



WSNetwork News

January 1, 2003

News on issues of common interest to Wisconsin's sporting, conservation, and environmental communities.

Click on these WSN priority issue section links or scan the Acrobat bookmarks on the left:

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Visit WSN's conference web page for information and registration forms

The WSN's 2003 conference web page is now up and running at www.wsn.org/WSNconference/wsn_2003_annual_conference.html. Bookmark this page for information and updates on speakers, sessions, and other conference news. You can also jump directly to a downloadable registration form at www.wsn.org/WSNconference/2003RegistrationForm.pdf.

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

ATC transmission line said to be in "Catch 22"

The *Record-Review* newspaper notes a "Catch 22" for the Arrowhead-Weston line. The paper reports, "The transmission company needs to condemn land to build the project but, lacking an effective Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), cannot move forward to obtain easements for the controversial line."

"The Public Service Commission ordered in October 2001 that Arrowhead-Weston be built, but, following state law, declared that the project's CPCN would not take effect until the Wisconsin DNR 'has issued all necessary permits and approvals that are required.' But here's the catch. The Wisconsin DNR, as affirmed in a Nov. 11 letter to ATC, says that it cannot issue permits to ATC because the utility does not own or otherwise have a property interest in land it wants permits for."

WSN ballot set for member group vote on 2003 priority issues

The WSN board of directors has narrowed the field of issues vying for WSN 2003 statewide priority issues. This annual process is a good way to gauge what Wisconsin's combined sporting, conservation, and environmental communities see as the top issues facing the state.

Click here for more on the [ballot items](#) and WSN voting process.

Read the complete story at <http://centralwinews.com/recordreview/>.

SOURCE: *Record-Review*, Dec. 25, 2002

SOUL releases energy forum white paper

After two months of ideas exchanged on the Internet group service site, comments from the first Citizens Energy Forum have been assembled in a “white paper” format. These comments reflect the combined future vision of environmentalists, businesses, utilities, all who worked together to create the groundwork dialog for what a Wisconsin energy policy would resemble.

The entire white paper, along with surveys taken at the event, are available as a CD. Organizers are also planning a second annual Citizen’s Energy Forum, in which we will again invite the entire state to expand on our discussion to create an energy policy for Wisconsin, allowing for both economic growth and environmental stability.

SOURCE: Tom Kreager, (715) 693-3143 or Linda Ceylor (715) 474-2271.

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DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

Factory Farming

Nebraska only state to ban corporate farming

Nebraska may be best known for its beef, but the state has something else that sets it apart: the nation’s only constitutional ban on corporate farming. In the 20 years since a citizen’s initiative led to the ban, it has withstood court challenges and, supporters say, helped protect Neb. farmers. Neb. has avoided becoming the home to large agribusiness operations, mega-hog farms and live-stock feeding lots, in large part thanks to the ban, known as Initiative 300. In the mid-1970s, many Midwestern states moved to restrict corporate farming. Eight states Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin passed laws. But none of those states have a ban in their constitution or laws as restrictive as the Nebraska ban, according to a study last year by researchers at Clarkson University and Cornell University. South Dakota voters approved a ban in 1998, but it was struck down by a federal judge as unconstitutional. Appeals are pending.

Initiative 300 generally prohibits corporations and certain other business entities from owning farmland or engaging in agricultural activity, although there are exceptions. The exceptions include farms that are family-owned and operated, nonprofit corporations, American Indian tribal corporations, land used for seed or nursery purposes, and land used for research or experimental purposes. For more, see <http://www.serconline.org/cafos.html>.

SOURCE: State Environmental Resource Center, trevor@serconline.org.

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Bush administration Christmas giveaway to big ag

On Monday, December 16, the Environmental Protection Agency released its long-awaited final rule creating new guidelines for release of effluent from confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), otherwise known as animal factories. With Christmas drawing near, it appears the Bush Administration has reached into their Santa's sack to dispense a generous gift to Big Ag, while turning a scrooge's ear to family farmers and the environment. The new guidelines fail miserably to set tough national pollution standards to protect rural America from the bane of factory farming. Instead the Bush Administration punts to the states where in many places Big Ag runs the agriculture agenda. They also removed a provision that would have prevented large corporations from skirting liability by hiring contract growers. In a press release, Rodger Schlickeisen, president of Defenders of Wildlife, said the "Bush Administration's new rule under the Clean Water Act will have devastating impacts on our nations air, water, and wildlife.

