A new year is right around the corner, but before we jump full steam ahead into the new year, we wanted to take a minute and reflect on all of our work in 2020. Here are some highlights:

- WGF members are serving on or advising groups, including the Wisconsin Initiative for Climate Change Impacts – Wildlife, Forestry, and Agriculture sub-groups, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Deer Stakeholder Advisory Group, the WDNR Council on Forestry Budget and Policy Committees, the WDNR PFAS advisory groups, and many more.

- WGF members have served as invited experts providing public testimony on issues including clean water, mining, wildlife, and forestry.

- WGF leaders are working with our colleagues at the Natural Resources Foundation and Gathering Waters to explore aspects of racial equity and social justice in conservation and offer learning opportunities to our members.

Last but not least, we wanted to be sure to end this year with a note of thanks. We're thankful that so many of you offer your time, talents, and expertise to further our collective efforts in both large and small ways. You are the reason Wisconsin’s Green Fire is making a difference in Wisconsin!

2021-2023 State Budget Planning Update

Wisconsin's Green Fire (WGF) members attended a listening session with Governor Evers and his staff on December 2, 2020. During the session WGF representatives shared budget ideas compiled by the Legislative Committee and work groups. You can read WGF’s letter to the
Congratulations and Thanks to George Meyer

George Meyer, well-known Wisconsin conservation leader, will retire in January 2021 as Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF). Prior to leading the WWF, George had a 30-year career with the WDNR, serving as Secretary from 1993-2002. In 2017, George was inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame [https://wchf.org/george-meyer/](https://wchf.org/george-meyer/).

George was also instrumental in forming Wisconsin’s Green Fire. From the first exploratory meeting organized by Terry Daulton in February 2017 at Kemp Station, George’s excitement and ideas for WGF gave us encouragement and credence in the conservation community. George served on the interim board in 2017, helping to set up the foundation and guiding principles of the organization. Under George’s leadership, WWF served as our fiscal agent while we incorporated and established non-profit status. The support from George and administrative help from Ruth Ann Lee of WWF, helped set us up as an independent voice for science in conservation in Wisconsin.

At our first annual membership meeting in September 2017 at the Aldo Leopold Foundation (below), George delivered closing remarks likening the formation of Wisconsin’s Green Fire to “calling up the reserves.” In those early days, most of our members were retired natural resource professionals. As our membership broadens and grows, we thank the original founding “reserves” like George Meyer, and welcome all people supporting conservation into our ranks. Thank you George for your leadership and friendship and we wish you well in your retirement.
Update On The New PFAS Fire Fighting Foam Rule

On Friday, December 18, 2020, the Legislative Rules Committee (JCRAR) removed the main sections of enforceable regulations from the PFAS Fire Fighting Foam rule passed by the Natural Resources Board. The remaining sections of the rule simply outline the steps required to store and clean up PFAS foams. These changes will make it hard for industry to comply because there is no longer a standard included in the rule to follow. JCRAR also voted to introduce a bill next session, making this version of the rule a law so that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources cannot amend and strengthen the rule in the future. WGF member John Robinson delivered expert testimony supporting the rule as approved by the Natural Resources Board, as did a number of statewide environmental and conservation groups.

Watch for a new Opportunities Now 2.0 paper in early 2021 on PFAS.

Wisconsin’s Green Fire in the News

Wisconsin’s Green Fire is becoming a go-to source for natural resource focused stories across the state. Each month we will compile and share the latest pieces featuring our work.

- WUWM 89.7: Conservation Group Urges Wisconsin To Develop a Sustainable Wolf Management Plan. WGF Science Director Sarah Peterson is interviewed in this story.
- WXPR: Wisconsin’s Green Fire Encourages Science-Based State Management of Wolves. WGF Wildlife Work Group co-chair Adrian Wydeven, WGF Board Member Jodi Habush Sinykin, and Executive Director Fred Clark are quoted in this story.
Wisconsin's Green Fire has many members who work in conservation throughout the state. We hope that by sharing these openings you will share them widely within your networks.

- The Nature Conservancy is hiring a director of freshwater policy for the Midwest Division. This is a new position will work collaboratively with partners and TNC government relations to help propose, promote, and defend sound policy for freshwater conservation in our region. The posting is open through January 4. For additional information or to apply, please visit [nature.org/careers](http://nature.org/careers) and search for Director of Freshwater Policy.

- The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is seeking a qualified individual to serve as the Executive Director of the organization. The position has responsibility to oversee all operational aspects of the organization and is expected to be engaged in advocacy, membership recruitment, fund raising and public outreach and education. The posting is open through January 15th.

Wisconsin's Green Fire needs your support now more than ever. Your donation assures that conservation issues are around the state are addressed with the best scientific information available.