



# Compass Points

## December News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

In this issue of **Compass Points**, you'll find a **new publication** on data centers, recommendations for managing the North Central Forest, a remembrance of George Meyer, and more. Don't miss our virtual and in-person **events** in January. Keep reading for more conservation **opportunities** and job listings.

This is also one more reminder to **please make your [year-end donation](#)** to help us thrive in 2026. We have a lot of good work to do.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season. **Thank you for being part of WGF.** Together, the light of our green fire burns bright!

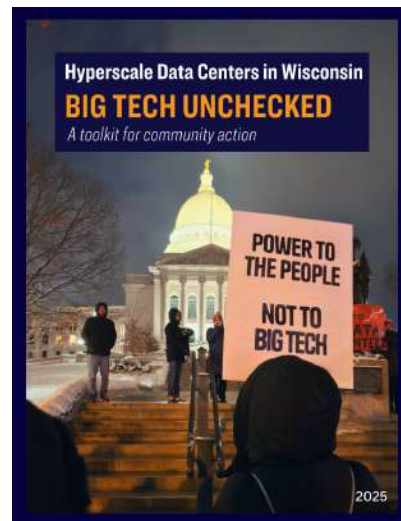
- Carolyn Pralle, WGF Communications and Outreach Coordinator

### New Publication: Big Tech Unchecked

Want to do something about data centers? In collaboration with Sierra Club of Wisconsin, Midwest Environmental Advocates, and Healthy Climate Wisconsin, we just issued a new action-focused publication about **hyperscale data centers in Wisconsin**.

Available now, [Big Tech Unchecked: A toolkit for community action](#) is a free resource for anyone interested in data centers and local communities.

Join us for the [webinar on Jan 13th](#).



[Read more about the Big Tech Unchecked publication](#)

### WGF Recommendations for the North Central Forest Draft Regional Master Plan

We submitted a [detailed set of recommendations](#) to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on the **North Central Forest Draft**





**Regional Master Plan.** This is the master plan for managing the natural resources and recreational opportunities in a massive part of Wisconsin's Northwoods. In our review, we focused on **public land and water management for biodiversity**. These topics are at the core of our mission and strategic conservation priorities.

*Image: Old growth white pine shelterwood, Board of Commissioners of Public Land, 40 acres east of Upper Post Lake, Langlade County. Photo by Ron Eckstein.*

## Read about the North Central Forest

### Wisconsin's Green Fire Thanks George Meyer

George Meyer (1947-2025), a champion for conservation in Wisconsin, passed away at home on December 10, 2025. Our [remembrance of George Meyer](#) is one way that WGF wishes to commemorate the impact George had on our organization and conservation at large.

As Tom Hauge, WGF's wildlife work group chair, stated: "If former DNR Secretary Buzz Besadny was "Wisconsin's Father Nature," then George Meyer was "Wisconsin's Force of Nature" working tirelessly to protect our natural resources."



*Photo: George Meyer standing in a meadow of big bluestem at the Buena Vista Wildlife Area, Portage County, WI, September 2025, photo by Tom Hauge.*

## Read more about George Meyer and WGF

### Clean Water for Wisconsin Press Conference

Paul Heinen, WGF's Policy Director, attended the November 20, 2025 "Clean Water for Wisconsin" press conference. At the event, Legislative Democratic Senators and Representatives spoke about a number of proposals they will be introducing to clean up and protect Wisconsin's waters and fund other important conservation programs.



*Photo: Clean Water for Wisconsin Press Conference, Nov. 20, 2025*



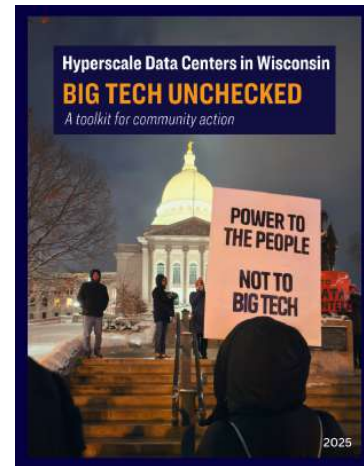
## Webinar - Big Tech Unchecked - Jan. 13, 2026

Jan. 13, 2026 | 6:00pm CT | via Zoom

Join Healthy Climate Wisconsin, the Midwest Environmental Advocates, the Sierra Club-Wisconsin Chapter, and Wisconsin's Green Fire as we walk through the new toolkit: **Hyperscale Data Centers in Wisconsin: Big Tech Unchecked, A toolkit for community action.**

Join us at the webinar to share local actions, learn more about the toolkit, and ask questions.

- [Click here to register via Zoom](#) (No cost).



### Register for the Big Tech Unchecked Webinar

## Green Fire Cafe returns Feb. 4, 2026



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

Join us next time on **February 4, 2026 at 3:00-4:00pm CT** for our coffee-klatsch style gathering.

- [Register here for any and all of the 2026 dates](#) (No cost).

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

### Register for for Green Fire Cafe

## 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.



A great resource about Chronic Wasting Disease recommended by WGF experts: The Center for Infection Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota publishes a free [Chronic Wasting Disease Newsletter](#) full of scientific information from around the USA.

From our friends at the [Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council](#): You're invited to the [2026 Wisconsin - Minnesota Prescribed Fire Conference](#) on January 9-10, 2026 at Winona State University

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

- [Agriculture and Energy Program Manager](#) - RE-AMP Network
- [Three positions for Statewide Housing Advocacy](#) - 1000 Friends of Wisconsin (Remote/Flex)
- [Diversity in Conservation Internship](#) - Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin (Appleton / Madison / Milwaukee)
  - NRF is also hiring for an [Administrative Assistant](#) (Madison)
- [Five positions \(technicians, nature center assistant, history intern\)](#) - North Lakeland Discovery Center (Manitowish Waters)
- [Data Manager and GIS Specialist](#) - Salonga Conservation Initiative, Inc. (Milwaukee)
- [Individual Giving Officer](#) - International Crane Foundation (Baraboo)
- [Field Coordinator](#) - Restoring Lands (Milwaukee)
- [Future Leaders Program Fellow](#) - Aldo Leopold Foundation (Baraboo)
- [Executive Director](#) - Baird Creek Preservation Foundation (Green Bay)
- [Community Program Educator](#) - The Nature Place (La Crosse) - AmeriCorps Position

## WGF In The News

- Dec 11 - **WPR** - [George Meyer, former Wisconsin DNR secretary, has died](#)
- Dec 1 - **Isthmus Magazine** - [Who is participating in GivingTuesday Madison 2025?](#)
- Nov 13 - **Iron Mountain Daily News** - [Experts: Cleanup of PFAS could cost Wisconsin billions](#)

**Some news from our friends at WisconsinEye:** "Effective December 15, 2025, WisconsinEye will stop event coverage due to a lack of funding. In addition, the video archive will go offline and downloads will not be processed."

- We at WGF are deeply saddened by the shutdown of [WisconsinEye](#). Through their livestreams and archive of over 30,000 hours of footage from the State Capitol, the team at WisEye has provided a tremendous public service for government transparency and public engagement in



policy. Their work helped us to do ours. This is a loss for all of Wisconsin, and a reminder to deepen our commitment to science-based policies for all Wisconsinites and beyond.



*Image: Beaver in Florence County WI, photo via Snapshot Wisconsin with text overlay:  
Happy holidays from all of us at Wisconsin's Green Fire.*

**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.

*Newsletter edited by Carolyn Pralle, WGF Communications and Outreach Coordinator  
December 19, 2025 | Background image: Rime Ice II, Buffalo County, photo by Jeff Henry.*

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