more land - 256 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface min-

eral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

U.S. Designates Upper Mississippi River Floodplains a Wetland of International Importance

USFWS Release 6/09

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced approval of portions of the Upper Mississippi River, including the Midwest's largest national wildlife refuge, as a Wetland of International Importance.

In making the announcement, Secretary Salazar said, "The ecological, social, and economic values of the Upper Mississippi River make it one of the crown jewels of this nation's wetlands. This marks the 27th U.S. wetland designated under the Convention on Wetlands. The U.S. became a party to the convention in 1987, which now includes 150 countries. It's certainly fitting that this area has now officially received international recognition."

The designation includes just over 300,000 acres of federal and state lands and waters of the Upper Mississippi River floodplain from near Wabasha, Minn. to north of Rock Island, Ill. The designation includes all of the 240,000-acre Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge headquartered in Winona, Minn. and the adjacent 6,226-acre Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin.

Other designated sites in the U.S. include such wetland icons as Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia and Florida, Everglades National Park in Florida, and Horicon Marsh in Wisconsin.

Don Hultman, refuge manager of the Upper Mississippi River refuge, said designation is aimed at strengthening public awareness and appreciation of the role wetlands play in sustaining environmental health, economic enterprise, and recreational well-being.

"The upper reach of the Mississippi River is an ecological treasure," Hultman

said.

Hultman said the refuge and surrounding public lands in the site support more than 200 nesting pairs of bald eagles, 120 species of fish, 42 species of mussels, and provide migration habitat for up to 50 percent of the world's population of canvas-back ducks.

He said the site also serves as a major navigation highway for commerce and provides millions of citizens abundant hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities.

Hultman said a Wetland of International Importance designation has no effect on current jurisdiction, authorities, or management responsibility of federal, state, or local governments that partner on management of the river. He stressed that designation does not affect current river uses.

"All commercial and recreational uses currently allowed or allowed in the future are not affected. Designation does not dictate land and water use of any kind," Hultman said.

The designation proposal was endorsed by the Department of Natural Resources of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and seven members of Congress from the respective states.

With Fish and Wildlife Service approval, the designation package now goes to the Ramsar Secretariat located in Gland, Switzerland, for technical review and formal addition to the international list of wetlands which now numbers more than 1,600 sites. Formal designation is expected early in 2010.

For more information on the Wetlands of International Importance program, go to www.ramsar.org.

"Trivia"

NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson



Photo: Dan Wright, 2009

In February, 1807, under the guidance of President Thomas Jefferson, Congress authorized a "...survey to be taken of the coasts of the United States..." This act would form the Survey of the Coast, an agency whose successors would eventually become part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. President Jefferson's namesake: the **Thomas Jefferson** continues his legacy by surveying the oceans and harbors along the Gulf of Mexico and East Coast of the United States. The **Thomas Jefferson**, whose home port is Norfolk, VA, is part of a fleet of NOAA survey vessels. The primary mission is to collect and process the data needed to maintain and update the nautical charts along the U.S. East Coast, Gulf of Mexico, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Accurate charts are critical for the safe shipping of goods and services to and from our shores.

Vessel Facts:

- Length (LOA): 208 ft. (63.4 m)
- Draft, Maximum: 14 ft. (4.3 m)
- Gross Tonnage: 1,466 tons
- Cruising Speed: 12 knots
- Range: 19,200 nmi
- Endurance: 45 days
- Endurance Constraint: Food
- Lab Space: (approx.) 700 sq. ft.
- Commissioned officers: 8
- Licensed engineers: 4
- Crew: 21
- Scientists: Up to 3

NOAA Takes Delivery of "Pisces" New Fisheries Survey Vessel

NOAA Release 6/09

NOAA took delivery of *Pisces*, the third of four new fisheries survey vessels and a significant achievement in the agency's efforts to modernize its fleet of fisheries, oceanographic, and hydrographic survey ships.

The ship, which will carry a crew of 21 and up to 17 scientists, will support NOAA's mission to protect, restore, and manage the use of living marine, coastal, and ocean resources. Her primary objective will be to study, monitor, and collect data on a wide range of sea life and ocean conditions, primarily in U.S. waters from the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and South Atlantic to North Carolina. This region includes important commercial and recreational fisheries, and is one of the world's best known and most productive marine areas.

Pisces is the third in a series of four planned 208-foot fisheries survey ships replacing aging ships in the NOAA fleet. It was launched in December 2007 and delivered to NOAA today by VT Halter Marine Inc. It will be commissioned and placed into operation in October 2009, after several more months of outfitting and shakedown with its homeport in Pascagoula, Miss.

