Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Natural Resources Board Approves Lake Trout Emergency Rule

Madison, Wis. - An emergency rule governing the lake trout harvest in Lake Superior gained approval Wednesday (12/9/15) from the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board.

The rule, which includes a daily bag limit of three lake trout in key recreational areas, was developed through extensive public input, including an online survey, two public meetings this fall as well as written comments, said Terry Margenau, DNR Lake Superior fisheries supervisor. The emergency rule is designed to preserve a sustainable lake trout harvest in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior and addresses both commercial and recreational harvest limits.

Population assessments over the last six to eight years indicate a decline in lake trout abundance. The new emergency rule follows a previous emergency rule that had reduced the daily bag limits on lake trout to two fish.

The new rule, which will be sent to Gov. Scott Walker for review and approval before it takes effect, establishes a recreational daily harvest limit east of Bark Point (WI-1) at two fish between 20 and 25 inches and one fish greater than 40 inches. Throughout the open harvest season in those waters, if the recreational lake trout harvest reaches 7,350 or 75 percent of the allowable recreational harvest of 9,800 fish, the fisheries supervisor may, at any time, close the lake trout to catch and release only for the remainder of the season, which ends September 30.

For waters west of Bark Point (WI-1), the three-fish total daily bag limit includes a 15 inch minimum size limit and only one fish that is greater than 25 inches. Bag limits in the waters west of Bark Point will not be affected by the 75 percent trigger.

The new rule also separates lake trout from other trout species for clarification. The change will allow sport anglers to harvest five trout in addition to their lake trout bag. While lake trout were formerly part of the five trout bag limit, the new rule will allow an angler the potential to harvest, for example, five brown trout plus their bag of lake trout,” Margenau said. This would apply to both WI-1 and WI-2 waters of Lake Superior.

The rule also revises harvests for commercial fisheries and prohibits previously allowed fishing in the Gull Island refuge. However, because of agreements among the parties to the Lake Superior Fishing Agreement, the new rule also removes restrictions from the Handig’s Beach area, opening this area to commercial fishing between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2016.

The recreational lake trout season runs from Dec. 1, 2015 through Sept. 30, 2016; the commercial season runs from Nov. 28, 2015 through Sept. 30, 2016.

For more information about management of the Lake Superior or fisheries, search the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, for “Lake Superior fisheries management.”

Voice of the Wisconsin Outdoors

January 2016
Volume 43
Number 1

Wisconsin WildLife Federation

WWF Testimony to the Natural Resources Board on the DNR’s CWD Plan

Chairman Cole, Members of the Natural Resources Board, Secretary Stepp, on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, thank you for the opportunity to testify in the Citizen’s Participation portion of your agenda about Wisconsin’s deer herd.

The Wisconsin deer herd is clearly one, if not the most important fish or wildlife resource for Wisconsin sportsmen and women. The annual deer hunt is an important social and economic factor in Wisconsin sportsmen and women. The Wisconsin heritage. Deer hunting licenses fund a substantial amount of the Department’s fish, wildlife and law enforcement budget. The Department and this Board have an important trust responsibility for the protection and management of the deer herd.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is respectfully requesting the Department to carry out the goal and strategies called for in the Department’s attached “Wisconsin’s Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan: 2010-2025.”

Three minutes of testimony does not do justice to the importance of this issue. It is fair to say that the Department has done far astray from carrying out its plan. You have to look no further than to review the goal of the plan which is to “Minimize the area of Wisconsin where CWD occurs and the number of infected deer in this state.”

Since that goal was established, the number of counties in which CWD exists has significantly multiplied and the disease can be found from border to border of the state, either in the wild or captive deer herds. The intensity of deer infected in the core CWD area has grown dramatically. The plan is not being followed.

The Board is encouraged to review the specific identified strategies set forth in your current CWD plan. You will soon recognize that most of them are not being implemented.

Strategy 3 (g) of the plan specifically provides: “The DNR will conduct program reviews of our progress toward meeting the goal and objectives of this plan after the 2015, 2020, and 2025 deer seasons and, based on these reviews, make any needed modifications.”

The Wildlife Federation is respectfully calling on the Board and the Department to do a thorough review of your CWD Plan and make the necessary revisions to protect Wisconsin’s invaluable deer herd.

Submitted by George Meyer, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

December 9, 2015

New WWF Affiliate Clubs

Rhine-Plymouth Field & Stream Inc. - Plymouth, WI
Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin - Racine, WI

Welcome!

