

Notes:

- In 2023, the DNR wildlife management questions will potentially be administrative rule changes.. We are generally on an every-other year cycle with rule proposals in odd-numbered years and advisory questions in even years.

STATEWIDE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 1. Allow the use of F-shot while hunting waterfowl

- T is currently the largest shot allowed for all hunting aside from furbearers. For furbearers there is no shot size limit.
- This was a 2022 WCC advisory question that was supported statewide and at the WCC convention.

Lead shot sizes:	12	9	8½	8	7½	6	5	4	2	BB
Pellet diameter (inches)	•	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(mm)	.05 1.27	.080 2.30	.085 2.16	.090 2.29	.095 2.41	.110 2.79	.120 3.05	.130 3.30	.150 3.81	.180 4.57

Buckshot sizes:	No. 4	No. 3	No. 2	No. 1	No. 0	No. 00	No. 000
Pellet diameter (inches)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(mm)	.24 6.10	.25 6.35	.27 6.86	.30 7.62	.32 8.13	.33 8.38	.36 9.14

Steel shot sizes:	6	5	4	3	2	1	Air Rifle	BB	BBB	T	F
Pellet diameter (in.)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(mm)	.11 2.79	.12 3.05	.13 3.30	.14 3.56	.15 3.81	.16 4.06	.177 4.49	.18 4.57	.19 4.83	.20 5.08	.22 5.59

Note: the size of shot, whether lead or steel, is based on American Standard shot sizes. Thus: a steel No. 4 pellet and a lead No. 4 pellet are both .13 inches (3.3mm) in diameter.

Question 2. Expand the October youth deer hunt to four consecutive days

- This was a proposal forwarded by the Deer Stakeholder Group in 2020
- Adding a few more days of opportunity will allow families to work around possible weather and busy weekend schedules.
- We are also exploring the possibility of creating a combined youth/disabled hunter season which would allow disabled hunters more opportunities while a high visibility clothing requirement was in place.

Question 3. Simplify the rules for quartering deer, bear and elk

The current rules are found in NR 10.105.

A deer, bear, or elk may be divided into not more than 5 parts, not including the hide and the lower legs, only to facilitate removal from the field. The head and neck shall remain attached to one of the other parts of the animal, not including the hide.

All parts must currently be removed from the field with the exception of the entrails.

Question 4. Increase the student registration fee for trapper education

This was a 2022 wildlife advisory question which received statewide support.

The cost of course materials, building rentals and other supplies have increased since 2008. The trapper education program expects cost will continue to rise over the next decade. The administrative rule process takes time and the trapper education program wants to gauge support for a fee increase to help fund the program.

The trapper education program is a cooperative effort between the Wisconsin Trappers Association and the WDNR. The Wisconsin Trappers Association (WTA) has expressed support for a small fee increase.

Trapper education instructors are allowed to retain up to 50% of course fees to offset cost of travel, supplies, food, etc. State statute requires that instructors submit at least 50% of course fees to the department.

In addition to course fees (instructors can retain up to 50% to cover instruction costs), the department receives \$2.00 from each trapping license and \$2.00 from each Patron license where the intent to trap is designated at the time of purchase. License numbers have been consistent over the last 20 years with approximately 20,000 licensed trappers.

Trapper education provides trappers with information on furbearer management, Best Management Practices for trapping, rules and regulations, methods to avoid incidental take, trapping ethics, trapper responsibilities, ecology, biology, trap handling, pelt preparation, etc.

Trapper education has been mandatory in Wisconsin since May 1992.

Question 5. Remove the public/private designation on the junior antlerless deer harvest authorization

This proposal received majority support in 2022 as a WCC Advisory Question

In 2022 there were issued just over 91,000 junior antlerless deer harvest authorizations - of those just over 10,500 harvested

here is the breakdown of the harvests by land type

Private	8963
Public	1574
Grand Total	10537

Question 6. Allow additional assistance for disabled trappers.

This is a new proposal. This question was originally a WCC county resolution and has also received support as a WCC advisory question.

The department's Furbearer Advisory Committee has gone on record supporting this rule change.

The department does not know how many trappers this rule change would impact. The department supports providing additional options for trappers with disabilities.

Under this rule change, a licensed trapper aiding a trapper with a disability could legally help in the field, including the physical act of setting and checking traps. The licensed trapper could also legally assist with tagging and/or registering of bobcat, fisher and river otter.

Question 7. Allow individuals on private lands to shoot a bear in the act of attacking a domestic animal

On average there are 4-5 verified livestock depredations each year by bear. Currently administrative code requires someone that anyone shooting a bear must have written authorization from the Department even if the bear was in the act of killing livestock. This administrative code change would make it legal for landowners or occupants to shoot bear in the act of killing, wounding, or biting a domestic animal without the need for written authorization from DNR. Shootings would be required to be reported to DNR LE within 24-hours and the Department would have discretion on carcass disposition.

The proposal would be specific to private lands and would not apply to anyone actively engaging in bear hunting or training activities, i.e., if a bear was attacking a bear hound the bear could not be legally shot.

This change would be consistent with the authority provided through NR10.02(1)(b) Wi Admin. Code for landowners or occupants of private lands to shoot wolves (when state managed) or cougar in the act of depredation and is also consistent with guidance provided to LE staff through DIT12-001 in which LE allows for bears to be shot in the act of depredation when justified and without written authorization from the department.

