Rifles OK’d for Hunting Statewide, Unless Local Ordinances Say Otherwise

October youth hunt still restricted shotgun-only

MADISON – Three years after the idea was first proposed in a citizen resolution during voting at Wisconsin Conservation Congress spring meetings, rifles will be allowed statewide for firearm deer hunting as of Nov. 1, 2013 – unless a local municipality has enacted a more restrictive ordinance.

"Hunters are strongly urged to check with the local officials to see if rifles will be allowed for the November nine-day gun-deer hunt," Scott Gunderson, assistant deputy secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, said of the law change which will not be in effect when the youth gun-deer hunt is held on Oct. 5-6.

Gunderson said this law change has attracted much public debate in the three years since it was first suggested.

"After the first statewide vote on this proposal at the Conservation Congress in 2011 when 61 counties supported it, the Department of Natural Resources held hearings in each county," he said. There was a citizen resolution offered in 2010 with the statewide advisory question the following year. "We again found widespread public support for this rule change in 2013."

This means that unless there is a local ordinance that restricts the use of rifles in the town you will be hunting, you will be able to use rifles of calibers legal for hunting deer statewide in 2013. People need to contact their local unit of government to determine if there is such an ordinance.

The DNR did not enter into this decision lightly, Gunderson said, and no matter the type of weapon a hunter chooses to use, they are reminded to follow the four rules of firearm safety.

T = Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
A = Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
B = Be certain of your target and what’s beyond it.
K = Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.

"The department has not identified any safety-related advantage to shotguns and there is no deer herd management purpose for the old regulation," said Conservation Warden Todd Schaller, chief of the DNR’s Bureau of Law Enforcement’s Recreational Enforcement and Education Section. "The key to safe hunting is that the safety rules must be followed with all types of firearms. The new regulations will be a simplification. Under previous rules, the department was frequently asked if people could use high-powered rifles for other species outside of the firearm deer season, if they could use muzzleloaders, or if they could use high-powered rifle and other cartridges in handguns during the firearm deer season. The answer to all of those was yes, even in shotgun-only areas, which sheds some light on the fact that the old rule was really not needed for safety related purposes.

During 2002-2007, rifles were authorized within former shotgun-only portions of Dane, Green, Lafayette, Rock and Walworth counties contained in the Chronic Wasting Disease Eradication Zones with no increase in shooting incidents.

"Rifles are firearms that are designed to fire a single projectile through a barrel that has lands and grooves, called rifling, which spin the bullet – providing accuracy and efficiency. Shotguns are designed primarily to fire a large number of small projectiles, called pellets, in a single shot and they are normally used for shooting birds in flight or small game. However, shotgun shells can be loaded with a single slug and used for deer hunting. Given the choice many, if not most, firearm deer hunters prefer to use a rifle because of the improved accuracy and great variety of calibers and guns."


Editor’s Message

Over the past several years, the November issue of Wisconservation has intentionally emphasized Wisconsin’s Deer Hunting Regulations. Purpose: Highlight previous hunting seasons high violation regulations resulting in arrests – Encourage hunters to take some time to review the Regulation Pamphlet available at the time of the license is purchased. Especially, as the traditional deer hunting camp population increases with the addition of young family members and friends On pages 4 & 5 of this issue, specific regulations are presented along with the “SOURCE” reference. …Editor D. A. Gries
“Editor Communication”

A lively debate followed as the directors reviewed budget line categories. Director financial requests were received, discussed and approved to be forwarded to the full Board. Saturday 8:00am – Meeting again in Stevens Point 10/11-12/13 Friday 6:00pm – Board retreat – (The Ashland/Penokee Hills area was a major supplier of iron ore during the WWII time table). The Penokee Hills mining project could bring an economic much needed windfall to the entire area. We vision many new local jobs, educational curriculum development to train future mining related employees.

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, comprised of 136 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry related groups, continues to be very interested and active in insuring that fish and wildlife habitat is protected in Wisconsin for our members and future sportsmen and women.

