

2023 Wildlife Management DNR Spring Hearing Questions

STATEWIDE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

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

Currently F-shot is not allowed to be used while waterfowl hunting in the state of Wisconsin, but is allowed in Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan. F-shot can be and is often used by hunters who reload their own ammunition and has been shown to pattern well for waterfowl hunting with larger gauge shotguns. Allowing F-shot would increase opportunity, simplify regulations and allow the use of a shot size that can be used safely and effectively when waterfowl hunting.

1. Do you support allowing the use of F-shot while hunting waterfowl?	1. Yes _____	No _____	No opinion _____
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Question 2. Expand the October youth deer hunt to four consecutive days

The current youth deer season begins on the Saturday nearest October 8 and runs for two consecutive days. It is only open to deer hunters who are under the age of 16. During this season all hunters, except for those pursuing waterfowl, must wear fluorescent orange or pink. This proposal would expand the youth deer hunt to four days, beginning on Thursday instead of Saturday, as recommended by the 2020 Deer Stakeholder Group. Adding two more days would allow individuals to work around inclement weather and any potential weekend conflicts.

2. Do you support expanding the youth season to four consecutive days?	2. Yes _____	No _____	No opinion _____
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Question 3. Simplify the rules for quartering deer, bear and elk

Hunters are allowed to quarter a deer, bear, or elk in order to facilitate removal from the field. However, current rules require that the deer, bear, or elk may not be divided into more than 5 parts, not including the hide and the lower legs. Also, the head and neck must remain attached to one of the other parts of the animal, not including the hide, and all parts of animal must be removed from the field. This proposal would allow hunters to separate the carcass of the deer, bear or elk into as many parts as needed as long as all parts are removed from the field.

3. Do you support removing the requirement that hunters must divide a deer, bear and elk into no more than five parts before they are removed from the field?	3. Yes _____	No _____	No opinion _____
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Question 4. Increase the student registration fee for trapper education

The Wisconsin DNR and Wisconsin Trappers Association have responsibilities in the education of Wisconsin trappers. Trapper education is imperative to educate citizens and trappers about furbearer biology, trapper ethics, trapping techniques, trapper responsibilities, trap handling, regulations and the humane treatment of animals. Trapper education has been mandatory in Wisconsin since May 12, 1992. Current administrative rules establish a fee for the Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program (WCTEP). The last time the student registration fee was increased was in 2008. At that time, it was increased from \$8 to \$12.

Student fees are used to prepare and distribute materials used in the WCTEP such as the student manual, course equipment, electronic media, furbearer management publications, trapper education pamphlets, and other related items. Fees are also used to administer the program including instructor reimbursement (venue rental fees, travel costs), insurance coverage and other costs with coordinating the statewide program. Since the last fee increase in 2008, the costs of administrating the program have increased. This proposal would seek to increase the current course fee from \$12 to \$20.

4. Do you support an increase in the student registration fees for trapper education course from \$12 to \$20 to cover costs of the program?	4. Yes ____	No ____	No opinion ____
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Question 5. Remove the public/private designation on the junior antlerless deer harvest authorization

Currently all hunters under aged 17 are issued a junior antlerless deer harvest authorization that is valid statewide when they purchase a gun or archery license. However, the youth hunter must select whether they want the authorization valid for public or private land. This proposal would eliminate the public/private land type designation on the junior antlerless deer harvest deer authorization, making the authorization valid on all property types.

5. Do you favor allowing junior antlerless deer harvest authorization to be valid on both public and private lands?	5. Yes ____	No ____	No opinion ____
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Question 6. Allow additional assistance for disabled trappers

Under current rules, anyone assisting a disabled trapper who is targeting bobcat, fisher or otter must also hold a valid permit or harvest authorization for the same species the disabled trapper is pursuing. This proposal would make it legal for anyone holding a valid trapping authorization (trapping license, conservation patron’s license, non-resident trapping license) to assist a trapper that holds a bobcat permit or harvest authorization for river otter or fisher and also holds a class A, B, C or D disability permit. The licensed individual may assist the disabled trapper, while in visual or voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device other than a hearing aid, by setting traps, tending traps, tagging and/or registering a bobcat, fisher or river otter.

6. Do you favor allowing anyone holding a valid trapping authorization to assist a trapper	6. Yes ____	No ____	No opinion ____
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that holds a bobcat permit or harvest authorization for river otter or fisher and also holds a class A, B, C or D disability permit?			
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Question 7. Allow individuals on private lands to shoot a bear in the act of attacking a domestic animal

This proposal would make it legal for landowners or occupants of private lands 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 law enforcement within 24 hours and the department would have discretion on carcass disposition. This would be consistent with the authority already provided in administrative code for landowners or occupants of private lands to shoot wolves (when they are not state or federally listed as an endangered species) or cougar in the act of depredation. This authority would not cover dogs that are actively pursuing bear during either the bear dog training season or during the bear hunting season.

7. Do you favor allowing individuals to shoot a bear in the act of attacking a domestic animal on private lands?	7. Yes ____	No ____	No opinion ____
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Question 8. Issue either-sex diseased deer replacement permits

The department may provide a free replacement permit to hunters who harvest a deer that is diseased. The permit issued must be for the same type (antlerless or antlered) as the initial authorization used to harvest the diseased deer. This proposal would allow the department to issue an either-sex permit if a hunter harvests a diseased antlerless deer. The replacement permit would still be unit and land type specific for either sex.

8. Do you favor allowing the department to issue an either-sex diseased deer replacement permit if a hunter harvests an antlerless deer that is diseased?	8. Yes ____	No ____	No opinion ____
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LOCAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSED RULE CHANGES
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Question 9. Control unregulated target shooting on department properties in Brown County

Currently target shooting is unregulated on DNR-owned lands unless these lands are in counties listed ch. NR 45.09(5), Wis. Adm. Code. A history of non-hunting firearm discharge from department-owned property parking lots and near parking lot areas has raised safety concerns of neighbors, department staff, and local law enforcement. Brown County wildlife areas seemingly provide a rural, “woodsy” atmosphere for firearms shooters to target shoot. However, these areas are often surrounded by residential and other developments. Without suitable targets and safe backstops, discharged rounds have allegedly left state property boundaries and travelled in the direction of other recreational users. This

proposal would allow the department to restrict target shooting on department-owned properties in Brown County in order to address repeated safety and noise complaints as well as some problems with littering.

9. Do you favor adding Brown County to the list of counties covered under ch. NR 45.09(5), Wis. Adm. Code and restrict target shooting on DNR owned lands?	9. Yes _____	No _____	No opinion _____
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