Ice Fishing!

It’s not everybody’s idea of fun, but it fits the bill perfectly for nearly half a million Wisconsin adults every winter. Anglers spent 11 million hours sitting on an overturned bucket or shackled up in an ice shanty, waiting for a red flag to fly. —WDNR

“Be Safe Out There!”

~W.W.F. Board of Directors

Ice Fishing Safety Tips

WDNR Release

- Contact local sport shops to ask about ice conditions on the lake or river you want to fish.
- Do not go out alone; carry a cell phone, and let people know where you are going and when you’ll return home.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a float coat to help you stay afloat and to help slow body heat loss; take extra mittens or gloves so you always have a dry pair.
- Wear creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.
- Carry a spud bar to check the ice while walking to new areas.
- Carry a couple of spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket to help pull yourself – or others – out of the ice.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas or at night.
- Know if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows that have current that can thin the ice.
- Look for clear ice. Clear ice is generally stronger than ice with air bubbles in it or with snow on it.
- Watch out for pressure ridges or ice havens. These can be dangerous due to thin ice or may be an obstruction you may hit with a car, truck or snowmobile.

Ice is Always Unpredictable

- 4” of clear ice is necessary before walking on a frozen waterbody
- 6” before driving a snowmobile across ice
- 8 to 10” before traveling in cars or light trucks

These guidelines are only if the ice is real solid and clear.

~Gary Eddy, WDNR
levine@wik rainfall.net

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**THE WISCONSIN WILDLIFE FEDERATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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**FAX:** 608-635-2743
**WEB PAGE ADDRESS:** www.wiwf.org
**OFFICE ADDRESS:** 7037 County Road C S & Poynette, WI 53955-9690
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation—Forest Service Reach Agreement on Road Closures

by George Meyer, Executive Director, Ralph Frisch, Chair Wildlife Committee, and Jerry Krath, Chair Forestry and Parks Committee

F ebruary 25, 2009 will be the Obama administration’s first Wisconsin Legislative Day before the Wisconsin Legislature. There are several important issues affecting sportmen and women in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters website: www.conservationvoters.org, lists early action items for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Office (608) 662-9595.

The four Conservation Priorities that have been established for conservation and environmental groups in the state are:
1. Water Quality—Cleaner Water: Stopander and Trapper Bill of Rights which calls for the DNR to clarify the rights of water users, recognize the rights of anglers and trapippers, and adopt regulations consistent with the state of Oregon’s Angler and Bill of Rights.
2. Farming and Groundwater: Pass a program that will strengthen the laws regulating the pumping of groundwater. The protection of groundwater is important to the protection of our streams, lakes and wetlands.
3. Climate Change—Legislation: Advocate for legislation that will improve fish and wildlife habitat, and help reduce our carbon footprint.
4. Protecting Wisconsin’s Drinking Water: Protect and enhance Wisconsin’s drinking water sources including: migration corridors, staging/concentration areas and breeding and brood-rearing areas.

Mark Your Calendars for Conservation Lobby Day

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Executive Director Activity

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Resolution on the Impacts of Wind Generation on Wildlife

Background: The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has previously expressed its strong concern on the issue of climate change and its impact on fish and wildlife and their habitat. In order to minimize the adverse impacts of climate change on habitat, the Federation has called for major reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases.

The development of alternative energy sources including wind generation is critically important to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. If constructed inappropriately, wind generation facilities in Wisconsin can have a significant impact on fish and wildlife, including: migration corridors, staging/concentration areas and breeding and brood-rearing areas.

Wind generation facilities in Wisconsin are inadequately regulated for their impacts to wildlife and the environment. As an example, wind generation facilities under 100 megawatts which may include as many as 27 individual wind towers, are exempt from regulation on a state level.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have developed guidance on the avoidance and minimization of wildlife impacts from wind generation facilities. However, such guidance is not uniformly applied across the state. The development of alternative energy sources including wind generation is critically important to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the state. However, if improperly located, wind generation facilities can negatively impact wildlife and wildlife habitat including: migration corridors, staging/concentration areas and breeding and brood-rearing areas.

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EPA Forcems Wisconsin to Adopt Weak Federal Permit on Invasive Species

M ADISON, WIS. (December 16, 2009) – To meet an unreason- able federally-imposed deadline that could have shut down shipping in Wisconsin waters, the Wisconsin DNR yesterday withdrew its proposed improvement of an EPA invasive species permit and allowed the orig- inal ineffective EPA permit to go forward with no change. At the same time, the DNR committed to issuing a state permit that contains the protections against invasive species that the EPA measure lacked.

