Cooperative Study Suggests Wisconsin’s Black Bear Population is Larger Than Thought!

Preliminary results of a two-year cooperative study of Wisconsin black bears suggest that the population may be two times or more larger than currently thought. Biologists stress that the new estimate comes from a half finished study and may change when managing the data from the second year of the study are analyzed. Early results are encouraging, however, and indicate Wisconsin continues to provide quality habitat for large mammals like bears.

“This is good news,” said Scott Warnke, Department of Natural Resources deer and bear ecologist. “It means we have a healthy bear population, and we may be able to expand bear hunting opportunity. The other good news is that more people will have opportunities to see these great animals in the wild.”

The two-year, DNR-funded study was conducted by University of Wisconsin-Madison Wildlife Ecology graduate student, Dave MacFarland under the guidance of Dr. Timothy Van Deelen.

“The preliminary results are comparable to bear densities in Minnesota and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula,” said Van Deelen. “Dave and I spent a good deal of time rechecking our calculations and we’re eager to see if the results hold when the second year of data are incorporated.”

In the bear study, some 3,500 baits marked with tetracycline were set out across the state’s bear range in 2006. Tetracycline, when ingested, is harmless to bears but leaves a telltale line in a bear’s bones. Successful bear hunters in 2006 and 2007 were asked to provide a section of a rib bone from bears they harvested for analysis.

From those samples, the biologists were able to use a formula to calculate the estimated bear population.

Using tetracycline is a variation on a wildlife population estimation technique known as mark and recapture. Other examples of mark and recapture are building of waterfowl and songbirds that are banded or radio implanted on other species. When hunters report harvesting a banded game bird or biologists recapture a banded songbird, that information is used in a model to estimate total populations.

Currently, biologists track black bear populations by placing a series of baits on routes in each county throughout the black bear’s range and record which are consumed by bears over a week long observation period. Biologists use these observations to help build a population that also takes into account hunter harvest, hunter success rates, bear population data and historical harvest rates to generate a population estimate. This model estimates the current black bear population in Wisconsin to be at about 33,000.

“It is important to keep in mind that these models both provide information for us to consider when managing the bear population, and both are important to scientific bear management,” Warnke said. “We are always working to improve the science we have to manage wildlife populations. The department funded this research to improve our bear population estimate and expand the science base we have on this species. The Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association was a key collaborator on this study and many members participated in gathering data and contributing research supplies. I’d also like to thank Dave MacFarland for organizing and conducting this research and his help in enlisting cooperation from the bear hunters.”

In the tetracycline study, a much larger number of bait stations were used and the bait stations were constructed in a way that only bears could reach the bait. The new study also carefully adjusted the amount of bait so that a single bear would likely consume all of it in one visit, greatly reducing the possibility that one bait might mark two bears. By comparing the number of baits consumed in a season to the number of harvested bears showing the tetracycline marker in their bones, scientists were able to calculate the new population estimate.

Officials stress that these are preliminary findings and it is too early to draw conclusions or implement changes. But possible changes that would impact bear hunting permit availability could be considered in 2009 hunting season. Adjusting black bear population goals will necessitate changes to administrative rules and involve public meetings, and Natural Resources Board and legislative approval.

“When the final results are in we’ll be able to use this information to develop bear population goals and adapt our bear management program,” says Warnke. “Any changes to bear management policies will be done carefully, with public input and only after thorough analysis of potential impacts. The first priority is and always will be conservation of the resource.”

“Our bear population is expanding and one benefit of that is that people can expect to see bears in areas outside what is thought of as traditional range,” Warnke said. “Despite bears’ general shy nature, people in the central and southwest areas of the state likely can expect to see more evidence of bears as they disperse, looking for new territories.”

Adult black bears typically weigh 250 to 500 pounds for males (bears) and 200 to 450 pounds for females (sows). Infant bears, called cubs, are born quite tiny but by the time they are 2 months old, they weigh about 6 pounds. Females give birth to two or three cubs in January or February when they are still in their winter sleep. When standing on all four paws, adult bears measure 2 to 3 feet tall at their shoulders.

Tips for living safely with black bears

Biologists offer the following advice for avoiding unwanted encounters with black bears:

• Never feed bears – the bear will not forget the feeding experience and will return, possibly becoming a nuisance.

• Minimize bear access to human foods by hanging them at least 10 feet off the ground and 5 feet away from tree trunks or on a limb that will not support a bear.

• Bring feeders in around mid-April when bears emerge hungry from their winter dens.

• Keep garbage cans secured if possible.

• Bring in pet food at night.

• Do not keep food in your tent if you are camping.

• Store camp food and cooking utensils away from your campsite.

• Dispose of food scraps in closed containers away from the campsite – not in the fire.

If you encounter a black bear:

• Make noise – let the bear know you are there. This may surprise it.

• If you happen to surprise a black bear at close range, back away slowly so, if available, get into a vehicle or structure until the bear leaves the area.

• Leave bear signs in known bear country.