The EPA's giveaway to corporate CAFO operators will hurt the independent farmers out there who implement sustainable and innovative methods of dealing with livestock waste. It places the good environmental operators and the smaller operations at a huge disadvantage compared to the large CAFOs. Complete *Washington Post* article at: www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64119-2002Dec16.html.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

Three studies offer more bad news about CAFOs

Three studies out this week add to the mounting evidence of negative impacts from large animal farm operations. The Consumers' Union, publisher of the magazine *Consumer Reports*, tested chicken from grocery stores in 25 metropolitan areas and found that half were contaminated with campylobacter or salmonella bacteria. This figure represents a decrease in the contamination rate from their last study five years ago, 75% of chicken was found to be contaminated. However, 90% of the contaminated chickens contained bacteria that were resistant to at least one antibiotic.

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and the Sierra Club jointly issued a similar study last week, which found similar rates of both infection and resistance in 200 chickens purchased in Des Moines and Minneapolis. Both studies pointed to the widespread use of antibiotics as the cause for the resistance.

Also this week, the National Academy of Sciences release a report on air emissions from confined animal feeding operations. The report indicates that controlling emissions of ammonia, methane and other gases is as important as discharges into water. The report recommends development of standardized methods of measuring gas emissions and programs targeted at reducing factory farms' air pollution. The three studies are available respectively at: <http://www.consumerreports.org>, www.iatp.org, or www.sierraclub.org or <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10586.html>.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

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Forest Fragmentation

Groundwater Protection

WI Academy looking for 2003 'Year of Water' events

As a first step in publicizing [2003 as] the Year of Water, we would like to pull together an initial calendar of Year of Water activities to include in an announcement of the Year of Water in January. I am interested in knowing about activities that are in the planning stages and, particularly for this announcement, activities that have been planned down to the details of: event, location, date, and description. Please submit those events/dates/times/descriptions to me by January 10 for inclusion in this initial announcement.

SOURCE: Shaili Pfeiffer, Waters of Wisconsin Associate, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, (608) 263-1962 x21, smpfeiffer@facstaff.wisc.edu.

Monona votes to eliminate use of pesticides, herbicides

The Monona City Council voted in early December to remove all funds for pesticides and herbicides from the city budget. The motion to eliminate pesticide funding was made by Alderman Peter McKeever. The motion passed unanimously. Not only will this save Monona money, but it will also reduce citizens risk of pesticide exposure. Pesticides and herbicides have been linked to many illnesses, including cancer, reproductive disorders and respiratory disorders.

Children are at higher risk from pesticide poisoning because of their small size and developing bodies. Pesticides also affect Wisconsin's wildlife, especially fish and birds. The Madison City Council is also considering a measure similar to that adopted by Monona.

SOURCE: Claire Schmidt, Southern Regional Coordinator, Mining Campaign Director Local Issues Coordinator Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, 122 State Street Suite 200 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 251-7020 (608) 251-1655f www.environmentaldecade.org, schmidtc@environmentaldecade.org.

NAFTA treaty may supersede state water regulations

Trade agreements like NAFTA could prevent states from regulating water distribution services owned by foreign corporations, according to some water policy analysts. The issue was raised by West Virginia's Attorney General, who has tried to stop the purchase of the Kentucky-American Water Company by Thames Water, a British subsidiary of the German firm RWE Aktiengesellschaft. The concern is that the company could sue under NAFTA if state regulation capped water rates or limited profits in other ways. Thames argued that the international agreements are not rel-

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evant, but declined to waive its rights under them. For more on corporate ownership of water systems, please see <http://www.serconline.org/watchdogpage.htm>.

SOURCE: State Environmental Resource Center, trevor@serconline.org.