Whereas, during that workshop and a subsequent meeting of the 55 members WWF, consistent with our founding principles of science-based natural resource management, maintains its position of neutrality towards the Gogebic Taconite in order to get detailed and thorough information of the science and method of the mine, both pro and con; and

Whereas, based on that and other readily available information, the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation recognizes the unique and high quality land and water resources of the Bad River watershed from Caroline Lake downstream to including Lake Superior; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Federation, comprised of average citizens, is very conscious of the need to create good-paying jobs in the State of Wisconsin and further recognizes the economic and employment situation in Iron and Ashland counties; and

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its bi-monthly meeting in Stevens Point, on October 11 and 12, 2013, directs its staff and Board members to become actively involved in the state and federal mining regulatory process for the Penokee mine to assure that the fish and wildlife habitat of the Bad River watershed is protected for our future hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor recreational and subsistence users.

Now therefore be it further resolved, the WWF, consistent with its founding principles of science-based natural resources management, maintains its position of neutrality towards the Gogebic Taconite mining permit, until such time that either final or preliminary environmental impact statements conducted by Gogebic Taconite, the Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Environmental Council and the Corps of Engineers. Maintaining a proper perspective concerning water and air issues, wetland concerns during the testing and disclosure activity is critically important as resident and non-residents interrupt the results and speak to the issues.

Editor Daniel A. Griss

President’s Message

Vol. I Part VI

It’s November, most of the leaves have fallen, snow is coming, the rut is in full swing and deer season is just around the corner. Deer hunting season is one season most of us really look forward to. With all the hunting seasons and the Green Bay Packer and Badger games, November usually rolls by and all of a sudden it’s opening day. This year, beginning November 1, hunters have the options of using rifles statewide. This new regulation represents a significant step forward for simplification of hunting rules. At the same time please check with your local officials where the change has occurred to see if rifles are allowed because local municipalities may have rifle restrictions where you hunt.

Be sure of an accurate shot placement, be sure to wear your safety橘 prior to the season. In the October Wisconsin Conservation there was a 2013 rifle sight-in chart for six different calibers throughout the state. If you don’t know where to go for a sight-in, check with your local sport shop or check on-line.

At the October WWF Board of Directors meeting, I presented a WWF fly-law change to the Board of Directors to add four more Associate Directors to the Board. The Board approved the change. The Wisconsin Federation is growing since more committees and more individuals are involved in the organization. I’m sure there will be more in this future. The next step will be to find interested and motivated individuals to represent the sportsmen and women in the state on the WWF Board.

WWF Motion on Position and Involvement on Penokee Hills Mining Project

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, comprised of 136 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry related groups, continues to be very interested and active in insuring that fish and wildlife habitat is protected in Wisconsin for our members and future sportsmen and women and other outdoor recreational users; and

Whereas, the WWF, along with other sporting organizations, was very active in opposing the rewriting of Wisconsin’s iron mining law over the past three years because of sportmen’s and women’s concerns that the weakening of the mining laws especially in regard to lakes, streams and wetlands would be damming to fish and wildlife habitat which is very important to hunting, fishing and trapping; and

Whereas, now that the weakened state mining law is in place and applications have been filed by the Gogebic Taconite Company for a mine in the headwaters of the Bad River watershed in Iron and Ashland counties, the WWF needs to become focused on and involved in the state and federal mining regulatory process; and

Whereas, to be fully and scientifically informed on the merits, both pro and con of the proposed mining project, the WWF, in August, held a three-day workshop for over forty leaders of area mining industry employees during the WWII era – The Ashland/Penokee Hills area was a major supplier of iron ore during the WWII time table. The Penokee Hills mining project could bring an economic much needed windfall to the entire area. We vision many new local jobs, educational curriculum development to train future mining related employees.

Once a thriving area, our population is on a steady decline throughout the entire region, there are no jobs - Only 10% of high school graduates remain in the area – tourism is on the decline as the year-round tourism is financially stressed as;

Whereas, during that workshop and a subsequent meeting of the 55 members WWF, consistent with our founding principles of science-based natural resource management, maintains its position of neutrality towards the Gogebic Taconite in order to get detailed and thorough information of the science and method of the mine, both pro and con; and

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Editor Daniel A. Griss

Iron County Mining Impact Committee members Leslie Kolesar and Bob Walszewicz.

Budget draft discussed with referral to the December directors meeting for approval. The agenda scheduled two breakout committee sessions involving the Island Fishery and Environmental committees. Upon reconvening the meeting, Executive Director George Meyer updated the Board on the Federation’s status with the Mackenzie Educational Center – WWF commit- ment is fulfilled on January 1, 2014 – the WWF business office has been moved to Columbus Wisconsin – the Federations po- sition on the Penokee Hills mining project discussed, Motion to approve passed. Com- mittee reports were received and placed on the file by Old and New business – Ad- journment.