• Respect black bears as wild animals and enjoy them safely - from a distance.

Nuisance black bears

The agency responsible for nuisance black bears in Wisconsin is the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services. Report nuisance bears to them at:

USDA-WA, Waupun district
2023 Starbuck Dr.
Waupun, WI 53963
(920) 924-4462
(262) 920-324-4514

or

USDA-WA, Rhinelander district
PO Box 1064
Rhinelander, WI 54501
1-800-228-1368* 715-395-5221

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## Statewide Districts

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### Executive Director/Legislators

George Meyer, 201 Randolph Dr., Madison, WI 53717, (608) 518-5545. Email: gmeyeromega1@yahoo.net

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<th>District</th>
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### Executive Board

- **DISTRICT 4**: Marj Roach, Augusta, WI, (715) 286-2768.
- **DISTRICT 3**: *Russell Hitz, Wheeler, WI, (715) 632-2143.
- **DISTRICT 2**: Mike Meyer, 201 Randolph Dr., Madison, WI 53717, (608) 516-5545. Email: gmeyeromega1@yahoo.net
- **DISTRICT 5**: *Connie/Allan Pribnow, Port Wing, WI, (715) 774-5048.*
- **DISTRICT 8**: George Borchert, Van Dyne, WI, (920) 922-1409.
- **DISTRICT 11**: *Daniel Gries, Menasha, WI, (920) 725-0052.*
- **DISTRICT 10**: Tobias Kowalski, Sun Prairie, WI, (920) 285-5485.
- **DISTRICT 13**: Tom Nissen, Dousman, WI, (262) 370-8154 cell.

#### WISCONSIN WILDLIFE FEDERATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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### State Affiliates

- **Wixx of Beagles Club**: Phil Sacke, Germantown, WI
- **Wixx of Sporting Dog Clubs**: Brian Nell, New Holstein, WI
- **Wixx of Field Trial Clubs**: James Gleash, Madison, WI
- **Doe Hunters Associ**: Charlene, WI
- **Coon Hunter Assoc**: Dennis Robinson, Plymouth, WI
- **Council of Snowmobile Organ**: Ted Lind, Milwaukie, WI
- **Deer Hunters Association**: Mark Yoo, Rubicon, WI
- **Deer Hunters Inc**: Dennis Hoffman, Neosho, WI
- **Wolf River Basin Sub-Committee**: Larry Vanderhoef, Platteville, WI
- **Great Lakes Fish Sub-Committee**: Larry Freitag, Sheboygan, WI
- **Wolf River Basin Sub-Committee**: Dan Gries, Monona, WI
- **Statewide Districts**: Mike Meyer, 201 Randolph Dr., Madison, WI 53717, (608) 518-5545. Email: gmeyeromega1@yahoo.net

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### Wisconsin Conservation

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION (USPS 110-090, POSTMASTER: W7303 County Road C5 & Q, Poynette, WI 53955-9690) is published monthly for $25 per year by Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, W7303 County Road C5 & Q, Poynette, WI 53955-9690. Periodical postage paid at De Pere, WI and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: WISCONSIN CONSERVATION, W7303 County Road C5 & Q, Poynette, WI 53955-9690. All communications regarding advertising, editorial, circulation, and membership should be sent to: Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, W7303 County Road C5 & Q, Poynette, WI 53955-9690. Permanence to reprint articles is normally given providing proper credit is given both publication and author. Views expressed by freelance writers are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the publication or the WWF.

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**WEB PAGE ADDRESS:** www.wiwf.org

**OFFICE ADDRESS:** W7303 County Road C5 & Q, Poynette, WI 53955-9690
Permits Needed Before Using Chemicals or Herbicides on Aquatic Vegetation

SPONER, Wis. — Waterfront homeowners buying chemicals for weed treatments along and in Wisconsin's lakes or rivers should know they need a Department of Natural Resources permit before using the product. The permit is necessary to ensure proper use of chemicals and prevent harm to the lake or river.

"Aquatic plants are important parts of a lake's ecosystem — they provide oxygen for the fishery, habitat and water quality," said Tom Jerow, water media specialist for the DNR's northern region. "But we recognize that too much of a good thing is a problem and shore owners buying chemicals for weed treatments along and in Wisconsin's lakes or rivers should know they need a DNR permit before using the product."

The only time a permit is not required is when removing purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) in an area that is 30 feet or less in width extending from the shore to open water. Non-native invasive plants (Korean water mint, curly leaf pondweed and purple loosestrife) may be manually removed at any time if they are a nuisance voluntarily reducing their impact on two major highways being flooded out or washed out. No one can deny that the severe flooding, no one can deny that the severe flooding of this area in the first place," Jerow said.

Ripon Printers serves small- to mid-sized catalog marketers and publishers, producing catalogs and directories as well as manuals and softcover educational products. Founded in 1962 with just 13 employees, Ripon Printers employs more than 330 and is equipped with technologies from pre-media through distribution and fulfillment.