Balance Pro drops bid to sell in WI

Following a move by the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to require special restrictions and conditions on Balance Pro corn herbicide, Bayer CropScience, the manufacturer of Balance Pro herbicide, has decided not to distribute the product in Wisconsin in 2003.

The WDNR had opposed to a decision by DATCP to allow the use of a potent herbicide on corn because of concerns that it could poison streams and groundwater. The WDNR says it disagrees with the decision to let farmers use a weed-killing chemical called Balance Pro, or isoxaflutole, starting next spring because of its potential effect on humans and ability to kill not only targeted weeds but other plants as well.

SOURCE: State Environmental Resource Center and DATCP.

Groups threatened Balance Pro suit

Family Farm Defenders and Habitat Education Center have hired Midwest Environmental Advocates to sue DATCP for allowing the use of isoxaflutole in Wisconsin. If and when DATCP signs an official order allowing its use, MEA will file the lawsuit in state court. Go to www.midwestadvocates.org to read the DATCP's Final Environmental Impact Statement Regarding the Use of Isoxaflutole in Wisconsin" or contact Andrew Hanson at ahanson@midwestadvocates.org or (608) 251-5047 ext. 2.

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Mercury Reduction

Rhode Island issues new regulations on mercury

As part of a regional pledge to reduce the usage and presence of mercury, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) announced regulations that will go into effect January 1, 2003. This move follows a report released by Massachusetts stating it is possible for coal burning plants to reduce mercury emissions. The regulations include banning toys and games that contain mercury along with a phase-out on other products. Rhode Island intends to prevent objects that contain mercury from ending up in incinerators in surrounding states, another form of mercury contamination. Mercury poses a serious threat to humans and wildlife. In humans it is linked to kidney and neurological damage, especially in fetuses. Seth Kaplan, a senior lawyer with the Conservation Law Foundation, commented, "it's very hard to come up with any kind of argument against restricting it when you look at the science and see there is no safe level." RI's regulations can be found at www.state.ri.us/dem. For more information on eliminating mercury in your state, visit www.serconline.org/mercury.

SOURCE: State Environmental Resource Center, trevor@serconline.org.

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Metallic Mining

Wolf Watershed Ed. Project to meet Jan. 11

The next meeting of the Wolf Watershed Educational Project will be on Saturday, January 11 at the Green Bay labor temple from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1570 Elizabeth. The meeting will discuss Doyle administration moves on the DNR/NRB and the public acquisition of the mine site, and our campaign to pass the cyanide ban and “no special treatment” bills in January.

SOURCE: mtn@igc.org, (800) 445-8615.

Land Legacy Report viewed for Crandon site

The Wisconsin Land Legacy Report will be a major basis for future land acquisitions by the State. Please write the DNR to mention the 4,800-acre Crandon mine site in the Report as an area of special conservation and recreational value in Forest County, in the headwaters of the Wolf River and upstream from sensitive wetlands, species, and wild rice beds. To help write an e-mail or letter or phone comment, see <http://www.alphacdc.com/treaty/buyout.html#conservation>.

SOURCE: Wolf Watershed Educational Project, mtn@igc.org.

Shoreland/Wetlands

DNR Fox River plan delayed into January

The *Post-Crescent* reports, “The cleanup decision for the Fox River will not be released until early January, the state Department of Natural Resources reported.... State and federal regulators previously said they would release their formal, Superfund-based Record of Decision in December, but as the holidays grew closer, they ran out of time.”

SOURCE: Post-Crescent.

Prairie Wetlands event Jan. 24-25

A two-day event on wetlands and uplands interaction, restoration, and management will take place Jan. 24-25 at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse. Speakers from throughout the Midwest will detail the hydrology and ecology of prairie wetland landscapes, the ways various species depend on prairies and wetlands, and watershed restoration.

The event is sponsored by the WI Wetlands Association and The Prairie Enthusiasts. For more information, visit www.wiscwetlands.org.

