

**WWF February 2008 Legislative Report**  
**2007-2009 Legislative Bills with WWF Position**  
**(Recent Legislative Action in Bold)**

**Assembly Bills**

- AB 40---Prohibits the disposal of dredged materials containing PCBs in landfills
- Referred to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
- Oppose—This bill will result in greater delays in cleaning up the PCBs in the Fox River
- AB 42---Establishes Natural Resources Board approval of the DNR Secretary
- Hearing held by Assembly Natural Resources Committee
- Support----This bill reduces political interference in natural resource management
- AB 45---Requires Personal Flotation Devices for youth 12 and under
- Referred to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
- Public Hearing Held
- Support---Will increase on-water safety for young anglers and boaters
- AB 62----Increasing Number of Electrical Sites at State Parks
- Passed Assembly Tourism, State Properties and Recreation Committee
- Passed Joint Finance Committee; In Assembly Rules Committee**
- Support---Provides additional recreational opportunities to our members
- AB 86----Creates Regulation of Ship Ballast Water Discharges Into the Great Lakes
- In Assembly Natural Resources Committee
- Support---This bill is critical to protect Great Lakes fisheries
- AB 91----Restricts Voting on Conservation Congress Advisory Questions and Delegates to Wisconsin Residents

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Public hearing held

Support----Assures that Congress proposals represent views of Wisconsin citizens

AB 93----Requires DNR to get Approval of the Joint Finance Committee Prior to Purchase of Development Rights Under the Stewardship Fund

In Assembly Property Rights Committee  
Public hearing held

Oppose----As written, this bill will delay land transactions that are important to hunters, anglers and trappers

AB 96----Regulating Possession and Transportation of Invasive Fish Species

Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
**Passed Assembly: In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee; Hearing held**

Support----This bill is important to protecting Wisconsin's fisheries

AB 108---Free Access to State Parks and Trails for Certain Disabled Vets and POWs

In Assembly Tourism, State Properties and Recreation Committee  
Passed Assembly Committee; Referred to Joint Finance Committee

Support---Important to recognize those who have sacrificed for our rights

AB 130---Authorizing All Members of the Wisconsin National Guard to Obtain Resident Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Passed Assembly; Passed Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee; Passed Senate; Signed into law by Governor; Act 2

Support---Only reasonable for those serving our nation

AB 131---Easing Requirements for Hunting License Requirements for Armed Forces Members

Passed Assembly; Passed Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee; Passed Senate; Signed into law by Governor---Act 24

Support-----Only reasonable for those serving our nation

AB 157---Regulation of Greenhouse Gases

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Support---This bill is critically important to protect fish and wildlife and their habitat

AB 163---Exempting the Construction of a Road in a Wetland in the City of Tomahawk

Passed Assembly; In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Oppose---Will adversely affect wetlands; Alternatives need to be explored

AB 177---Creates Tax Exemption for Conservation Easements Donated to State and Counties

In Assembly Forestry Committee

Support, this increases the opportunity to protect fish and wildlife habitat

AB 187---Creating a One-day Fishing License

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee; **Passed Committee modified to largely address our concerns**

Oppose, if it results in a decrease to the Fish and Wildlife account

AB 198---Allowing Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Wardens to Enforce State Conservation Laws

**Passed Assembly; Passed Senate—Signed into law by Governor—Act 27**

Support---This bill is critically important to protect fish and wildlife and their habitat

AB 228---Authorizes the Transfer of Approvals to Minors

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**Passed Assembly; Passed Senate. Waiting for Governor's signature**

Support---Increase youth hunting opportunities

AB 284----Naming the State Trail System After Aldo Leopold

Passed Assembly; Counterpart bill SB 161 signed into law—Act 35

Support---An appropriate recognition for Aldo Leopold

AB 296---Authorizing Former Resident Military to have Resident Licenses

**Passed Assembly; Passed Senate---On Governor's Desk**

AB 297----Regulation of Piers

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee; **Public hearing held;**

Support---The WWF supported this compromise last session

AB 304----Providing information on Stewardship Lands

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Public hearing held; **Put into State Budget and Signed Into Law**

Support---Will provide better information on public land access

AB 334----Designating Feral Pigs as harmful wild animals

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**Passed Assembly; In Senate Agriculture and Higher Education;  
Public hearing held**