“Wisconsin and other Great Lakes states are being asked to toughen up to make us better stewards of the EPA permit,’ said Andy Buchsbaum, regional executive director for the National Wildlife Federation’s Great Lakes office. " While we would prefer to have a tough, national EPA permit, we believe our best chance of protecting Wisconsin’s waters is to encourage the state to use whatever authority it has to prevent invasive species.

…Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Resolution on the Impacts of Wind Generation on Wildlife

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**DNR Awarded Responsible Forestry Certification for Family Forests**

**Corps of Engineers Awards Repair Contract**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's 2009 Annual Meeting**

**Everyone Welcome to Attend!**

**Call 800-897-4161 for more information.**
WISCONSIN WATERS

Volume 2, Part VIII

WISCONSIN WATERS January 2009

Water Guards' Efforts to Help Stop Spread of Invasive Species Well Received

ADAMS – Wisconsin's Water Guards program, which educates and enforces rules to prevent boaters and anglers from spreading invasive species, is being well received, according to feedback received by state environmental and natural resource officials.

“More than ever we should and do understand the spread of aquatic invasive species with the potential to harm our natural resources,” says Tom Wrasse, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary. “Invasive species can have an impact on fish and other aquatic life and on the plants and habitat. They can also interfere with recreation, such as Eurasian water-milfoil and Hydrilla. An established plant can have thick mats of these plants tangle in boat propellers. The most common way these invaders spread from lake to lake is in a live well, bilge water or other vicinity around the boat. They can also move through the bilge water or in a boat's hull. Invasive species can also hitch a ride on boats, boat trailers and other watercraft.

Water Guards, formed in 1990, are not only working to educate and inform boat owners and anglers about the good practices to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and VHS, but they are also seen as a valuable asset to the state, educating boaters and anglers about the rules and regulations. The Water Guards spent more than 1,100 hours at landings across the state, educating boaters and anglers about the rules and regulations. They spent more than 1,100 hours at landings across the state, educating boaters and anglers about the rules and regulations. They are a valuable asset to the state, helping to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and VHS.

They go to school on Water Guards; they also educate the public for the Water Guards. They were also featured in the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine, which is our annual meeting so sign up is February 13th. Contact the Wisconsin League of Voters to sign up. First of all mark your calendars for February 13th. February 7th for our statewide banquets which will be held at the Ho-Chunk Casino/Convention Center. For tickets call Marge Spooner at 608-754-0466 or Wayne Thayer at 608-754-4965.

April 3-5 is our annual meeting so sign up is February 13th. Contact the Wisconsin League of Voters to sign up. First of all mark your calendars for February 13th. February 7th for our statewide banquets which will be held at the Ho-Chunk Casino/Convention Center. For tickets call Marge Spooner at 608-754-0466 or Wayne Thayer at 608-754-4965.

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Associate Membership and Affiliate Clubs

The Federation’s Awards Committee solicits/invites your participation to nominate person(s) and organizations for the 2009 W.W.F. Conservation Achievement Awards Program!

Nomination Deadline
March 3, 2009

Nomination Form on Page 8

WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST
For outstanding accomplishment in making a significant contribution to the management and/or restoration of wildlife resources in Wisconsin during the past year.

CONSERVATION EDUCATOR
For the outstanding effort in conservation education in the state during the past year. The recipient should have demonstrated recognized education methods directed toward the use or conservation of natural resources.

SOIL, AIR, AND WATER CONSERVATIONIST (3 categories)
For outstanding contribution to the conservation of our soil, air, or water during the past year. Recipient could be a landowner, administrator, or technician involved with such things as small watershed development, approved soil conservation measures, wetlands or estuarine conservation, wild river protection, establishment of air or water quality standards, control of specific air or water pollution problems, etc.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
For the outstanding contribution to the conservation effort by an organization in the state during the past year. Statewide or local bona fide organizations including sportsmen’s clubs, civic organizations, etc., are eligible. Recipient should have demonstrated keen interest in projects and programs within the state which deal with basic and serious natural resource problems and have evolved an action program stemming from that interest.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR
For the outstanding overall conservation effort and achievement in any field of natural resource management or a significant contribution to the cause of conservation, or for meaningful progress or achievement toward a solution of a major conservation problem in the state during the past year. Nominees from all other categories can be considered for the Conservationist of the Year Award.

