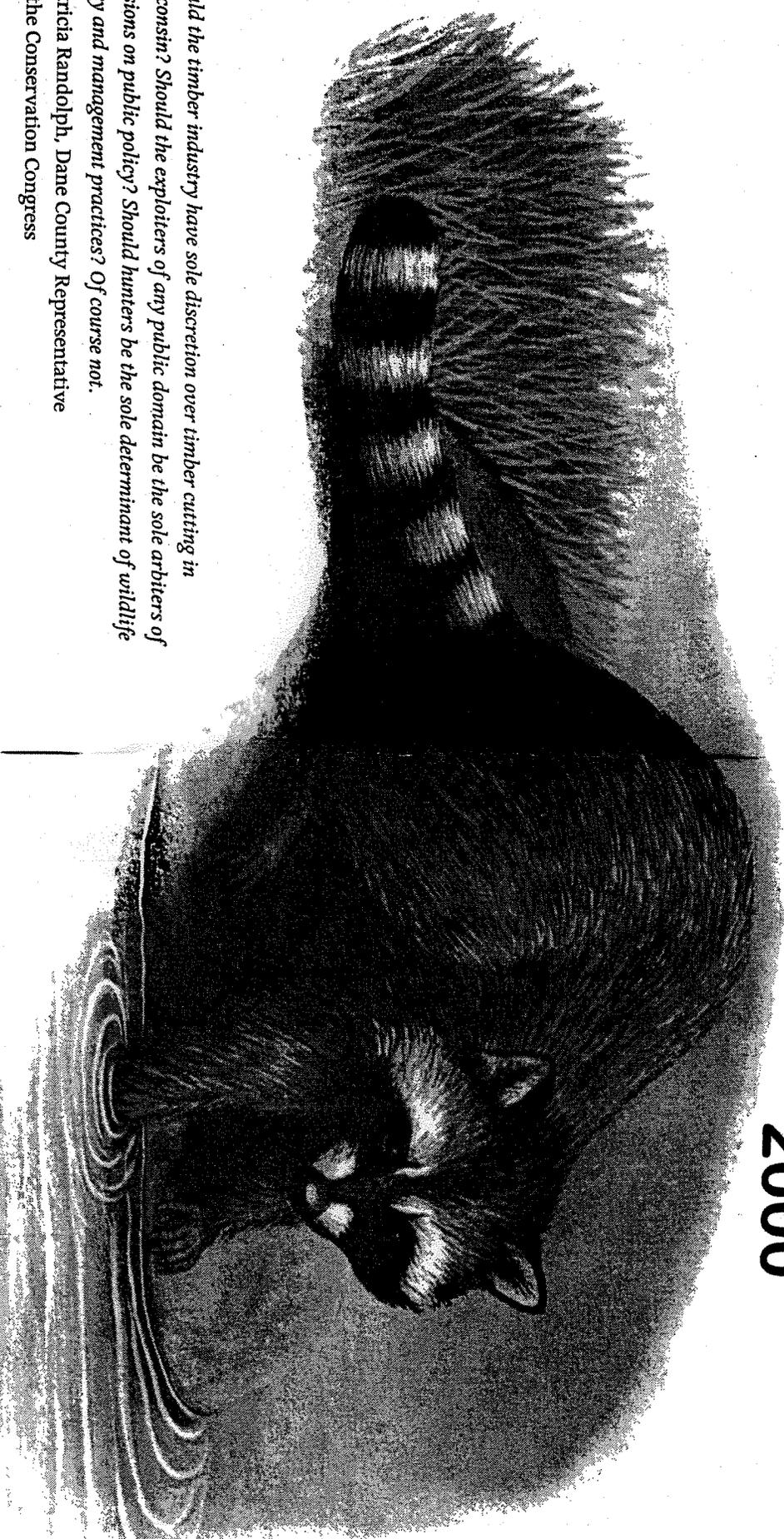


WISCONSIN WILDLIFE REPORT 2000

Should the timber industry have sole discretion over timber cutting in Wisconsin? Should the exploiters of any public domain be the sole arbiters of decisions on public policy? Should hunters be the sole determinant of wildlife policy and management practices? Of course not.

—Patricia Randolph, Dane County Representative
to the Conservation Congress



The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

—Mahatma Gandhi

IS THE DNR SERVING YOUR INTERESTS?

Last spring the citizens of Dane County elected the first non-hunting, wildlife protectionist as a delegate to the Conservation Congress (CC). That body, composed of five elected delegates from each of the 72 Wisconsin counties, is supposed to represent the interests of all of the citizens of the state in its advisory capacity to the board of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In its 65 year history, however, it has promoted the interests of the state's hunters, trappers, and anglers exclusively. The CC has become so powerful that the DNR board itself is composed completely of strong hunter advocates. It is time for those citizens who appreciate the life in wildlife to learn how their interests are being ignored and to become involved in helping all Wisconsin's wildlife to survive and prosper in the 21st century.

The CC and the DNR are part of a long tradition of disregard for all of nature. At the turn of the century, both state and federal wildlife management agencies were established by hunters to bring those wildlife species preferred as "game" back to wide open spaces. A century later these agencies remain fixated on their original function, with little interest in, and few resources dedicated to, maintaining a healthy biodiversity which includes the non-game species. This devotion to the desires of the hunters ignores the fact that the majority of the citizens—94% nationally—do not kill animals for recreation and that the hunting industry is actually destroying our environment.