Ripon Printers already has exceeded compliance with environmental laws in numerous areas. The company has reduced energy consumption by upgrading lighting fixtures and saved 1 million kilowatt hours of energy by installing a HVAC system that limits air conditioning. They annually recycle 10 million pounds of paper, 520,000 pounds of cardboard, 60,000 pounds of plastic and 65,000 pounds of aluminum.

As a Green Tier participant, Ripon Printers will reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions, pursue further reductions in energy use and water use, and work to continually improve the company's footprint by developing and implementing environmental management systems. These systems act as a roadmap, providing a framework for the organization to adopt new technologies and practices to continually improve their environmental performance.

Ripon Printers is a Tier 1 participant in Green Tier. In exchange for a commitment to superior environmental performance, the DNR grants benefits to Tier 1 participants including recognition, a logo used by all Green Tier companies, and a collaborative approach to environmental performance between the DNR and Wisconsin businesses. As part of Green Tier, Wisconsin organizations voluntarily commit to reduce their environmental footprint by developing and implementing environmental management systems. These systems act as a roadmap, providing a framework for the organization to adopt new technologies and practices to continually improve their environmental performance.

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**2008-2009 Revised Ceded Territory Walleye Bag Limits**

Irland waters not listed below have a daily bag limit of five unless listed in the regulation pamphlet as a special regulation. THESE BAG LIMITS ARE EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE 13, 2008 TO MARCH 1, 2009.

The daily total bag limit for walleye is five. If the lake you are fishing has a bag limit less than five, you can fish other lakes to fill your daily bag limit. While fishing, you cannot possess fish in excess of that lake’s bag limit daily. Therefore, remember to remove all fish from your boat prior to fishing on a second lake that also has a restricted bag limit.

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<td>Barron</td>
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**7/15/08**

Walleye bag limits will increase on June 13 from the Wisconsin Ceded Territory to reflect a growing sport fishery in Wisconsin waters. Wisconsin Badgers of Chippewa Indians, who own a bag limit of two walleyes per day in Wisconsin, said DNR Secretary Matthew Frank “increasing bag limits after the spring spawning season — the time when Chippewa bangs make the most of their yearly harvest — gives sport anglers more opportunity and a chance to head north for a great day of fishing on Wisconsin waters while allowing the tribes to maintain their harvest rights.”

Of the 152 lakes with bag limits less than five, one lake will have a bag limit of one walleye per day, 96 lakes will have a bag limit of two walleyes per day, and 85 lakes will have a daily bag of three walleyes per day. Thirty-three tribes together declared a harvest of 51,683 walleyes for 2008 and had harvested 27,856 as of May 19, 2008.
Using Several Methods Provides Best Control of Gypsy Moths

Ten Tips to Protect Children from Pesticide and Lead Poisonings

Learn About Chemicals Around Your House

Enviro-Q

What percent of all poisonings in the U.S. involve a child under age six?

a. 10 percent
b. 25 percent
c. 50 percent
d. 75 percent

(Answer on page 12)


Executive Director Activity

Final 2007-2009 Legislative Report
June 2008

I. Restoration of Pittman Robertson Funds for Shooting Ranges

Wheresa, Wisconsin Sportsmen and women for many years have had to pay a portion of the cost of the shooting ranges and construct necessary structures for youth shooting and Hunter Education; and

Wheresa, this regulation and language is still in the Department of Natural Resources Regulations; and

Whereas, there is a need of shooting ranges, equipment, and structures for promoting the shooting sports; and

Whereas, Through the funds from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has changed the intent and use of these funds, even to the point of eliminating these funds.

Resolved, That the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at their annual meeting at Stevens Point on April 11th to 13th 2008 request that the Secretary of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation to request that the Secretary of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation request the Governor to establish a new Pittman Robertson Funds for Shooting Ranges.

Submitted March 10th, 2008
Allan Pribylo, Co-Chair State Affairs

II. Whitetail Deer Harvest Data

The Whitetail deer herd of Wisconsin is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and requires the agency to control the populations to the best of the ability, using as much scientific and harvest data as possible. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is responsible for ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of the deer population.

Whereas, the mature antlered whitetail is highly prized across the state, and the harvest data is critical to planning and recruiting hunters as well as to the taxation of the state of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the current whitetail deer registration form no longer records the harvest of a deer extensively from other antlerless deer; rendering the registration form inadequate to accurately record the buck harvest data which is needed to manage the future population accurately; and

Whereas, there is an increased additional pressure to harvest antlerless deer; by the demand of a new market for antlerless deer management, and continual and constant to the demand of the Magnolia Wholesale buck.

Therefore be it resolved, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting on April 11th to 13th 2008 request that the Secretary of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation request the Governor to establish a new registration form for the Wisconsin whitetail harvest.

Submitted by: Ralph R. Petrich

Editor Comment

Resolutions published herein were submitted, reviewed, discussed, edited, and voted upon by the delegates in attendance at the 2008 WWF Annual Meeting on April 11th to 13th 2008, in accordance with Wisconsin Wildlife Federation’s By-Laws.

