

2008-09 WCC Study Committee Mission Statements

Air, Waste and Water Study Committee:

The mission of the Air, Waste and Water Study Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to review properly noticed citizen resolutions, rules, policies, regulations, and legislation affecting the air, land and waters of the state of Wisconsin. Utilizing the best available knowledge, technical resources and citizen input, the Committee will study and discuss issues, with the intent to develop clear and actionable positions on those issues. The Committee will then advise and recommend a course of action to the Executive Committee and Executive Council of the Congress.

Alternate Funding Committee:

The Mission of the Alternative Funding Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to provide input from the public through county delegates assembled from areas throughout the State of Wisconsin making up that committee and addressing issues where public input is deemed appropriate on matters of funding for natural resources and their adequate and appropriate management.

1. These issues include but are not limited to:
2. License fee increases for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation
3. Fee Permits
4. Alternative funding that would supplement existing fund generating streams
5. Explore new fund generating venues
6. Protect and enhance the funds available, insuring that they are used in the appropriate manner
7. Any other business that would come before the Committee

The charge of the Alternative Funding Committee is to ensure that the State of Wisconsin has suitable funding to provide adequate financial resources to continue and expand the natural resources of the State of Wisconsin for future generations.

Chronic Wasting Disease Ad-hoc Study Committee:

The Mission of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress' Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Ad-hoc Study Committee is to review current CWD control policies and practices, and to help facilitate the development of programs and policies that work toward management of CWD to minimize the impact of the disease on Wisconsin's free ranging deer population. To effectively accomplish this mission the committee will take into consideration all of the biological and sociological systems critical to CWD management strategy, including the environment, deer ecology, the economy, hunters, landowners and everyone that benefits from a healthy deer herd.

Endangered Resources & Law Enforcement Study Committee:

The Mission Statement of the Endangered Resources and Law Enforcement Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to provide input from the public through county delegates assembled from all areas of the State of Wisconsin making up that committee and addressing issues where public input is deemed appropriate on matters of protecting endangered resources and addressing natural resource law enforcement policies.

These issues include but are not limited to:

1. Designated listings of flora and fauna (watch, endangered, threatened...)
2. Public education
3. New laws and restrictions on natural resources
 - a. Season Framework
 - b. Weapons and equipment restrictions
 - c. Environmental practices
 - d. Reviews and modification of laws and restrictions presently in place
4. Law enforcement training
5. Any other business that would come before the Committee

The charge of the Endangered Resources and Law Enforcement Committee is to ensure that the resources of Wisconsin are fully protected with every effort taken to enhance and upgrade their status whenever and wherever possible. The Committee will also assist with public input, the agencies that are involved in enforcing natural resource laws and regulations.

Forestry Parks and Recreation Study Committee:

The mission of the Forestry Parks and Recreation Study Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to provide citizen input in the use and management of Wisconsin's forests, parks and trails on behalf of all those who utilize these resources. We accomplish this through monitoring the issues that affect the health, diversity and use of our forests, parks and trails. In doing this we want to: 1) promote diverse healthy forest communities; 2) support control of invasive species that threaten our forests; 3) promote environmentally sound sustainable harvest; and 4) encourage the compatible use of our public/private lands for the diverse interests of those who recreate in our state.

Habitat Study Committee:

The Habitat Study Committee of the Conservation Congress mission is to ensure that the habitat in the State of Wisconsin remains healthy. We wish to maintain a habitat that will support the wildlife, flora, fauna and aquatics of the State of Wisconsin. We further want to halt the spread of invasive species throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Hunting with Dogs Study Committee:

The committee will review all matters that are related to the seasons and laws involving game animals and game birds that are pursued by dogs. Also any matters assigned by the Executive Committee or the Executive Council and to work jointly with other Conservation Congress committees the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Board. All meeting minutes will be provided to Conservation Congress Liaison or Assistant.

Great Lakes Study Committee:

The Mission Statement of the Great Lakes Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to provide input from the public through county delegates assembled from all areas of the State of Wisconsin making up that committee and addressing issues where public input is deemed appropriate

on matters concerning the Wisconsin territorial waters of Lakes Superior, Michigan and the Bay of Green Bay.