Group issues “call to action” for river movement

We need to give you a heads-up about a dangerous new threat to rivers. The Bush Administration is expected to announce a rulemaking in late December or early January that could exclude intermittent and ephemeral streams, small tributaries, and wetlands adjacent to those waters from coverage under the Clean Water Act. Since its passage thirty years ago, the Clean Water Act has granted protections to all waters of the United States. But now the Administration will propose new regulations that could strip Clean Water Act protections from many streams and wetlands across the nation.

The river movement must flex its collective muscle to turn back this aggressive attack on clean water. Attached is a fact sheet with additional information about the Administration’s expected proposal, and a number of steps that you can take to help defeat it. This fight will not be won without a broad and vocal constituency for rivers. We need your voice. The attached fact sheet has a number of steps you can take now, and we will be in touch with additional steps you can take as we receive new information on this threat. Among the most important steps you can take is to help get the word out to the entire river movement by passing this e-mail on to your members, activists, and colleagues who have an interest in protecting streams and wetlands.

SOURCE: Matt Sicchio, Director of Outreach American Rivers, via Lisa Conley.

“Manager for a Day” workshops for national wildlife refuges start this month

As part of the comprehensive conservation planning process for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has scheduled a series of public workshops on Refuge management beginning January 4, 2003, in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

The workshops will give participants an opportunity to be “managers for a day,” sorting through the variety of issues confronting Refuge managers and developing recommendations for addressing these issues. Workshops will also give Refuge staff members an opportunity to present the concerns they see facing the Refuge and seek public input on management issues. Participants will be involved in clarifying issues and developing recommendations in both small-group sessions and full group sessions throughout the day.

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge Complex includes three refuges and one proposed refuge: Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, which has districts in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois; Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin; Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge in Iowa; and the proposed Lost Mound National Wildlife Refuge in Illinois.

Workshops for the districts of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- Prairie du Chien High School, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 4.
- House of Events, 108 Main Street, Savanna, Illinois, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 11.

- Winona Middle School, Winona, Minnesota, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 8.
- Eagle Bluff Elementary School, 200 Eagle Bluff Court in Onalaska, Wisconsin, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 22.

Anyone planning to attend is asked to inform the Refuge Office at least seven days prior to the workshop of their choice. Please call the Refuge Office toll free at (888) 291-5719 and leave a message stating which workshop you plan to attend. More information is also available at <http://midwest.fws.gov/planning/uppermisstop.htm>.

SOURCE: USF&WS.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MVP looking for outreach director

Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc. (MVP), a three-year-old non-profit organization dedicated to the redevelopment of Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley, is hiring a new Director of Outreach. The organization has a strong focus on sustainable redevelopment, i.e. development that has social, environmental, and economic benefits. Please go to www.renewthevalley.org/files/pdf/OutreachDir.pdf for a full job description and qualifications. Resume and cover letter should be sent by January 10 to Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc., 231 W. Michigan, P-421, Milwaukee, WI 53203, or e-mail info@RenewTheValley.org.

SOURCE: MVP.

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WSNetworkNews is published twice monthly by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Inc., a network of Wisconsin hunting, fishing, conservation, environmental, and other groups with an interest in protecting and preserving Wisconsin's natural resources.

The WSN's Board of Directors consists of representatives from the following organizations: Concerned Citizens of Newport, ECCOLA, Federation of Fly Fishers, Izaak Walton League of America, Lake Superior Greens, Madison Audubon Society, Muskies, Inc., Northern Thunder, Pheasants Forever, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Save Our Unique Lands, Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Wisconsin State

B.A.S.S. Federation, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

The WSN's mission is to build a cooperative network that strengthens Wisconsin's stewardship ethic for the betterment of its people and natural resources.

Editorial contributions to this e-newsletter are welcome. Send news of your group's activities relating to the WSN's priority issues to State Coordinator Todd Hanson at wsn@chorus.net.

Subscriptions to *WSNetworkNews* are free. To opt in or out of this distribution list, either visit our web site at www.wsn.org or e-mail us at wsn@chorus.net.

Proposed 2003 WSN Priority Issues

The following issues will be up for adoption as the network's 2003 statewide priority issues at the WSN annual conference Feb. 15. The top eight vote getters from this list of 10 will become the network's priority issues, with each **member organization** will be able to cast one ballot.

