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## **Wisconsin Biathlon Association Launches Fundraising Campaign**

The Wisconsin Biathlon Association (WBA) has launched a fundraising campaign to help expand the sport of biathlon in Wisconsin. Looking to build on biathlons growing popularity in the state, the WBA is looking to raise money for venue improvements, program development, and equipment.

Currently the states only regulation biathlon facility is in Eagle, Wisconsin at the McMiller Park Sports Center, part of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. In late 2005 improvements to the area enabled the creation of a biathlon course. Recent efforts by the WBA to promote the sport have drawn a large number of participants from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

Due to the increasing level of interest, proposed upgrades to the biathlon course at McMiller Park include an expansion of the shooting range area and the addition of metal biathlon targets. "The improvements will greatly enhance the McMiller Park range and help us safely accommodate larger groups. It will also enable us to host races, events, and offer additional recreational opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities", stated WBA board member Paul LeBlanc. Future plans call for establishing additional biathlon ranges and programs throughout the state.

The fundraising campaign has gained the support of the US Biathlon Association. According to Piotr Bednarski, Director of Athlete Development with the USBA, "The Wisconsin Biathlon Association is the organization that will bring visibility to the sport of biathlon in Wisconsin. With strong traditions in cross country skiing and a love for the outdoors, I am confident that Wisconsin will soon be the home of many future Olympic biathletes." Added LeBlanc, "There's no reason why biathlon shouldn't be as popular and successful here in Wisconsin as it is in nearby places like Minnesota. We're looking for support from the silent sports community to help us make it happen."

To learn more about biathlon in Wisconsin, or to make a contribution to the WBA's fundraising campaign, please visit their website at [www.wisconsinbiathlon.com/fund/](http://www.wisconsinbiathlon.com/fund/) or call (414) 418-2819.

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