CONSERVATION COMMUNICATOR
For the outstanding conservation effort by a person, newspaper, magazine, radio station, or television station in the state during the past year. Recipient of this award may be any recognized communication medium within the state. A person, organization, or group which has accomplished the most in creating a public awareness of the importance of natural resource conservation.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
For the outstanding contribution to the conservation of our soil, air, or water during the past year. Recipient could be a landowner, administrator, or technician involved with such things as small watershed development, approved soil conservation measures, wetlands or estuarine conservation, wild river protection, establishment of air or water quality standards, control of specific air or water pollution problems, etc.

**Deserving persons’ unselfish achievements should be appropriately recognized

HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION
This award may be given to an individual volunteer or a volunteer organization deeply involved in the hunter safety program. To an individual or team who, during the past year, accomplished an unusual degree of improvement, both in quality and numbers of youths completing hunter safety education courses.
Statewide Conservation Banquet
at Ho-Chunk Casino and Convention Center
S3214 Hwy. 12, Baraboo, WI

Saturday, February 7, 2009
Over $35,000 in Door Prizes
With a Top Prize of $15,000
Many More Raffles Throughout the Evening
Over 60 Guns Given Away

Ticket Price: $125
With Only 400 Tickets Available
Tickets purchased before January 1st, 2009
will be entered in a special early bird drawing

To Get Your Tickets
Please Contact:
Wayne Thayer
Phone: 608-754-4965 or 608-752-9946
E-mail: wat68@tlicon.net

Marge Spencer
Phone: 608-752-9946

The W.W.F. Board of Directors encourages support of the fine businesses identified within. …Dag

$35,000 Door Prize Value!

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

2009 Calendar Sales Persons and Locations
The W.W.F. Board of Directors encourages support of the fine businesses identified within. …Dag

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Laurel Dewey .................................. Ashland
Dave Hayschuck ............................... 715-485-3332 .............. Balsam Lake
Shirlie Schneider ............................... 920-987-1021 .............. Beaver Dam
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Doug Kurth ................................. 262-662-4270 .............. Big Bend
Jennifer Evans ................................. 920-348-6003 .............. Cambria
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Mike Ryenarter .................................. Dousman
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Firecrest Lounge ............................... 715-276-7041 .............. Lakeside
Jo’s Place .................................. 715-484-5601 .............. Lily
Slip Rodie ................................. 715-674-2306 .............. Long Lake
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McManus’ Irish Waters ....................... Sturgeon Bay
First Shot Archery ............................. 715-667-4500 .............. Vesper
Todd Ecker .................................. 715-669-4990 .............. Vesper
Rick & Nicole Backhaus ..................... 715-473-2217 .............. Watertown
Brian & Maggis Pottula ..................... 715-473-4314 .............. Waukesha
Russell Harter ............................... 715-473-2166 .............. Waukesha
Jim Walsh .................................. 715-473-6013 .............. Waukesha
Dave Clingeway ............................... 920-261-0379 .............. Wautoma
Tom Cram .................................. Watersmeet
Tobias Kowalski ............................... 920-285-5485 .............. Watersmeet
Bud Denter .................................. 262-547-0564 .............. Waukesha
Ken Zottelpeter .................................. Waukesha
Rick Lazarzczyn ......................... 414-571-5730 .............. West Allis
Rick Todd .................................. 414-587-0666 .............. West Bend
Jim Klosmian ................................. 715-538-2025 .............. Whitewater
Mike Buech .................................. Whitewater
Sim & Mary Ann .................................. Zitka
John Irwin .................................. Tashima Meyer

E-mail: wat68@tlicon.net
Phone: 608-754-4965 or 608-752-9946

WAYNE THAYER
MARGE SPENCER
Wisconsin Conser vation

OFFICIAL CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS!

For presentations at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Wild life Federation.

What is a resolution?
• A formal, written motion which follows a specific format.

Why submit a resolution?
• To set a course of action for the WWF Board of Directors to follow.
• To set and express an opinion of the WWF.

Who can submit a resolution?
• Any affiliate organization of WWF, regardless of size.
• Any member of the WWF Board of Directors.
• Any individual associate or sustaining member – please contact an Associate Director or District Director to submit it on your behalf.

How should a resolution be submitted?
• The official organization letterhead preferred.
• Signed by the author and/or officer of the submitting organization.
• Mailed to the WWF office.

