

January News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

WGF Aspiring Conservation Professionals Gather in Wisconsin Northwoods



In mid-January, members of Wisconsin Green Fire's [Aspiring Conservation Professionals \(ACP\) Work Group](#) gathered in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin at the former Conserve School for a three-day retreat. The retreat, hosted in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-

Oshkosh, offered ACP members to visit with each other in person, discuss next steps for the work group, and network with UW Oshkosh students who shared an interest in conservation and environmental careers.

During the second night of the retreat, eight WGF members joined the group for a panel where each shared their careers in conservation, and the many stories from their time working in the natural resources field. The students then had an opportunity for one-on-one conversations with each professional to ask specific questions and receive guidance and advice on navigating a career in conservation. The night closed with WGF Wildlife Work Group co-chair and wolf biologist Adrian Wydeven presenting on Wisconsin wolves, and leading a howl in hopes of hearing a wolf in the wild.

The retreat also offered a chance for attendees to participate in a [Project WILD](#) environmental education certification workshop led by Dr. Shannon Davis-Foust from UW-Oshkosh. There were opportunities for retreat goers to explore the extensive campus, and many took advantage of the snow-covered Wisconsin Northwoods by snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and hiking (see photo on right).



We hope to offer more opportunities for in-person gatherings in the coming months, both for our ACP Work Group and all members of Green Fire to gather and enjoy the beauty of Wisconsin's natural resources that we all work to protect each day.

Photo 1: The group of retreat attendees, including WGF ACP members, WGF senior members, and

[Learn more about the ACP Work Group here](#)

Contribute to Wisconsin's Green Fire Spring Online Auction



Even those Wisconsinites who are passionate about snow and the magic of winter might be starting to daydream about summer adventures when the days are long and snow shovels safely tucked into the garage. **WGF would like to help you plan some summer and fall adventures through our FIRST online auction!**

Our focus will mostly focus on auctioning unique

experiences, from a guided fly-fishing trip or grouse hunting adventure, to a sail on Lake Superior, or a laid-back weekend at a cabin in the Northwoods. Other offerings include a wild rice harvest experience (see photo), a day of illustrated nature journaling with a local artist, or a weeklong stay at townhouse in Green Valley Arizona.

Our auction will take place in March (cabin fever month) when your dreams for summer and fall can be added to the calendar. We have a stellar group of experiences and some high-quality items (artwork and one of a kind hand-crafted items) but have room for a few more! If you or someone you know is willing to donate a unique experience or item to our auction, **please [complete this form](#) or contact Jim Perry at jimperry1948@gmail.com by Friday, February 17th with details about your contribution.**

We will be inviting you to share the auction information with friends and of course to bid on your favorites. Keep an eye on our website and your email for a full list of auction items soon and keep your calendar open for summer and fall adventures!

Photo: WGF member stands next to his canoe preparing for a wild rice harvest. Photo credit: John Olson

[Submit an Auction Item Idea Here](#)

WGF Wildlife Work Group Comments on Wisconsin's Draft Wolf Management Plan

In November 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) released a [Draft Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan](#). When



finalized, the Plan is intended to update Wisconsin's current Wolf Management Plan which was approved in 1997. The Plan reflects a wide variety of inputs, including recommendations from a Wolf Management Plan Committee the Department convened in 2021. Wisconsin's Green Fire was represented on this Committee and has

provided input on the Plan throughout the entire development process.

The public comment period on the Plan is open until February 28th, 2023 at 11:59pm. **WGF's Wildlife Work Group members have collectively developed [summary recommendations on the Plan](#)**, that includes aspects of the plan which WGF strongly supports, some issues of concern, and specific recommendations requiring policy, executive action, and/or budget changes.

Our recommendations reflect the combined opinions and contributions of WGF's Wildlife Work Group members who hold years of experience in Wisconsin wildlife management and biology.

We encourage anyone interested in the management and conservation of Wisconsin's wolves to submit comments on the Plan by February 23rd by visiting WDNR's website [here](#).

[Read WGF's comments here](#)

WGF Identifies Five-Year Strategic Program Priorities



In 2022, Wisconsin's Green Fire leadership, Board, Science Council, and staff re-assessed WGF's path forward into the next five years. Our assessment led to great

ideas for sharpening our execution and challenged us to **focus our talents and efforts on our most important conservation priorities, while operating in ways that are more inclusive, and building teams that are more diverse.**

Our [strategic goals](#) focus on implementing our mission, **to advance science-informed analysis and policy solutions that address Wisconsin's greatest conservation challenges**, with eyes set on our vision to achieve clean water, clean air, and healthy ecosystems in Wisconsin through science-based natural resource management.

[Click here](#) to view the full strategic plan.

Members of WGF's Science Council also helped to shape and revise the following [program priorities](#) to shape the focus of future WGF projects. Each of these program priority themes were identified as areas where WGF members hold expertise and where WGF can provide valuable leadership and insight. Paired with our strategic goals, these program priorities will **inform our communications to members and supporters and our coordination and outreach to partner conservation organizations.**

- Climate Science, Climate Resilience, and Climate Solutions
- Sustainable Agricultural Systems
- Conservation of Biodiversity
- Contaminants of Emerging Concern
- Supporting New Generations of Conservationists

Read more about our program priorities [here](#).

[View WGF's Program Priorities](#)

Get Involved in Wisconsin Conservation

Attend RENEW Wisconsin's Energy Summit: On Thursday, January 26th, RENEW Wisconsin will host their 2023 Energy Summit, "Sizing up the Clean Energy Transformation," at the Monona Terrace in Madison. The summit will focus on the opportunities that the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) makes available for Wisconsin's clean energy future. WGF Energy Work Group member Keith Reopelle will be a morning plenary speaker during the summit, along with many energy experts from across the state.

Learn more and register here.

Apply for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Internships through the State of Wisconsin Student Diversity Internship Program (SWSDIP): The SWSDIP offers paid internships to students interested in exploring careers in state agencies across Wisconsin. The WI Department of Natural Resources offers positions as part of the SWSDIP program in areas including air quality, drinking water and groundwater, wildlife, public safety, parks, and more. The WDNR encourages students to consider applying, particularly students of color, students with disabilities, student veterans, women and non-traditional students

Applications are open until February 13th. **Learn more and apply here.**

Apply for the International Crane Foundation Crane 2023 Conservation Fellowship Program: The International Crane Foundation (ICF) is seeking Fellows for their 2023 Conservation Fellowship Program, a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in crane conservation efforts in North America. Fellows will assist in studying foraging ecology, movements, habitat use and social behavior of breeding and non-breeding cranes throughout central Wisconsin. They will engage individuals and conservation partners willing to assist with the awareness and protection of cranes, and assist with various landscape restoration activities at ICF headquarters in Baraboo, WI.

The Fellowship runs from March 1st, 2023 - February 28th, 2024. **Learn more and apply here.**

Wisconsin Conservation News

Wisconsin Public Radio December 14th, 2022 article: [Policy board says Wisconsin regulators can restart process for crafting PFAS standards in groundwater.](#)

Wisconsin Examiner January 6th, 2023 article: [Conservation groups lament policy damage of Prehn's extra time on Natural Resources Board](#)

Wisconsin Public Radio January 13th, 2023 article featuring WGF's Fred Clark: [Environmental, conservation groups optimistic shifting makeup of DNR board will yield policy changes](#)

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

Give Today to Support Conservation Tomorrow!

Wisconsin's Green Fire 715-203-0384 | info@wigreenfire.org | www.wigreenfire.org

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