The charge of the Great Lakes Committee is to ensure that the waters of the Great Lakes that border Wisconsin are managed to sustain a healthy fishery and pristine beauty while fully protected with every effort taken to enhance and upgrade their status whenever and wherever possible. The Committee will also assist the agencies that are involved in enforcing natural resource laws and regulations, by offering and facilitating public input.

Specifically, the areas of concern will be defined as:

- 1) For issues related to regulations pertaining to resource management the committee will use outlining waters and their tributaries as defined in NR 20, Wis. Adm. Code.
- 2) For issues related to the general health of the Great Lakes, including water quality and ecological impact to native flora and fauna, the committee will use the Great Lakes Basin boundary as described in the Great Lake Compact.

Mississippi River Study Committee:

Within and to the support of Wisconsin Conservation Congress process; it is the mission of the Mississippi River Committee (MRC) to advise the Wisconsin NRB on issues, rules, or policies which affect the river and/or other associated natural resources.

The MRC strives to stay acquainted with current river resource management; the science in support or opposition to that management; and with public opinion thereof. The MRC encourages river management agencies to seek public participation in management decisions or policy. Influence stemming from the MRC shall be generated with greatest intentions toward long term benefits to all wildlife resources; and with an emphasis toward preserving public access and harvest of game resources, (i.e., preserving outdoor heritage activities of hunting, fishing, and trapping).

Private and Public Land Access Study Committee:

The purpose of the Private and Public Land Access Study Committee is to explore and increase private land access for outdoor recreation including hunting, trapping, fishing, and other nature based activities, such as hiking and biking. It will also support and expand the consumptive sportsman's access to public lands within the state of Wisconsin.

Rules and Resolutions Committee

The Mission of the Rules and Resolutions Committee is to review the "Code of Procedure" doctrine that governs the Congress in order to ensure its relevance. This Committee will also provide a conduit for citizen resolutions allowing the exchange of ideas and information between individuals or groups and the Congress by reviewing and assigning voter approved resolutions to Conservation Congress Study Committees. It is our purpose to support the noble concept that all citizens have a voice in regards to Wisconsin's Natural Resources.

We will review the Rules governing the Conservation Congress when asked by the Executive Council or Executive Committee and will provide possible changes for their review. We will regularly review and assign citizen-approved resolutions to Study Committees for action on said resolutions. We value citizen involvement, to ensure the prosperity of our Natural Resources, full and proper use of our Natural Resources, now and for future generations.

Trout Study Committee:

The Mission of the Trout Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to provide input from the public through county delegates assembled from areas throughout the State of Wisconsin making up that committee and addressing issues where public input is deemed appropriate on matters of cold water resources including the flora and fauna that make up those resources.

These issues include but are not limited to:

8. Water quality
9. Water resource management
10. Class and category water designations
11. Bag limits
12. Tackle restrictions
13. Season framework
14. Environmental practices effecting cold water resources
15. Enforcement policies
16. Any other business that would come before the Committee

The charge of the Trout Committee is to ensure that the cold water resources of the State of Wisconsin are not degraded or impaired in any manner, with the necessary steps taken to improve them whenever and wherever possible.

Turkey Study Committee:

The mission of the Turkey Committee of the Conservation Congress is to ensure the continued success of the Wild Turkey program in Wisconsin. Ensure that future generations have the ability to enjoy spring and fall turkey hunting. Promote expanded harvest opportunities based on sound science. Work with the department to review management objectives. Encourage the participation of youth in turkey hunting. Promote sound conservation practices and habitat management for turkeys.

Upland Game Study Committee:

Review items relating to boundaries, depredation, harvest, zones, population modeling, harvest goals and permitting, licensing, tagging, rehabilitation and habitat, private and public lands use, restoration and research projects, and other issues of statewide conservation or environmental concern as it relates to upland game. This committee reviews other matters, as appropriate, assigned by the chair or the Executive Committee or the Executive Council. This committee will work with the Departments Wildlife Bureau and provide meeting minutes to the Congress Liaison or Assistant and they will provide them to the Executive Council of the Conservation Congress and to the Land Management, Recreation and Fisheries/Wildlife Committee of the Natural Resources Board.