"The *Pisces* represents a new generation of advanced fisheries survey vessels," said Rear Adm. Jonathan Bailey, director of NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. "This ship is vibration and noise-dampened and is an extremely quiet vessel under way. The *Pisces* is equipped with state-of-the-art technology in order to carry out a wide variety of research work for the nation for years to come."

The data collected by the ship will be

used by scientists who study variation in ocean conditions and sea life and how they relate to such issues as sustainable fisheries, fish habitat, habitat restoration, coral reefs, and protected species status. *Pisces* also will observe weather, conduct habitat assessments, and survey marine mammal and bird populations.

Foremost among *Pisces*'s state-of-the-art capabilities is the ship's "quiet" hull, which minimizes underwater sounds made by the ship. This allows scientists to use hydroacoustic methods for surveying marine life, and significantly reduces changes in the natural behavior of animals caused by ship noise.

"With its dramatically lower background noise levels, this ship will greatly enhance our ability to use the most sophisticated acoustic devices to assess fish, marine mammal and sea turtle stocks," said James Balsiger, acting NOAA assistant administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service. "*Pisces* will not only expand the type of information we are able to obtain, but as a multipurpose vessel will improve our ability to support ecosystem approaches to management of the oceans."

The ship was named by a team of five seventh grade students from Sacred Heart School in Southaven, Miss. The team won a regional NOAA contest to name the ship by submitting a winning essay that supported their name selection. The contest was an educational initiative to help students learn more about their region's marine and coastal environment as well as to generate a greater interest in scientific studies.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

“Recycled Facts” Safe Food Handling

U.S. Department of Agriculture Release

Handling Food Safely on the Road

V-A-C-A-T-I-O-N! Oh, how we long for that eight letter word every summer, when millions of us eagerly get away from school and work. We take to the road in cars or recreational vehicles; live on boats; relax in beach or mountain vacation homes; and camp.

No matter where we go or what we do, there is a common denominator that runs through all of our summer travels and relaxation — it's called F-O-O-D!

The “road” to food safety, however, can either be a bumpy one or smooth — depending on what precautions are taken handling meals as we travel this summer.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's nationwide, toll-free Meat and Poultry Hotline reminds everyone that some simple, common-sense food safety rules can save a vacation from disaster. Following this advice could make the difference between a vacation to remember and one that is remembered because people got sick from improperly handled food.

First, some general rules, while traveling this summer:

Plan Ahead... If you are traveling with perishable food, place it in a cooler with ice or freezer packs. When carrying drinks, consider packing them in a separate cooler so the food cooler is not opened frequently. Have plenty of ice or frozen gel-packs on hand before starting to pack food. If you take perishable foods along (for example, meat, poultry, eggs, and salads) for eating on the road or to cook at your vacation spot, plan to keep everything on ice in your cooler.

Pack Safely... Pack perishable foods directly from the refrigerator or freezer into the cooler. Meat and poultry may be packed while it is still frozen; in that way it stays colder longer. Also, a full cooler will maintain its cold temperatures longer than one that is partially filled. Be sure to keep raw meat and poultry wrapped separately from cooked foods, or foods meant to be eaten raw such as fruits.

If the cooler is only partially filled, pack the remaining space with more ice. For long trips to the shore or the mountains, take along two coolers — one for the day's immediate food needs, such as lunch, drinks or snacks, and the other for perishable foods to be used later in the vacation. Limit the times the cooler is opened. Open and close the lid quickly.

Now, follow these food safety tips:

When Camping... Remember to keep the cooler in a shady spot. Keep it covered with a blanket, tarp or poncho, preferably one that is light in color to reflect heat.

Bring along bottled water or other canned or bottled drinks. Always assume that streams and rivers are not safe for drinking. If camping in a remote area, bring along water purification tablets or

equipment. These are available at camping supply stores.

Keep hands and all utensils clean when preparing food. Use disposable moist towelettes to clean hands. When planning meals, think about buying and using shelf-stable food to ensure food safety.

When Boating... If boating on vacation, or out for the day, make sure the all-important cooler is along.

Don't let perishable food sit out while swimming or fishing. Remember, food sitting out for more than 2 hours is not safe. The time frame is reduced to just 1 hour if the outside temperature is above 90° F.

Now, about that “catch” of fish — assuming the big one did not get away. For fin fish: scale, gut and clean the fish as soon as they are caught. Wrap both whole and cleaned fish in water-tight plastic and store on ice. Keep 3-4 inches of ice on the bottom of the cooler. Alternate layers of fish and ice. Cook the fish in 1-2 days, or freeze. After cooking, eat within 3-4 days. Make sure the raw fish stays separate from cooked foods.

