

MEDIA ADVISORY:

5/28 at 2pm: Press Conference

Prominent scientists appeal to JFC to preserve science in DNR decisions

Five prominent Wisconsin scientists will hold a press conference on May 28 to ask the Joint Committee on Finance to preserve DNR's science staff. The Governor has proposed to cut DNR science staff by 36% in the upcoming budget, weakening the agency's capacity for science and research.

Date & Time: Thursday May 28 at 2pm
State Capitol, 330 Southwest

Speakers include:

- Steve Born, Professor Emeritus, UW Madison, Department of Urban and Regional Planning
- John Maguson, Professor Emeritus, UW Madison, Hasler Center for Limnology
- Patricia Leavenworth, retired State Conservationist, US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Ed Emmons, retired Section Chief, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Research, Department of Natural Resources
- Curt Meine, conservation biologist and historian, Aldo Leopold biographer

Natural resource management in Wisconsin has always been informed by research carried out by DNR scientists. The proposed cuts to science staff may significantly impair the Department's capacity for independent research to protect our water, land, air and wildlife. The Governor's budget proposes to cut 18.4 full-time positions which may trigger layoffs of additional 95 limited-term science staff - a loss of up to 113 researchers and scientists in the agency.

Interviews with speakers will be available following the press conference. For more information, please contact Helen Sarakinos, River Alliance of Wisconsin, at [608-770-4732](tel:608-770-4732).

Maggie Baum

Communications Director

River Alliance of Wisconsin

[608/257-2424](tel:608-257-2424) x 120 (office)

[608/438-2814](tel:608-438-2814) (mobile)

mbaum@wisconsinrivers.org