2016 Achievement Awards

Award Categories

Page 5

2016 Achievement Awards
O n November 6th & 7th, the Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) had the privilege to travel up to the Lac du Flambeau Res- ervation for their annual field trip. These field trips are designed to educate the CLC students on various forms of conserv- action work as well as create an envi- ronment where members from all three CLC classes can bond and share their perspectives. This year’s field trip was particularly special as one of our very own CLC stu- dents, Andre Virden of the Lac du Flam- beau Band of Ojibwe, coordinated the entire weekend. Andre has grown up on the reservation for most of his life and has all experience working for his tribe with their natural resources as a water re- sources intern. Andre started off the field trip with a circle discussion set in the history of the Lac du Flambeau tribe, overviewed tribal sovereignty and ceded territory, as well as how Ojibwe cultural beliefs are interwoven with how they utilize and manage the resources. On Saturday, Andre took the students on a tour of the Lac du Flambeau Reser- vation where the students learned about the importance of the surrounding water bodies to the tribal people, spiritual and historical sites of the tribe, as well as the Health and Wellness center. In order to gain more insight on the Ojibwe culture, the students had a guided tour by cura- tor, Theresa Mitchell, at the George W. Brown Jr. Ojibwe Museum and Cultural Center. Here they gained knowledge on the traditional and seasonal uses of nat- ural resources by the tribe including the harvesting of maple syrup, wild game, wild rice, and spearfishing techniques. They were also introduced to local regalia worn by the Ojibwe, history of the fur trade, and how the tribe has had to adapt to changing setobes. After lunch at the Lake of the Cherokees Casino, the students headed over to the Tribal Natural Resources building where they received an in-depth tour of the fisheries department by Director Larry Wawronowicz. This tour included a walk around the newly constructed fish rearing pond with Will Wilson, part Tribal Fish Hatchery, the aquapon- ics green house, and the Tribal Natural Resources building. During this tour Larry explained the processes of rais- ing and re-stocking fish and the grants that have been used to build the aqua- ponics green house. Larry then provided a presentation reviewing tribal natural resource management, treaty rights, and the interconnectedness of Ojibwe culture to their natural resource use.

Andre finished off the day with an in-depth view of treaty history and how these treaties have affected the Ojibwe tribes. He also discussed events such as the Sandy Lake Tragedy and the Spearfishing issues of the 1980’s to pro- vide perspective to the students on how important natural resources are to the survival of the native people, historically and culturally (spiritually). And of course it wouldn’t have been a true experience without a traditional feast. Andre’s mother, Marlene Virden, and Natural Resources staff, Dee Allen, were kind enough to make us a tradition- al feast of venison, wild rice, fry bread, pumpkin, and many other treats! To honor the weekend, Andre and Andy Ge- kee, Director of UWSP Native American Center, passed around the traditional medicines of tobacco as well as smudge (sage) to say a prayer for the knowledge received and the resources put in to mak- ing this delicious food. CLC students were very gracious for the knowledge and new perspective gained on this field trip and will now view natural resources in a completely different light. Thank you to Andre and Andy Geke, Theresa Mitchell, and the Wisconsin Wildlife Fed- eration for providing such an enlighten- ing experience for our future stewards of conservation!

The Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) had the privilege to travel up to the Lac du Flambeau Res- ervation for their annual field trip. These field trips are designed to educate the CLC students on various forms of conserv- action work as well as create an envi- ronment where members from all three CLC classes can bond and share their perspectives.

**President's Report**

January 2016

Just a reminder, it is time for any of you that have a natural resource project that you would like to have the Federation to work on. To devel- op a resolution for the Federation’s Annual Meeting, a deadline for submitt- ing a resolution is March 4. If you visit our website at www.wcfwi.org, you will find a link to the online forms to complete your submiss- ion. The Awards Committee needs your recom- mendations for individuals and organiza- tions to receive these awards. So please check out our website for more information on how to submit your resolution.

George Borchert, President

**DNR Water Surface Management Grant Deadline Approaching**

ADISON – Local units of government, lake and river organizations and nonprofit organizations are urged to apply for funds to help implement projects that protect and improve water quality and aquatic habitat and control aquatic invasive species in lakes, rivers and wetlands. The $3 million surface water man- agement grant program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natu- ral Resources, consists of two types of grants – lake and river protection grants and aquatic invasive species control grants. Lake and river grants | help communities implement protec- tion or restoration projects that protect or improve water quality and habitat. Aquatic invasive species control grants share the cost to control existing popula- tions of invasive species and help re- store habitat.