Crabs, lobsters and other shellfish must be kept alive until cooked. Store in a bushel or laundry basket under wet burlap. Crabs and lobsters are best eaten the day they are caught. Live oysters can keep 7-10 days; mussels and clams, 4-5 days.

Caution: Be aware of the potential dangers of eating raw shellfish. This is especially true for persons with liver disorders or weakened immune systems. However, no one should eat raw shellfish.

When at the Beach... Plan ahead. Take along only the amount of food that can be eaten to avoid having leftovers. If grilling, make sure local ordinances allow it.

Bring the cooler! Partially bury it in the sand, cover with blankets, and shade with a beach umbrella.

Bring along disposable moist towelettes for cleaning hands.

If dining along the boardwalk, make sure the food stands frequented look clean, and that hot foods are served hot and cold foods cold. Don't eat anything that has been sitting out in the hot sun for more than 2 hours (1 hour when the temperature is above 90° F) — a real invitation for foodborne illness and a spoiled vacation.

When in the Vacation Home or the Recreation Vehicle... If a vacation home or a recreational vehicle has not been used for a while, check leftover canned food from last year. The Meat and Poultry Hotline recommends that canned foods which may have been exposed to freezing and thawing temperatures over the winter be discarded.

Also, check the refrigerator. If unplugged from last year, thoroughly clean it before using. Make sure the refrigerator, food preparation areas, and utensils in the vacation home or in the recreational vehicle are thoroughly cleaned with hot soapy water.

Beach Monitoring Season Begins at Great Lakes Beaches

MADISON — Heading for one of Wisconsin's public coastal beaches? People can sign up to get their own personal water quality forecast for Lake Michigan and Lake Superior sites. The forecasts and information are also available for some inland beaches.

People can go online to [www.wibeaches.us] to learn the latest beach conditions at 120 Lake Superior and Lake Michigan sites and sign up to get beach advisories e-mailed to them. They also can find water quality information for more than 100 inland beaches including those monitored by the City of Madison, La Crosse County, Waukesha County Parks, and Winnebago County.

This is the seventh summer that public beaches along Wisconsin's Great Lakes coast are participating in a uniform program to regularly test for bacteria and inform swimmers about water quality conditions.

The Wisconsin Beach program, administered by the Department of Natural Resources and carried out by local governments, aims to reduce the public's risk of exposure to water-borne illnesses. Greg Kleinheinz, an Associate Professor of Microbiology at UW-Oshkosh who has been involved in the program since its start, is under contract with DNR to run the program.

Under the uniform beach monitoring program, counties test beaches up to four times a week for *E.coli* bacteria, which indicate the possible presence of bacteria and viruses that might sicken people. Potential sources of *E.coli* contamination at Wisconsin beaches include agricultural runoff, urban storm water and sewage overflows. In addition, wildlife and waterfowl feces contribute to high levels of *E.coli* in both beach sand and water.

“An increased risk of illness” advisory sign is posted at beaches whenever the water quality criterion of 235 colony forming units

(CFU) for *E.coli* is exceeded. A red STOP sign that closes the beach is posted when *E.coli* levels exceed 1,000 CFU, indicating a “serious risk” of illness, or whenever local health officials think it's warranted due to sewer overflows, heavy rainfalls, or other triggers, Kleinheinz says.

The 2009 program will be funded primarily from a federal grant DNR has secured from EPA for the purpose, most of which is passed through to the 13 local governments participating in the program this year. Under state law, local governments are responsible for providing public health advice for their local beaches unless the beaches are on state properties or owned by tribal governments.

Wisconsin became the first state to fully implement a beach monitoring program in accordance with federal program criteria and has been praised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a model for other states.

Training to identify contamination sources available to interested parties

New this year, DNR and UW-Oshkosh produced an instructional DVD to help local governments, private resort owners, and even waterfront property owners identify possible sources of contamination at their beaches, as well as prevent contamination by mitigating possible future sources.

The DVD, “A guide to Conducting Beach Sanitary Surveys in Wisconsin,” is free can assist in training local staff on the use of the Environmental Protection Agency's Sanitary Survey tool for source identification. People can get a copy by contacting Gregory Kleinheinz at (920) 424-1100 or kleinhei@uwosh.edu

DNR is working closely with UW-Oshkosh and the City of Racine Health Department to help train those who want to use the sanitary surveys developed by the EPA to assess all potential sources of pollution at the beaches.