—Editor D. A. Gross

III. Shooting Range Protection Bill

Whereas, Shooting ranges and their use are needed for Hunter Education, recreation, and hunter training; and

Whereas, Shooting ranges need protection from frivolous and unnecessary lawsuits;

Whereas, Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 17A has a very well written Range Protection Act that Wisconsin could use as an example; and

Whereas, Legislation protecting ranges is needed; therefore be it Resolved, The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at their annual meeting on April 11th to 13th 2008 request that the Secretary of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation request the Governor to establish a new Range Protection Act.

Submitted March 10th, 2008
Allan Pribylo, Co-Chair State Affairs

IV. Resolution

Whereas, Wisconsin’s shooting ranges has been a continuing concern, both in terms of range management and hunter recreation. It was established and hopefully brought to the public’s attention with a bill and a vote. The changes to the fundamental dynamics of this season, means that much to many Wisconsin sportsmen, and women.

Whereas, liberal access and harvest limits were granted to hunters due to the increasing antlerless cases, with a low and non-residents. Although there has been some concern that archery equipment has become more sophisticated, there has been an increase in the last several years, and it is all a weapon that hand dressed and held by the strength of the archer, it is held unsupported, and it is the future protection for the future.

Whereas, a crossbow is not a low, but rather a legal and performance that sharing the equipment is now available, they are handled with a wick and are left unattended. Although there are many that are challenging that the archers are spooking to shooting in the first place.

And whereas, hunters in Wisconsin believe that the introduction of crossbows for non-handicapped use (by age or infirmity) in Wisconsin’s archery season would negatively alter the dynamics of that season as it has in other states.

Therefore be it resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, a Federated chapter, it is a political action committee to operate the shooting ranges protection Act of 2008, to hold a public hearing on April 10th 2008, in accordance with Wisconsin Wildlife Federation’s By-Laws.
Introduction:
To predict white-tailed deer abundance in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) uses a Sex, Age, Kill (SAK) population model (WDNR 1998). Each year, Wisconsin WDNR employees collect summer deer observations. The purpose of these observations is to obtain the ratios of buck Does and Doe fawns, in the WDNR herd. Since implementing the Sex, Age, Kill (SAK) population model, in the 1960’s, summer deer observations have been collected, by WDNR personnel, for use as inputs into the SAK model (WDNR 1998). This model has been scrutinized by hunters and stakeholder groups leading to an independent panel, hired by the WDNR, to investigate the accuracy of the population model. An audit of the SAK population model, as applied in Wisconsin, was released in Nov 2006 (Millspaugh & others 2006). Recommendations were made into improving and supplementing WI Summer Deer Observations (Millspaugh & others 2006).

Objectives:
The UWSP Wildlife Society has worked closely with the WDNR to create a web-based citizen-monitoring program for the collection of summer deer observations. UWSP Wildlife Society members and the Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol (CAP) will begin collecting observations from July 1st–September 30th from 10 Deer management units in Wisconsin. Supplemented by citizen observations these observations will allow us to create an index independent of the WDNR. The index will be used to set by Wisconsin state and local agencies, and for under-sampled the WDNR can increase the accuracy and precision of the population estimates at the DMU level.

Study Area:
The study area will consist of a statewide citizen-monitoring program, a student based collection of data from 10 deer management units (DMU) statewide, and an aerial survey conducted by the Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol (CAP) on 10 DMU statewide. The DMU’s (July-September). UWSP students will submit their data directly to the deer project via our website.

Methods:
Through the UWSP Wildlife Society website citizens and students can obtain field sheets used to record the deer observed during the summer months (July-September). UWSP Students will be focusing their observation efforts on ten deer management units (DMU) across the state. The same deer management units will be flown over by the Wisconsin civil air patrol (CAP), thus will be done at least ones every month for the three months the study will run each year. Citations participating in the project collect data from the units they frequent (statewide) and submit those observations to the UWSP deer project via our website.

Students will be collecting observations from 18, 19 (NW), 37, 38 (NE), 33, 57A (Central), 55 (Central Forest), 61 (SW), and 64, 69 (SE). All observation will be conducted following protocol outlined on the field sheet and students will be reimbursed at $.32/mile using their own personal vehicles.

The Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol is going to sample the same 10 DMU as UWSP students using Air Force Search and Rescue aircraft. Through a cooperative effort we have been given a great discount on the cost of these projects. The pilots of the Civil Air Patrol are going to cover the maintenance/keep of the aircraft and pilots are volunteering their time leaving the Deer Project to cover fuel costs. Normal cost of such an operation are $3150/hr with their cooperation we’re looking at ~$35/hr. Transsects will be flown during dusk periods to increase the efficiency of fuel and time (Darshom 1975). Observations will be collected using high-powered binoculars and cameras mounted on the aircraft themselves. Each DMU will be sampled once/month during the study period July-September.