Shelly Thomsen, DNR’s lakes and rivers team leader, said the surface wa- ter grants management program funds a wide variety of activities. Projects may include purchasing land or easements for protection pur- poses, restoring wetlands or shoreline habitat and planting native vegetation or a rain garden to prevent runoff and improve water quality.” Thomsen said, “Projects also may involve implementing activities identified in a department approved management plan.”

The awards range from $10,000 to $200,000 and are granted through a cost share program, with the state share consisting of 67 to 75 percent of the total.

For more information on the lakes, rivers and aquatic invasive species grant program, including contact infor- mation for local grant coordinators, applic- ation materials and changes to the grant program, search the DNR web- site, dnr.wi.gov, for “lake grants.”

**CLC #3 Activity Update Conservation Leadership Corps**

The Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) had the privilege to travel up to the Lac du Flambeau Res- ervation for their annual field trip. These field trips are designed to educate the CLC students on various forms of conserv- action work as well as create an envi- ronment where members from all three CLC classes can bond and share their perspectives.

The Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) had the privilege to travel up to the Lac du Flambeau Res- ervation for their annual field trip. These field trips are designed to educate the CLC students on various forms of conserv- action work as well as create an envi- ronment where members from all three CLC classes can bond and share their perspectives.

by Molly O’Grady

**CLC students pose for a quick photo with guide, Andre Virden.**

by Emma Koen, CLC Coordinator

**CLC students pose for a quick photo with guide, Andre Virden.**

**President's Report**

January 2016

Just a reminder, it is time for any of you that have a natural resource project that you would like to have the Federation to work on. To develop a resolution for the Federation’s Annual Meeting, a deadline for submitting a resolution is March 4. If you visit our website at www.wcfwi.org, you will find a link to the online forms to complete your submission. The Awards Committee needs your recommendation for individuals and organizations to receive these awards. So please check out our website for more information on how to submit your resolution.

George Borchert, President

**DNR Water Surface Management Grant Deadline Approaching**

ADISON – Local units of government, lake and river organizations and nonprofit organizations are urged to apply for funds to help implement projects that protect and improve water quality and aquatic habitat and control aquatic invasive species in lakes, rivers and wetlands. The $3 million surface water management grant program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, consists of two types of grants – lake and river protection grants and aquatic invasive species control grants. Lake and river grants help communities implement protection or restoration projects that protect or improve water quality and habitat. Aquatic invasive species control grants share the cost to control existing populations of invasive species and help restore habitat.

Shelly Thomsen, DNR’s lakes and rivers team leader, said the surface water grants management program funds a wide variety of activities. Projects may include purchasing land or easements for protection purposes, restoring wetlands or shoreline habitat and planting native vegetation or a rain garden to prevent runoff and improve water quality. Thomsen said, “Projects also may involve implementing activities identified in a department approved management plan.”

The awards range from $10,000 to $200,000 and are granted through a cost share program, with the state share consisting of 67 to 75 percent of the total.

For more information on the lakes, rivers and aquatic invasive species grant program, including contact information for local grant coordinators, application materials and changes to the grant program, search the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, for “lake grants.”
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Legislative Summary 2015-2017 State Legislative Session

December 2015

Assembly Bills

AB 14—Updating the State Raffle Regulations
Status: Signed by the Governor—Act 6
WWF Position—Support

SB 8—Counterpart Bill
Status: Assembly Bill Signed into Law—Act 6
WWF Position—Support

AB 15—Manufacture and sale of Products Containing Microbeads
Status: Counterpart Bill signed into law
WWF Position—Support

SB 15—Counterpart Bill
Status: Signed into law as Act 43
WWF Position—Support

AB 44—Transferring of Permits to the Disabled
Status: Public Hearing Held in Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support

SB 20—Counterpart Bill
Status: Signed into law as Act 98
WWF Position—Support

AB 49—Ending Waiting Period for Handgun Purchases
Status: Counterpart Bill Signed Into Law—Act 22
WWF Position—Support

SB 35—Senate Counterpart
Status: Signed into law
WWF Position—Support

AB 71—Ends State Payment in Lieu of Taxes for Future DNR Purchases
Status: In the Committee on Mining and Rural Development
WWF Position—Support

SB 72—Counterpart Bill
Status: In Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 105—Improving the Groundwater Withdrawal Law
Status: In the Assembly Environment and Forestry Committee
WWF Position—Support

SB 79—Counterpart Bill
Status: In Senate Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 107—Reimbursement Counties for Car-Killed Turkeys for Food Programs
Status: Signed into law as Act 31
WWF Position—Support

