

November News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

WGF and WI Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Host Deer Conservation Webinar



On November 17th, WGF and the [Wisconsin Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers \(BHA\)](#) co-hosted a [panel discussion](#) on opportunities for Wisconsin to improve the management and conservation of its iconic white-tailed deer herd. The panel, moderated by WGF Wildlife Work Group co-chair Tom Hauge, included retired State Deer Research Biologist

Keith McCaffery, Conservation Biologist Don Waller, Wildlife Disease Ecologist Mike Samuel, and Wisconsin BHA State Co-Chair Noah Wishau. Keith, Don, and Mike each contributed to WGF's July Opportunities Now report, [Meeting Wisconsin's Deer Conservation Challenges](#), which outlines many of the topics panelists discussed during the webinar.

Panelists' presentations covered the history of deer management in Wisconsin, the effects of deer browsing on ecosystems, methods to slow the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and ways to use responsible hunting methods for deer management. During the Q&A segment, many webinar attendees were curious about CWD control efforts in Wisconsin, the historic changes in Wisconsin's deer population, and methods to promote ethical hunting across the state.

Read more and view the webinar [here](#).

[View the Recording Here](#)

WGF Members Author a Vision for Sustainable Food Systems

Agriculture uses more land and water than any other human activity, and our consumption demands continue to grow even as our resource base shrinks. A highly industrialized U.S. food system produces lots of food at seemingly low per



unit cost. But our current system is taking a heavy toll on farmers and the environment, and it fails to account for critical environmental costs. Our food is costing us (and future generations) far more than we think.

On average, farmers receive just 15 cents of our food dollar, and their share has been falling. Wisconsin lost half of its dairy farmers in the

last decade, even as state milk production (led by larger farms) *increased* by 25%. While many farmers work hard to protect the environment, agriculture is our biggest source of water pollution, and a leading source of greenhouse gas emissions. Concentration is also increasing systemic risks. A more sustainable food system is possible, but real change will require a new way of looking at problems that affect *all of us*.

In this invited paper, [Toward a Sustainable Food System](#), career Wisconsin experts James Matson and Jim VandenBrook assess critical farm conservation challenges and offer a new way forward. The opinions and recommendations expressed by the authors are theirs alone. Wisconsin's Green Fire looks forward to continued dialogue on the changes needed to ensure an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable food system.

[Read the Paper Here](#)

WGF Sponsors Deer Dumpsters to Slow the Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease



As deer hunting season begins in Wisconsin, Wisconsin's Green Fire is working to help slow the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD is the biggest threat to Wisconsin's deer herds and cherished deer hunting heritage, spreading to 45 counties since first detected in Wisconsin in 2002. One way to slow this spread is providing designated deer dumpsters where hunters can safely

dispose of deer carcasses. Since 2019, WGF has partnered with the Sauk County Conservation Alliance and the Wisconsin DNR to provide dumpsters, and *in 2020 these dumpsters captured an estimated 14.4 tons of CWD-infected deer waste*.

In 2021, WGF and the Alliance are providing five dumpsters, and WGF is sponsoring two in Baraboo and Plain. Our work includes working with local authorities to find a suitable location for the dumpster, publicizing the locations, arranging for dumpster delivery, monitoring the usage, and arranging for the dumpster disposal and replacement. In total, it costs about \$5 for each deer carcass deposited in the dumpster.

With your support, WGF will be able to provide proper carcass disposal at both

dumpster locations, and continue our educational efforts with decision-makers, hunters, and outdoor users to improve Wisconsin's response to this disease. In July 2021, WGF released its [Meeting Wisconsin's Deer Conservation Challenges Opportunities Now report](#) that advocates for policy changes to improve CWD monitoring and control efforts in Wisconsin.

Read more and donate to this important effort [here](#)!

Help WGF Stop the Spread

WGF and Partners Submit Letter to the White House on the Future for Enbridge Line 5



The oil pipeline Enbridge Line 5 is almost 70 years old and carries primarily crude oil through sensitive habitats in Wisconsin's Lake Superior region and under Michigan's Mackinaw Straits. Enbridge's continued operation of the aging Line 5 creates increasingly severe environmental risks to the Great Lakes and its watersheds, and raises

broader issues around the need for a national transition away from fossil fuels, and around tribal sovereignty.

Wisconsin's Green Fire, and seven other Midwestern conservation organizations, have submitted a [letter](#) to the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair Mallory asking that the CEQ work to ensure that petroleum pipeline permitting processes include climate change and Environmental Justice in their environmental impact statement (EIS) reviews. The administration's recent positions at the United Nations Glasgow COP 26 climate conference gives further support for the CEQ encouraging comprehensive EIS analysis and review on projects like Line 5.

Read the Letter Here

WGF Launches Our 2021 Fall Appeal



As fall turns into winter, WGF leaders have been reflecting on the many conservation successes in 2021, and looking forward to the exciting opportunities that 2022 holds.

This important work wouldn't be possible without YOUR support! As November draws to a close we hope you will help us continue our important conservation work in 2022 by [making a gift](#).

Highlights of the highly influential work WGF has led in 2021 include a multi-partner [climate readiness assessment](#) in Monroe County in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, [WGF's assessment](#) of the February 2021 Wolf Hunt, and completing assessments of four key Wisconsin conservation issues in our report series [Opportunities Now](#).

View [WGF's Case for Support](#), and visit our [website](#) for more information on how to make a gift to support conservation for generations to come!

Make a Gift for Conservation

Get Involved in Wisconsin Conservation

Apply for the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC)'s 2021 Energy Innovation Grant Program : PSC will be awarding up to \$10 million in grants in the spring of 2022 to support projects that focus on energy efficiency, clean energy, new energy technology, and resiliency in the energy system. A wide variety of organizations are qualified for this grant program including municipalities, schools and universities, tribes, land, and municipal water/wastewater, electric, and natural gas utilities.

Applications are due Friday, January 14, 2022, by 4:30 p.m. [Learn more about the grant program here](#).

Participate in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Deer Donation Program: As deer season continues in Wisconsin, WDNR is encouraging deer hunters to donate Wisconsin-harvested deer to food pantries across the state. This program has provided over 94,000 deer and over 3.8 million pounds of venison since it began in 2000. To donate a deer, hunters should field dress and register their deer, arrange a CWD test if necessary, call ahead to a participating processor, and drop off their deer.

[Visit WDNR's website to learn more about the program!](#)

The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance is hiring an Executive Director: The Alliance, formed in 1997 and based out of Sauk City, is seeking an Executive Director to lead the member-based organization conservation organization to promote cooperative conservation on the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant and in the surrounding Sauk Prairie landscape. This half-time position will focus on program development and implementation, communications and outreach, and fundraising and institution building.

[Learn more and apply here!](#)

Wisconsin's Green Fire in the News

WUWM's October 26, 2021 story featuring WGF Executive Director Fred Clark: [One conservation group's take on Wisconsin's proposed sandhill crane hunt](#)

WORT's A Public Affair November 1, 2021 episode with WGF's Fred Clark: [Wisconsin's Natural Resources Board and the Wolf Hunt](#)

The Isthmus November 4, 2021 cover story featuring WGF members Adrian Wydeven and Peter David: [How!](#)

WXPR's November 18, 2021 article: [Wisconsin's Green Fire discusses deer management challenges, encourages change](#)

WPR's November 19, 2021 article: [Wisconsin's deer population is at a critical high](#)

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.

Give Today to Support Conservation Tomorrow!

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Voices for Conservation