Arrowhead-Weston: "The WSN opposes the Arrowhead-to-Weston transmission line."

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations: "The WSN supports full implementation of the Clean Water Act's goal of zero discharge of animal wastes and excess nutrients to ground and surface waters from livestock facilities."

DNR-PIO Restoration: "WSN supports restoration of the Office of the Public Intervenor in the Dept of Justice with the legal powers and staff lost in 1995 and restoration of the independent DNR Secretary appointed by the seven-citizen Natural Resources Board."

Forest Fragmentation: "The WSN will promote public policies that prevent forest fragmentation by producing a database of critical private lands to help land trusts better target areas for conservation programs, defending the integrity of our last remaining natural areas in the forest plans for state and federal forests, urging our elected officials to support the Forest Legacy & Stewardship programs, and working with concerned citizens to protect our public forests from ATV abuse."

Groundwater (Water Protection): "The WSN supports celebrating 2003 as the 'Year of Water' by engaging in efforts to educate the public on the need for legislation to protect Wisconsin's waters."

Mercury Reduction: "The WSN supports a 90% reduction in mercury emissions from coal-burning power plants and other large industrial sources to help make fish from Wisconsin waters safe to eat for everyone in the future."

Metallic Mining: "The WSN will work to protect Wisconsin's natural resources from unsafe mining practices, including opposing the Crandon mine as currently proposed, working to strengthen mining laws, being actively involved in the ongoing permit process, exploring options to purchase the mine site, and will maintaining mining as a statewide issue."

Motorboat Gas Tax: "The WSN supports adjustment of the motor gas tax allocation formula to reflect average annual consumption of 100 gallons gasoline per motorboat in the 2004-2005 biennial budget, with the allocation targeted primarily toward the traditional mix of activities funded by the Water Resources Account, including grants to local entities for lake, river, and wetland planning, protection, and restoration."

Polluted Runoff: "The Wisconsin Stewardship Network supports the effective implementation of the new state rules to control polluted runoff by the end of 2004."

Shoreland Zoning: "The WSN supports improving shoreland habitat protection at the statewide level by participating in the DNR rewrite of NR 115 and strengthening local shoreland ordinances."

WSN board reduces issues from 12 to 10 for membership ballot

This month the WSN board of directors reduced the number of proposed 2003 priority issues from 12 to 10. The following proposed issues were eliminated and will not be on the full membership ballot Feb. 15:

Billboard Limits: "The WSN supports preserving Wisconsin's scenery, one of our most precious resources, by passing legislation to limit billboard construction." (This issue was proposed by member organization Citizens for a Scenic Wisconsin.)

Electrical pollution: "The WSN supports the implementation of legislation requiring all steady state electrical current to return to the electrical utilities on their electrical wires, not through the earth." (This issue was forwarded for consideration by WSN member organization Neighbors Standing United.)

Though eliminated from this year's ballot, we encourage you to contact these organizations or the WSN to find out more about these two concerns.



We've worked for your group over the years on many fronts...

Now make your membership in the WSN official.

The WSN's mission is to help sporting, conservation, and environmental organizations grow, prosper, and be more influential. These and other groups and organizations can join the WSN if they believe in:

- *promoting cooperative, coordinated citizen action* in Wisconsin among member groups to successfully resolve target issues,
- *providing a forum* for Wisconsin's environmental and conservation organizations to share their experiences and acquire knowledge from others on a firsthand basis,
- *identifying natural resources problems* and educating individuals and decisionmakers on them.

