

Conservation Congress 2014

The Results

Illinois Conservation Laws: Protecting the Public and Our Natural Resources

Recommendations:

1. Increase staffing levels of uniformed Conservation Police Officers (CPOs) based on current needs analysis.
2. CPO's enforcement duties should be prioritized as follows (breakout session results):
 1. Public safety (boating, snowmobile, park enforcement)
 2. Invasive species (Asian Carp, illegal transportation of fish/aquatic life)
 3. Sport Fishing (licensing, creel, size limits etc.)
 4. Hunting (wildlife enforcement/trapping)
 5. Commercial (licensing, taxidermy, fur buyers, fish, outfitters, timber buyers etc.)
3. Create a CPO-dedicated investigative unit to handle complex and undercover investigations.
4. A potential CPO-dedicated investigative unit's priority should be (breakout session results):
 1. Fish/Wildlife Investigations
 2. Environmental crimes (pollution, chemical spills)
 3. Commercial Investigations
 4. Internal Investigations
5. Create statutory authority for CPOs to conduct criminal records inquiries on potential employees and volunteers who work with minors, vulnerable adults.