U.S. Department of Justice

Shark Fins Dealer Pleads Guilty to Illegally Dealing in Fins from Protected Species

ATLANTA, GA - Mark L. Harrison, 47, of Southport, Florida, and “Harrison International LLC,” a Florida corporation, pleaded guilty in federal district court to violating the Lacey Act, a federal fish and wildlife trafficking law, by dealing in shark fins and not reporting their landing as required by law. In addition, Mark Harrison pleaded guilty to a second count related to his attempted export of shark fins of species that are prohibited to harvest under laws of the State of Florida. Mark Harrison also pleaded to trading in shark fins that had been prepared, packed or held under insanitary conditions.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, “There is an immense trade in wildlife products. Those who trade in wildlife, however, must comply with federal and state statutes and regulations intended to protect these important natural resources. We will support the investigative work of agencies that identify violations of these laws, and we commend the teamwork of the investigators who brought these wildlife violations to our attention.”

Special Agent in Charge for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Southeast Region Hal Robbins said, “We will not tolerate the illegal harvest and sale of protected shark species whose populations continue to diminish in our oceans. We are pleased with the apprehension of this defendant, who we believe is one of the country's largest commercial shark fin buyers, and I applaud the efforts of the prosecutors and agents involved in this multi-agency federal investigation.”

Special Agent in Charge, Southeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, James Gale said, “We are proud of the coordinated investigative work of our agents with their colleagues from NOAA, Office of Law Enforcement and the Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations. This case is an excellent example of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's commitment to investigate and interdict the commercialization of protected wildlife species.”

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the charges and other information presented in court: Harrison represented himself to be the nation's largest shark fin buyer, purchasing “millions” of shark fins over the years since 1989 that he had been in the business. In February 2005, Harrison purchased shark fins in Florida from an individual fisherman and later resold them in interstate commerce. No report of the landing or sale of

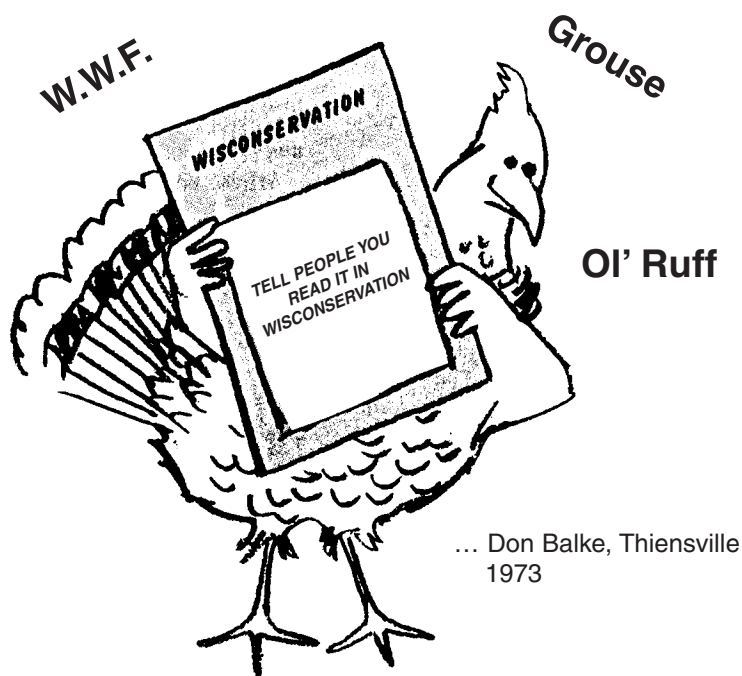
those fins was filed with any Florida authorities, as required by law.

In August 2007, Harrison attempted to export through Atlanta a shipment of shark fins that included at least 211 fins from Caribbean sharp-nosed sharks, 2 fins from bignose sharks, and 2 fins from night sharks, all of which are protected by Florida and/or federal laws due to their low population levels.

Finally, the plea agreements reveal that for almost four years, Harrison processed shark fins by drying them on open air racks and/or tarpaulins laid on the ground, outdoors, on his property in Southport, Florida. The fins were left out at all times until dry and were exposed to bird droppings and insects. Dogs ran freely among the drying racks. Harrison then sold the dried fins and shipped them in interstate commerce through the Northern District of Georgia.