Citizens follow the same protocol as UWSP TWS students and submit their observations to the TWS Deer Project via the Wildlife Society website.

Timetable:
Summer Deer Observations are collected July 1st–September 30th. Citizens participating in the survey can compile their data throughout the summer and submit it to the deer project at their convenience. TWS student members will be allocated a number of miles they can drive/month/unit. They will submit their data directly to the deer project. The Wisconsin CAP will conduct aerial surveys of the 10 DMU once per month during the study period (assuming full funding).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUMMER DEER OBSERVATIONS
1) Report only for the months of July, August, and September. Use separate forms for each month and DMU.
2) Be sure to enter deer management unit (see map) for each observation. WDNR website contains a larger map.
3) Record only those deer observed from dawn to dusk (when headlights are not used for driving).
4) Use one line for each observation. An observation is defined as do all the seen at any one time in any location; e.g., if you see a doe and stop your car, and after waiting a few minutes see two fawns apparently with the doe, the figure “1” would be placed in the Column (6) Doe + 2 fawns (line 1, below).
5) If after driving a half-mile you see 2 bucks, this is a separate observation and the figure “2” should be placed in the column (2) (line 2).
6) Fawns are to be tallied in Column (4) only when no doe can be seen at the same time, or when well isolated from a doe (as in line C).
7) Does are recorded separately in Column (3) when apparently without fawns (as in line D).
8) It may require a few minutes of observation to ascertain these classifications. If this is not possible, use Column (1) to report all deer seen but not identified (as in line D).

Completed Forms Should be submitted online or mailed to the following address

http://www.udsp.edu/stuorg/wildlife/projects/deer.htm

Example Summer Deer Observation Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deer Mgmt Unit</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Bucks</th>
<th>Does w/o Fawns</th>
<th>Fawns w/o Does</th>
<th>Does w/1 Fawn</th>
<th>Does w/2 Fawns</th>
<th>Doe w/1 Fawn</th>
<th>Doe w/2 Fawns</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) 10</td>
<td>01A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) 10</td>
<td>01A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) 21</td>
<td>01A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) 27</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example Summer Deer Observation Reporting Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deer Mgmt Unit</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Bucks</th>
<th>Does w/1 Fawn</th>
<th>Does w/2 Fawns</th>
<th>Doe w/1 Fawn</th>
<th>Doe w/2 Fawns</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>(7)</td>
<td>(8)</td>
<td>(9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deer Management Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deer Mgmt Unit</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timetable
July 1st 2008 – September 30th 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>PLANNED DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students Collect Summer Deer Observations</td>
<td>July 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens Collect Summer Deer Observations</td>
<td>July 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol Flies Transsects</td>
<td>August 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Collect Summer Deer Observations</td>
<td>August 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol Flies Transsects</td>
<td>August 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Collect Summer Deer Observations</td>
<td>September 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens Collect Summer Deer Observations</td>
<td>September 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol Flies Transsects</td>
<td>September 2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When submitting your observations using the submission application all data you gathered above can be considered as one observation. Submit observations for each month individually. Do not submit observations from multiple months at once.
Wisconsin has nearly 1 million hoje and 17,000 private wells, of which 250,000 unused wells in Wisconsin, often located far from usable water supply, accordin to Mark Putra, who leads the state's groundwater protection, these unused wells are a significant threat to ground water. Water wells impermeable material, abandoned wells can directly channel contaminated surface water, contaminate the water that goes into abandoned wells bypasses the natural filtration process. The other components of abandoned wells would help filter out impurities. This contamination may allow for quicker review and paper applications, but the online application will still need to print out their completed form and mail it in. Applicants who choose to fill out their application online will still need to print out their completed form and mail it in. When you contact a fish farm to order fish, ask for a copy of the most recent Fish Health Certificate, Griffin says. "You'll need to attach a copy of this certificate to your stocking permit application. Wisconsin Lake Sturgeon Star in IMAX Film at Milwaukee Public Museum M ADISON — Wisconsin's lake sturgeon and the people dedicated to sustaining this iconic freshwater fish in the $6 million IMAX film opened June 13 at the Milwaukee Public Museum. "Wisconsin is essentially the star of the film," says David Lickley, director and producer of "Mysteries of the Great Lakes," a production of Science North science center in Sudbury, Ontario. "We're going to show viewers how to properly fill and seal unused wells. This should help eliminate improperly abandoned wells and protect private sources of drinking water. These requirements complement other provisions that kick in June 1 to help expand eligibility for moderate income private well owners to get financial assistance for sealing and selling unused wells. Filling and sealing of unused wells Wisconsin state wells have required prop- erty owners to fill and seal all water wells. Fish Stocking Permits Now Available Online F ishing clubs, lake associations, and private pond owners who want to stock fish can now apply online for the permit required before transferring fish, fry into any water in Wisconsin. Wisconsin has done that to provide convenience for the users. The DNR recently launched an online application method to allow people to get a permit more quickly. They fill out an online form and mail it in, says Paul Cunningham, the Department of Natural Resources fish biologist who coordinates fish stocking permits. Wisconsin began accepting paper application forms in 1930. Wisconsin has 11,615 registered well drilling or pump installers or their employers must be licensed to do the inspection. "Properly filling and sealing unused wells and having an address on the permit are important steps to help keep safe drinking water," Putra says. These new requirements will help protect the health of private well owners and their neighbors and keep Wisconsin's groundwater clean. "Properly filling and sealing unused wells and having an address on the permit are important steps to help keep safe drinking water," Putra says. Wisconsin-Milwaukee Great Lakes Natural Resources Fisheries Supervisor who has interviewed Wilson and Bruch are reminded that beginning with the fall 2008 season, the number of turkey hunting zones will be reduced to seven large zones instead of the more than 250,000 unused wells in Wisconsin, often located far from usable water supply, according to Mark Putra, who leads the state's groundwater protection, these unused wells are a significant threat to ground water. 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Matt Frank and other staff are working to aid clean up flooded businesses, homes, and other properties. If there is any change in taste, color or sediment in your well water, you should suspect that your wells may have been contaminated. If you have any questions, please contact our dam inspectors and engineers. The cold spring temperatures caused ash leaf drop was first noticed in 1977 by Sergej Postupalsky, who has documented to be this old,” said Eckstein. “Eagles can live long lives and banding studies in Wisconsin and Michigan have documented a very small population. The eagle was banded on June 25, 1977 by Sergey Postupalsky, who has documented extensive eagle banding efforts in Russian and Wisconsin for many years. It was one of three eagles in a nest located a quarter mile north of the Wisconsin-Michigan border in the Ottawa National Forest’s Sylvania Wilderness Area. That nest still remains active in a large white pine in the wilderness area.