SB 88—Counterpart Bill
Status: In Senate Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 112—Allowing Nurse Practitioners to Approve Hunting Disability Permits
Status: Signed into law as Act 97
WWF Position—Support

SB 99—Counterpart Bill
Status: In Senate Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 157—Exempting Liability for Busy Placement
Status: Passed by Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support with Amendments

AB 168—Reducing Restrictions on Boating and Feeding of Deer
Status: In Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Oppose

AB 187—Exempting Disabled Vets from Turkey Preference
Status: Passed Assembly—In Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position—Support

SB 115—Counterpart Bill
Status: In Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 214—Regulation of Hydro Flight Devices in Waterways
Status: In the Assembly Tourism Committee
WWF Position—In the WWF Fisheries Committee

SB 225—Allowing Unattended Decoys in Waters in Specified Situations
Status: In the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Oppose

SB 147—Counterpart Bill
Status: In Senate Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Oppose

AB 243—Restricting Group Deer Harvest Involving Youth Tag
Status: Signed into law as Act 100
WWF Position—Support

SB 150—Counterpart Bill
Status: In Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 247—Background Checks on Firearm Transfers
Status: In the State Affairs and Government Operations Committee
WWF Position—In the WWF Shooting Range Committee

SB 159—Counterpart Bill
Status: In the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position—In the WWF Shooting Range Committee

AB 291—Authorizing Fluorescent Pink for hunting clothes
Status: Passed Assembly—In Senate Agriculture and Tourism
WWF Position—In WWF Wildlife Committee

AB 322—Prohibiting Filling of Lake Beds while Iron Mining
Status: In the Senate Environment Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 334—Designating the Monarch as the State Butterfly
Status: In the Assembly State Affairs Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 411—Removing Age Limits for Hunting in Wisconsin
Status: Hearing held in Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Oppose

SB 391—Counterpart Bill
Status: Hearing held in Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position—Oppose

AB 415—Removal of deer backtag requirements
Status: Hearing held in Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Neutral

SB 289—Counterpart Bill
Hearing held in Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position—Neutral

AB 433—Interfering with hunting, fishing and trapping
Status: Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support

SB 335—Counterpart Bill
Status: In the Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 434—Streamlining DNR fish and wildlife approval process
Status: Passed into law—Act 89
WWF Position—In the WWF Wildlife Committee

SB 347—Counterpart Bill
Status: Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 436—Restoring Former Iron Mining Regulations
Status: In the Assembly Mining and Development Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 471—Increased penalties for poaching trophy wildlife
Status: Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 499—Removes requirement that DNR sell 10,000 acres of land
Status: In the Assembly Environment Committee
WWF Position—In the WWF Forestry and Parks Committee

SB 364—Counterpart Bill
Status: In the Senate Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—In the WWF Forestry and Parks Committee

AB 526—Starts non-resident coon season with resident season
Status: Hearing in Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—In the WWF Wildlife Committee

AB 527—Authorizing an adult to kill a deer wounded by a youth
Status: Passed Assembly—In Senate Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support

SB 291—Counterpart Bill
Status: Hearing held in Senate Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Oppose

SB 384—Counterpart Bill
Status: In Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 477—Modifying High Capacity Wells and Groundwater laws
Status: In the Assembly Environment Committee
WWF Position—Oppose

SB 291—Counterpart Bill
Status: Hearing held in Senate Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Oppose

AB 544—Establishes a Special Wild Turkey Program for Disabled Hunters
Status: In the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support

SB 394—Counterpart Bill
Status: In Senate Sporting Heritage and Forestry Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 559—Allowing Leasing on MPL, Closed Lands
Status: Hearing held in Assembly Environment and Forestry
WWF Position—In the WWF Forestry and Parks Committee

AB 561—Major Rewrite of the Managed Forest Law
Status: Passed Assembly—In Senate Forestry Committee
WWF Position—Support

SB 434—Counterpart Bill
Status: Hearing held in Senate Forestry Committee
WWF Position—Support

AB 579—Exempts certain wild bird feathers from prohibition on sale
Status: In the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position—Support

SB 435—Counterpart Bill
Status: Public Hearing held in the Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position—Support

Senate Bills Without Assembly Counterpart

SB 48—Restoring NRD Approval of the DNR Secretary
Status: In the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
WWF Position—Support