Harrison is scheduled to be sentenced on August 19, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., before United States Magistrate Judge Russell Vineyard. He faces a maximum sentence of one year in federal prison, and a fine of up to \$100,000. His company faces a maximum fine of \$200,000. In determining the actual sentence, the court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

The Lacey Act, enacted in 1990, is the first national wildlife law and was passed to assist states in enforcing wildlife laws. It provides additional protection to fish, wildlife, and plants that were taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of state, tribal, foreign, or federal law. Since 1993, the NOAA Fisheries Service has managed, through federal fishery management plans, the commercial harvest and sale of sharks in or from federal waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. In 1998, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization finalized and adopted an “International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks,” recognizing the worldwide pressure being placed on declining shark populations by commercial fishing and the demand for shark fin soup. U.S. management of sharks has included prohibitions against retaining and/or selling particular species, including some in which Harrison was dealing, the populations of which are so reduced that further harvesting cannot be sustained. There are currently 19 federally protected species of sharks.



Environmental Enforcement

Wisconsin Department of Justice

Green Bay Company Fined For Violations of State Laws Regulating Maintenance of Underground Gasoline Storage Tanks

GREEN BAY - Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen announced that the Wisconsin Department of Justice has gotten a default judgment in an environmental lawsuit in Brown County Circuit Court. The State of Wisconsin brought this case against Greg Ness, Inc. for violations of state laws regulating the maintenance of underground gasoline storage tanks to protect the waters of the state from harm due to contamination from such liquids.

The Department of Commerce investigated Greg Ness, Inc., 975 West Mason Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Commerce found several violations regarding Greg Ness, Inc.'s storage and maintenance of those tanks and

ordered them permanently closed and removed from the ground. On June 10, 2009, after referral to the Department of Justice, the tanks were ordered to be removed and Greg Ness, Inc. was assessed forfeitures, costs and surcharges totaling \$6,539.20 for these violations.

"The Department of Justice will continue to work with the Department of Commerce to ensure Commerce's Orders are followed and non-conforming underground storage tanks are removed," said Van Hollen.

Wisconsin Assistant Attorney General Mary Batt represented the state. Brown County Circuit Court Judge John D. McKay imposed the penalties.

Fiberpro, Inc. Agrees To Pay Penalties For Air Pollution Control Violation

MADISON - Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen announced that his office has resolved a civil case it has brought against FiberPro, Inc., a La Crosse, Wisconsin company which manufactures structural fiberglass components. FiberPro uses a manufacturing process known as pultrusion, which involves pulling resin-impregnated fiberglass materials through heated forming devices. Its products include door and window components, tool handles, docks and industrial pallets. Like all industries, FiberPro's emission of air pollutants into the air is regulated under Wisconsin's air pollution control laws.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asked the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) to prosecute FiberPro for emitting into the air excessive amounts of a hazardous air pollutant known as styrene, a chemical which can cause adverse effects to the central nervous system of those who breathe high levels of it. FiberPro has long operated under the terms of a DNR-issued air pollution control operation permit which limited its styrene emissions to a 12-month average rate of 9.9 tons

per month. The complaint filed in the case alleges that for eleven months, from September 2007 through July 2008, FiberPro emitted styrene in excess of that limit. As required by its air pollution control permit, FiberPro self-reported these violations to the DNR after it performed monthly measurements of its emissions. To its credit, Van Hollen noted, FiberPro has taken steps to significantly reduce its emission of styrene and to come back into compliance with its air pollution control permit, including the installation of enclosures on its pultrusion machines to capture styrene emissions.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement which now has been approved by La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Elliott Levine, FiberPro has agreed to pay penalties totaling \$35,000. "The excessive emission of air pollution can threaten the quality of the air we breathe and public health," Van Hollen said. "The Wisconsin Department of Justice will continue to work with the Department of Natural Resources to ensure that such laws are followed."

Assistant Attorney General Thomas L. Dosch represented the state.

City of De Pere Foundry Resolves Environmental Case with the Department of Justice for \$325,000

MADISON - Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen announced that his office has settled an environmental case with The C. A. Lawton Co., formerly known as Bay Engineered Castings, Inc. in Brown County Circuit Court.

The amended complaint alleged a series of air pollution permit violations at the defendants' foundry in De Pere. The violations included failing to conduct particulate matter, volatile organic compound (VOC) and visible emissions testing; failing to meet required minimum stack heights; failing to control VOC, particulate matter and fugitive dust emissions as required by their air permits; and not submitting various required reports in a timely fashion.

Since the filing of this case and its settlement, Lawton has obtained amended air permits and come into substantial compliance with their requirements. The settlement between the parties was approved by the

Honorable Kendall M. Kelley, Brown County Circuit Court Judge on May 29, 2009 and provides that C.A. Lawton Co. will pay the State forfeiture and costs totaling \$325,000 over a five year period.

