

Resolution to Track Effectiveness of Youth Outdoor Programs

Whereas, WI Dept. of Natural Resource hunting and fishing license sales continue to decline;

Whereas, there are less Wisconsin residents, adults and youth, involved in hunting and fishing;

Whereas, Wisconsin youth increasingly have competition for their outdoor time;

Whereas, Wisconsin youth are not as involved in hunting and fishing, as they were in past generations;

Whereas, WI Dept. of Natural Resources is concerned about getting youth involved in the outdoors;

Whereas, WI Dept. of Natural Resources has made changes to involve youth at an early age in the outdoors;

Whereas, the only measurement of youth outdoor involvement appears to be the number of WI hunting and fishing licenses that are sold;

Whereas, local WI conservation organizations have programs to involve youth in hunter safety, archery, and fishing opportunities; and

Whereas, local conservation organizations do not have an effective way to determine if their programs are effective after the youth participant graduate from the program, graduate from high school/college and go on about their life.

Be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2014 Annual Meeting on April 11 and 12, 2014 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin requests the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, devise a system to track the involvement of youth in the outdoors, be it a survey or otherwise, be it voluntary by participants or otherwise, in such numbers to be a meaningful base, and to survey these same individuals on a regular basis for the next 20 years and to utilize such programs as WI hunter safety course participants, youth archery programs, youth trap shooting teams, fishing club youth programs, 4-H archery and fishing programs, and any other recognized youth outdoor programs to develop the base pool of participants in order to measure the effectiveness of our youth outdoor programs in keeping our youth involved in hunting and fishing, as they move forward with their lives over the next 20 years.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Individual member of the WWF