What topics should resolutions deal with?
• Issues pertaining to natural resources and their management or the envi-

What’s happening to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation:

Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Trails

Saturday, January 10, 2009
• Chippewa Moraine Ice Age State Recreation Area, New Auburn, (715) 967-3000 Sponsored by Friends of the Kettle Moraine. Join Naturalist Red Gost on 1 hour (2 hour option available) snowshoe hike. The hike will begin at the Nature Center and is available for those without them (please call ahead to arrange). Meet at the Nature Center. Voluntary raffle tickets will be sold (20 for $1). A warming shelter building will be available (but bring your own tea, soup, cups, etc.). Two outside fires for roasting hot dogs (bring your own), making smores, etc. A program: Smore snowshoe will be presented at 3:00 p.m. bikes begin at 7 p.m.

• Blue Mound State Park, Delafield, (262) 947-2000 - Winter Candlelight Hike and Ski. Enjoy the indoor and outdoor memories of family and friends while skiing or hiking the two-mile cross-country trail. Almost 200 torches will light the way for this annual event. Warm up afterwards by the firesides. Refreshments and lit grills will greet participants. A candlelight ski/hike through the woods and around Quarry Lake. Refreshments sponsored by the Friends of Harrington Beach State Park. Sponsored by Friends of Northern Highland State Forest. Trail head at Adolph and Marie Aasen Welcome Center. (608) 437-5711. Meet at the Clear Lake Ranger Station off Woodruff Road and the Raven Ski Trail. 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.

• Pipe Lake State Park, Crandon, (715) 842-2522 - Candlelight Ski. A 3-mile candlelit trail through the woods with seeing-weaves through the woods. Non-skiers are welcome. The trail features a 200-torch display. Phone: (715) 842-2522. Meet at Lot 5, Highland Rd. 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Official Nomination Application

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation invites you to nominate a person or group who has shown outstanding conservation effort and achievement in any of the categories listed. To make a nomination, send one copy of this form and a copy of a résumé. Attach all supporting documents and send to the above address. Deadline for receiving nominations is March 1, 2009.

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Name of Nominee ___________________________________________ 
Phone ___________________________________________
Address City/State/Zip ___________________________________________

Award Nominated For ___________________________________________

FOR EACH CATEGORY SELECT ONE: 

1. Natural Resource Conservationist 
2. Environmental Educator 
3. Wildlife Steward 
4. Community Conservationist

(For each nomination you must use a separate form. Please specify one of the categories for which the nomination is made.)

Signature: ___________________________________________
Address City/State/Zip ___________________________________________

Please Note Following Instructions:
1. Please read the general rules carefully.
2. Fill out the outline covering the category for which the nomination is being made.
3. Attach typewritten copy of a résumé of achievements.
4. Include organizational memberships, affiliations, past achievements for which nomination is based on.

OFFICIAL NOMINATION APPLICATION
THERE are three recognized subspecies of peregrine falcons in North America: the Arctic peregrine, which resides on the Pacific coast from Northern America to Central and South America; the American peregrine, which nests in parts of southern Canada, Alaska, northern Canada and Greenland as well as the Arctic peregrine, which nests in the Arctic and over the Gulf of Mexico into Central and South America; the American peregrine, which nests in the eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada do not nest in the Arctic. The FPA concludes that any take allowed is unlikely to negatively affect peregrine populations in the Arctic, North America or Greenland.

There are three recognized subspecies of peregrine falcons in North America: the Arctic peregrine, which resides in Alaska, northern Canada and Greenland and the eastern, or American peregrine, which nests in parts of southern Canada, Alaska, northern Canada and Greenland and the Arctic peregrine which resides on the Pacific coast from Alaska to Oregon.

In the FEA, the Service considered eight alternatives for the removal and possession of the peregrine falcon. The preferred alternative is to allow take of up to 130 nesting and post-fledging first-year peregrine falcons from the nesting period (until September 1) west of 100° W longitude (including Alaska), and allow a take of up to 170 nesting and post-fledging first-year peregrine falcons between September 20 and October 20 from anywhere in the U.S. east of 100° W longitude.

"We have carefully crafted this alternative to protect peregrine falcon populations so while allowing us to work with the flyway councils, through the FWP, to once again allow the traditional capture of a limited number of migrant peregrine falcons for use in facility. Since the request came from the States, this is an excellent example of our efforts to work with them to meet mutual needs," Hall said.