"Wisconsin law requires that industrial facilities comply with permits designed to protect the public from harmful air emissions," said Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen. "The Wisconsin Department of Justice will continue to work with the DNR to ensure that Wisconsin's citizens and natural resources are protected through compliance with the law."

A copy of the amended complaint is available at: <http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/amended-complaint.pdf>.

The case was investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Assistant Attorney General Steven Tinker prosecuted the case.

Court Orders Village of Cleveland to Pay \$10,000 in Forfeitures, Surcharges, and Costs to Resolve State's Environmental Case Alleging Unpermitted Discharges from Wastewater Treatment Facility

MADISON - Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen announced that his office has settled an environmental case with the Village of Cleveland located in Manitowoc County. Circuit Court Judge Patrick L. Willis entered judgment in favor of the State and against the defendant Village of Cleveland in the amount of \$10,000, which is comprised of forfeitures, statutory surcharges, and costs. Judgment was entered after the Village of Cleveland agreed to a stipulated judgment.

"Municipalities, like private actors, must follow the state's environmental laws," said Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen. "We will continue to work with the Department of Natural Resources to make sure these laws are enforced."

In a civil complaint filed in Manitowoc

County in November of 2008, the State of Wisconsin alleged that the Village of Cleveland violated their pollution discharge elimination system permit on February 21 and 22, 2007, when a release of waste activated sludge occurred from their wastewater treatment facility into an unnamed tributary of Fisher Creek. The Complaint also alleged that the Village of Cleveland violated its permit by failing to properly operate and maintain its treatment system. The Village of Cleveland's permit authorized it to discharge wastewater to Lake Michigan, however, the unpermitted release was a violation of their permit and state water pollution laws.

The case was investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Hirsch prosecuted the case.

Clinton Waste Hauler Found Guilty - Filed False Discharge Reports

CLINTON - Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen announced that his office has reached a plea agreement with Thomas M. Collins and Collins Sanitary, LLC of Clinton, Wisconsin resolving a criminal complaint filed in Walworth County in December of 2008.

Walworth County Circuit Court Judge Michael Gibbs found Collins Sanitary, LLC guilty after a plea of no contest was entered by Collins Sanitary, LLC. Two other counts as well as the complaint against Mr. Collins personally, were dismissed. The defendant Collins Sanitary, LLC was ordered to pay \$7,000 in fines and penalties.

"The law demands truthful and accurate reporting. It is unlawful and unfair to engage

in this untruthful behavior," Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen said.

The State alleged that defendants, Thomas M. Collins and Collins Sanitary, LLC, made false statements on discharge monitoring reports which were required to maintain a wastewater discharge permit. The alleged crimes took place between December 2005 and August 2006. Collins Sanitary was required to file accurate reports regarding his company's discharge of industrial waste to a slurry store wastewater storage facility located in Clinton, Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources investigated this case which was prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Cynthia R. Hirsch.

U.S. Customs

Endangered Species Wildlife on Luxury Yacht in South Florida Results in Conviction, Seizure and Forfeitures

MIAMI - Ruzial, Ltd., a Cayman Islands corporation, pled guilty on May 11, 2009, to felony charges of attempting to import and thereafter transport approximately 29 wildlife items that included specimens of various protected species, knowing that the wildlife was transported and possessed in violation of the Endangered Species Act, the federal Lacey Act and other U.S. laws and regulations, following a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) investigation.

The announcement was made by Anthony V. Mangione, special agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Miami, R. Alexander Acosta, U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, James Gale, FWS special agent in charge, and Harold Woodward, CBP director of operations.

U.S. District Court Judge William P. Dimitrouleas accepted Ruzial's plea and adjudicated the company guilty. The judge ordered Ruzial to pay a criminal fine of \$50,000 to the Lacey Act Reward Fund established pursuant to Title 16, U. S. Code, Section 3375, and administered by the Secretary of the Interior. In addition, the court ordered Ruzial to pay \$100,000 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a congressionally-chartered organization authorized by law to receive payments arising as a result of criminal convictions. Finally, Judge Dimitrouleas ordered Ruzial to forfeit the 29 items of contraband wildlife, which include specimens of reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*), anaconda (*Eunectes* spp.), ivory of extant species of elephants (*Loxodonta africana* / *Elephas maximus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), Hartman's zebra (*Equus zebra hartmannae*) and lion (*Panthera leo*).