A DNR fisheries crew conducted an inventory and reported seeing a thinner crowned eagle than normal. Homeowners who observe new eagle nests should report them to the DNR wildlife health team at Madison. It is very rare to thrive in a nest with open water during breeding season.

Residents and volunteers began to clean up flooding debris after the floodwaters recede. They can find updated information on dealing with flood debris cleanup on the Department of Natural Resources Web site.

The leaf disease, anthracnose, is commonly seen when the spring weather is cool. Anthracnose is widespread in 2004 when a cool wet spring allowed anthracnose to thrive, according to Linda Williams, a DNR Forest Health Specialist. During that year some ash trees were almost completely defoliated, many lumber buyers were concerned that their trees would die.

“The trees started to produce additional flowers and the affected trees looked much better the rest of the season. The trees didn’t see any long-term ill effect,” she said. “We expect that the current ash leaf drop won’t cause any long-term health problems and affected trees should recover and have fuller crowns by producing a second set of leaves.”

Once leaves mature, temperatures increase, and spring shower season ends, the problem usually subsides. No control is necessary for yard trees although it is a good idea to maintain the overall health of the tree by watering during dry periods, properly mulching, and minimizing injuries to the tree.

The lead offtake of clean up after flooding debris recede can be found updated information on dealing with flood debris cleanup on the Department of Natural Resources Web site.

More birds generally lead to more hunting pressure and the DNR ruffed grouse page of the DNR Web site offers hunting tips for hunting the ruffed grouse.

The northern and southeast regions showed the greatest increase in drumming activity over last early July 9 percent and 33 percent increases, respectively, says Hall. “The central and southwest regions showed a slight decrease of 3 percent and the southwest region showed a decline of 20 percent fewer flames than in 2005.”

The ruffed grouse drumming surveys are divided into four regions around the state. A map of the regions can be viewed on the ruffed grouse page of the DNR Web site.

Biologists note that while the 7 percent statewide increase over last year supports the idea that the population is growing, the change is statistically not significant and may be due to random chance. "These are great survey results and I'm very optimistic that we'll have a good ruffed grouse season in 2006," said Hall.

More birds generally lead to more hunting days in the field and higher success rates, says wildlife managers. During the 2007-08 hunting season, about 103,000 hunters reported spending 826,000 days in the field hunting grouse.

“Hunters reported harvesting roughly 482,000 grouse in 2007,” said Hall. “At the time of the last population peak, back in 1999, they reported taking about 788,000.”

“For reasons not well understood, grouse populations fluctuate on a roughly 8- to 10-year cycle. Wisconsin’s population has been on the upswing for the past three or four seasons, and that is welcome news for grouse hunters and folks who enjoy hearing the drumming in the woods.”

Ruffed grouse are one of Wisconsin’s most popular upland game birds. The characteristic dark and white drumming noise is readily recognized and is produced by males during the spring breeding season. The male grouse will stand on drumming logs and rapidly beat their wings with the intention of attracting a female grouse.