WSN projects and activities...something of value for every group

- *Regional Hubs* — The WSN contracts with organizations around Wisconsin to serve as regional Hubs:
 1. **Superior**, headed by Regional Coordinator Kay McKenzie at (715) 394-4052,
 2. **Tomahawk**, headed by Regional Coordinator Jim Wise at (715) 453-3676,
 3. **Eau Claire**, headed by Regional Coordinator Kate Hale at (715) 836-2761,
 4. **Madison**, headed by Regional Coordinator Claire Schmidt at (608) 251-7020, and
 5. **Milwaukee**, headed by Regional Coordinator Monique DiGiorgio at (414) 221-3837.
- *Web site* — Our web site provides current news and rich background material on many natural resources issues in Wisconsin. Visit us at www.wsn.org.
- *Annual conference* — The WSN brings our diverse community together every year. Through workshops, presentations, and networking, our conference is a great place to link up with people who share your love of Wisconsin's natural resources. **Our next conference is Feb. 14-15 at UW-Stevens Point** and features appearances by Canada's **Maude Barlow** and *Water Follies* author **Robert Glennon**. Attendees from member groups receive a discount on their conference registration.
- *Networking and capacity-building services* — The WSN is more than just issues. We offer our member organizations a wide range of networking and capacity-building services. We are here to make your organization *productive* and *strong*.
- *"WSNetwork News"* — This twice-monthly electronic newsletter is designed for people who want a concise summary of what is happening across the state on the WSN's priority issues.
- *Help set the conservation and environmental agenda* — Only WSN member groups vote to select our priority issues. Our issues reflect "the big picture"...issues our diverse community has in common.

Dues are very affordable. Speak with your group about joining!

\$35 — <\$50,000 annual budget

\$50 — \$50,000-\$99,999 budget

\$100 — \$100,000+ budget

\$250 — \$500,000+ budget

\$500 — \$1,000,000+ budget

Call us today at (608) 268-1218 to discuss joining!

Questions & Answers about the WSN



“My group has attended the WSN annual conference? Aren’t we already WSN members?”

Because of the WSN’s success in working with sporting, conservation, environmental, and other organizations over the past seven years, the WSN board of directors decided last year to split from its parent organization, Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade, and become a separate organization. In the past, groups were considered part of the network if they were on our mailing list or attended WSN functions. But now we’re asking groups to pay modest dues and affirm their support for the WSN’s mission in order to be “members.”

“Will this mean the WSN will be speaking on behalf of my group?”

Never. The WSN will not speak on behalf of your group unless your group gives its permission on a case-by-case basis. The WSN has listened to its founding organizations in this regard, and our bylaws specifically say that the WSN will not interfere with a member group’s independence or autonomy:

ARTICLE IV. AUTONOMY OF MEMBERS

Section 1 Autonomy

Members shall support the purposes and objectives of Article II of these bylaws, but shall not be required to endorse or support any specific policy position or action plan of the Network. These bylaws shall not be construed to infringe upon the autonomy of any Member Organization.

Section 2 Permission

In order for the WSN to distribute any written document, or announce an official policy position that lists the support of any Member Organization, the WSN must first receive written permission from such Member Organization’s Board of Directors or other policy making body.

“Don’t the WSN’s priority issues commit my organization to a position?”

The WSN board of directors used to select the WSN’s priority issues. Now, starting with the 2003 annual conference, our member groups will select the network’s issues. Because of this, some issues will be adopted that weren’t your first choice. But our diverse board of directors assures you that only commonsense, consensus-building issues of statewide importance will be on our annual ballot. The WSN board thinks you’ll always be able to proudly support most, if not all, of the issues you and your fellow organizations select.

Still, to further ease any concerns you may have in this regard, the WSN will never imply that *all* our members support *all* our issues. As we noted above, we respect your group’s independence. The working coalitions that form around each WSN priority issue may ask groups to “sign on” to positions, but your group’s name will never be added to a press release or position statement without your written permission.

“You say the WSN isn’t just about issues. How can you help our group?”

Besides drawing the public’s attention to a short list of statewide, consensus issues facing the sporting, conservation, and environmental communities, the WSN is here to help your organization grow and prosper. Do you need help starting or maintaining your groups’s newsletter? Do you want us to bring your concerns to top WDNR officials on your behalf? Do you want discounts on capacity-building seminars and training sessions? Do you want to be able to attend some events hosted by other WSN member groups just like you were a member of that organization, too?

The WSN doesn’t have all the answers...but we’d like to think our members do! When you’re a WSN member, you’re connected to a wealth of information, talent, and help for your organization.