SB 239—Modifying high capacity and groundwater laws
Status: In the Senate Agriculture Committee
WWF Position—Oppose
The Federation’s Awards Committee solicits/invites your participation to nominate person(s) and organizations for the 2016 W.W.F. Conservation Achievement Awards Program!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservationist of the Year</th>
<th>Forest Conservationist of the Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the outstanding overall conservation efforts and achievements in any field of natural resource management, for 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.</td>
<td>For outstanding effort in forest conservation and management over an extended period of time. Eligible areas of effort include tree planting, timber stand improvement, and other forest management practices with emphasis on the development of multiple use on forest lands. The recipient may be a landowner, public or private, individual or business or someone involved in the administration of forestry programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Organization of the Year</th>
<th>Soil, Air, and Water Conservationist of the Year (3 categories)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For outstanding contributions to the conservation of natural resources by an organization in the state for an extended period of time. Statewide or local organizations including sportsmen’s clubs or civic organizations are eligible. The recipient should have demonstrated keen interest in projects and programs within the state which deal with significant natural resource or issues.</td>
<td>For outstanding contributions to the conservation of our soil, air or water. Recipient could be a landowner, administrator, technician or organization involved with such things as watershed management, soil conservation measures, wetlands or estuarine conservation, wild rivers protection and protection of surface or groundwater water quality or quantity standards.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Legislator of the Year</th>
<th>Warden of the Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For outstanding legislative accomplishment during their career which has made a significant contribution to the preservation and management of our state's natural resources.</td>
<td>For outstanding efforts relating to environmental and conservation law enforcement, community outreach and educational programs over their career.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildlife or Fisheries Conservationist of the Year</th>
<th>Youth Conservationist of the Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For outstanding efforts and accomplishments in making a significant contribution to the management and/or restoration of wildlife resources in Wisconsin over the course of their career.</td>
<td>For the outstanding conservation effort by a person who did not attain the age of 19 during the past year – Youth groups acting together in a conservation program are also eligible. The winner should have demonstrated ability, leadership, and accomplishment in any phase of conservation, either individually or as a group.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Conservation Achievement Awards
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
1540 W. James Street, Suite 500
Columbus, WI 53925

#### 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 4, 2016.

**Name of Nominee**

**Address**

**City/State/Zip**

**Phone**

**Award Nominated For**

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

**Nomination Made By (Name)**

**Address**

**City/State/Zip**

---

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd Call</th>
<th>2nd Call</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affiliate Clubs and Associate Membership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
lookout towers throughout Wisconsin's 100 feet tall and made of steel with advances in technology for forest fire detection," said Trent Marty, wilderness, mostly in the northern half of the state. Many of the lookout towers, many of which are located on private property with easement agreements, are maintained by the department for fire lookout towers for forest fire reporting. As a result of the effort, the program has saved the state millions of dollars in forest fire expenses.

In the early 1930s, DNR had 119 fire lookout towers throughout Wisconsin's wilderness, mostly in the northern half of the state. Today, well over 90 percent of the forest fire detection program's success is due to the contributions of our fire spotters, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is implementing a plan to replace the 72 fire towers currently utilized throughout the state.

DNR fire management program conducted a broad evaluation of the use of fire lookout towers for forest fire reporting. As a result of the evaluation, DNR will gradually reduce the number of business-based emergency fires in the five years while maintaining key fire agency partners and effective customer service options. As a result of other fire agencies' support of the evaluation, the emergency fire wardens have primarily served to issue written DNR burn permits. Marty said the department has documented strong public acceptance of the online and telephone burn permit application process and will move forward with an emphasis on these options. The program's evaluation also found that those who obtained burn permits electronically were more likely to check in and only burn restrictions prior to burning.

The overall goal here is to keep the program and our fire fighters safe," Marty said. "We believe this change will improve the customer experience in obtaining a burn permit and help ensure that the public conducts permitted burns safely.

Currently, the DNR has more than 40,000 registered forest fire wardens. The program change will reduce the workforce by roughly one-third by the year 2020. This decision will still allow up to three business-based emergency fire wardens in addition to key partners (e.g., USDA Forest Service, local fire departments, municipal government offices, etc.).

Public involvement key to success
DNR appreciates the critical role of the public in fire safety and detection and encourages citizens to consider alternatives to burning debris. Wisconsin's fire management program traditionally occurs shortly after the snow melts and prior to vegetation green-up. The number one cause of wildfires is related to debris burning. On average, 4,000 wildfires occur annually.

The fastest and most convenient way to obtain burn permits is to go to the DNR homepage, DNR.wi.gov and enter the keyword “burn permit.” It only takes minutes and permits are free. Citizens may also request a burn permit by phone or by mailing a completed application.

Marty emphasized that removing the lookout towers does not diminish DNR's commitment to fire protection in the state.

