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Black Bear Management Zones

Problem: Black Bear Management Zones are too large to effectively manage black bear population in agricultural areas in Northern Wisconsin.

The current system of bear relocation and crop damage kill tags has created hostility between farmland owners and hunters who have waited numerous years to receive a kill tag.

Unit B has an approximate wait time of 9 years, or more, to receive a kill tag, which to some people makes it a once in a lifetime opportunity. (Animal Rights Activist who purchase kill tags that go unused do not help matters.)

The current four Bear Management Zones do not address problem areas determined by USDA crop damage specialists.

The USDA spends thousands of dollars annually in live trapping and relocating problem bears as well as crop damage claims.

Due to the recent increase in the State and National values of corn and soybeans for alternative fuels and small grains for domestic animal feed, farmers are becoming more aware and defensive of the black bear population.

There has also been a significant increase in the amount of bear verses vehicle collisions in the past few years.

Therefore the DNR should consider micro-managing high population bear habitat areas with the help of the USDA Crop Damage Specialists on a county by county level or by Deer Management Units.


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Yes - micro-manage high population areas

No - leave as is

Yes 64

No 5