Editor Note: A more detailed account of the Board meeting can be found at wwf.org ... Dag
Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations (Review)

**Firearms:**
- It is illegal to:
  - Shoot, hunt, or possess a firearm, bow, or crossbow from a vehicle which is stationary. All firearms, bows, and crossbows must be unloaded and unloaded in a carrying case. Except: Target shooting at each other.

**Handguns:**
- To be legal for deer hunting, handguns must use centerfire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger and have a 5-inch minimum barrel length measured from the firing pin to the muzzle with the action closed. You may possess a concealed handgun unless you are authorized to law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.
- It is illegal to hunt with a handgun, including muzzleloading handguns, if under age 18.

**Arms Transportation:**
- All firearms (excluding handguns) must be unloaded when in or on any vehicle, whether moving or stationary, and must be unloaded when in or on any moving vehicle. Note: A firearm considered to be unloaded in a vehicle is one that is locked in a parking lot after unloading and recovered with a key. It is illegal to possess, carry, or discharge a firearm, bow, or crossbow in, from, or on any moving vehicle.
- Qualify discharged persons with the permit authority to shoot from a stationary vehicle or to discharge any firearm, including handgun, from or on any moving, stationary vehicle except for certain disabled drivers with proper permits.
- Any person may load and discharge a firearm, bow, or crossbow from a stationary, non-motorized vehicle while hunting from a stationary, non-motorized vehicle when hunting in a manner that will not endanger the safety of any person within 100 yards of the vehicle or the discharge.

**Hunting Near Roadways:**
- Highway means the entire width between the boundary lines of every public road, but does not include private roads or driveways.
- Roadway means the portion of the highway which is improved or ordinarily traveled by vehicular traffic. The above prohibition applies to all public highways.

**Shining:**
- It is illegal to:
  - Use or possess with intent to use, a light including vehicle headlights for shining any wild animal while hunting in or on possession of a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow. The inclusion of a firearm in a vehicle, bow, and arrows shall be considered possession of a firearm.
  - Drive a vehicle on public roads after 12:00 midnight or in any vehicle on a public road between the hours of 10 P.M. and 7 A.M. from September 1 through December 31.

**Baiting and Feeding Deer:**
- Amount: Each person may place up to two gallons of bait for each property under the same ownership, regardless of the size of the property. If the property is larger than 40 acres, there may be no bait on the same parcel of land.

**Counties Where Baiting is Not Allowed:**
- Baiting for hunting purposes is prohibited in the following counties: Adams, Barron, Burnett, Calumet, Coles, Crawford, Dodge, Door, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, Lafayette, Marinette, Marathon, Marquette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Polk, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Winneshiek, Wood.

**Content:**
- It is illegal to:
  - Place or possess, or transport a locked firearm in any vehicle unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a case. The above prohibition applies to all public highways.
  - Drive a vehicle on public roads after 12:00 midnight or in any vehicle on a public road between the hours of 10 P.M. and 7 A.M. from September 1 through December 31.

**Placing:**
- It is illegal to:
  - Place a baiting site within 100 yards of a public road.
  - Hunt within 50 yards of the roadway’s center.

**Placement:**
- You may place bait on the same parcel of land.

**Source:** WDNR PUB-WM-431 2013

BE SAFE OUT THERE!
W.W.F. Board of Directors

**Frequently Asked Questions:**
- What exactly is considered bait?
- Any material that is placed or deposited on or near the ground for the attraction of wildlife is considered bait.
- Is it legal to feed wildlife?
- Feeding of wildlife is $343.
- What is the penalty for illegal baiting or feeding?
- A citation issued for illegal baiting or feeding of wildlife is $343.
- What can I do if I spot illegal baiting?
- Report it to your local conservation warden.
- What is the penalty for illegal placing or use of bait material?
- A citation issued for illegal baiting or feeding of wildlife is $343.

For more information on legal baiting and feeding activities, visit: dnr.wi.gov, keywords: ‘deer baiting’.
Day on the WPA. The awards were presented to the community on Conservation of Special Congressional Recognition for their land management district with certificates.

District and the Friends of the St. Croix Wetland Management District with Certificates of the Northern Star Council, Eagle River at the Oak Ridge Waterfowl Production Area at the third annual Conservation Day event in St. Croix County.

Group picture of the 357 volunteers who came out to help with the third annual Conservation Day on the WPA at the Oak Ridge Waterfowl Production Area in St. Croix County.