"We are proud of the strong history and tradition of our fire program including the contributions of our fire spotters throughout our state throughout the years," he said. "However, in recent years these towers have been used on average of 17 days per year through use of seasonal employees on a limited call-in basis. Maintenance of the towers will rely solely on aircraft and citizen reporting for the detection of wildfires.”

Changes Underway for DNR Wildland Fire Program
In this winter, snowmobilers in Wisconsin will be required to purchase a Wisconsin trail pass in addition to having a valid Wisconsin Public Access Permit. Trails pass are $30 for the annual pass, or $10 for someone who is a member of a snowmobile club registered with the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs. Information about the discounts and requirements can be found at the website at www.awsc.org/Trail-Pass-Registration.

Department of Natural Resources Conservation Warden, Ed Kiddy explains the reason for the all terrain vehicle/snowmobile administration, said dollars generated from the snowmobile trail pass will be placed in a segregated fund to pay for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails.

"This is a direct benefit to Wisconsin snowmobiling," Kiddy said, adding, "the state is known for its outstanding snowmobile trails and winter fun.”

Marty said the department has documented strong public acceptance of the online and telephone burn permit application process and will move forward with an emphasis on these options. The program's evaluation also found that those who obtained burn permits electronically were more likely to check in and only burn restrictions prior to burning.

DNR Opens Public Comment Period on Scope of Strategic Analysis for Fish Passage at Dams
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is inviting the public to provide input on the agency’s work to develop a systematic approach for evaluating fish passage at dams statewide.

Fish passage describes the ability of fish to move upstream and downstream to find suitable habitat and breeding grounds. Where barriers such as dams exist, a systematic approach is needed to determine whether populations of fish benefited or suffered from efforts to aid fish passage. Wisconsin’s Natural Resources Department is conducting this work, drawing on the collective wisdom and experience of citizens and stakeholders.

The public comment period for the second portion of the strategic analysis runs through Jan. 29, 2016. Input on the draft report’s proposed topics to be covered can be found at dnr.wi.gov by searching for “fish passage.” Public comments are due by Jan. 29. Comments are encouraged on topics that may be included in the final report.

Wisconsin residents care deeply about our rivers and streams as well as the fish and other aquatic life they support. Lautsch said, “the agency works to develop a systematic approach to the issues of citizens and stakeholders.”

The public comment period for the second portion of the strategic analysis runs through Jan. 29, 2016. Information on the public comment period and for public comment on the draft report is available at www.wisconsin.gov on the DNR website under the “Fish” section of the site.
While being a resident of the state of legally claimed Alaska residency status individuals charged in the investigation have pleaded guilty and have been sentenced in 2009 by United States District Court Judge, to two counts of violating the Lacey Act for illegally flying a non-resident hunter, Clarence Michael Osborne. The charges involved actions from 2008 through 2014 in the Noatak National Preserve. Osborne, also pleaded guilty to killing a bull moose without a permit from the Preserve. As part of his plea and sentence, Osborne was sentenced to five years of probation, with a condition that he not hunt anywhere in the world. Osborne was sentenced by Judge Beistline under a plea agreement and was sentenced to pay a fine of $65,000, and to pay restitution to the Noatak Preserve for the illegally taken game in the amount of $16,000. Osborne also agreed to forfeit a grizzly bear mount, bull moose mount, three caribou mounts and a .375 H & H rifle and scope used in the crimes. Osborne is also required to issue a public service announcement to various hunting publications about his illegal acts.

Fulton Wald, 41, of Nashville, Tennessee, also pleaded guilty and was sentenced pursuant to a plea agreement on November 13, 2015. As part of this agreement and sentence, Wald agreed to plead guilty to the illegal take of a caribou on a hunt orchestrated by Charles Dixon in September 2009 in which Wald did not have the proper permits or non-resident tags. As part of his sentence, Wald received a sentence of one year probation, a fine of $7,500, and was ordered to pay $1,000 in restitution to the Noatak Preserve. Wald was also required to forfeit a bull moose and caribou mount as both were killed illegally.

On November 6, 2015, Terry Goza, 71, of Hazelhurst, Mississippi, pleaded guilty to taking a Dall sheep, ram, same day airborne, in the Noatak preserve while hunting with Clark Dixon and others. Goza was sentenced to a term of probation and the payment of a $7,500 fine. Goza’splea and sentence were also issued to The Outdoor Syndicate, LLC, in Reno, Nevada, its owner Michael P. Dandaus, and an editing studio, Zap Lab, Ltd, in Reno, Nevada. The citations were issued due to the failure of Clark Dixon and another professional videographer to acquire footprint for and used on The Syndicate without first obtaining a permit to commercially film on the Preserve. All have paid their fines in connection with the case. Defendants Shannon Dale Hooks, 54, of Mendonbah, Mississippi, and Lance David Walker, 37, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, have charges of plea set for December 3, 2015. Defendant Randall Goza, 48, of West Allis, Alabama, has entered a plea of not guilty and his case is set for trial.