The Service is calling for extreme coordination and effort with the Flyway Councils to establish procedures for collection, housing, and assessment of feather samples, and to establish criteria, for determining the sex of harvested peregrine falcons to avoid the confusion of misclassifying harvested peregrines to ensure compliance with the frameworks in the proposed action. The Service will review peregrine falcon populations every five years, or at the request of the Flyway councils, and harvest data for Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. peregrine falcon populations allow the flexible limits. If the review concludes the northern America peregrine is no longer formally considered threatened or endangered by the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Atlantic and Mississippi flyway councils determine that the status of the northern North American peregrine population no longer warrants special protection, the Service will consider and coordinate with the Flyway councils and harvest data for Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. The Service will also establish criteria for determining the sex of harvested falcons.

Copies of the FEA and Draft Management Plan can be obtained from USFWS, Attention: Director of Natural Resources, to notify the public with an opportunity to participate in the incidental taking of a state endangered or threatened species.

ADDITION - Updated guidance lines for granting incidental take for species that depend on that habitat with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association noted that Wisconsin has more than a dozen different types of wetlands, many of which do not have the open water, ducks and cattails that many people consider characteristic of wetlands.

"Landowners who don't realize there are endangered species present before they buy it may get frustrated when they learn later that they have wetlands and limits on what they can build without a permit. The DNR's locating wetland tools will provide much needed assistance for landowners and property buyers and sellers," says Hall.

The tools were developed under grant funding from the Wisconsin Environmental Protection Fund and the Natural Resources Foundation. In addition to the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and Wisconsin REALTORS® Association, the project was supported and informed by the Wisconsin County Code Administrators, the Wisconsin State Wetland Inventory, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, and the Wisconsin Builders Association.

MADISON - New informational tools to protect Wisconsin's remaining wetlands, as well as concerns if prosperous property owners, were unveiled by the Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin REALTORS® Association and the Wisconsin Wetlands Association.

"Wetlands are an important part of Wisconsin's landscape, providing scenic beauty, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreational opportunities and natural flood control," says DNR Secretary Matt Frank. "I want to thank the Wisconsin REALTORS® Association and the Wisconsin Wetlands Association for working with DNR to get more information to property buyers at the time of purchase."

The proposed actions are designed to protect remaining wetlands and reverse the historical loss of wetlands. About half of the 10 million acres of wetlands present at statehood have been filled or drained to make way for cities, farms, roads and factories. At the same time, Hagen hopes the tools will help property owners and prospective property owners who many not recognize that Wisconsin has more than a dozen different types of wetlands, many of which do not have the open water, ducks and cattails that many people consider characteristic of wetlands.

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South Dakota Artist Wins 2009 Duck Stamp Contest

Two South Dakota artists have won first place in the Federal Duck Stamp contest. John R. Wilson won in 1981 with a gouache painting of a pair of ruddy ducks. He was also from Watertown, SD and Mark Anderson, from Sioux Falls, SD won in 2005 with his acrylic painting of hooded mergansers. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar on the sale of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetlands specifically targets vital breeding habitat within the National Wildlife Refuge System. When you buy a Duck Stamp, you are doing your part to help ensure a bright future for wildlife, waterfowl and other migratory birds.

Service Director Dale Hall. “Buying a Duck Stamp is easy and yields a great return on your investment—helping to protect irreplaceable migratory bird habitat.”

Winning art for the 2009 Federal Duck Stamp

Since 1934:
• 6.78 Million Federal Duck Stamps have been purchased in Wisconsin.
• 119.3 Million Federal Duck Stamps have been purchased nationwide.
• $671.1 Million has been raised for habitat conservation by the nationwide sales of Federal Duck Stamps.

Online Advice Helps Private Well Owners Fix Water Problems

ADISON – The drinking water doctor is in. Wisconsin’s private well owners who want to check on their drinking water can now go online to get advice if they notice that their water smells, tastes or looks bad, or strains their laundry or bathroom fixtures.

DNR’s online diagnostic information can help you learn why your drinking water is brown and possible fixes.

A “Healthy Water Checkup” button on the Department of Natural Resources Web site will take people to a new “What’s Wrong with My Water?” Web site. Rather than help people who draw water from Wisconsin’s one million private wells diagnose the likely cause of their water problems and whether they need to fix it, says Doris Turpin, the DNR private water engineer who developed the diagnostic information.

