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**greenfire**  
VOICES FOR CONSERVATION

## May News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

### Opportunities Now: WGF Releases Wetlands and Waterways in Wisconsin Report



Our new report, produced by a team of WGF members and staff in partnership with The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin, highlights the critical importance of wetlands and threats they face from changes in federal rules.

The report examines the intersection and overlap between federal and state water protection authority; explains the increasingly important functions, environmental benefits, and ecosystem services provided by wetlands, especially in light of the impacts being experienced as a result of climate change; and concludes with recommendations for policy and actions at the

federal and state level that will help assure consistent and effective protections for wetlands and the many invaluable benefits they provide.

Key recommendations for Wisconsin:

- Preserve and strengthen wetland protections in state law.
- Utilize the new wetland mapping protocol that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has developed in updating the statewide Wisconsin Wetland Inventory. Improved mapping will help guide modeling efforts critical to planning and adaptation.
- Support and invest in green infrastructure projects that address watershed-level impacts. These projects should be developed in close collaboration with Native Americans, communities of color, and low-income communities to reduce flooding impacts.

[Listen to the WXPB Story on Wetlands and Waterways in Wisconsin](#)

[See the Full Report](#)

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### WGF and Partners Launch Climate Assessment Project in Monroe County





WGF is leading a partner-based effort to conduct a comprehensive climate change assessment in Monroe County in partnership with the Monroe County Climate Change Task Force.

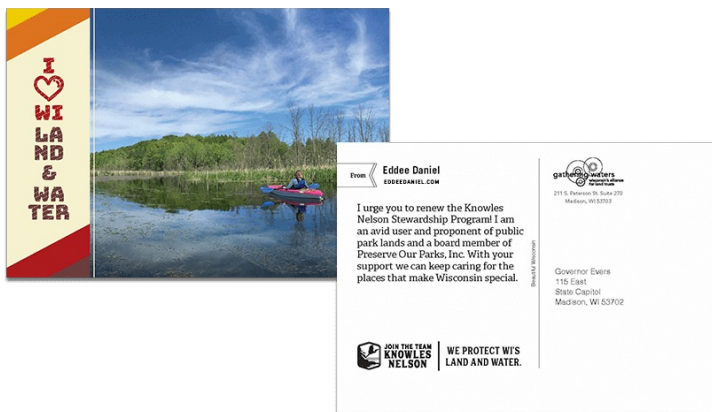
Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes joined a kickoff meeting for the project on May 5th in Sparta.

The **Monroe County Climate Readiness and Rural Economic Opportunity Assessment** reflects Governor Tony Evers' budget proposal calling for local units of government to address climate change through comprehensive planning. The process and practices created through this project can be adopted by other counties and municipalities to address climate change.

The Monroe County Climate project is being coordinated by Monroe County Land Conservation Dept. Director Bob Micheel, and Wisconsin's Green Fire - Executive Director, Fred Clark. WGF's Climate Change Task Force Chair Nancy Turyk is helping lead outreach on the effort and WGF's Heather Stricker will be providing GIS and technical support.

Listen to the May 10th WPR Story on the Monroe County Project

## Renewing the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program



Wisconsin's Green Fire is one of 70 organizations joining together to re-authorize the [Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program](#).

Because of Knowles-Nelson, local governments and nonprofit groups receive state matching grants to

purchase land or easements for forestry, wildlife and fisheries conservation, and recreation. And we have a vital source of funding for the development and maintenance of our waterways, parks, and trail systems - providing outdoor recreation opportunities and increased public land access across Wisconsin.

[Gathering Waters](#), Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts, has put together an easy way to show your support. Just head to [knowlesnelson.org/take-action](http://knowlesnelson.org/take-action), upload a photo, write a quick message, and enter your name and address. Help them reach their goal of sending 4,000 postcards by May 26th.



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## Public Engagement Encouraged as Wisconsin Charts its Energy Future



Few Americans think about the grid and the future of energy when switching on a porch light or charging up their cell phones, but many are concerned about where energy comes from. Whether that electric current comes from hydropower from rivers, a coal-fired power plant, or a solar panel on a roof, all energy systems have costs as well as benefits, and these vary as

markets and resources evolve. While many people may feel they lack technical background on complex energy topics, Wisconsin's future economy and quality of life will be impacted by directions taken in the next few years.

The good news is that Gov. Evers' recently released 2021-2023 budget addresses many of Wisconsin's energy issues. "There are nearly 30 clean energy provisions in this budget, and it is one of the best environmental and energy budgets I have seen in decades" according to Paul Heinen, Wisconsin's Green Fire's Legislative Liaison.

While the governor's proposed budget is a step in the right direction, tackling climate change and preparing for the energy needs of the future, it is important for Wisconsin's citizens to be engaged in the process. Luckily, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) and Governor Evers' office are both seeking input on energy planning efforts in the coming weeks and months.

[See the Full Piece on our Website](#)

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### Wisconsin's Green Fire in the News

- The Wisconsin State Journal's April 29th, 2021 story: [Report: Guided by politics, wolf hunt harmed packs, did little to resolve conflicts](#)
- WPR's April 29th, 2021 story: [Report Finds 100 Wolf Packs May Lose Pups From February Hunt That Did Little To Resolve Conflicts](#)
- WXPR's May 3rd, 2021 story: [Wisconsin's Green Fire Releases Assessment of 'Mishandled' Wolf Hunt](#)
- Ashland Daily Press's May 3rd, 2021 story: [Report finds 100 wolf packs may lose pups from February hunt](#)

- WPR's May 10th story: [New Monroe County Project Aims To Reduce Impacts Of Climate Change, Make Conservation Profitable](#)
- WPR's May 13th story: [More Than 100 Scientists Ask Biden Administration To Restore Protections For Gray Wolves](#)
- U.S. News and World Report's May 17th story: [Wildlife Officials Look to Improve Wolf Management Strategy](#)
- WXPR's May 25th story, [Wetlands that Mitigate Flooding in Northern Wisconsin at Risk Under Rule Change.](#)

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

[Give Today to Support Conservation Tomorrow!](#)

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