Robert Viner has been cited in Mississippi by the investigation for the illegal transport of an unlawfully taken bear on bear Viner has admitted guilt in connection with the charges, and has paid a $3200 fine.

Ms. Loeffler commends the work of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Law Enforcement and the National Park Service who jointly investigated this case in Alaska and elsewhere.

2016 Calendar Sales Listing

The W.W.F. Board of Directors encourages the patronage of the volunteer calendar sales businesses listed within.

Hunting Show Host, Four Hunters, Production Company Plead Guilty In Noatak National Preserve Poaching Investigation – Aircraft Forfeited

**USFWS Release 11/24/15**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — U.S. Attorney Karen E. Loeffler announced today that a cable TV hunting show host and four other individuals charged in the investigation have pleaded guilty and have been sentenced in 2009 by United States District Court Judge, to two counts of violating the Lacey Act for illegally flying a non-resident hunter, Charles Dixon. The charges involved actions from 2008 through 2014 in the Noatak National Preserve. Dixon, also pleaded guilty to killing a grizzly bear with a permit from the Preserve. As part of his plea and sentence, Dixon was sentenced to five years of probation, with a condition that he not hunt anywhere in the world. Dixon was sentenced by Judge Beistline under a plea agreement and was sentenced to pay a fine of $8,000, and to pay restitution to the Noatak Preserve for the illegally taken game in the amount of $10,000. Dixon also agreed to forfeit a grizzly bear, caribou and moose. During the hunt, Dixon killed a grizzly bear without the proper permits or non-resident tags, and the same day he was airborne. Osborne also pleaded guilty to killing a bull moose without a permit from the Preserve. As part of his plea and sentence, Osborne was sentenced to five years of probation, with a condition that he not hunt anywhere in the world. Osborne was sentenced by Judge Beistline under a plea agreement and was sentenced to pay a fine of $65,000, and to pay restitution to the Noatak Preserve for the illegally taken game in the amount of $16,000. Osborne also agreed to forfeit a grizzly bear mount, bull moose mount, three caribou mounts and a .375 H & H rifle and scope used in the crimes. Osborne is also required to issue a public service announcement to various hunting publications about his illegal acts.

Fulton Wald, 41, of Nashville, Tennessee, also pleaded guilty and was sentenced pursuant to a plea agreement on November 13, 2015. As part of this agreement and sentence, Wald agreed to plead guilty to the illegal take of a caribou on a hunt orchestrated by Charles Dixon in September 2009 in which Wald did not have the proper permits or non-resident tags. As part of his sentence, Wald received a sentence of one year probation, a fine of $7,500, and was ordered to pay $1,000 in restitution to the Noatak Preserve. Wald was also required to forfeit a bull moose and caribou mount as both were killed illegally.

On November 6, 2015, Terry Goza, 71, of Hazelhurst, Mississippi, pleaded guilty to taking a Dall sheep, ram, same day airborne, in the Noatak preserve while hunting with Clark Dixon and others. Goza was sentenced to a term of probation and the payment of a $7,500 fine. Goza’s plea and sentence were also issued to The Outdoor Syndicate, LLC, in Reno, Nevada, its owner Michael P. Dandaus, and an editing studio, Zap Lab, Ltd, in Reno, Nevada. The citations were issued due to the failure of Clark Dixon and another professional videographer to acquire footprint for and used on The Syndicate without first obtaining a permit to commercially film on the Preserve. All have paid their fines in connection with the case. Defendants Shannon Dale Hooks, 54, of Mendonbah, Mississippi, and Lance David Walker, 37, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, have charges of plea set for December 3, 2015. Defendant Randall Goza, 48, of West Allis, Alabama, has entered a plea of not guilty and his case is set for trial.

Robert Viner has been cited in Mississippi by the investigation for the illegal transport of an unlawfully taken bear on bear Viner has admitted guilt in connection with the charges, and has paid a $3200 fine.