NR10.02(1)(b) On private land, the landowner, lessee or occupant of the land, or any other person with permission of the landowner, lessee or occupant may shoot and kill any gray wolf or cougar in the act of killing, wounding or biting a domestic animal. Shootings shall be reported within 24 hours to a department conservation warden. The carcass of the wolf or cougar shall be turned over to the department.

Question 8. Issue either-sex diseased deer replacement permits

This proposal would only issue an either-sex permit if the individual harvests an antlerless deer that is determined to be diseased (CWD positive in almost all cases). If a hunter harvests an antlered deer that is diseased, they would be issued a unit specific replacement permit just for an antlered deer.

This question was approved as a Conservation Congress resolution in 2022.

LOCAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 9. Control unregulated target shooting on department properties in Brown County

Current counties where target shooting is regulated Dane, Dodge, Columbia, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 17. End Lead Poisoning of Bald Eagles

At the 2020 spring hearings the department asked a series of questions about the requiring non-toxic shot on department properties. The result were varied with some receiving support and others not. The results are outlined below.

	Question Description	Yes	No	No Opinion	Statewide Support	County Input (Yes/No/Tie)
1	Use of non-toxic shot on all state owned or managed properties, except shooting ranges.	29,569	26,681	7,443	52.6%	40 / 31 / 1
2	Use of non-toxic bullets and shotgun slugs on all state owned or managed properties, except shooting ranges	23,347	33,285	7,061	41.2%	3 / 68 / 1
3	Use of non-toxic shot for the hunting of doves statewide.	27,946	26,674	9,073	51.1%	29 / 41 / 2
4	Use of non-toxic shot for the hunting of pheasants on state owned or managed properties.	28,597	27,832	7,264	50.7%	28 / 43 / 1
5	Use of non-toxic shot for wild turkey on all state owned or managed properties.	25,548	31,709	6,436	44.6%	7 / 64 / 1

6	Use of non-toxic shot for ruffed grouse on all state owned or managed properties.	26,404	29,811	7,478	47.0%	10 / 60 / 2
7	Use on non-toxic shot and ammunition for small game mammals on all state owned and managed properties.	22,859	33,981	6,853	40.2%	3 / 68 / 1

Supply chain issues beginning in 2020 have created ammunition shortages that persist today.

OUTDOOR HERITAGE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Question 19. Ban Shining of Wild Animals from Sept 15th to December 31st (requires legislation)

Local units of government have the ability to ban this by ordinance. For example, Buffalo County banned shining. Anecdotally, shining doesn't seem to be as popular than in the past. Most scouting seems to be done by trail cameras.

It is already illegal to possess a firearm, bow or crossbow while shining.

Question 20. Increase the Number of Days for the State Youth Spring Turkey Hunt from 2 to 4

Due to the varying start date each year, occasionally (as is did in 2022) the youth turkey hunt will fall on easter weekend. This likely caused decreased participation. Extending it to four days could minimize the impacts on years when Easter and the youth hunt overlap.

Question 21. Wanton Waste (requires legislation)

Wisconsin does have a law already exists in state statute in s. 23.095 Wis. Stats.

LE has issued citations for this.

The authors of the resolution would like the law to be less up for interpretation. The language in the resolution seems to use language from Illinois' wanton waste law.

FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

Question 22. Bobcat Shooting Hour Restrictions (requires legislation)

Current state law prohibits possess with intent to use a light for shining wild animals while the person is hunting or in possession of a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow. There is an exemption for individuals who use a flashlight or firearm-mounted light at the point of kill while hunting on foot for raccoons,

foxes, coyotes, or other unprotected animals during the open season for the animals hunted. Bobcat would need to be added to this list of exemptions.

Question 23. Extending the Beaver Season

The Wisconsin Beaver Management Plan - <https://p.widencdn.net/axlcfq/WM0610> calls on the department’s furbearer advisory committee to discuss any regulation changes related to beaver. The furbearer advisory committee then provides recommendations to the bureau’s Wildlife Leadership Team.

A similar season extension was discussed during the 2022 furbearer advisory committee meeting held in May 2022. The committee tabled the proposal and is waiting for additional information from a new beaver trapper diary survey.

The wildlife program adopted a new beaver trapper diary survey in 2021. This survey is provided to a subset of beaver trappers. The selected trappers fill in trapping details that will allow the OAS and WM to calculate Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE). After the survey has been run for several years, trends in CPUE will be available. The trends in CPUE can then be compared to objectives in our 2015-2025 beaver management plan.

2022-2023 Beaver Season Dates:

Zone A (northwest)	Nov. 5 – April 30, 2023
Zone B (northeast)	Nov. 5 – April 30, 2023
Zone C (south)	Nov. 5 – March 31, 2023
Zone D (Mississippi River)	Dec. 5 – March 15, 2023

LAND USE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 31. Simplifying the Permit System for Holding a Field Trial Event on Class II Dog Training Grounds

WDNR supports providing clarity, increasing our communication and simplifying dog trial permits wherever possible.

TURKEY & UPLAND GAME COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

Question 32. Require the Annual Purchase of a Grouse Stamp Authorization to Hunt Grouse in Wisconsin (requires legislation)

The author of this resolution wanted a dedicated fund for all native grouse species with regard to habitat management and research. Additionally, a stamp would provide the WDNR with a way to target questions and surveys specifically at grouse hunters which is difficult to do now.

Question 33. Hunter Orange Requirement for Upland Bird Hunting (requires legislation)

Blaze orange requirements for deer hunting are established by statute. (s. 29.301 (2) Wis. Stats.) Therefore, it might be appropriate for other orange requirements to also be established in statute.

An argument could be made that the department could accomplish through rule