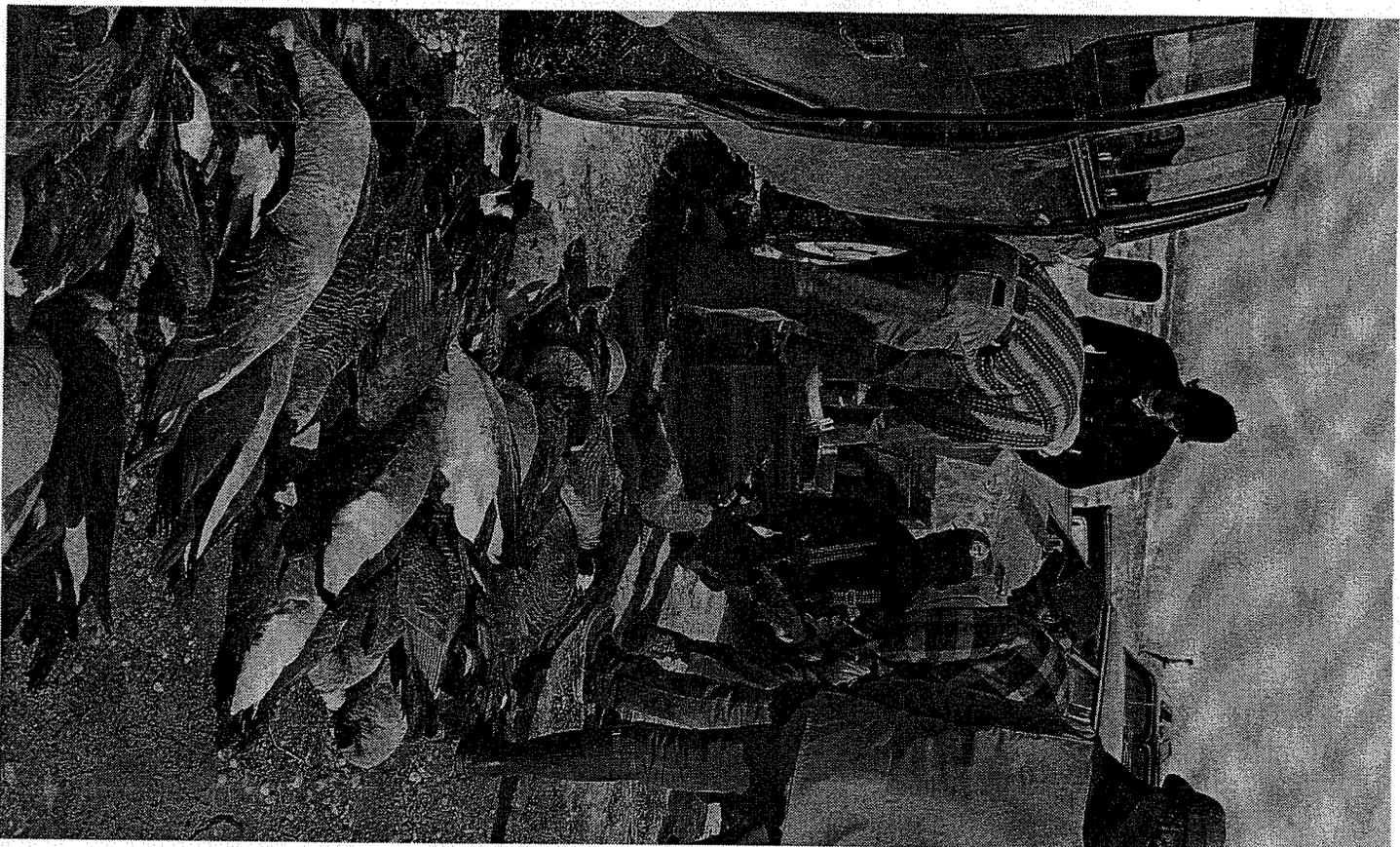
In 1992, 1700 of the world's leading scientists, including the majority of Nobel laureates in the sciences, wrote a terse warning to humanity of the threat to critical biological systems posed by man's



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1999*

122 State Street
Madison, WI 53703

**CONTRIBUTIONS
GRATEFULLY
ACCEPTED**



destruction of the natural environment. These scientists have called for a stop to managing the wildlife and lands for a minority of people and for increased consideration of the health of the entire ecosystem of a region when establishing policy. In 1992, the scientific community gave humanity one decade to turn things around—seven years later we remain on the accelerating course of devastation. Why?

In 1995, a National Geographic television documentary asserted that wild animals not only need human protection but they need our active help—four years later they remain under assault. Why?

The answer lies in the history of the wildlife management system which was set up to supply an (over)abundance of the animals which hunters prefer to kill and to be funded by licenses to kill these wild animals. During this century, this system has, among other things, decimated populations of our natural top predators (wolves, lynx, cougars, grizzlies) and continues to wage war on mid-range predators (beaver, otter, skunk, possum, muskrat, fisher, fox, and raccoon). Hunters view the large predators as direct competition and despise the mid-range predators because they feed on the eggs of ground-nesting "game" birds, thus reducing the numbers available for killing by humans.

But eliminating predators will result in more harm to nature than benefit to hunters. In a Bascom Hall lecture in the fall of 1998, Michael Soule, conservation biologist based in Colorado, reported that science has now discovered that, if mid-range and top natural predators fail to exist in natural numbers, all of biodiversity collapses in a cascading effect of devastation.

Today we are losing species of both plants and

animals at an alarming rate. Much of this loss is due to the focus in federal and state departments of natural resources on cash crops of animals rather than the environment itself.

HOW DOES THE DNR SPEND ITS RESOURCES?

Money spent on killing animals

\$67.8 million is allocated to game species management programs in the wildlife bureau, which is devoted primarily to organizing hunting, fishing, and trapping programs for consumers of the state wildlife. Statewide staff is over 1,500 employees.

Money spent on conserving animals

\$2.1 million is allocated to all the non-game species (which outnumber the game species) and endangered species programs. Statewide staff is 30 employees.

