

290409

Title: Change in the use of the Wisconsin (SAK) program

The Problem:

The Wisconsin DNR uses the Sex, Age, Kill (SAK) model to estimate the size of the white-tailed deer herd.

The SAK model is designed to use **Pre-Hunt** estimates of Bucks, Does, and Fawns.

However, the Wisconsin DNR currently practices **Post-Hunt** estimates, with additional EAB, T Zone Programs and Special Hunts, defeating the conceptual design and purpose of the SAK modeling program.

As a result, Wildlife Biologist, Game Wardens, Hunters, and other residents alike are reporting fewer sightings.

The Wisconsin DNR reports many DMU zones as being below population goals.

Population goals and density estimates, as usually expressed as deer per square mile of deer range (i.e. suitable habitat), do not match those of other States using the (SAK) model as intended

Uniform change is needed to increase the public's confidence in the Department's deer management program and the hunter's willingness to harvest the number of antlerless deer required to maintain populations at goal levels. Maintaining deer populations closer to goal levels will reduce the negative social and ecological consequences of over-abundant deer populations while maintaining opportunities for harvest and wildlife viewing.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Juneau County on April 13, 2009 recommends the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing this rule change; allowing the Department to reestablish operational guidelines within the scope and design of the (SAK) modeling program, thereby providing a more accurate population estimate of the States deer herd.

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Signature

