



Spring 2008

Sportsmen Update

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Youth Mentoring



This fall my son, Ryan, got his first deer. I was proud to be at his side.

Establishing a youth hunting mentorship program whereby pre-teens can hunt with an adult mentor, such as a parent, can build upon outdoor traditions in Wisconsin. I support efforts to encourage youth hunting. This is especially true as outdoor activities compete for kids' attention with video games, the Internet, and iPods. I greatly enjoy the time I spend hunting with my son, and recognize the value of outdoor activities to future generations.

State Senator Sheila Harsdorf

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Protecting Firearm Rights

This session the Wisconsin Legislature acted to protect the rights of firearm owners across the state. When a state or local government is faced with an emergency, the rights of firearm owners can be trampled, when the need for personal protection is most vital. We saw evidence of this in New Orleans when emergency powers were granted by the police chief to confiscate citizen's firearms in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"Protecting our gun rights and outdoor heritage should never be taken for granted. As a young farm girl, I learned early the rights and responsibilities of gun ownership. Having served in the legislature, I also know that some people do not share these values. Rural Wisconsin needs strong leadership to preserve our traditions."

– Sheila Harsdorf

In response to these concerns, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed Assembly Bill 581 (AB 581). AB 581 ensures that government entities may not use emergency powers to restrict the possession of firearms or ammunition. I supported this bill to protect the rights of citizens to protect themselves, their families, and their properties during a state of emergency.

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Preserving Our Natural Resources

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, created in 1989, preserves valuable natural habitat for conservation and recreation. I have supported important expansions to the Stewardship Program. It has been critical in protecting our resources for future generations, and the open space it preserves is invaluable for sports enthusiasts throughout Wisconsin.

I also voted to protect our natural resources through my support of the passage of the Great Lakes Compact in the recent legislative session. The Great

Lakes Compact is an agreement among the governors of states bordering the Great Lakes, as well as two Canadian provinces. The Compact, if approved by all member states and ratified by the U.S. Congress, would put strict limits on diversions of water out of the Great Lakes. Given the increased desire for freshwater by other regions of our country, including the Southwest and Southern states, I believe it is imperative that we take action to preserve and protect the Great Lakes.

DNR VHS Rule Changes

Wisconsin, along with other Midwest states, are working to address a devastating fish disease that is encroaching on our lakes and rivers. Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) has been found in the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River and at least one inland lake in Wisconsin, Lake Winnebago. Unfortunately, we do not know how this virus has infected our lakes or why it kills so many different species.

In response to this new threat, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) implemented new

rules to halt the spread of this menace. Regrettably, these rules have imposed what some sportsmen consider unreasonable restrictions. Having to drain bait buckets and kill the bait, not being able to transport fish from lake to lake and draining bilge tanks and live wells are a few of the new restrictions that went into effect last summer. I believe that it is important that we work to balance the efforts to protect our lakes and streams with the impact the rules have on Wisconsin anglers.



State Senator Sheila Harsdorf 2008 Sportsmen Survey

Please take the time to answer this legislative survey. After completing this survey, please detach, refold so that my return address is on the outside and seal with tape. (No staples). Don't forget to put first class postage on it! Thank you for your time!

1. How would you rate the performance of the Department of Natural Resources in managing the state's deer population?
 - Excellent
 - Good.
 - Fair.
 - Poor.
2. How much more would you be willing to pay in increased fees if those fees were to be designated for conservation programs?
 - A lot more.
 - A little bit more.
 - No more.
 - I think we should pay less.
3. How much more land should the state purchase to preserve for recreation and conservation?
 - A lot more.
 - A little bit more.
 - No more.
 - We should sell some of what we have.
 - We should sell all of what we have.
4. Do you support or oppose a longer gun deer hunting season?
 - Support
 - Oppose

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____