

# WISCONSIN SPORTING FREEDOM

#IAmSportingFreedom



## Key Messages & FAQs

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- Wisconsin's hunters make a significant impact on this state. They contribute to our economy; they are partners in resource management; and they are a critical part of our state's heritage.
- The Wisconsin Sporting Freedom Package is commonsense legislation that protects our rights, and defends and expands hunting and fishing opportunities -- it makes clear that we stand with the men and women of the outdoors and honor their contributions and lifestyle.
- The Wisconsin Sporting Freedom Package will increase opportunity for hunting and fishing for Wisconsin's residents, reduce the regulatory burden on hunters and anglers, provide oversight over the state of Wisconsin's use of money that hunters and anglers pay, and support the economic impact that hunting and fishing have on the state of Wisconsin.

### FAQs:

#### *What impact does hunting actually have on our state's economy?*

Hunting in Wisconsin contributes \$4 billion in economic activity, supports 34,000 jobs in the state, and generates \$1 billion in salaries and wages. In Wisconsin, 895,000 people hunt and spend an average of \$2,800 a year on their sport. (Source: [Hunting Works for WI](#))

#### *Why should we be concerned about what hunter's think?*

Hunters in Wisconsin generate \$228 million in taxes and pay \$263 million in federal taxes, and hunting and fishing is a huge part of who we are as a state. They are a large constituency that plays a vital role to our state's heritage and future success. (Source: [Hunting Works for WI](#))

#### *Who does the Wisconsin Sporting Freedom Package impact?*

The easy answer? Everyone! As demonstrated by the impact that hunters and sportsmen and sportswomen have, when we prioritize those who are interested in outdoor sports, hunting, fishing and shooting, the whole state wins. In fact, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, there has been a 77 percent rise in female gun ownership since 2005 and according to the Wall Street Journal, women are nearly half of new gun buyers. (Source: [Spectrum News](#) and [Wall Street Journal](#))

***Why should we add a hunting season for the sandhill crane? Isn't this a rare bird that we have fought for decades to help flourish again in our state?***

Sandhill cranes used to be rare in Wisconsin, but now they are more than double their ideal population. This mismanaged population is disproportionately hurting Wisconsin's farmers who are handicapped in their response to the cranes due to outdated laws in our state. A sandhill crane season benefits both farming and hunting in Wisconsin, and can and should be done in a way that's responsible and supports a robust, properly managed crane population. Additionally, many states already have a hunting season including Minnesota, Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Montana, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Idaho, Arizona, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alaska, New Mexico, North Dakota, and South Dakota. (Source: Wisconsin State Farmer and Wide Open Spaces)

***Aren't some of these bills dangerous? For example, isn't letting a kid with no training walk around with a "mentor" unsafe?***

The proposals in this legislation have been shown to work in other parts of the country, and sometimes even here in Wisconsin. For example, the Mentored Hunt Bill is something that was allowed by the DNR in Wisconsin during the pandemic with no major issues. Let's use commonsense and make it acceptable even after the pandemic.

***Why haven't some of these proposals already been passed into law?***

That's a great question! Wisconsin's hunters and anglers are an amicable group of people who want to be seen as partners in economic impact, management, and access to resources. Sometimes, this means that they aren't the most vocal people when it comes to advocating for themselves, but we're here to stand up for them today. The Wisconsin Sporting Freedom Package is a long overdue proposal that will finally honor the contributions hunters and anglers make in our state.

***The DNR studies all of these issues and makes recommendations, based on science, about what to do with Wisconsin's wildlife -- why are you micro-managing their work based on politics?***

This isn't politics. These are commonsense tweaks to outdated rules and regulations to make it easier for hunters to have a positive example on the state. We should be making it easier for them to do that, not harder.

***Your so-called constitutional carry bill basically means anyone could carry a concealed weapon, anytime. What does that have to do with hunting? What do you say to victims of shootings?***

As our Founders intended with the 2nd Amendment, this bill would make it easier for law-abiding citizens to exercise their rights. These constitutional rights are important whether it is a hunter, carrying a sidearm in the woods under his or her coat for protection, or a parent protecting their home or children. Currently, many of them are discouraged from doing that because of the Wisconsin Department of Justice system for concealed carry permits. This would still mean that the buyer of the sidearm would have to pass a background check at the point of purchase where criminals would be flagged and stopped from buying the gun. It would do nothing to enable a criminal to commit a crime easier.