The above funding priorities clearly illustrate the emphasis the DNR places on hunting and the needs of hunters. The only voices that appear to have an effect on policy are those of the hunters, anglers and trappers. Endangered species and common mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish are given little consideration within the DNR. This situation must change to save the balance of nature that is so vital to a sound ecosystem.

On the following pages you will find details of how Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources caters to the wishes of those who enjoy blood sports and ignores those natural resources not wanted by the hunters, anglers and trappers of the state.

"We, the senior members of the world's scientific community, hereby warn all humanity of what lies ahead. A great change in our stewardship of the earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided and our global home on this planet is not to be irrevocably mutilated."
Henry Kendall, Union of Concerned Scientists, November, 1992

The DNR knows that forests and lands managed without hunting can support only a fraction of the deer herd needed to satisfy the 700,000 gun hunters and 240,000 bow hunters that want to kill deer in Wisconsin. The DNR's solution is to manage the land and the herd for over-population.

DEER

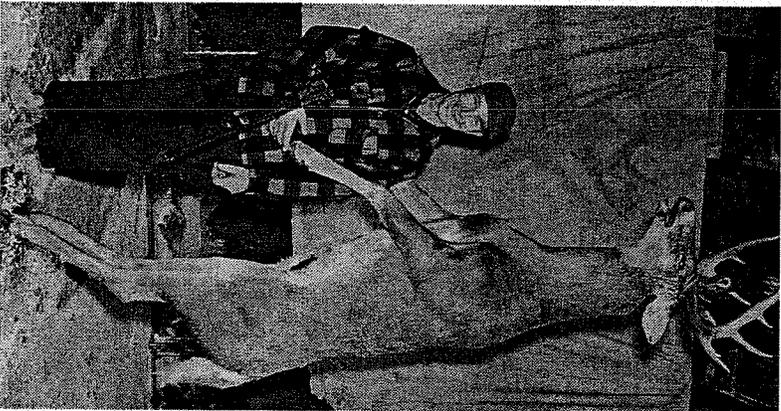
Approximately 400,000 deer are killed and tagged annually. An estimated 200,000 more deer die of hunter-inflicted wounds and are not recovered.

In 1960, the population of white-tail deer was approximately 200,000. The estimated population for fall 1999 is expected to exceed 1.2 million. One major reason for the steady rise in population is pressure from the hunting community to have a satisfactory hunting experience. Hunters ask for three things—to see a deer, shoot at a deer, and to kill a deer.

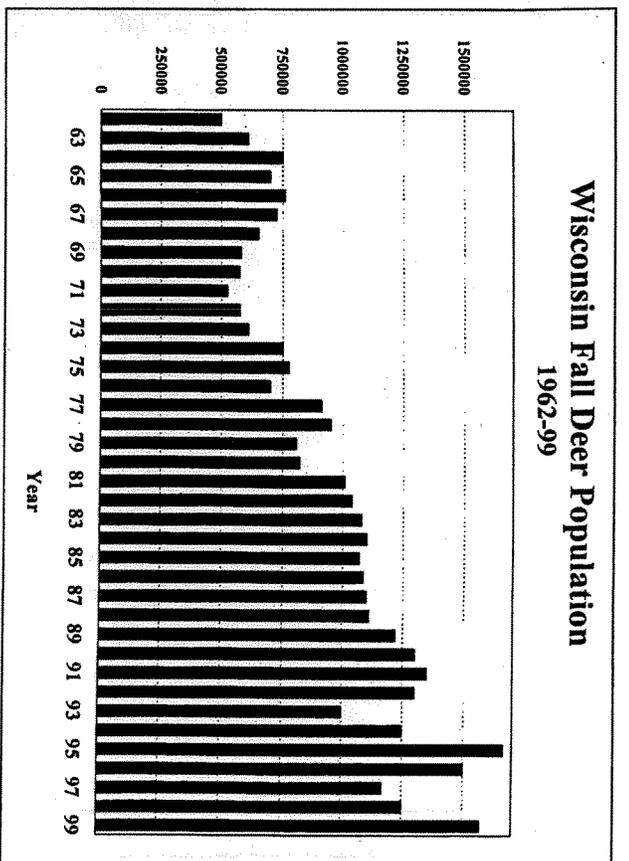
Maximum Sustained Yield—How Do They Keep the Herd So Large? The DNR sets hunting goals each year and sells enough permits so that,

after the hunting season, only about half the herd remains. This means that the average life span of a white-tail deer in our state is 1.5 to 2 years (as opposed to 8-12 years in a natural environment). This creates an unnatural deer herd with young, inexperienced animals going into winter with abundant food reserves. Due to natural mechanisms which adjust the population to a size the environment can sustain, several things will happen:

1. Does have twins and triplets
 2. Fewer deer die of disease
 3. Almost no deer die of old age related problems
 4. Predators kill fewer deer
 5. Few deer migrate out of a region
- A "baby boom" occurs in the spring, every spring. The herd explodes from about 600,000 after



Wisconsin Fall Deer Population 1962-99



Due to pressure from hunters, the DNR manages the deer herd for a surplus. As a consequence, the Wisconsin fall deer population more than doubled between 1962 and 1999.

the season to over one million every year—year in and year out.

The DNR uses a variety of means to produce a larger deer herd than the public will accept. In the 1960's and 70's, one DNR project clear-cut 10,000 acres to create ideal deer habitat and keep the herd large. This type of wildlife management for a maximum herd size has proven so successful that the DNR has taken an unusual step. They have created special antlerless hunting seasons, which permit the unprecedented hunting of baby animals. The fawns are about six months old when they face their first hunting season, and they are stalked, wounded, and killed throughout the state.