Support---This bill will help reduce habitat loss from feral pigs

AB 346----Repealing Pre-application Barriers for Construction of Nuclear Power Plants

In Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee; **Passed Committee**

Support---Need to keep open all options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
This position does not reflect whether WWF supports any  
particular use of nuclear power

AB 359----Adjusting Preference System for Bear, Bobcat, Otter and Fisher Preference Points

Passed Assembly; **Passed Senate; Waiting for Governor's signature**

Support---Provides additional flexibility for preference point applicants

AB 371----Tax Credits for Electric Motor and Ethanol Vehicles

In Assembly Biofuels and Sustainable Energy Committee  
Public hearing held; **Passed Committee; In Joint Finance Committee**

Support---An aid to reducing greenhouse gas emissions

AB 378----Tax Credits for Alternative Energy and Energy Efficient Devices

In Assembly Biofuels and Sustainable Energy Committee  
**Public Hearing Held**

Support---An aid to reduce greenhouse gases

AB 396----Restrictions on the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizer

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Support---This bill will reduce water pollution and damage to fish and  
wildlife habitat

AB 401----Eliminating 3-day Waiting Period to Bowhunt After License Purchase

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee; **Passed Committee**

Support----Will allow greater opportunity to hunt

AB 454----Allowing Federal Approvals to Be Purchased on State Automated License  
System

Passed Assembly; **Passed Senate; Waiting for Governor's signature**

Support---Will make obtaining certain hunting approvals easier

AB 479----Admissibility into Evidence of the Existence of an Endangered Species

In Assembly Judiciary and Ethics Committee  
Public hearing held; Passed Committee

Oppose----Endangered resources should be protected

AB 504---Natural Resource Board Appointment of DNR Secretary

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee; Public hearing held  
**Passed Committee: Being stalled in Assembly Rules Committee**

Support---This bill reduces political interference in natural resource management

AB 543---County determination of Ordinary Highwater Marks

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee; **Passed Committee**

Oppose---This bill is unconstitutional and may lead to loss of fish and wildlife habitat

AB 567---Sale and care of Dogs

In Assembly Consumer Protection and Personal Privacy Committee

Oppose unless modified to not adversely affect sporting dog owners

AB 581---Use of Emergency Powers to Restrict Use of Firearms

**Passed Assembly; In Senate Small Business and Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Oppose---Assures private ownership of firearms during Emergency Declarations

AB 588---Increasing Maximum Penalties for Littering

In Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Support---Will provide disincentive for large scale littering which may degrade fish and wildlife habitat

AB 602---Authorizes Crossbows for Nonresidents over 65

**Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee**

Assigned to WWF Wildlife Committee

AJR 34---Constitutional Amendment Preventing Diversion of Hunting and Fishing Stamp Funds

In Assembly Ways and Means Committee

**Passed Assembly Committee; Scheduled for Assembly Vote**

Support---Protecting Waterfowl, Inland Trout, Pheasant, Turkey

and Great Lakes Salmon and Trout funds from being misappropriated

## New Assembly Bills Since December Meeting

AB 672---Hunting Mentor Program

**Public hearing held; Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee**

Assigned to WWF Wildlife Committee

AB 703---Membership of the Natural Resources Board

**In Assembly Natural Resources Committee; Public hearing held;**

Assigned to WWF Wildlife Committee

AB 715---Mercury in schools

**In Committee on Education**

Assigned to WWF Environment Committee

AB 716---Prohibiting Felons from Purchasing Hunting Licenses

**In Committee on Natural Resources**

Assigned to WWF Wildlife Committee

AB 722---Prohibiting Felons from Purchasing and Using Hunting License

**In Committee on Natural Resources**

Assigned to WWF Wildlife Committee

AB 725---Tax Exemptions for Energy Efficient Products Sold on Earth Day

**In Assembly Ways and Means Committee**

Assigned to WWF Environment Committee

AB 753---Increases Penalties for Baiting and Feeding of Deer

**In Assembly Natural Resources Committee**

Assigned to WWF Wildlife Committee

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## Senate Bills

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SB 15---Establishes Natural Resources Board approval of the DNR Secretary