Ms. Loeffler commends the work of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Law Enforcement and the National Park Service who jointly investigated this case in Alaska and elsewhere.
December 2015 Calendar Winners

1 $1000 Cash Ray Fisher, Franklin, WI
2 Browning Silver Tom Warzala, Neosho, WI
3 $300 Cash Robert Neuhack, Waterloo, WI
4 Gander Mountain Card $100 Mark Johnson, Larson, WI
5 Super 77-22 Laura Turk, Milwaukee, WI
6 $100 Cash Mike Mack, Madison, WI
7 Gander Mountain Card $100 Laura Turek, Milwaukee, WI
8 $100 Cash Mike Mack, Madison, WI
9 Gander Mountain Card $100 James Rademaker, Kaukauna, WI
10 Weatherby Vanguard Jeff & Michelle Mincheski, Kewaunee, WI
11 Remington 552 Shannon Mosansky, Rice Lake, WI
12 $100 Cash Peter Gauger, Burlington, WI
13 Remington 552 Scott Chalmers, Neosho, WI
14 Weatherby Vanguard Jeff & Michelle Minchak, Kewaunee, WI
15 $100 Cash Brenda Delna, Elkhart Lake, WI
16 Gander Mountain Card $100 Bill Van Camp, De Pere, WI
17 Mossberg Silver Reserve 28 ga Roger Vanderlaan, Mishicot, WI
18 $100 Cash John Roman, Sister Bay, WI
19 Gander Mountain Card $100 Todd Fosmo, Richland Center, WI
20 Remington 552 Todd Fosmo, Richland Center, WI
21 $100 Cash Todd Fosmo, Richland Center, WI
22 Gander Mountain Card $100 Scott Young, Black Creek, WI
23 Ruger 10/22 Wes Smale, Black River Falls, WI
24 Gander Mountain Card $100 RJ Kersten, Appleton, WI
25 $200 Cash Scott Williams, West Allis, WI
26 Marlin 22 Clarence Flores, Two Rivers, WI
27 $100 Cash Richard Prevost, New Franklin, WI
28 NEF Pardner Pump Bill Vyvyan, Neillsville, WI
29 $100 Cash Jim Collins, Sturgeon Bay, WI
30 Gander Mountain Card $100 Tyler Widder, Antigo, WI
31 Gander Mountain Card $100 Robert Johnson, Waukesha, WI

Chaseburg Rod & Gun Club 2016
Fish Fry Schedule
ALL YOU CAN EAT !!!
January 16th (5pm to 8:30pm)
February 20th (5pm to 8:30pm)
March 19th (5pm to 9pm)
Sportsman Lane
Stoddard 608-483-2107
www.chaseburgrodandgun.com

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation’s Winter Banquet!
When: February 13, 2016
Where: Chula Vista, 2501 River Rd., Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
Ticket Information: 608-752-9946
Ticket Price: $125.00 each
GRAND PRIZE: $10,000
*Raffle activity – 50 plus firearms to be awarded

2016 WWF BANQUET CALENDAR
DISTRICT CONTACT DATE LOCATION
Dist. 3 North Brian Hobbs Sat. March 12, 2016 Crickets Bar & Grill
(402) 294-3854 Amery, WI
Dist. 4 West Tom Dahlen Sat. April 2, 2016 Fannie’s Supper Club
(715) 238-7814 Neenah, WI
Dist. 5 Jerry Lingelski Thurs. March 17, 2016 Danby Club
(920) 944-8427 Appleton, WI
Dist. 6 Michelle Glenn Sat. Feb. 6, 2016 All Star Lanes
(608) 787-7877 La Crosse, WI
Dist. 7 Christian Schultz Sat. March 5, 2016 Castle Hill Supper Club
(715) 599-4411 Merrill, WI
Dist. 8 Jack Nixon Fri. April 8, 2016 Olympus Resort
(414) 370-6154 Oconomow, WI
Dist. 9 Janet McLaughlin Fri. March 18, 2016 Clarion Hotel
(414) 373-8634 Milwaukee, WI
Dist. 10 Jerry Lingelski Sat. Feb. 13, 2016 Chula Vista
(715) 599-4411 Wisconsin Dells, WI

Celebrating 50 Years of Hunter Education in Wisconsin!
Wisconsin Hunter Education Instructor Association (WHEIA) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, present the

2016 Statewide Hunter Education Training Conference and Instructor Recognition Banquet
April 23rd, 2016
Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
This conference is open to all Instructors, Active, Retired, Apprentice, Junior; Department of Natural Resources Staff; and supporters of Hunter Education and their families. Attendees will receive recertification credit. Additional information will be announced in February and posted on the WHEIA website.
SAVE THE DATE and plan on attending!

“What have we done from 1966 to today to further Hunter Education?”