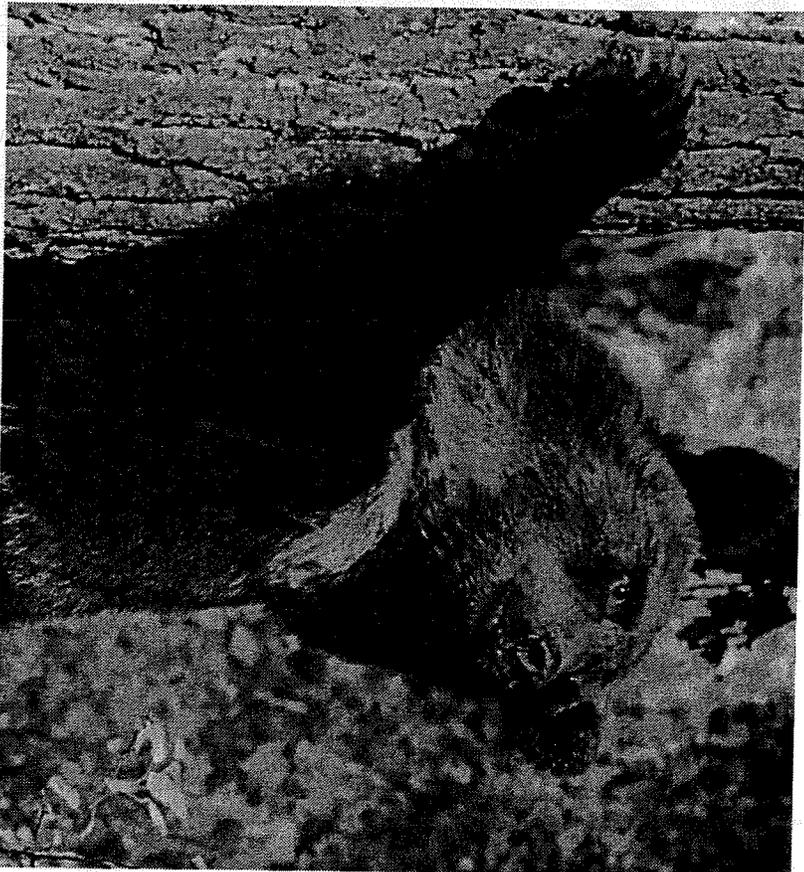
The principal argument presented to the public by the DNR for hunting deer is that the herd has over-populated and threatens the fields, farms and automobiles of the state. Yet the over-population is not the fault of the deer; it is the intent of the DNR to produce this enormous herd that

they can claim needs to be 'controlled' by 'recreational' hunting.

PHEASANTS

Pheasants are not native to Wisconsin, so the DNR spends money to raise pheasants to provide living targets for another blood sport. While some grass-land areas are set aside for the creation of a natural pheasant population, the number of pheasants surviving in these areas is too small to satisfy the hunters' desire for birds to kill. As a result, Wisconsin runs a massive "put and take"

Program for pheasants: over 200,000 pheasants are raised in pens and released two weeks or so before the pheasant hunting season begins. These birds cannot forage for food or find shelter, and nearly all will die if not killed during the hunting season. Most of the birds released and killed are roosters because hunters are not interested in killing the less colorful females. The females are generally disposed of within a few days of hatching



Rep. Johnsrud, "If Wisconsin were a true democracy, bear hunting with hounds would have been doomed a long time ago, but as long as I have the power to block it, any bill to ban it is going nowhere."

BLACK BEAR

3,127 black bear were killed by hunters using rifles and bows and arrows in Wisconsin last year. The traditional methods for hunting bear are neither humane nor sporting but rely on the use of packs of dogs to exhaust and tree the bear or piles of bait to lure the bear to the hunter.

Bait-hunters put out food for the bear, including doughnuts and other bakery goods, in a large pile during the weeks preceding the hunting season. The bear are killed while eating the bait by gun hunters and bow hunters. Baiting teaches bears to intrude on humans to seek human food. It is extremely irresponsible to encourage feeding bear. All across Canada signs read, "A fed bear is a dead bear." Yet, the DNR promotes baiting to

facilitate an easier kill for its clientele.

Packs of dogs are also used to hunt bear in Wisconsin. During the summer training period, packs of dogs are allowed to chase and tree bears and cubs in the forests in northern Wisconsin. This training bothers homeowners, vacationers, and farmers in the north and also stresses the bear and separates the mother from the cubs. During the fall bear hunt, packs of dogs run over a large area until a bear is found. The dogs often fight with the bear, and injury results for both species. The bear is usually driven up a tree, and the hunter shoots the tired, terrified, debilitated bear out of the tree. Representative Frank Boyle's bill to ban bear-hounding in Wisconsin created a ground swell of popular support, but it was not supported by the DNR.

In addition to the cruelty of the recreational killing of bear, the legal killing of bear contributes to the illegal trade in bear parts. Bears are endangered all over the world because of the Asian gall-bladder trade; six of eight species of bear are on the endangered list. Two bears are poached for every legal bear killed. It is short-sighted to keep killing bear.

WILD TURKEY

Almost 69,000 wild turkeys were shot and registered 1998.

Wild turkeys, after being extirpated from the state by hunting, were re-introduced using endangered resources funding and protected until the numbers became large enough to hunt. Spring and fall hunting seasons were established, even though claims for crop damage caused by wild turkeys have remained extremely low. Although turkeys are seen in agricultural fields, they are attracted to the abundance of insects, the

presence of waste grain or the remains of unharvested crops. In many cases where turkeys are blamed for crop damage, an investigation reveals that the turkeys were eating crops damaged by squirrels, raccoons, crows, and other wildlife. Experts insist turkeys do little or no damage to crops or forest area. The needless hunting of wild turkeys continues because of hunter demands for 'recreation.'



WOLVES

The DNR allowed the endangered wolf to migrate into Wisconsin from Minnesota in the mid-1970's after hunters and trappers completely eliminated them from the state. Today there are about 200 wolves located in about 20 northern counties.