“Our staff are already working with homeowners and banding studies in Wisconsin and Michigan have documented a very small population. The eagle was banded on June 25, 1977 by Sergey Postupalsky, who has documented extensive eagle banding efforts in Russian and Wisconsin for many years. It was one of three eagles in a nest located a quarter mile north of the Wisconsin-Michigan border in the Ottawa National Forest’s Sylvania Wilderness Area. That nest still remains active in a large white pine in the wilderness area.

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**Environmental Enforcement**

**Federal EPA**

Four of the Nation’s Largest Home Builders Settle Storm Water Violations

Washington, D.C. – June 4, 2008 – Four of the nation’s largest home builders have agreed to pay civil penalties totaling $8.4 million to resolve alleged violations of the Clean Water Act, the Justice Department and Environmental Protection Agency announced today. The companies have agreed to implement company-wide compliance programs that include additional regulatory requirements and put controls in place that will keep 1.2 billion pounds of sediment from polluting our nation’s waterways each year.

The companies agree that construction sites obtain permits and take simple, basic steps to prevent pollutants from contaminating storm water and harming our nation’s waterways,” said Granta Y. Nakayama, assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. “Today’s settlements set a new bar for the home building industry.”

“Today’s settlements mark an important step forward in protecting our waters from harmful storm water runoff from construction activities,” said Assistant Attorney General J. Тенпас. “In the future, these home builders will implement company-wide compliance programs that will provide better and more consistent protections at their construction sites nationwide.”

Three of the home builders are Centex Homes, based in Dallas, KB Home, based in Los Angeles, and Pulte Home based in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and Richmond American Homes, based in Denver. The fourth settlement, reached with companies also have agreed to implement alleged violations of storm water run-off regulations at construction sites in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Each company will pay the following penalties:

- **Centex**: $1,485,000
- **KB Home**: $1,185,000
- **Pulte**: $877,000
- **Richmond**: $294,000

Pulte Homes has also agreed to complete a supplemental environmental project at a minimum cost of $608,000. The project will reduce the amount of sediment going to a non-navigable California waterbody and improve the habitat for aquatic life.

Along with the federal government, seven state environmental agencies and the district of Columbia will receive a portion of the penalties based on the number of sites located within that state. Combined, the four builders accounted for more than 124,000 home closings in 2006, and are ranked nationally among the top ten home builders in terms of home closings and revenues.

The enforcement complaints alleged a common pattern of violations that was discovered during previous enforcement actions submitted by the companies and through federal and state site inspections. The alleged violations included not obtaining permits until after construction had begun or failing to obtain the required permits at all. At the sites that did have permits, violations included failure to prevent or minimize the discharge of pollutants, such as silt and debris, in storm water runoff.

The settlements require the companies to develop improved pollution prevention plans for each construction site. They also must implement a management and internal reporting system to improve oversight of the-ground operations and submit annual reports to EPA.

Improving compliance at construction sites is one of EPA’s national enforcement priorities. Construction projects have a high potential for environmental harm because they disturb large areas of land and significantly increase the potential for erosion. Without onsite pollution control, construction activities can result in sediment-laden runoff from construction sites that can directly flow to the nearest waterway and degrade water quality. In addition, storm water can pick up other pollutants, including concrete washout, paint, used oil, pesticides, solvents and other debris. Polluted runoff can then enter local waterways and can affect drinking water quality. The settlements are the result of a series of enforcement actions to address storm water violations from construction sites around the country. A similar consent decree, reached in February with Home Depot, required the company to pay a fine of $1.3 million and establish a comprehensive storm water compliance plan to prevent future violations.

The Clean Water Act requires that construction sites have controls in place to prevent pollution from being discharged to storm water in California waterways. These controls include simple pollution prevention techniques such as silt fences, phased site grading, and sediment basins to prevent construction contaminants from entering the nation’s waterways.

The consent decrees, lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, are subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by the federal court. The companies are required to pay the penalty within 30 days of the court’s approval of the settlement.

**EPA Reaches Agreement With 3M on Clean-Air Violations**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2008) – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with 3M Co. on alleged clean-air violations at the company’s Abrasive Systems Division at 10748 Innovation Road, Cottage Grove, Minn.

The agreement, which includes a $30,000 penalty, resolves EPA allegations that 3M violated monitoring and recordkeeping requirements for systems to control particulate matter emissions from equipment that uses sandblasting. The alleged violations were discovered during an EPA inspection in October of the company’s sandblasting operations that demonstrated compliance with these requirements.

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

Information about EPA Region 5’s air enforcement program is at http://www.epa.gov/region5/air/enforce/index.html. Potential environmental violations may be reported at http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints.

**EPA Reaches Agreement With Mercury Marine on Clean-Air Violations**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2008) – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Mercury Marine Division of Brunswick Corp. on alleged clean-air violations at the company’s secondary aluminum production plant that makes boat motors at W6250 Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac, Wis.

The agreement, which includes a $25,000 penalty, resolves EPA allegations that Mercury Marine violated a May 2005 consent order requiring it to operate its equipment in compliance with EPA regulations. EPA said the company had disclosed in a letter sent last July that it had used non-clean-charge in its furnaces.