“Sometimes, people skip right to treatment without knowing what’s causing the problem,” Turpin says. “They end up wasting money without solving a problem.”

“What’s wrong with my water” pages help private water users diagnose a concern with their drinking water based on the signs they’re noticing, Turpin says.

The feature also helps private water users understand if there might be health concerns related to a water problem they notice, which lab tests can confirm, and possible fixes.

The web pages link users to the wealth of brochures and other information addressing individual contaminants.

“Incidentally, this website serves as a one-stop shop to help consumers begin figuring out whether something is wrong with their water and help them get more information,” Turpin says.

2009 Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters Conference

March 6 & 7, 2009
Stevens Point Ramada Inn
1-800-998-2311

Fee: $20 includes Friday Night Duck Hunter Party

Info: Joe – 608-526-4894
Mike – 920-872-2917
or
www.wisducks.org/wwhc/htm

Preserving and Enhancing our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Finalizes Light Goose Conservation Rules

USFWS Release 12/08

T he U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently finalized rules allowing the use of expanded hunting methods and implementation of a conservation order to increase light goose harvest. The regulations have been in place in the Central and Mississippi Flyways on an interim basis since 1999, when the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act was passed. The final rule makes the regulations permanent in those flyways, and also makes Atlantic Flyway states eligible to implement them. To finalize the regulations, the Service published a Record of Decision and Final Rule that completes the National Environmental Policy Act process for light goose management in the November 5, 2008, Federal Register.

“The overabundance of light goose is harming their fragile tundra habitat,” said H. Dale Hall, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “The damage to the habitat is, in turn, harming the health of the light goose and other bird species that are critical to the continued health of the tundra habitat. Returning the light goose population to sustainable levels is necessary to protect this delicate habitat, and every species dependent on it.”

During the last few decades, populations of greater and lesser snow geese and Ross’s geese, collectively called “light geese,” have grown to historic heights. The current breeding population of mid-continent light geese likely exceeds 5 million birds, an increase of more than 300 percent since the mid-1970s. Historic numbers of central arctic light geese have denuded portions of their fragile tundra breeding habitat to the point many areas may take decades to recover. The geese are showing lower-than-normal body size and suffering a decrease in nesting survival due to habitat degradation. The deteriorating habitat is also having a negative impact on some local populations of other bird species. For example, the number of semipalmated sandpipers and red-necked phalaropes nests have declined at La Perouse Bay, Alaska, where the habitat has been severely degraded by the geese. Overabundant greater snow geese have also damaged natural marsh habitats and caused agricultural deprecations on migration and wintering areas in eastern Canada and Atlantic coast states. Decreasing light goose population will help ease the pressure on the arctic and migration habitats, improving the health for all its associated wildlife populations, including light geese.

Since implementation of the conservation order in 1999, the harvest of mid-continent light geese has more than doubled, and the population growth rate as measured by the index of abundance has been reduced. The management goal is to reduce the number of mid-continent light geese by 50 percent, and to reduce the greater snow goose population to 500,000 birds.

The final rule authorizes the use of new hunting methods, such as electronic calls and untagged shotguns, to harvest light geese during normal hunting seasons. These regulations are allowed during a light goose-only hunting season when all other waterfowl and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed. Further, the rule authorizes States to implement a conservation order to allow the harvest of light geese outside of traditional hunting seasons. In general, the conservation order allows shooting hours to continue until one-half hour after sunset and removes the daily bag limit for light geese.

The Service published two rules in 1999 and 2000, and the Midwestern States to increase the harvest of light geese in order to reduce the population. The rules were the result of an extensive study of arctic light goose populations completed in 1997 by the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group, as well as dozens of scientific papers describing the burgeoning light goose population and subsequent degradation of arctic habitat and associated wildlife health. The rules were withdrawn to prevent further litigation following a court challenge by the Humane Society of the United States, Animal Alliance of Canada, Canadian Environmental Defence Fund, and The Animal Protection Institute. However, Congress subsequently passed the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act in 1999 to reinstate the rules while the Service completed an Environmental Impact Statement on light goose management. The Service published the Final Environmental Impact Statement in June of 2007 after undergoing public comments and hearings on the Draft EIS. The EIS examined five alternatives for managing light goose populations, ranging from no action, direct agency action, to the preferred alternative of authorizing regulations to increase harvest.

Hunters who enjoy the benefits of the Federal Duck Stamp, you are doing your part to protect irreplaceable migratory bird habitat.”