Concerned more with the needs of hunters than the needs of wolves, the DNR staff has created a new wolf-management program that determines criteria for removing the wolf from the endangered and threatened list in the state. Later this year, the wolf will be removed from the endangered list so farmers can kill wolves they believe are causing problems. The next step is the trapping and

hunting of wolves to satisfy the demand for ever more hunting opportunities.

The DNR board has asked the staff to develop a plan which allows the hunting of wolves when the population reaches 350 animals. Hunters feel threatened by the predator wolf competing with them for deer and other game. Farmers also want the wolves to be hunted to protect livestock ranging in fields. In more progressive states, like Oregon, cattle ranchers have joined together to protect wildlife on their lands. Dayton Hyde, a cattle rancher there, feeds the coyotes on his land and he has no livestock predation.

NEW SEASONS — CROW HUNTING

Last year the hunting of crows was permitted for the first time in our state. Although crow is eaten by very few people, the killing of crows was allowed because hunters like as many opportunities as possible to practice marksmanship skills. Prior to the addition of crows to the list of birds hunted, problem crows could be killed by obtaining a permit from the DNR. Thus, a hunting season was not necessary to control nuisance birds but is purely a response to a desire for more hunting opportunities.

Today the pressure from the hunting community is greater than ever to open a hunting season on **MOURNING DOVES AND SANDHILL CRANES**. The Conservation Congress, the citizens advisory group, voted to ask the DNR board to add these birds to the list of game species. Political leaders in the assembly and state senate are also calling for the hunting of mourning doves and sandhill cranes. A ten bird per day bag limit on mourning doves is requested. The breast of a mourning dove contains 1.1 oz of meat. The killer mentality of the Wisconsin hunter is all too sadly

evident in their demands to be allowed to kill mourning doves, the state bird of peace, and sandhill cranes, which have been protected and supported by the International Crane Foundation located in Baraboo.



This dog struggled for more than 18 hours with a conibear trap around her neck before suffocating.

TRAPPING—OVER A MILLION ANIMALS TRAPPED IN WISCONSIN LAST YEAR

The extremism of state agencies is characterized by the promotion of the steel jaw trap. Banned in 88 countries for its inherent cruelty and randomness, the trap is avidly promoted by the DNR and its usage is taught to children. The number of trappers in Wisconsin has dropped over the last decade to a few thousand. However, there is no limit to the number of traps a single trapper can set in streams, meadows and forest trails.

The traps used today are similar to those used by the French trappers two hundred years ago and include:

- the steel-jaw leg-hold trap
- the conibear trap
- the snare

Thousands of animals suffer excruciating pain in these traps including bobcats, fishers, minks,

beavers, muskrats, otters, opossums, skunks, weasels, raccoons, coyotes, foxes, squirrels, dogs, cats, birds of all kinds, deer and farm livestock of all types. According to national fish and wildlife agencies, 50-75% of the animals caught in traps are not the intended species and are simply trashed by the trapper.

33 dogs and cats were reported caught in traps last year in Wisconsin. 25 died of wounds. Many more dogs and cats disappeared in trapped areas and were never found by the owner.

The steel jaw trap is an extremely cruel trap designed to catch the animal by a foot or leg and hold it in place until the trapper comes. Often the animal dies of dehydration, exposure to the elements, predators or self-mutilation. Nor can the trap distinguish one species from another, so many 'nontarget' animals are wounded and also die needless lingering deaths waiting for the trapper to check the trap.

The conibear trap (called the killer trap) has a forceful mechanism that squeezes an animal, compacting the skeleton, sometimes breaking the back, snapping the spine or suffocating the animal. Animals not killed by the trap will linger in agony until the trapper comes to bludgeon them to death.

A snare is a cruel device made of wire or cable that squeezes the limbs or necks of the animals tighter and tighter as they squirm in their attempts to escape. The animals are either suffocated or die slowly of dehydration, exposure to the weather and predators.

GAME FARMS AND PRIVATE HUNTING RESERVES

The DNR licenses 3,200 private game farms, fur farms, deer farms and shooting preserves each year. In many preserves, hunters are able to "buy"

Non-hunters contribute over \$1.5 billion to the state economy while observing, photographing and feeding wildlife. Over 1.5 million people enjoy wildlife in our state without killing or causing animal suffering. Tax money paid to the DNR by the majority of citizens who do not hunt or trap animals does nothing to protect or enhance their interests.

wildlife for hunting purposes throughout the year. Canned hunts, although officially illegal, are not monitored or policed by the DNR and fall through a loophole of jurisdiction policy.

HUNTING IN STATE PARKS, NATURAL AREAS & SANCTUARIES

The DNR not only provides the hunters of this state with lands set aside for hunting, it has slowly been allowing the virtually tame animals in our state parks to become easy targets. More and more private lands are being closed to hunters because of trespassing problems and vandalism by the hunting community. The DNR and hunters have responded by wielding their political muscle to open our state parks to hunters.

In 1917, hunting was prohibited in state parks. The parks were established to provide natural sanctuaries preserving unique, sensitive areas of the state. 48 years later, in 1965, our legislators amended the original statute to allow deer hunting in Rock Island State Park in Door County. Since 1965, more and more areas have been opened as shooting galleries.

1967 Deer hunting was allowed in those parks or portions of parks designated by the conservation commission.

1968 The DNR opened nine more state parks to deer hunting during the gun and bow season and followed-up with a permanent rule for hunting deer in state parks in 1969.

1989 The statute was amended to allow hunting of turkeys in state parks.

1990 The DNR opened up to six parks to spring turkey hunting and an additional five parks to spring turkey hunting for disabled hunters.

1997 The statute was amended once more to allow small game hunting in state parks.

1997 The DNR expanded deer gun, muzzleloader and bow hunting season at four state parks and added more turkey hunting in state parks.

