

FORESTRY, PARKS, & RECREATION STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 52-53- Allow Trapping and Hunting on State Park Lands (# 540210): Wisconsin State Statute s. 29.089 does not allow any trapping or hunting on Wisconsin state park land, except for deer, elk, wild turkeys or small game in a state park or portion of a state park if the department has authorized by rule the hunting of that type of game in a state park or portion of a state park. This means that state park lands are closed to hunting unless specifically opened by an administrative rule. Once lands are designated as part of the state park system, there are no provisions to allow trapping of any kind and no opportunity for bear hunting. Currently Wisconsin operates 46 state parks totaling 84,000 acres (32 of the 46 parks are more than 600 acres in size). The DNR continues to purchase private land and put it into the state park system. In private ownership, many of these areas may have been open to hunting and trapping. Trapping techniques have changed in recent years and the use of dog-proof traps, cable restraints, and the late seasons that allow the trapping of some furbearers under the ice have made possible the opportunity for multiple land uses with minimal user conflicts. In addition, safe hunting techniques, education, and hunter awareness efforts have made hunting an extremely safe activity, even on lands that are simultaneously open to other uses and activities.

- Would you support legislation that would require lands purchased as state parks to be open to hunting and give the authority to the DNR to regulate hunting on these state park lands according to the wise use of the natural resource?

52. YES _____ NO _____

- Would you support legislation that would require lands purchased as state parks to be open to trapping and give the authority to the DNR to regulate trapping on these state park lands according to the wise use of the natural resource?

53. YES _____ NO _____

FUR HARVEST STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

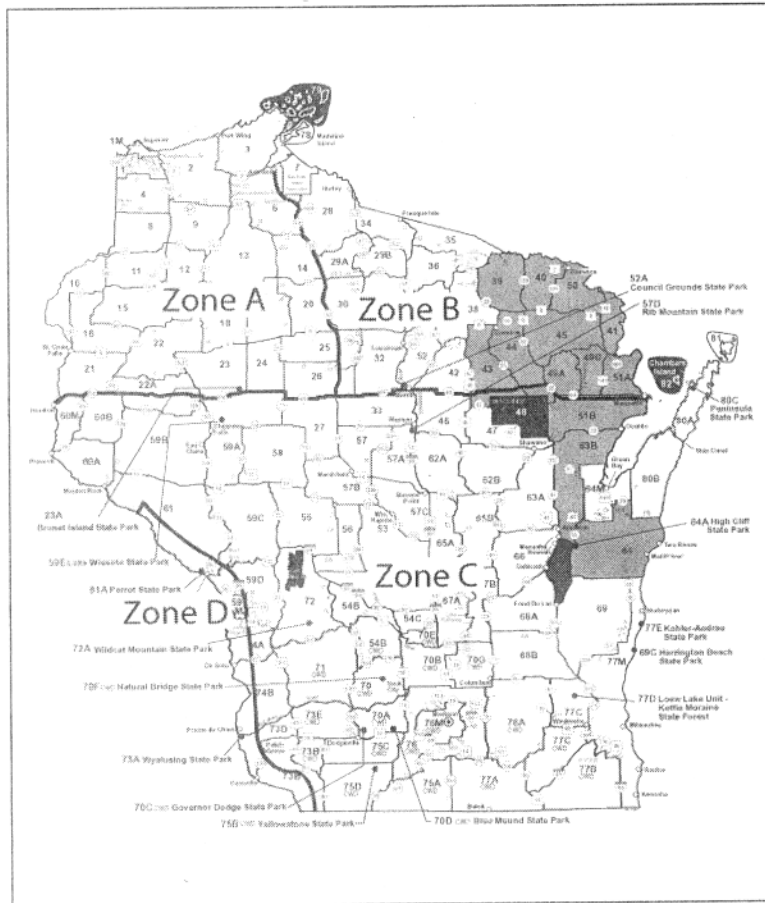
Question 54- Cable Restraints on Private Lands (# 510210): On private lands, a land owner (or occupant of any lands and members of their immediate family living with them) can hunt (if at least 10 years of age) or trap seven species of wild animals (coyote, fox, raccoon, squirrels, opossum, woodchuck, rabbits) on the land they own or occupy year round without the need for a license. There is no biological reason for prohibiting a landowner from using cable restraints on their own land year round. Cable restraints are much easier to set on trails and travel corridors than foot hold traps and this would provide more opportunity to use cable restraints. Cable restraints could be utilized on private lands by the land owners, especially during the months of October, November, and December when pelts are prime. In some areas of the state coyotes, fox and other furbearers are very plentiful and this would give land owners another tool to manage these animal populations.

- Would you support allowing private land owners/occupants to use cable restraints year round on lands owned or occupied by them for the species they now can hunt or trap year round without a license?

54. YES _____ NO _____

Question 55- Shorten Fall Beaver Trapping Season (# 050210): The population of beaver in Wisconsin has decreased in recent years and is trending downward with a steady, gradual decline in northwest Wisconsin Beaver Management Zone A and a significant decline in northeast Wisconsin Beaver Management Zone B (Beaver Population Analysis, 2008). Beaver populations are stable in southern Wisconsin, Zone C, and increasing in the Mississippi River Zone D. The statewide population is estimated at 66,800 beaver. At present, the open season south of highway 64 is from the first Saturday in November until the end of March for Zone C, and the day after the duck season through March 15 for Zone D. North of highway 64 (Zones A and B) the open season is from the first Saturday in November until the end of April. Spring trapping tends to target dispersing animals while fall and winter trapping targets established colonies. Shortening the season in fall would protect established beaver colonies and allow trappers to take advantage of the spring season when dispersing 2 year old animals will make up a larger proportion of the harvest. USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services to protect approximately 1,500 miles of high priority trout streams, primarily in northeastern Wisconsin. The majority of beavers are removed in early spring, which is normally late March through early May. This has caused some confusion and conflict between citizen trappers and agency trappers. Better understanding, reduced problems, and additional protection may occur if agency trapping on high priority trout streams would commence after the close of the respective season.

- Would you support shortening the beaver trapping season by one month at the beginning of the season (from starting the first Saturday in November to starting the first Saturday in December) in Deer Management Units (DMU) 39, 40, 50, 44, 41, 45, 43, 49A, 49B, 51A, 51B, 63B, and 64?



55. YES _____ NO _____