Left to right: Jesse Garza, Deputy District Director for Congressman Sean Duffy, Brian Headlee, President of Friends of the St. Croix Wetland Management District, Steve Wjojan, District Chair, Eagle River District, Boy Scouts of America, Greg Scheder, Eagle River District, BSA and Friends of the St. Croix WMC Board, Tom Kerr, District Manager, St. Croix Wetland Management District.

Left to right: (Current President) Mark Swanson - (Past Presidents) Bill Buxsky, Steve Verkullen, Gail Minks, Miles Horton, Dick Keener.

Affiliate Activities

Boy Scouts and Friends of the St. Croix Wetland Management District Recognized for Conservation Work in Wisconsin

T

On Saturday October 19, 2013 Wisconsin Congressmen Sean Duffy, Brian Headlee, President of Friends of the St. Croix Wetland Management District, Steve Wojan, District Chair, Eagle River District, Boy Scouts of America, Greg Scheder, Eagle River District, BSA and Friends of the St. Croix WMC Board, Tom Kerr, District Manager, St. Croix Wetland Management District. In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, these two groups have been instrumental in making this three-year-old partnership a success. Conservation Day on the WPA is a field day designed to introduce scouts and local community members to issues related to habitat restoration and invasive species management through field-based interpretation and hands-on programs. During the first three years of the event, more than 1,300 volunteers have removed invasive plants from 15 acres of oak savanna and prairie on the Oak Ridge Waterfowl Production Area in St. Croix County. This week helped accomplish the St. Croix Wetland Management District’s goal to restore the prairie, wetlands and oak savanna historically found in Wisconsin.

“Those groups are very deserving of the Congressional recognition,” commented St. Croix Wetland Management District Manager Tom Kerr. “They helped coordinate this large event, found additional partners and secured community donations to make it an event to remember. Most importantly, they have encouraged volunteers to help with work that is important to our public lands,” said Kerr. Eagle River District Chair of the Northern Star Council Steve Wojan added that the scouts “willingness to ‘pay forward’ to future generations in a Day of Service is commendable. Horsepower should be recognized here today. Hopefully they did not do this alone. The Scouts are grateful to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Friends of the St. Croix Wetland Management District, the St. Croix Fish and Game organization and the community education students of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and University of Wisconsin-River Falls for their help and assistance in making this Conservation Day on the WPA a success.”

The Friends of the St. Croix Wetland Management District were formed just four years ago as a community organization, with the help of private habitat restoration and education activities in the St. Croix Wetland Management District. The Friends of the St. Croix Wetland Management District, the St. Croix Fish and Game organization and the community education.

Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant Program Applications are now Available

Madison – Urban Wisconsin communities are eligible to receive matching grants of up to $5,000 to help them to develop long-term management solutions to reduce conflicts with wildlife such as Canada geese.

This assistance is available under the Department of Natural Resources as part of the Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant Program, which is now accepting grant applications.

The Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant Program was created to foster and encourage community initiatives to solve overabundant wildlife concerns by awarding $50,000 reimbursement grants to a maximum of $5,000. In order to be eligible for grant consideration, an applicant must be an urban or suburban Wisconsin government unit, county, municipality, or service district. The grant program is open to non-profit organizations that have a mission of public service and are recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.

Recreational Boating Facilities Grants Awarded

The following communities will receive funding for channel dredging:

• Florence County: Forestry Lake improvements $429,175

• Village of Prairie du Sac: Veterans Memorial Park $252,000

• Town of Baraboo: cost amendment $5,575

• City of Clintonville: ice house landing $12,150

The following will receive funding for harboring-related activities:

• Racine County/City: launch improvements and dredging $485,750

• City of Washburn: launch area improvements $429,175

To learn more about grants and aids available from the DNR, search the DNR website for “Urban wildlife damage grant.” To learn more about Recreational Boating Facilities Grants go to: http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/RBF.html.
Is Conservation Education Important to You?

Each year the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation awards $6,000 in scholarships to post-secondary students pursuing education in natural resources and related studies. These awards are made possible because of the WWF Scholarship Annuity. Your financial support makes sure that future state residents enjoy clean air/water and opportunities to hunt, fish and trap in Wisconsin.

To make a donation to or to learn more about the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Scholarship Annuity, contact office@wwf.org or call 608-635-2742.
Take Note!