1998 The DNR opened four additional state parks for muzzleloader and bow hunting seasons.

As of today 30 state parks are open for deer hunting, and the DNR is establishing additional rules for small game hunting in state parks. Tragically, two thirds of the national wildlife refuge system is also open to hunting and trapping.



Hunter education is now wide spread in Wisconsin, teaching hunting skills to more than 20,000 twelve year-olds each year.

HUNTING EDUCATION

Nationally the number of hunters is dropping dramatically and represents fewer than 6% of the American public, so the initiation of young people into recreational hunting and trapping is extremely important to keep the blood sports from dying out.

In 1990, the Humane Society of the U.S. applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency for permits to do studies for humane non-lethal management of urban deer. State and federal agencies blocked these studies for 8 years because they are terrified that if humane methods of cheap deer birth control exist, the public will not tolerate the annual slaughter.

In Wisconsin, the DNR, the hunters and the trappers are using hunter education to perpetuate hunting into the future. Hunter and trapper education courses are taught in the public schools throughout the state. The students learn to shoot a shotgun, rifle, and bow and arrow and to set traps to kill and wound furbearers. Firearms are part of the course and students are taught to handle and shoot guns. 4,200 volunteers and over a million dollars of support from the DNR are dedicated to recruiting new people into hunting. With the tragic rise in youth violence and school shootings, it is difficult to understand teaching children killing as a sport instead of teaching them kindness and compassion towards all living creatures.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY FOR THESE PROGRAMS COME FROM?

The money comes from hunting and trapping licenses and state income tax dollars and taxes on weapons and ammunition and state park entrance fees and the check-off for endangered species preservation and Gov. Thompson's decision to designate the use of \$4 million of Indian gaming money over two years to advertise hunting and a federal tax on oil and gas revenues.

Just this fall, state senators proposed a new money-making scheme—a 1/8 of 1% sales tax to raise \$50 million for more hunting programs.

If the general non-hunting public is contributing tax dollars to buy lands, operate state parks and run programs, shouldn't money go to programs that enhance their interests?

WHAT SHOULD THE STATE BE DOING FOR NON-HUNTERS

Non-hunters should be asking for programs that enable them to enjoy nature more fully.

- The state should create wild preserves with trails and look-outs designated for observing and photographing wildlife. In addition, we need large core environments with corridors connecting to other wild areas. These areas should include a balance of nature with predators and prey species alike.
- Tax-payers should demand that the DNR focus on programs that promote a new stewardship of the land and wildlife, programs that facilitate the connection between humans, the land and wild animals. The state should provide centers that specialize in humane educational programs for youth, adults, and whole families to learn about hawks and owls, aquatic mammals, migratory birds, etc. The emphasis should be on learning about animals and how our lives are connected to the natural world. In such programs, respect for all living things is taught.
- The state should provide the public schools with a humane educational curriculum alternative to Project Wild and the hunter and trapper education programs now imposed on our children. We should be empowering the children with a constructive choice.
- The state should establish centers that teach rescue of injured wildlife, rehabilitation, and return of injured animals to the wild.
- The state should help communities protect natural areas around urban centers. The DNR must explore and promote nonlethal methods to control the population of wild animals,



including the use of deer fencing and birth control in suburban areas and beaver flumes and bafflers to control damage to roads and agricultural land.

- The DNR must be instructed to manage the deer herd at the 1960 level of 200,000.
- The DNR should produce magazines and booklets for the non-hunting public that provide information on how to identify song birds, raptors and waterfowl, hunt edible mushrooms, build bird houses, establish backyard native

prairies, conduct controlled burns, plant trees and shrubs for windbreaks, and attract birds and butterflies to yards.

If the wildlife bureau were not in the hunting and trapping business, time and money could be used to educate and enhance the enjoyment of the out-of-doors for the majority of the citizens.

HOW CAN I GET THE DNR TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS THAT REFLECT MY INTERESTS IN NATURE?

Call or write your legislators and tell them you are not being served by the current DNR programs and that you expect something better for your tax dollar.

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE 608-266-9960.

Attend the Department of Natural Resources Spring Hearings in your county on:

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2000, AT 7 P.M.

To obtain the exact location of the hearing in your county, call the DNR office or call 608-257-6333 or 608-242-1460. In Dane County, the hearings are held at the Dane County Expo Center.

THE DNR SPRING HEARINGS

Every spring, citizens in each county in Wisconsin have the opportunity to vote directly on propositions affecting wildlife and environmental issues and to elect delegates who will represent their county on the Conservation Congress, a citizen committee which advises the DNR. Although normally only hunters, anglers and trappers attend these meetings, all citizens are welcome. **THE SPRING HEARINGS PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE POLICIES AFFECTING WISCONSIN WILDLIFE.**

Because those who wish to kill wildlife have traditionally made up virtually 100% of attendees at the hearings and on the Conservation Congress board, the recommendations to the DNR show a strong pro-hunting bias. Last spring, the delegates from Dane County ignored the votes taken at the Dane County Spring Hearings and voted for a mourning dove and sandhill crane season, among other things. We need to send a message that the majority of citizens do not hunt and are not getting programs that reflect their interests. We cannot leave these important policies to others.

Please fill out the form on the next page and send it to the address below, pledging your attendance at the spring hearings. We can join together to change state wildlife policies.

I PLEDGE TO ATTEND THE SPRING HEARING ON
APRIL 10, 2000, AND TO VOTE TO PROTECT OUR
WILDLIFE FROM SPORT HUNTING AND TRAPPING.
I WILL STAY UNTIL THE END OF THE MEETING TO
HELP ELECT PROTECTIONIST REPRESENTATIVES
TO THE CONSERVATION CONGRESS.