Three alternative frameworks. These regulations are allowed during a light goose-only hunting season when all other waterfowl and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed. The rule authorizes States to implement a conservation order to allow the harvest of light geese outside of traditional hunting seasons. In general, the conservation order allows shooting hours to continue until one-half hour after sunset and removes the daily bag limit for light geese.

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The Final Rule that implements the preferred alternative is in the EIS is available on the internet at http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/fedreg/MGBHR.html.
The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection conducted the initial investigation. Assistant Attorney General Nelle Rohlich and Cynthia Hirsch represented the State in the court proceedings.

The Department of Justice requires Asphalt Specialists to pay $25,332.14 to be used for institution and/or costs related to the investigation and prosecution. The judgment also prohibits Asphalt Specialists from advertising or engaging in residential home improvement services for 5 years. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection may be used to maintain all business records and make these records available, upon request, to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection or any other agency for inspection and copying.

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Take Note!
Ice Fishing. Page 1.
Executive Director. Page 3.
Winter Candlelight Events. Page 8.
Editor D. A. Gries

District 3 North Banquet
Date: January 24, 2009
Location: The Tac in Amery, WI
Info: Brian Hobbs – 715-294-3854

December 2008 Calendar Winners

1. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Tim Kastrup, Racine, WI
2. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Perry Duflik, Antigo, WI
3. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Mark Kasmer, Pewaukee, WI
4. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Mark Johnson, Milton, WI
5. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Randy Pritchard, Palmyra, WI
6. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Lindsay Clemson, Sobieski, WI
7. Remington M7 CDL 7mm-08 Eric Hirzy, Stevens Point, WI
8. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Sue Jilek, Racine, WI
9. Remington 870 512 Mag. 12 ga/Thumbhole Jo Bundere, Steuben, WI
10. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Larry Gallenberger, Kewaunee, WI
11. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Roy Bissen, Black River Falls, WI
12. Weatherby Vanguard Deluxe 30-06 Jon Nevala, Holmen, WI
13. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Cory Larson, Ashland, WI
14. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Perry Duffek, Antigo, WI
15. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Al Paschke, Appleton, WI
16. Savage 10FXP3 .100 WSM Combo Jim Dietrich, Reedsville, WI
17. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Robert Sillanpaa, Ripon, WI
18. Thompson Center Encore Rifle .30-06 Cami Silvepak, South Milwaukee, WI
19. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Jeremy Finknas, Stevens Point, WI
20. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Al Schwiers, Union Center, WI
22. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 James Andrus, Sparta, WI
23. Tikka T3 Lite Syn .308 Dan Smith, Kenosha, WI
24. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Carol Stanski, McFarland, WI
25. Cash $800 Robert Kester, Eklhorn, WI
26. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Matt Reents, Janesville, WI
27. Benelli Super Nova 12g 2.5 Pump Clarence Urbanek, Chaseburg, WI
29. NFX Pudner Pump Combo 12 ga Steve Rosier, Mukwonago, WI
30. Savage 21Mag Syn/Blu Hoary BBL Jim Grenz, Delafield, WI
31. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Steve Ketelis, Muskego, WI

BADGER FISHERMAN’S LEAGUE
Pewaukee Lake Ice Fisheree

Event held at Waterfront Sports Bar & Grill
W272 N2696 Lakeview Blvd. Pewaukee, WI

SATURDAY, FEB. 14, 2009
6 AM-5 PM

Fishing registration runs from 6 AM - 2:30 PM
by Smokey’s Musky Shop Launch
Cash Prizes paid for registered winning fish in
several categories

RAFFLES RUN REGARDLESS of ICE CONDITIONS

Main Raffle
Drawing at 5 PM
1st Prize . . . . . $500.00
2nd Prize . . . . $250.00
3rd Prize . . . . $100.00
4th Prize . . . . $50.00

ALL DAY EVENTS!!
Great MEAT RAFFLES
FREE Hourly Drawings
Plus Much More!

Support the oldest non-profit conservation club in WI established in 1934.

Winter Workshop
February 20-22, 2009
Treehaven Field Station

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshops focus on learning outdoor skills. Workshop activities are balanced between hunting and shooting, fishing and boating, and non-consumptive activities like camping and canoeing. Workshops are designed primarily for women and are learning opportunities for anyone 18 years of age and older.

Our participants range in age from 18-80+
Beginners are Welcome! Info: 715-346-4681

http://www.wssp.edu/ecz/treehaven/