Companion bill to AB 42

Referred to Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Public hearing held; Passed Committee; Passed Senate 21-12; In  
Assembly Natural Resources

Support---Reduces political interference in natural resource management

SB 16---Requires Personal Flotation Devices for youth 12 and under

Companion bill to AB 45

Referred to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Passed Committee; Passed Senate; In Assembly Tourism Committee

Support---Will increase on-water safety for young anglers and boaters

SB 49---Free Access to State Parks and Trails for Certain Disabled Vets and POWS

Companion bill to AB 108

In Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

Passed Committee; Passed Senate; Passed Assembly Committee

**In Assembly Committee on Rules**

Support---Important to recognize those who have sacrificed for our  
rights

SB 81----Regulation of Greenhouse Gases

Companion Bill to AB 157

In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Public hearing held; Passed Committee; In Joint Finance Committee

Support---This bill is critically important to protect fish and wildlife and their habitat

SB 97----Allowing Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Wardens To Enforce State Fish and Game Laws

Companion Bill to AB 198  
In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Public hearing held; Passed Committee  
Counterpart AB 198 signed into law by Governor---Act 27

Support---This bill is important to assure greater protection of fish and wildlife and wildlife habitat

SB 104---Requiring Background Checks on Sale of Firearms Between Private Citizens in Milwaukee County (Expanded to Whole State)

In Senate Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs Committee  
Public hearing held

Oppose---An unreasonable restriction on Second Amendment Rights

SB 119---Creates Regulation of Ship Ballast Water Discharges into the Great Lakes

Companion Bill to AB 86  
In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Public hearing held

SB 127---Places Additional Requirements on DNR to Remove Abandoned Dams

In Senate Environmental and Natural Resources Committee

Oppose----Reduces opportunities to protect fish habitat in streams

SB 161---Naming the State Trail System after Aldo Leopold

Companion bill to AB 284  
In Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Public hearing held; Passed Senate Committee; Passed Senate;  
Assembly Committee hearing held; Passed Assembly Committee  
Passed Assembly; Signed into law by Governor---Act 35

Support---An appropriate way to recognize this great conservation leader

SB 166---Easing Hunting License Requirements for Armed Forces Members

Companion Bill to AB 131  
In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Public hearing held: Passed Senate Committee  
Support---Only reasonable for those serving our nation  
**Counterpart AB 131----Signed into law by Governor---Act 24**

SB 169---Relating to Pier Regulations

Companion Bill to AB 297  
In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee;  
**Public hearing held**

Support---The WWF supported this compromise bill last session

SB 197---Restrictions on the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizer

In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Public hearing held; Passed Committee 3-2; **Passed Senate**  
**In Assembly Natural Resources Committee**

Support---This bill will reduce water pollution and damage to fish habitat

SB 198---Allows Immediate Use of Archery Deer License

In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Passed Senate Committee; Passed Senate; In Assembly Natural  
Resources Committee

Support---Will provide greater opportunity to hunt

SB 230---Authorizing Group Bowhunting

In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Oppose---Contrary to historical well-accepted archery practices

SB 235---Bill Relating to Drainage Ditch Regulation

In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Referred to WWF Fisheries Committee

SB 308---Regulating Sale and Care of Dogs

Companion to AB 567; **Passed Committee; In Joint Finance Committee**

Oppose---Needs to be modified so as to not adversely affect sporting dog owners

SB 346---Regulating Products Containing Mercury

In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee; **Public hearing Held**

Support----Will reduce mercury escaping into Wisconsin waters, fish, anglers and their families

SJR 50---Recognition of Jeff Nania, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

In Senate Organization Committee

Support---Recognizes Jeff Nania's excellent conservation work

## **New Senate Bills Since December Meeting**

SB 357---Minimum Harvest Levels for Great Lakes Fish

**In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee; Public hearing held**

Assigned to WWF Great Lakes Committee

SB 385---Operating Motorboats at Slow-No-Wake Near Shorelines

**In Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee Public hearing held**

Assigned to WWF Fisheries Committee

SB 422----Time Limits on Confirming Natural Resource Board Members

**In Senate Ethics Reform and Government Operations**

Assigned to WWF Executive Committee

SB 454----Transportation of Invasive Species on Highways

**In Senate Transportation and Tourism**

Assigned to WWF Fisheries Committee