Please print

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please check:

I am interested in working to sign up others to attend the hearing

Send to:

Wisconsin Wildlife Coalition

122 State Street, Suite 406

Madison, WI 53703.

e-mail: Alliance@AllAnimals.org

Phone: 608-257-6333

Fax: 608-257-6400



RAISING AWARENESS
OF THE VALUE OF
ENDANGERED NATURE

Pledge courtesy of RAVEN

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 10, 2002

FILE REF: 2300

TO: Sen. Robson, Chair, JCRAR – 12 copies
Rep. Gunderson, Chair, Assembly Sub-Committee on Deer Management – 6 copies
Rep. Johnsrud, Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee – 2 copies
Sen. Baumgart, Chair, Senate Environmental Committee – 2 copies
Steven Oestreicher, Chair, Conservation Congress
Dave Ladd, Chair, Conservation Congress Big Game Committee

FROM: Kurt Thiede, DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management

SUBJECT: Results of questions on expanded gun deer hunting season opportunities and herd control options

The Joint Legislative Committee on the Review of Administrative Rules is currently considering a proposal for a December Zone T hunt. The committee is also considering alternatives such as a 16-day gun deer season. In addition, Rep. Gunderson's special sub-committee is also discussing these issues. The following memo is a summary of recent votes and opinions on a 16-day gun deer season.

Attached are the results of the Conservation Congress Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearing questions pertaining to a 16-day gun deer season, as well as the results of the DNR's 2001 deer gun hunter survey. These results have been generated by two methods of gathering input on the 16-day season issue. The results of the random survey of 20,000 Wisconsin gun deer hunters with approximately 9,800 respondents was 56% in favor of the 16-day season and 44% opposed (Attachment 3.) The concept of a 16-day season was opposed as a Spring Hearing advisory question (Attachment 1.).

It is important to note that the questions were not worded the same and had varying levels of season framework specificity. They ranged from simply asking if respondents supported the concept of a 16-day gun deer season to specific details of when the hunt would start and end. In addition, it is important to consider who filled out the surveys and ballots. The DNR gun deer survey was sent to 20,000 random deer hunters who purchased a license to hunt deer during the 2001 gun deer season, of which we received approximately 9,800 responses. On the other hand, the Spring Hearings were open to a wider cross-section of respondents, representing many viewpoints and many different recreational interests. The almost opposite votes might be a result of interest groups that may be directly impacted by the expansion of deer gun season.

Again, the DNR survey reported that 56% of the respondents support a 16-day season that started on the traditional opening day (44% opposed). The Spring Hearing revealed that only 27% of respondents supported a 16-day season that added a week to the end of the traditional 9-day season (73% opposed). An annual November 15 start to a 16-day season received only 24% support (76% opposed). Starting a 16-day season a week prior to the traditional opener received the least support, only 20% versus 80% in opposition. Additionally, when asked on the Spring Hearing if respondents supported the concept of a 16-day season, it resulted in a vote just opposite of the DNR survey results, here 44% supported the concept of the 16-day gun season and 56% were opposed.

This exemplifies the difficulty that faced Deer 2000 when attempting to make deer season modifications. If you take into consideration all of the interest groups which are effected by a rule change, whether it be an extended gun season or bow season, there is a group or groups that will have to give a little so another group has a little more.

We hope that this information will be beneficial to your deliberations and offer you our assistance as you consider deer season modifications.

Attachment 1. 2002 Spring Hearing Results Summary: 16-day Season Questions.

2002 SPRING RULES HEARING - CONSERVATION CONGRESS RESULTS

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

ATTENDANCE: 11,097

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION VOTES BY QUESTION ONLY

QUESTION NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION	Yes	No	Majority	Counties approving	Counties rejecting	Counties tie votes	Counties not voting
5 CONCEPT OF A 16 DAY GUN DEER SEASON	4,452	5,654	NO	23	48	1	0
6 ADD 7 DAYS TO THE END OF THE CURRENT 9-DAY SEASON	2,509	6,927	NO	2	69	1	0
7 DEER SEASON FROM NOVEMBER 15-30	2,238	7,279	NO	5	67	0	0
8 ADD 7 DAYS TO THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT 9-DAY SEASON	1,941	7,665	NO	4	67	1	0

Attachment 2. Complete Spring Hearing Question Language and Voting Results: 16-day Season Questions.

ADVISORY QUESTIONS

1. 16-DAY GUN DEER SEASON.

There has been much discussion about lengthening the current 9-day gun deer season to a 16-day format. To date, there has been a lack of agreement about the specifics of various 16-day season proposals. In general the Department is interested in gauging public acceptance of a 16-day gun deer season.

DO YOU SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF A 16-DAY GUN DEER SEASON?

5. YES 4,452 NO 5,654

The following three proposals are alternative frameworks that have been suggested for a 16-day gun deer season. We request your response to each of the three proposals.

OPTION I. ADD SEVEN DAYS TO THE END OF THE TRADITIONAL 9-DAY DEER GUN SEASON.

Under this proposal, 7 additional days of gun deer hunting would be added to the current 9-day format. In the 7-day addition, hunters could harvest bucks, and with the appropriate permits, antlerless deer. The muzzleloader season would follow the 16-day season and continue for 10 consecutive days.* The late archery season would begin on the Monday following Thanksgiving Day and end on January 3.* Archery hunters would have to wear blaze orange during the gun and muzzleloader seasons.

Under this proposal, October Zone T herd control seasons would only occur if the 16-day gun deer season is not capable of bringing a deer management unit's deer population to within 20% of established population goals.

