

Summary of Research

WAFWA Issue Management Committee Agency Employee Survey

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Responsive Management Unit

Research Summary No. 14



In the winter of 2003, we surveyed Regional Supervisors, Division Administrators and their staff to identify potentially controversial programs and policies the agency may be facing. This information will help develop strategies to resolve those issues. The survey was developed by the WAFWA Issues Management Committee, and was administered to all WAFWA Directors and Commissioners in 1999.

The survey provided a number of broad issue categories and respondents were asked to rate the issues as a “**High, Medium or Low**” priority.

High priority issues represented high volatility, polarized viewpoints among the public, potential or actual media coverage, court cases, or ballot initiatives.

Medium priority issues represented a recurring concern to the public, that may become critical in the near future.

Low priority issues were possible future concerns; not very controversial, agency activities associated with this are generally accepted by the public.



Eighty two and one-half percent (82.5%) of respondents (N=33) to this survey believe our agency may be vulnerable to court challenges, criticism and/or negative media coverage for its programs, policies or practices.



ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR RESPONDENTS

The following ten issues were identified as **high** priority issues by the given percent of respondents.

- CWD (42.5%)
- Reintroduction of threatened/endangered species (35%)
- Nuisance wildlife (32.5%)
- Depredation as it relates to urban wildlife (30%)
- Crowding as it relates to hunter/angler/boater behavior (30%)
- Recovery programs as related to threatened/endangered species (30%)
- Recreational conflicts related to urban wildlife (25%)
- Canned/Will call hunts (25%)
- Spring bear hunts (20%)
- West Nile Virus (20%)



At least 30% of the respondents listed the following issues of **medium** concern to the Department (listed in order of importance).

- Lack of Responsive Mgmt Plan for urban wildlife/human conflicts (47.5%)
- Nuisance wildlife (42.5%)
- ATV use (42.5%)
- Crowding as it relates to hunter/angler/boater behavior (40%)
- Recreational conflicts related to urban wildlife (35%)
- Fishing tournaments (32.5%)
- Recovery programs related to threatened/endangered species (32.5%)
- Depredation related urban wildlife (30%)
- Ethics related to hunter/angler/boater behavior (30%)
- CWD (30%)



The issues reported as being of **least** concern to respondents:

- Field trips (67.5%)
- Hunter Ed Programs (67.5%)
- Aquatic/Angler Ed Programs (67.5%)
- Environmental Ed Programs (62.5%)
- Youth participation hunts (60%)
- Muzzleloader hunts (60%)
- Catch and Release (60%)
- Bag limits (55%)
- Breeding season hunts (55%)

There are several (approx. 10) more issues that 50%-53% of the respondents listed as being of **low** concern to the Department. It should also be noted that many of the categories received “*No Response*”.



This survey was sent to Regional Supervisors and Division Administrators to give to their staff within their department or division. Forty completed surveys were received.

REGION	
Region 1 (N=6)	15%
Region 2 (N=3)	7.5%
Region 3 (N=0)	0%
Region 4 (N=1)	2.5%
Region 5 (N=8)	20%
Region 6 (N=3)	7.5%
Region 7 (N=0)	0%
Helena (N=15)	37.5%
Missing (N=4)	10%

DIVISION	
Fisheries (N=7)	17.5%
Wildlife (N=9)	22.5%
Parks (N=2)	5%
Con Ed (N=7)	17.5%
Enforcement (N=6)	15%
Field Services (N=0)	0%
A & F (N=0)	0%
Dept. Mgmt. (N=6)	6%
Missing (N=3)	7.5%

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