

190310

Antler Point Restriction

Florence County experiences a very high 1½ year old Buck harvest. This practice of shooting a high number of young bucks is viewed by some professionals as being unhealthy for a good age and sex structure. Florence County also experienced a significant drop in Buck population due to harsh winters resulting in a 44.7% drop in harvest from 2008 to 2009. If we can go into an over winter Buck population made up of more than just 1½ year old bucks there is a much higher chance that bucks may survive harsh winters resulting in less drastic swings in harvest numbers.

One way of creating older deer is by implementing antler point restrictions. By implementing point restrictions we can increase the age and population of bucks in an area. As of 2008 at least 23 states had point restrictions of some sort. Also in most areas the hunter approval of point restrictions was outstanding.

Presently, Wisconsin does not impose mandatory point restrictions in any of its deer management units. I feel that the DNR should impose a mandatory 3 point minimum restriction on at least one side for a trial basis of five years.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress, at its meeting held in Florence County April 12, 2010, recommend that the Congress work with the DNR to introduce a rule change imposing a 3 point minimum restriction in units 40 and 50 on a trial basis to gather hunter feed back.



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