The season dates under this framework would be as outlined below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Gun Season</u>	<u>Muzzleloader</u>	<u>Late Archery</u>
2003	Nov 22 – Dec 7	Dec 8 – 17	Dec 1 – Jan 3
2004	Nov 20 – Dec 5	Dec 6 – 15	Nov 29 – Jan 3
2005	Nov 19 – Dec 4	Dec 5 – 14	Nov 28 – Jan 3
2006	Nov 18 – Dec 3	Dec 4 – 13	Nov 27 – Jan 3
2007	Nov 17 – Dec 2	Dec 3 – 12	Nov 26 – Jan 3

DO YOU SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 16-DAY GUN DEER SEASON FRAMEWORK AS DESCRIBED IN OPTION I?

6. YES 2,509 NO 6,927

OPTION II. 16-DAY GUN DEER SEASON FROM NOVEMBER 15 - 30.

This advisory question is being forwarded by the Natural Resources Board. Under this proposal the 16-day gun would start on November 15 each year and continue through November 30. The muzzleloader season would begin on December 1 and continue for 10 consecutive days.* The archery season would also begin on December 1 and end on January 3.* Archery hunter would be required to wear blaze orange during the muzzleloader season.

The October and December T Zone hunts would be discontinued and as needed be incorporated into the November 15-30 day period. If this 16-day day season framework is not sufficient to bring unit deer populations within established goals additional alternatives will have to be considered and implemented.

The season dates under this framework would be as outlined below:

Every Year	<u>Early Archery</u>	<u>Gun Season</u>	<u>Muzzleloader</u>	<u>Late Archery</u>
	Sat. Nearest Sept. 15 – Nov 13	Nov. 15-30	Dec. 1-10	Dec. 1-Jan. 3

DO YOU SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 16-DAY GUN DEER SEASON FRAMEWORK AS DESCRIBED IN OPTION II?

7. YES 2,238 NO 7,279

OPTION III. ADD SEVEN DAYS TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TRADITIONAL 9-DAY DEER GUN SEASON.

This advisory question is being forwarded by the Natural Resources Board. Under this proposal the 16-day gun would start a week earlier than the current traditional 9-day gun deer season and continue for 16 consecutive days. The muzzleloader season would follow the 16-day season and continue for 10 consecutive days.* The late archery season would begin on the Monday following Thanksgiving Day and end on January 3.* Archery hunters would have to wear blaze orange during the gun and muzzleloader seasons.

The October and December T Zone hunts would be discontinued and as needed be incorporated into the 16- day period. If this 16-day day season framework is not sufficient to bring unit deer populations within established goals additional alternatives will have to be considered and implemented.

The season dates under this framework would be as outlined below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Early Archery</u>	<u>Gun Season</u>	<u>Muzzleloader</u>	<u>Late Archery</u>
2003	Sept 13 – Nov 13	Nov 15 – 30	Dec 1 – 10	Dec 1 – Jan 3
2004	Sept 18 – Nov 11	Nov 13 – 28	Nov 29 – Dec 8	Nov 29 – Jan 3
2005	Sept 17 – Nov 10	Nov 12 – 27	Nov 28 – Dec 7	Nov 28 – Jan 3
2006	Sept 16 – Nov 9	Nov 11 – 26	Nov 27 – Dec 6	Nov 27 – Jan 3
2007	Sept 15 – Nov 8	Nov 10 – 25	Nov 26 – Dec 5	Nov 26 – Jan 3

DO YOU SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 16-DAY GUN DEER SEASON FRAMEWORK AS DESCRIBED IN OPTION III?

8. YES 1,941 NO 7,665

*Note: The 10-day muzzleloader season and Monday following Thanksgiving start to late archery are a result of the Deer 2000 and Beyond season framework changes that will go into effect for the 2002 deer seasons.

Results for the 16-day season question from Gun Deer Hunters.

The survey was mailed to 20,000 current year deer license holders in proportion to license sales. A second mailing was made to 10,000 non-respondents.

Table 1. Breakdown of license type surveyed.

License Type	Count	Percent
Conservation Patron	2,503	12.5%
Non-Resident Conservation Patron	1	0.0%
Non-Resident Deer	1,032	5.1%
Non-Resident Sports	9	0.0%
Resident Deer	13,858	69.3%
Resident Sports	2,597	13.0%

The proportion of deer licenses represented in the survey (Table 1) is representative of the total number of deer licenses sold.

Responses were received from 9,770 participants. After removing duplicate surveys the total number of responses was 9,483. The corrected response rate for the survey is 47.4%. About 50 more surveys have been received but NOT entered. These will be added to the dataset at a later date.

Question 3. Would you support a 16-day gun deer season starting on the traditional opening day?

Table 2. Response by DNR administrative Region.

DNR Region	Yes		No		P value
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Northeast	1,288	58.7%	908	41.4%	<.0001
Northern	622	53.5%	541	46.5%	0.0175
South Central	855	56.4%	661	43.6%	<.0001
Southeast	963	60.7%	624	39.3%	<.0001
West Central	1,077	50.5%	1,055	49.5%	0.6337
Unknown	327	57.9	238	42.1	0.0002
Statewide	5,132	56.0%	4,027	44.0%	<.0001

324 people did not answer the question.

Table 3. Response by license type.

License type	Yes		No		P value
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Conservation Patron	871	55.8%	691	44.2%	<.0001
Non-Resident Deer	281	60.2%	186	39.8%	<.0001
Non-Resident Sports	3	60.0%	2	40.0%	0.6547
Resident Deer	3,159	57.0%	2,386	43.0%	<.0001
Sports	718	53.2%	631	46.8%	0.0178
Unknown	100	43.3%	131	56.7%	0.0414
Statewide	5,132	56.0%	4,027	44.0%	<.0001

324 people did not answer the question.

Table 4. Responses of Gun Deer Hunters that also had Archery hunting authority (Conservation Patron and Archery license holders).

License type	Yes		No		P value
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Archery	4,388	56.2%	3,414	43.8%	<.0001