According to statements made in court and records filed in the case, on Dec. 18, 2007, the vessel M/Y Mystere C. I., registered in the Cayman Islands, made entry into the United States at Port Everglades in Broward County, Fla., from Italy, via Spain, as cargo aboard the transport vessel Enterprise. Ruzial is the registered owner of the M/Y Mystere C.I. Inspection of the M/Y Mystere C. I. by CBP specialists, wildlife inspectors and FWS special agents confirmed the presence on board of numerous wildlife items protected under the federal Endangered Species Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES).

These items, including elephant ivory, stuffed tigers, wild feline skins and snake skin, are required by federal regulations to be declared upon importation to the United States to both CBP and FWS, and to be accompanied by appropriate CITES permits. Some of the regulated items were installed as fixtures on the vessel, while others were placed about the vessel as decoration. ICE special agents determined that the required declarations of the various items were not made to CBP and FWS. Additionally, the items were not accompanied by CITES export or re-export permits, or equivalent documents, from their countries of natal origin or re-export.

After an initial field identification, specimens from many of the protected animals confiscated in this case were sent to the National Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Ore., for genetic identification to confirm their protected status under U.S. law and the CITES Convention. The contraband wildlife is conservatively valued at more than \$85,000.

The Lacey Act protects both plants and wildlife by creating civil and criminal penalties for a wide array of violations. The Act also prohibits the falsification of documents for most shipments of wildlife (a criminal penalty) and prohibits the failure to mark wildlife shipments (civil penalty).

Acosta said, "The Lacey Act, a federal statute dating back more than 100 years, underscores other federal, state and foreign laws protecting wildlife by making it a separate offense to take, possess, transport, or sell wildlife taken in violation of those laws. We will continue to enforce criminal and civil violations of the Lacey Act to protect our endangered species from profiteers and poachers."

"The illegal trade in endangered wildlife robs directly from our future and the futures of our children and our grandchildren," said Mangione. "It robs them of the opportunity to see these creatures in their natural environment. People who engage in this type of activity are criminals, and we will work with our law enforcement partners to ensure that they are brought to justice."

"When a person brings protected wildlife - like ivory, leopard skins, tiger skins and reticulated python snake skins - into our country without following the rules, there are consequences," said Gale. "We are proud of the coordinated investigative work of our agents with their colleagues from ICE and CBP. Using a significant portion of this fine to raise awareness about those rules is the right thing to do as we work to promote the conservation of wildlife here and abroad."

"U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and Agriculture specialists actively search for prohibited items manufactured at the expense of an endangered species," said Woodward. "The illegal importation and collection of these items contributes to their extinction and deprives us all. This seizure is an excellent example of how CBP is working with our partners in law enforcement to prevent these products from entering the United States."

The \$100,000 payment to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will be used, with the assistance of FWS and other interested federal agencies, to construct and install public information displays in the Southern District of Florida at selected international airports and international embarkation facilities for passengers departing the United States in order to acquaint them with the restrictions placed by domestic and international law on the trade and transportation of protected species.

Acosta commended the coordinated investigative efforts of ICE, FWS and CBP for their work on this case.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Watts-FitzGerald.

Take Note!

Shoreland Development Standards. Page 1.

WWF Legislative Report. Page 4.

Wisconsin Fishing. Pages 6 & 7.

2009 Waterfowl Public Hearings. Page 8.

Environmental Enforcement. Pages 10 & 11.

Editor D. A. Gries

Wisconsin Outdoor Youth Expo



WWF Volunteers: Left to right standing – George Meyer, Charlie Brown, Don Hammes, Jim Weishan, Carolyn Brown, Jenny Krause, Ruth Ann Lee. Left to right kneeling – John Wetzel and Alex Britizus.

2009 WWF Deer Rifle Raffle

10 Quality Rifles w/Cash Alternative Prizes
Raffle Drawing: November 21, 2009 - 7:00pm
Club 95, Hixton, WI

Need not be present to win!

\$5 each or 5 for \$20

Lic #R0018800B-80320

Tickets Available from WWF Office
W7303 Cty Rd CS & Q • Poynette, WI 53955
Toll Free: 1-800-897-4161

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Browning Bar Semi Auto | 6. Remington 770 Camo Bolt Rifle |
| 2. Browning X-Bolt Rifle | 7. Mossberg 4X4 Bolt Rifle |
| 3. Winchester Super-X Semi Auto | 8. Mossberg 464 Lever 30-30 |
| 4. Ruger M77 Hawkeye Rifle | 9. Marlin XL7C Camo Bolt Rifle |
| 5. Weatherby Vanguard Bolt Rifle | 10. Stevens 200 Bolt Rifle |



CTO Fourth Annual “Sight in your gun day” Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Where: Nicolet Rifle Club, Suamico, WI. Time: 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm with shooting starting at 4:00 pm. Map and directions are on the CTO website, and also in the files section of our chat group (you can join the chat group by sending a blank e-mail to: ctoforme-subscribe@yahoo.com).