Secondary aluminum furnaces can emit excessive amounts of hydrocarbons, particulates, dioxins and furans when they use non-clean-charge in their furnaces.

Hydrocarbons contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog). Smog is formed when a mixture of pollutants react on warm, sunny days. Smog can cause respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

Information about EPA Region 5’s air enforcement program is at http://www.epa.gov/region5/air/enforce/index.html. Potential environmental violations may be reported at http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints.

**Wisconsin Department of Justice**

**Darlington Dairy Farm Owner to Pay $70,000 for Violating Pollution Laws**

MADISON – Under the terms of a stipulation, Linda K. Kenkhus, doing business as Hon-Lan Dairy, and the estate of her deceased husband, Henk Kenkhus, settled a state action alleging violations of Wisconsin’s environmental laws related to the protection of navigable waters from the discharge of pollutants and related violations of their Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit. On May 15, 2008, Lafayette County Circuit Court Judge William D. Johnson accepted the stipulation and ordered that the defendants pay $70,000 in forfeitures, court costs, and costs of investigation.

According to the civil complaint, filed at the request of the Department of Natural Resources, in February 2005, the employees of Hon-Lan Dairy, in violation of their WPDES permit, spread manure on snow-covered fields. The manure then flowed into an unnamed tributary to Madison Lake at a rate of 2,000 gallons per minute when the snow melted shortly after the spreading. This discharge to the stream and the dairy’s failure to stop the run-off

violated state law and their WPDES permit. The complaint also charged the defendants with a series of failing to submit required reports to the Department of Natural Resources.

In addition to paying forfeitures and costs, the defendants also stipulated to a list of penalties for any future violations of their WPDES permit or related state laws. The case is also to retain a professional nutrient manager to oversee compliance with WPDES permits and to delay herd expansion until permit compliance can be demonstrated for up to a year.

Water quality is protected in Wisconsin through a permitting process that requires applicants to apply for – and abide by – permits issued by the Department of Natural Resources.” said Attorney General J.H. Van Hollen. “We will continue to work with the DNR to make sure that permit safeguards are honored and Wisconsin’s environmental laws are followed.”

Assistant Attorney General Steven Tinker represented the lawsuit for the State.
Take Note!

Home Chemical Safety. Page 5.
Executive Director. Pages 6 & 7.
Flood Information. Page 10.
Environmental Violations. Page 11.

Editor D. A. Gries

Grellton Conservation Club
Sporting Clays Shoot
July 13, 2008 10am - 3pm
Held at Lake Mills Conservation Club
W7082 County Rd. V
Lake Mills, WI
Info: Dennis Roth 920-262-0194

June 2008 Calendar Winners

1. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
2. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
3. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
4. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
5. Browning BLR Lightweight 243-8
6. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
7. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
8. Savage Med 14 American Classic 308
9. Browning BPS Stalker 10g
10. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
11. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
12. CZ 453Varmint 17HMRW
13. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
14. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
15. Mossberg Silver Reserve 17HMR
16. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
17. Benelli Super Nova 12 ga
18. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
19. Remington 700 SPS Syn Blk 270win
20. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
21. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
22. ATV winners choose up to $85C
23. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
24. Thompson Center Omega 209x50 Syn Blu
25. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
26. Savage 11HM8 Syn Blk 110c
27. NKF Panther Pump Turkey 12 ga
28. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
29. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100
30. Gander Mountain Gift Card $100

Heckrodt Wetland Reserve
Early Childhood Program
Toddler Trails – July 10, 17, 31
10-11:15 AM Ages 18 - 36 months
Turtle Tales Storytime
July 15, 16
10-11:15 AM Children 3-5 years
Tales from Under the Boardwalk
July 26
6:30-8:30 PM Entire Family
Info: 920-720-9349
Hwy. 114 • Menasha, WI

Enviro-Q Answer
The answer is c.

Lock household pesticides and chemicals in a high cabinet away from food. That’s the simple message of “Lock It Up.” Every 15 seconds U.S. poison centers receive a call about someone being exposed to a poison, 40 percent of those cases involve a child under three. According to the National Safety Council, more than 50 percent of over two million poisoning incidents each year involve children under six years of age.

18th Annual Summer BOW Workshop
August 22-24, 2008
Treehaven Field Station, Tomahawk, Wisconsin. The Original BOW with over 20 different hands-on activities including archery, canoeing, survival, shotgun skills, map and compass, fly fishing, outdoor cooking and more.

NEW! Apostle Islands BOW Adventure
September 4-7, 2008
Join instructors Darrell Toliver, Kelly VanLaanen and Tim Pfieger on this once in a lifetime adventure exploring the Apostle Islands on the shores of Lake Superior in Northern Wisconsin.
Info: 715-346-4681 or pfarrell@uwsp.edu

District 4 Banquet
Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008
Shooters – Plover, Wisconsin
Info: Laura Hubner 715-569-4061
Jerry Knuth 715-344-0017