Deer Hunting 2013. Pages 1, 4 & 5

Mining. Page 3

Affiliate Club Activity. Page 6

Calendar Sales. Page 7

Editor D. A. Gries

Waukesha County Conservation Alliance
Celebrating 53 Years of Conservation

53rd Annual Banquet
Friday, February 7, 2014 • 7:00 PM

Olympia Resort and Hotel
1350 Royal Mile Road, Oconomowoc, WI
Doors Open at 5:30 PM for Social Hour/Cash Bar
And Early Money Raffle • Dinner at 7:00 PM

The Waukesha County Conservation Alliance and associated clubs will again host a banquet for the purpose of raising funds for conservation needs of Waukesha County.

Please contact one of our delegates listed below.

Info: Ken Zettelmeier
(262) 547-2802
Tickets: Syd Herman
(262) 542-2684

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Notice!
Affiliates - Associate Membership

Effective October 1, 2013, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation business office operations will relocate to: 1540 W. James St. Suite 500, Columbus, Wisconsin 53925

Phone: 920-623-9975
Toll Free: 1-800-897-4161

Very Important Notice to WWF Affiliate Clubs

Effective October 1, 2013, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is changing over the timing of the new renewal period in order to streamline and make the renewal process simpler for all organizations.

So the renewal date for all clubs in the future will always be January 1st of the year. To make the transition to the new system and knowing that many organizations have renewed their 1 year membership already this year, the next new renewal date will be January 1, 2015. This will mean no club will lose money in this transition and in fact will mean free services and benefits for most if not all clubs.

W

2014 Calendars are still available

2014 Conservation Calendar

$100,000 in Retail Gifts and Prizes

along with guns, monies, and gift certificates and other items.

Lil Pipping
Calendar chair

Calendar Winners

1 $1000 Cash Robert Wegzeit, Clintonville, WI 3296
2 Stoeger 3500 12 gauge Ron Callaway, New Berlin, WI 7140
3 $100 Cash Ron McLean, Pepin, WI 3884
4 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Mark Geser, Racine, WI 526
5 Browning X Bolt 30.06 Jay Boye, Cambridge, WI 2884
6 $100 Cash Randy Ollila, Kenosha, WI 3267
7 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Bridgette Tsuchiyu, Wautoma, WI 5618
8 Remington 1187 Sportsman 12 ga. John Bar, Hortonville, WI 287
9 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Sarah Augistine, Freedom, WI 2834
10 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Brandon Munik, Hingham, WI 5371
11 Savage 111 30.06 Pete Pratte Gruber, Amherst, WI 284
12 $100 Cash Mark Pynenburg, Appleton, WI 9655
13 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Bob Benz, Muskego, WI 7736
14 TC Venture Bolt 30.06 Ken Yager, Evansville, WI 397
15 $100 Cash Kim Glatron, Baraboo, WI 3999
16 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Jeff Sederlind, Chaska, MN 4644
17 CZ Mallard 1014 12 ga. Curtis Brown, West Bend, WI 5938
18 $100 Cash Larry Brecks, Kimberly, WI 2796
19 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Garlind Leczy, Chaska, WI 3997
20 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Michael Arwood, Oakfield, WI 1946
21 Mossberg 998 12 ga. Cuno Randy Klumb, Fond du Lac, WI 8760
22 $100 Cash Mark Strashbaub, Dodgeville, WI 3671
23 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Felix Grabner, Conroe, TX 6844
24 Mossberg 500 410 Chris Charles, Reedsburg, WI 6545
25 $100 Cash Brittney Franson, Strum, WI 6545
26 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Wilbur Budd, White Lake, MI 848
27 Ruger 10/22 .22 Barbery Parke, Burton, WI 2871
28 $100 Cash Ben Jazer, New Richmond, WI 2780
29 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Randy Baunowsky, Amherst Junction, WI 330
30 Marlin 925 Randy Baunowsky, Amherst Junction, WI 9696
31 $100 Gander Mountain Gift Card Mark Anderson, Wausau, WI 3031

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You will start receiving renewal notices for your club on September 1, 2014. We have heard that this is the most convenient date for many clubs that often do not meet in summer and it also fits in with workload timing in the Federation. During this whole transition time you will continue to receive our Wisconsin Conservation newspaper and all WWF services. Please send us by letter or email any changes in addresses and officers so that communications continue to flow between your club and the Federation. Contact information is on our excellent new website.

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