

## November News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

In this issue of **Compass Points**, you'll find updates about state bills, forestry, the Line 5 oil pipeline, agriculture and more. We have **even more upcoming events than usual**-- make sure you sign up! Keep reading for conservation opportunities and job listings.

**Special thanks** to all who have contributed to our [fall fundraising](#) campaign so far. If you haven't given yet, please consider crossing that off your to-do list today! Your gifts literally power our organization. Thank you for reading and Happy Thanksgiving!

- Carolyn Pralle, WGF Communications and Outreach Coordinator

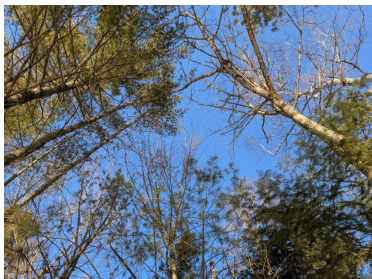
### Why WGF Opposes 4 Bills on Administrative Rules

On Nov. 18, 2025 the Assembly Committee on Government Operations, Accountability, and Transparency passed four Assembly Bills (AB) out of committee that relate to the State's administrative rules. WGF opposes all four bills because of the ways they limit environmental protections. [Read more details](#) and find links to the bills on our website.



[Read more on why WGF opposes these bills](#)

### A Word to the Wise on Donating to Nonprofits



*From WGF Board Member Valerie Stabenow:*

If you reached a birthday milestone this year (generally age 73), you now have a new task to add to your financial worklist. The government requires you to make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your tax-free retirement account(s). One option is to [donate the distribution \(or part of it\) as a QCD](#) (Qualified

Charitable Distribution) to an organization like Wisconsin's Green Fire.

[Read more about giving from retirement accounts](#)



## State Capitol Panel on Why Forestry and Forest Products Matter to Wisconsin

In late October, WGF's Paul Heinen joined a [panel of seven forestry experts](#) at the State Capitol on "Why Forestry and Forest Products Matter to Wisconsin." The conversation celebrated the foundational role that forests play in Wisconsin's identity, economy, and environmental health.



*Photo: Paul Heinen (second from left) speaks on the October 20, 2025 panel at the State Capitol.*

[Read about the State Capitol panel on forestry](#)

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues permit for Enbridge Line 5 Re-route despite challenges to state permits



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) issued a permit on Oct. 29, 2025, to allow construction of the [Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline re-route](#) around the Bad River Band's reservation. Meanwhile, the state permits issued in November 2024 are being contested by several organizations.

*Photo: Existing pipeline on the east end of the Bad River Reservation, photo by Jenny Washam, 2022*

[Read the Line 5 Pipeline Update](#)

## WGF Releases Final Report for our Farm Sustainability Rewards Project

The final report for our [Farm Sustainability Rewards \(FSR\) Project](#) is now available on the WGF website. FSR was our federally funded project to develop a voluntary rewards-based model for on-farm conservation. Due to funding changes, we had to conclude the project early. We remain hopeful that this Final Report provides a catalyst for future work.



[Read our FSR Project Final Report](#)



## Last Green Fire Cafe of 2025 - Dec. 3, 3:00pm



We meet monthly via Zoom on first Wednesdays for our free virtual event series **Green Fire Cafe**.

Join us next time on **Dec. 3, 2025 at 3:00-4:00pm CT** for our coffee-klatsch style gathering. The theme this month is "Authenticity."

**All are welcome** at these online conservation socials. See you there!

### Details and registration for Green Fire Cafe

## Conservation Trivia - Dec. 9, 4:30-6pm in Madison

Are you our next conservation trivia champion? Join us on Dec. 9th for our second annual evening of Conservation Trivia at the Delta Beer Lab in Madison, WI.

**Click here to register (\$10 per person)**

We recommend you form a team of 4 to 6 players. Make sure to indicate your team name when you register!



### Register for Conservation Trivia

## Clean Water Webinar: Nitrate Watch 2025 Season Roundup - Dec. 11, 12:00-1:00pm via Zoom



Join us for a free webinar on nitrate pollution monitoring December 11th at 12:00pm CT via Zoom! The webinar features Heather Wilson from Izaak Walton League of America alongside experts from Wisconsin's Green Fire and the Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement.

**Register via Zoom (no cost).** This webinar is a great opportunity to learn about water quality issues and how to get involved in protecting our waters through science.



## 4th Annual WI Conservation Retreat - Jan 5-8, 2026

"Rooted in Hope. Growing in Resilience!"  
There's still time to sign up for the [Wisconsin Conservation Retreat](#) for students and professionals from Jan. 5-8, 2026.

- Student rate: \$140
- Professional rate: \$175
- Optional: \$50 Project WILD certification (includes lesson book)

Email [SEAC@uwosh.edu](mailto:SEAC@uwosh.edu) with any questions.



Register for the WI Conservation Retreat by Dec. 1

## Get Involved in Conservation

### Some upcoming opportunities:

- [Tap Talks featuring WGF on Jan. 18](#) at Central Waters Brewing Company: join us for this free talk in Amherst about WGF's work on science-based conservation especially on climate and clean water.
- [Nitrate Watch](#): Calling all community scientists! Join our growing group of volunteers collecting data about nitrate in Wisconsin's drinking water and surface waters. Participants get a free water testing kit.
- Help [reduce lead in the environment](#) and protect wildlife this fall (from our partners at Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance). Wishing all our hunters and their families a safe and healthy hunting season!



### 10 job opportunities in conservation nonprofits in WI:

1. [Diversity in Conservation Internship](#) - Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin (Appleton / Madison / Milwaukee)
2. [Crane Conservation Fellowship](#) - International Crane Foundation (Baraboo)
3. [Program Intern](#) - Fairshare CSA Coalition (Madison)
4. [Communications and Outreach Intern](#) - Gathering Waters (Madison)
5. [Executive Director](#) - Baird Creek Preservation Foundation (Green Bay)
6. [Communications & Multimedia Producer](#) - American Bird Conservancy (Remote - Great Lakes/Upper Mississippi Region)
7. [Community Program Educator](#) - The Nature Place (La Crosse) - AmeriCorps Position
8. [Co-Executive Director](#) - Milwaukee Water Commons (Milwaukee)



9. [Development Director](#) - Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve (Two Rivers)
10. [Regional Biologist I](#) - Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (Green Bay)

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## WGF In The News

- Nov 12 - **WPR** - [Cleanup of PFAS could cost Wisconsin billions, regulators and lawmakers say](#)
  - Also published in [Iron Mountain Daily News](#) on Nov 13
- Oct 18 - **The Northwoods River News** - [State forestry leaders talk about why forestry and forest products matter to Wisconsin](#)



### Vote for WGF's Photo in the Nonprofits Insurance Alliance (NIA) 2025 Photo Contest.

You can **boost our chances of winning \$1,000** in the NIA's 2025 Photo Contest about "Nonprofit Unity." [Vote for our photo with one-click here](#). The deadline to vote is today, Nov. 21 at 7pm CT.

**Wisconsin's Green Fire (WGF) needs your support.** Your donation assures that conservation issues around the state are addressed with the best scientific information available. **Thank you!**

**Click Here  
to Donate  
Online**

#### Looking for a gift idea?

- For greatest impact, give a [gift membership](#) in WGF!
- Shop our [logo-wear apparel](#) to show your support for WGF.
- Buy chapters of [The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin](#) and get to know our state's lands and waters. WGF receives a portion of proceeds.

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*Newsletter edited by Carolyn Pralle, WGF Communications and Outreach Coordinator*

*November 21, 2025 | Background image of fallen maple leaves by Carolyn Pralle.*

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