Nicolet Rifle Club Inc. has graciously offered Challenge The Outdoors Inc. exclusive use of the lower range for the sight-in. NRC volunteers will run the sight in portion of the shoot and staff the range. The sight in is free of charge to any disabled hunter that has a class A, B, or C, disabled hunting permit. Shooters are required to provide their own firearm, ammunition, hearing and

eye protection. Hearing and eye protection are mandatory to use the range (none will be provided). This sight in will be for firearms only (no bows). Bring your rifle, pistol, muzzleloader, Turkey, or slug gun. You may bring more than one gun, but depending on how busy it is, you may be asked to rotate to the rear of the line after each weapon is sighted in (to give others a chance to sight in also). Please bring any adaptive equipment you use for hunting along to display and share ideas with the other hunters. CTO will be serving a light lunch for shooters and their helpers. The Sight-in Chairman is Toby Malchow, 920-434-1663, E-mail CTOforMe@yahoo.com

June 2009 Calendar Winners



| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | \$1000 Cash | Tom Janssen, Cross Plains, WI | 10000 |
| 2 | ATV (winners choice up to \$6K) | Richard Hakes, South Milwaukee, WI | 6060 |
| 3 | Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value | Willus Huber, Black River Falls, WI | 8689 |
| 4 | \$100 Cash | Steven Bradley, Ettrick, WI | 5715 |
| 5 | Browning Abolt med 325 wsm | Jack Pierce, Adell, WI | 194 |
| 6 | Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value | Ty Mantooth, Avon, IN | 56 |
| 7 | Beretta CX4 rifle 40 stw | Doug Sander, Steuben, WI | 3612 |
| 8 | \$100 Cash | Patrick Ronsman, Green Bay, WI | 4123 |
| 9 | Weatherby Vanguard Deluxe 30.06 | Ernest Lundquist, Ashland, WI | 5695 |
| 10 | Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value | Mike Houck, Delafield, WI | 1658 |
| 11 | Mossberg Silver Reserve 20ga | Darwin Schlinsog, Hewitt, WI | 6072 |
| 12 | \$100 Cash | Jason Buelow, West Allis, WI | 4748 |
| 13 | Savage III fxp4 combo 7mm | Luke Molthen, West Allis, WI | 414 |
| 14 | Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value | Ronald Steffens, Menasha, WI | 51 |
| 15 | Remington 870 combo 12ga | David Mareon, West Allis, WI | 5885 |
| 16 | \$100 Cash | Mike Raasch, Appleton, WI | 2859 |
| 17 | TC Omega 209x50 camo thumbhole | Ron Post, Cedarburg, WI | 9505 |
| 18 | Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value | Ron Orth, Menasha, WI | 5728 |
| 19 | \$100 Cash | Dean Hughes, Beaver Dam, WI | 676 |
| 20 | Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value | Robert Wright, Green Bay, WI | 7432 |
| 21 | NEF Pardner Pump 12ga deer slayer | Dennis Moon, Oshkosh, WI | 8937 |
| 22 | Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value | Richard Kruse, Sheboygan, WI | 115 |
| 23 | \$100 Cash | Chad Ziegler, Nekoosa, WI | 5817 |
| 24 | CVA Kodiak Pro Camo 209x50 | Danny Buch, Manawa, WI | 893 |
| 25 | Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value | Ron Wild, Kekoskee, WI | 3865 |
| 26 | \$100 Cash | Barb Lentz, Pewaukee, WI | 6306 |
| 27 | Marlin 917 M2 17m2 | Tricia DeGroot, Black Creek, WI | 8486 |
| 28 | Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value | Bruce Bear, Johnson Creek, WI | 657 |
| 29 | \$100 Cash | Jamie Jensen, Dorchester, WI | 6566 |
| 30 | Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value | Preston Hess, Berlin, WI | 2969 |



Books, Bugs & a Bag Lunch Children's Library Program Thursday, July 16, 10:30 - 12:30pm Thursday, August 13, 10:30 - 12:30pm

Summer is such a fabulous time to be out and about at Riveredge. Frogs are singing, flowers are blooming and the whole place is alive with activity. There is so much to explore! We'll start with a story, travel on an adventure throughout Riveredge and land back on the deck for our picnic. Bring your curiosity, shoes/boots that can get wet or dirty and a bag lunch. While geared for children aged 3-5, all ages are welcome.

Fee: Adults \$5, Children \$3
Member: Adults \$4, Children \$2